

MINUTE WITH MIKE

*But the angel said to them [the shepherds],
“Do not be afraid; For behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the
people;
For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God
and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is
pleased.”
Luke 2:10-14*

Warm Christmas season greetings to you and yours. Praying that as you are thinking and preparing for Christmas Day, you find yourself once again excited to receive the greatest gift ever given, Jesus our Christ!

Another Christmas, another opportunity to receive the Gospel joy that God so loved us, that He sent us His only Begotten Son. And that not only are those who believe in Him saved, we're also sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit. That means among other things that we have the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This Advent season we are examining some of those many gifts as we walk through the Advent season with a devotional series designed by Diane's daughter Judy. Judy lifts up for us the spiritual gifts of hope, peace, promise, joy, celebration, grace, love and gladness. How amazing that God would fill us with His very own attributes!

I pray that you would put those gifts to work in your own heart, your family, community and world. That we as Christians would not only touch the world for Jesus, but change it! May the beauty and glory of this time of the year capture your soul and cause you to love, worship and serve the Lord Jesus like never before.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in His name. And bless you and yours, now and forever.

In His power and joy,

Mike

SESSION NEWS

The 23rd Stated Meeting of the Session of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church was called to order Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 7:30 PM on Zoom, Pastor Mike Baynai, Moderator.

Devotions and Prayer – Elder Gary Lehmann provided devotions and the opening prayer.

Roll & Determination of a Quorum: Present: Moderator Pastor Mike Baynai; Ruling Elders Robert Adams, Bill Keating, Gary Lehmann, Betty Rittersdorf; and Asst. Clerk Jim Miller. Absent: Asst. Pastor Dr. Laura Smit. *A quorum was present.*

Clerk's Report

Next Communion will be observed on Sunday, December 5, 2021; the last communion was observed Sunday, November 7, 2021.

Membership

Active Membership as of 10/4/2021	46
No Change	
Active Membership as of 11/11/2021	46

Worship Services

Attendance	10/10/2021	33 adults at the Kentwood Library
Attendance	10/17/2021	31 adults at the Kentwood Library
Attendance	10/24/2021	36 adults at the Kentwood Library
Attendance	10/31/2021	30 adults at the Kentwood Library
Attendance	11/7/2021	35 adults, 7 children at the Kentwood Library

Social Media

The new Facebook page is up and running. Mike was given a tutorial on how to post. As of this writing, the church has 8 Facebook followers.

Treasurer's Report for 10/31/2021

+\$20,212.92	Cash on Hand as of 10/31/2021
+\$25,697.50	CD#1 (Northpoint Bank)
<u>+\$15,015.72</u>	CD#2 (Northpoint Bank)
\$60,926.14	
	(LESS FOLLOWING COMMITTED FUNDS)
-\$0	Accrued Joyful Noise offerings
<u>-\$11,000</u>	Building Fund
\$49,926.14	

Notes:

- Uncommitted funds, as of end of September, were \$43,973.93. Our GAIN in October was \$5,952.22, as the result of a significant gift, less the excess rent (paid thru Dec 12), and Texas trip for Pastor Mike next year.

- Jim reported that most of the pledges are in. Only about 5 are missing.

Consent Agenda – Approve the Clerk's and Treasurer's Reports. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

Pastor

- Wednesday phone call-in prayer meetings continue with low attendance.

- Mike reminded everyone that annual reports will be due in mid-January for the annual meeting.
- Christmas Eve service will be at 1:00pm at the Seminary chapel.
- Mike mentioned the possibility of a men's retreat sometime in the future.

Personnel

- Members of the Personnel Team reported that by the end of the coming week all personnel reviews will be complete.
- Staff gifts need to be purchased.

Our Way Forward

- Jim reported that some wording on the lease needs to be adjusted based on feedback we received from the lawyer.
- Rick Gillespie-Mobley offered to bring and install a sound system for us. Mike will inquire about the size, electrical requirements, etc.
- The Session discussed the storefront sign. A lighted sign is \$2,000 above budget, but the Session voted unanimously that a lit sign was necessary and worth the cost.

Other Business

- Mike will ask Dave Wallis for a copy of the report he filed with the Presbytery after his meeting with us.

