

MINUTE WITH MIKE

*Ezekiel, son of man, I have appointed you to stand watch for the people of Israel.
So, listen to what I say, then warn them for Me.
When I tell wicked people they will die because of their sins,
you must warn them to turn from their sinful ways so they won't be punished.
If you refuse, you are responsible for their death.
However, if you do warn them, and they keep on sinning,
they will die because of their sins, and you will be innocent.
Ezekiel 3:17-19; Contemporary English Version*

Late summer greetings to you dearest one,

Praying that the hot and dry days find you trusting God even all the more. At times like this we pray for our farmers and all those who work outside in the heat of the day. And we also pray for those who suffer from poverty and lack comforts like air conditioning and perhaps even fans and people who cannot escape from overcrowded metropolitan areas where summer breezes never penetrate. We pray...

The above passage is commonly known as the “watchman” text. You see, all preachers and pastors ought to understand that “watching” out for our “sheep,” warning them when harm is near, is an essential part of our work - even to the degree that we understand God will hold us all particularly accountable if we don’t warn others.

Last month I hoped to have raised a red flag for you concerning false teachers, those who would mislead the children of God whether intentionally or as a result of ignorance. Those who espouse false doctrines and even debunk the existence of God all together. They are out there, my dear ones, and it seems their voices and their numbers are growing.

The Billy Graham Evangelical Association published in its recent Decision magazine an article by Alisa Childers entitled “Five Ways to Counter Progressive Christianity”. Alisa is an author and a “podcaster” and writes, “Progressive Christianity imitates culture, but Christians should imitate Jesus by recognizing and making a strong stand against false teachings...”. She cites five pieces of advice that I think are worth passing along to you.

1. Uphold Biblical Authority

“One of the hallmarks of progressive Christianity is a lower view of the Bible. Progressives often view Scripture not as perfectly and divinely inspired by God, but as a primarily human book that contains contradictions, errors and inconsistent theology. Because of this, Biblical authority takes a back seat to one’s personal conscience as the highest authority of truth.”

2. Stand For Biblical Sexuality and The Sanctity of Human Life.

“Stand strong against progressive Christianity; let’s unapologetically obey Jesus’ teaching that sex was designed to be enjoyed within the confines of Biblical marriage and that all human life is sacred.”

3. Get a Backbone

“Jesus said, ‘If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated You.’ (John 15:18) Jesus also instructed His followers to expect tribulation in this life but tells us to take heart because he has overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

4. Live The Truth

“Jesus actually claimed to be The Truth. (John 14:6) Jesus told Pilate, ‘Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.’ (John 18:37) “We are to live like Jesus.

5. Proclaim The Gospel.

“When Jesus began His ministry, He declared, ‘Repent and believe in the Gospel.’ (Mark 1:15) Our work as Christians is to spread the fragrance of the Gospel and leave the outcome to the Lord. We have a Biblical obligation to stand against any message that runs contrary to the Gospel.”

Well, there it is – a warning from your personal “watchman.” We live in a very challenging time, but God knows exactly that AND, He has us here for His reason. Let’s understand that it is a privilege to stand up for Biblical truth and justice and to do the very same work our Lord Jesus did when he walked among us.

Always and everywhere for His glory. Blessings to you and yours as you enjoy the rest of the summer.

In His service and love,

Mike

SESSION NEWS

The 80th Stated Meeting of the Session of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church was called to order Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 7:30 PM on Zoom, Pastor Mike Baynai, Moderator.

Devotions and Prayer – Pastor Mike Baynai provided devotions and the opening prayer.

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

Clerk’s Report

Next Communion will be observed on Sunday, August 7, 2022; the last communion was observed Sunday, July 3, 2022.

Membership

Active Membership as of 5/23/2022	43
Active Membership as of 7/7/2022	43

Correspondence

- None.

Miscellaneous

- Created Emeritus proclamation for Betty.
- Created a devotion schedule for June 2022 - May 2023.

- Created a survey for a mid-week Bible study.
- Wrote an article for the newsletter regarding the Fellowship Feasts.