Next Session Meeting – The next Session meeting will be **Thursday, December 9** at 7:30 PM on Zoom. Robert will lead the devotion.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Mike closed the meeting with prayer; adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Adams. Clerk of Session

DATES – DECEMBER

1st Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm

3rd Friday: Men's Breakfast Devotional at (Bob Evans) – 9:30am

5th Sunday:

- Advent Two - Sunday Worship & Communion (Kentwood Library at 10:00am)
- Christmas Choir warm up before worship, practice after worship
- Light luncheon and gift wrapping after worship
- Devotion at Samaritas [Cathy Jo & Bob] – The Woods 2:30pm

8th Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm

9th Thursday:

- Bilyea's Home Group at 1:00pm
- Session Zoom meeting at 7:30pm

12th Sunday:

- Advent Three - Worship (Kentwood Library at 10:00am)
- Christmas Choir warm up before worship, practice after worship
- Al's 98th Birthday – cake and fellowship after worship

15th Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm

19th Sunday:

- Advent Four - Worship (**BACK TO CALVIN SEMINARY** at 10:00am)
- Christmas Choir warm up before worship
- Devotional at Grand Village [Barb] – 2:00pm

20th Monday: Newsletter deadline

22nd Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm

24th Friday: Christmas Eve Service at 1:00pm
(**CALVIN SEMINARY**)

25th Saturday: Christmas Day

26th Sunday:

- Sunday Worship (**CALVIN SEMINARY** at 10:00am)

- Devotional at Brook Crest [Joan] at 2:30pm
- 29th Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm
 31st Friday: Friday: Luncheon at Grand Traverse Pie Company at 1:00pm

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES – DECEMBER

6	Seamus Adams
9	Jim Miller
14	Al Schumacher
16	Scott Gipe
20	Linda Van Heuvelen
24	Lucy Barrett

SERVING THIS MONTH

- 5th: Pastor Mike – Preaching
 Marjorie Boerema – Musician
 Adams Family and Christmas Choir -
 Special Music
 Rachel Wahome – Communion Bread
 Henry Gachini – Officiating the Table
- 12th: Pastor Mike – Preaching
 Marjorie Boerema – Musician
 Mercy Kamau and Christmas Choir -
 Special Music
- 19th: Pastor Mike – Preaching
 Maureen Sweet – Musician
 Rachel & Henry and Christmas Choir –
 Special Music
- 24th: Pastor Mike – Preaching
 Maureen Sweet – Musician
 Henry Gachini - Liturgist
 Adams Family - Special Music
- 26th: Pastor Mike – Preaching
 Maureen Sweet – Musician
 Dana & Dana –Special Music

MEMBERS/FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Barb in the passing of Jean, Joyce as she continues with shingles pain, Linda, Vi, Home members Bob, Cathy Jo, and Joan, Thanks that Marv is home from the hospital, and prayers of health for Robert.

LADIES LUNCHEON

You're invited to join some of the ladies of the church each **LAST FRIDAY** of the month at 1:00pm, meeting at the Grand Traverse Pie Company on 28th Street near the Belt Line. It's a great time of prayer and fellowship as the "sisters" meet with Pastor Mike (everyone is "Dutch"). For more information contact Pastor Mike at (616) 822-9988.

MEN OF THE CHURCH

The Men of the Church meet every **FIRST FRIDAY** of the month at 9:30am at Bob Evans (Kalamazoo Ave. at M6). After a brief devotional and prayer, the gents enjoy a breakfast and great conversation. All are welcome to join us.

HOST A HOME GROUP

For more than four years now we have been blessed as a result of Dana Bilyea opening her home to a church group for fellowship and prayer. It's called the Bilyea Home Group, and we meet every other week on Thursday at 1:00pm. If you would like to host a Home Group of your own, I would be thrilled to join you and offer my assistance in building your group and developing a format. The church could use another Home Group, and God, of course, gets all the glory. Please consider opening your home up for this kind of ministry.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek Me and find Me when ye shall search for Me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:12).

Prayer is no petty invention of man, a fancied relief for fancied ills. Prayer is no dreary performance, dead and death-dealing, but is God's enabling act for man, living and life-giving, joy and joy giving. Prayer is the contact of a living soul with God. In prayer, God stoops to kiss man, to bless man, and to aid man in everything that God can devise that man can need. Prayer fills man's emptiness with God's fullness. It fills man's poverty with God's riches. It puts away man's weakness with God's strength. It banishes man's littleness

with God's greatness. Prayer is God's strength. It banishes man's great and continuous need with God's great and continuous abundance.

What is this prayer to which men are called? Is it not a mere form, a child's play? It is serious, difficult work, the manliest, the mightiest work, the divinest work which man can do. Prayer lifts man out of the earthliness and links him with the heavenly. Men are never nearer heaven, nearer God, never more Godlike, never in deeper sympathy and truer partnership with Jesus Christ, than when praying. Love, philanthropy, holy affiances [contract] all of them helpful and tender for men, but are born and perfected by prayer.

Prayer is not merely a question of duty, but of salvation. Are men saved who are not men of prayer? Is not the gift, the inclination, the habit of prayer one of the elements of characteristics of salvation? Is it possible to have the Holy Spirit and not have a spirit of prayer? Can one have a new birth and not be born to prayer? Is not the life of the Spirit and the life of prayer coordinate and consistent? Can brotherly love be in the heart which is unschooled in prayer?

From E.M. Bounds; On Prayer. The Reality of Prayer, Pages 232-234

Are you wanting to pour out your heart before the Lord? You have an opportunity to do so each week on Wednesday at 7:00pm. Join Pastor Mike, Dr. Laura and others as we together, "pour out our hearts before Him".

Dial-in-number: 1-602-580-9612

Access Code: 6914064

CHRISTMAS ANGEL

Thanks to Anne and Dan Vanderburg and the Mission Team as they lead us all in this year's Christmas Angel Mission Project benefitting the Norcha family. The money has all been collected, the gifts all purchased, and now it's time for wrapping and celebrating. There will be a simple luncheon held after worship on Sunday - December 5 as we wrap and box all the Norcha family gifts. Please plan to stay even if you did not participate in the program. There will be plenty to eat and always good fellowship.

THIS YEARS' ADVENT SERIES

This year's Advent series was designed and written by Diane's daughter Judy. The series includes hand painted scenes depicting our Lord's birth account. Judy thoughtfully gave this series to us to use, and we have been blessed. The series will go through and include our Christmas Eve service. It is a touching and faithful exposition of not only the Old Testament prophecy concerning the birth of Jesus but also the Gospel account of His birth and New Testament teaching concerning His birth. Thank you, Judy, we have been inspired!

NEWS REGARDING OUR SCARF PROJECT FOR WEDGEWOOD

In early spring I decided we had plenty of Prayer Shawls stored in my basement. So I decided we should knit scarves for Wedgewood children. I set a goal of 50 to be ready by early December.

Later in spring I had an opportunity to send some yarn to my great niece in Lake City, my hometown. She has health issues so her life is difficult and unpredictable, but she presses on much like my granddaughter Ayla who also knits for me.

Then I got a call from Shirley Stretch, a former member of our congregation. Shirley gets our church newsletter and read my article about my plan for our knitters. She told me she has lots of yarn and would love to participate in our plan. So, we now have five people in this group, and we are going to meet and exceed the 50-scarf goal.

God is so good!!! We plan to have them consecrated on Sunday, December 19, and will deliver them on Monday or Tuesday in time for them to be used as Christmas gifts. What fun! And what a Blessing! Thank you, Jesus!

BUILDING UPDATE

Preliminary analysis indicates that the projected income for 2022 is several thousand dollars higher than our 2021 income. (Thank you everyone for your generosity!). Of course, expenses will also go up in 2022 due to the new church location. We added new budget lines for Furnishings and Facility Expense, based on the projected costs that the congregation has approved. Because of startup costs of finishing the new space,

the church will still have a projected deficit for 2022. However, that deficit can be covered by the addition of only 6-7 additional pledges, which we trust the new storefront will bring. The bottom line is that things are progressing as planned. Details and budget numbers will be forthcoming in the annual report and congregational meeting in January.

- Bill Keating & Robert Adams

RECIPES ANYONE?

Do you remember the days when the local newspaper posted recipe requests? As we are now

having some potlucks, the “Voice” has received suggestions that we include some favorite recipes from the ladies of the church. If there are others in the church who would like to use the newsletter as a vehicle to obtain recipes they really enjoyed but don’t know who made a particular dish, please make your requests known. Or if people have asked for your recipe while at the event, you may submit it either legibly written or via email (brittersdorf@sbcglobal.net) for others to enjoy as well. Perhaps you have favorite recipes you think ladies of the church would like, and those are welcome, too. Requests or submissions are welcome as noted above.

ELDER EMERITUS

On Sunday, November 14 during the morning worship service James A. Miller was recognized by the Session who had recently voted unanimously to confer upon him the distinction of Elder Emeritus. The proclamation was read aloud by Clerk Robert Adams after a Scripture verse was read over Jim. Pastor Mike prayed God's blessings upon Jim, and he was then congratulated by the Session members.

Jim has truly been a remarkable member of GSPC. He was a founding elder and Clerk of Session. He served us as the Church's Treasurer, Stewardship Chair, member of the Board of Trustees, and a member of numerous Ministry Teams. Jim has been faithful in every way and has been a leader by example for the entire church family. “Emeritus” is an honorific title given to a person of distinction who has retired from a position but is permitted to retain the title of the last office held. Jim will forever be known as “elder”.



Elders Gary Lehmann, Betty Rittersdorf & Bill Keating, Jim and Pastor Mike, and Elder & Clerk Robert Adams

THIS IS THE DAY I SAW THE WORK OF GOD

This article needs a word of explanation. Our nation has just celebrated Veterans' Day as we honored all veterans. My grandmother had a habit, unbeknownst to me, of saving various clippings and noteworthy items in her Bible. Upon her passing, her son, my uncle, asked if there might be anything of hers I would like. Since all my Bibles were King James version, I said I would like her Revised Standard Version Bibles. As I prepared to read an assigned passage on Consecration Sunday, I came across the clipping of this article. The writer was the son of good family friends. It seems to speak not only to our veterans but also to the state of the world today.

“From Pfc. Jerry C Helmstadter, 19, former president of the Youth Fellowship of St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Omaha, to the Rev. A K Williams, minister of that church.

Germany, April 1—Dear Reverend Williams: I am writing this by candlelight in the shelter of an old German castle as the Easter sun sinks below the cloudy western sky.

Today something has happened which I shall never forget as long as I live, for this day I saw the work of God. Words are far too unexpressive to describe what I felt, but I’ll try to picture it for you.

Easter morning found our outfit in a small German town. It was one of those cloudy mornings, with spasmodic rains, and an occasional flood of sunshine. Most of us were tired, for the night had been a sleepless one, but we all wanted devotional services of some sort. It worked out that the only possible means was to attend the German Catholic Church down the street. Though only about half of us were of that faith, a bunch decided to go.

So there we were—German civilians on one side of the church and a handful of American soldiers on the other. There was still that feeling of coldness between the two groups as the service progressed and communion commenced. We were beginning to feel a bit uneasy as the last few rows of Germans filed up to partake, not quite knowing what to do.

Finally, as the last two natives knelt in front of the altar, a soldier, stranger to us, slowly walked down the aisle and knelt between two Germans. Just then, for a second, the clouds broke and a ray of sunlight fell upon those three at the altar. It was a breathtaking sensation felt by all, and every single person realized something. He saw before his eyes the significance of the church. He saw, in that brief moment, enemies brought together, their hatred conquered by love—the great overpowering love of our Father above. Each person realized fully the brotherhood of the church, and saw a vision of God’s wishes for the relationship of all peoples.

If only this lesson could be taught to all the world! A permanent peace can only be formed when everyone is ready to follow the principles of Jesus. The brotherhood of the church is the nearest to perfect tranquility here on earth, and if the world is to live in peace, it must first live Christianity. *Jerry”*





One of the beautiful banners that Diane Solomon has handcrafted for the church through the years. THANK YOU, DIANE!