Worship Services

Attendance	5/22/2022	34 adults at GSPC
Attendance	5/29/2022	23 adults at GSPC
Attendance	6/5/2022	35 adults at GSPC
Attendance	6/12/2022	36 adults at GSPC
Attendance	6/19/2022	? adults at GSPC
Attendance	6/26/2022	? adults at GSPC
Attendance	7/3/2022	34 adults at GSPC
Attendance	7/10/2022	37 adults at GSPC

Treasurer's Report 5/31/2022

+ \$5,073.11	Cash on Hand as of 5/31/2022
+ \$25,734.84	CD#1 (Northpoint Bank)
- 0-	CD#2 (Northpoint Bank)
<u>\$30,807.95</u>	TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE

(LESS FOLLOWING COMMITTED FUNDS)

- \$32	Accrued Joyful Noise offerings
- \$387.50	Building Fund (Summary below)

\$30,388.45 **Uncommitted Funds Available**

Notes:

- Uncommitted funds, as of the end of April, were \$33,630.28. Our LOSS in May was an additional \$3,241.83, due to increases to moving expenses, and reduced offerings for May.
- We canceled the move of the piano from New Jersey, so we expect a refund check from the moving company.
- I plan to cash-in the CD on Jun 6, rather than renewing it for another year at such a low rate. I will deposit the proceeds in our checking account, until the Session makes a decision to reinvest some portion of the cash.
- See separate financial statement for April 2022

Treasurer's Report 6/30/2022

+ \$28,427.54	Cash on Hand as of 6/30/2022
- 0-	CD#1 (Northpoint Bank)
- 0-	CD#2 (Northpoint Bank)
<u>\$28,427.54</u>	TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE

(LESS FOLLOWING COMMITTED FUNDS)

- 0-	Accrued Joyful Noise offerings
- 0-	Building Fund (Summary below)

\$28,427.54 **Uncommitted Funds Available**

Notes:

- Uncommitted funds, as of the end of May, were \$30,388.45. Our LOSS in June was an additional \$1,960.91, due to paying two rent payments this month, in order to set up auto payment of the rent, which is less than our monthly rent of \$2,258.25.
- We canceled the move of the piano from New Jersey, but we have not received a refund check from the moving company.
- Mike agreed to contact the Better Business Bureau regarding the moving company not returning our check for moving the piano.

Consent Agenda – The Clerk and the Treasurer have moved to approve their respective reports, and to approve the minus for all session and congregational meetings (as amended) which have been held since the last session meeting. **The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Assistant Pastor — Dr. Laura will be preaching August 7 before she leaves through the rest of the year. Carolyn Cammenga has agreed to fill the pulpit for Laura while she is gone.

Upcoming Dates

- August 6 Nancy Dumford will be conducting part 2 of leadership training. Session agreed to reimburse her for mileage.
- The Lunch-and-Learn on 7/20 will be with the mayor of Kentwood.
- Leadership Training with lunch will be August 6.
- Another Lunch-and-Learn will be 8/17 with Randy Heckman.

Pastor

- Mercy Kamau has expressed interest in joining. Mike and a couple of elders will meet with her on Sunday July 17.
- Barb Bailey has expressed interest in creating a scholarship fund with \$10K seed money. Mike and Jim will meet with her to gather more details, like the nature of the scholarship.

Worship Service

- Gethsemane Lutheran is closing their doors. Mike picked up some additional communion pieces. Cammi and Robert took several dozens of pieces of music. A piano may be available, as well as a filing cabinet.

Adult Education

- Donna Baynai will start a Beth Moore Bible study series for women in early August.

Brooks Memorial Scholarship

- Henry Gachini will be encouraged to apply for a Brooks Scholarship to help defray the tuition of his Pastoral Lay Training through ECO.

Mission

- Robert will start the process of creating a Facebook ad to promote the Lunch-and-Learn with Randy Heckman.
- Betty will talk with Diane Solomon about possibly creating a small banner to show how many SpartanNash receipts have been collected.

Personnel

- Mike will draft a proposal document for elders to react to regarding the potential new pastoral “team” model.

Fellowship

- Fellowship Feasts will start in August with the Baynai's and Adams' hosting.

Church Space

- Session unanimously approved the installation of John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life" next to the cross. Thanks to Jim Miller for covering the cost.

Next Presbytery Meeting — October

Next Session Meeting — The next session meeting will be **Thursday August 18, 2022 7:30pm on Zoom.**

Closing Prayer – Pastor Mike closed the meeting with prayer; adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Adams. Clerk of Session

DATES – AUGUST

1st Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm
4th Thursday: Bilyea's Home Group meeting at 1:00pm
4th Thursday: Bible Study at Grand Village 3:00pm
5th Friday: Men's Breakfast Devotional at (Bob Evans) – 9:30am
6th Saturday: Leadership training and luncheon 9:00am – 1:00pm
7th Sunday: Worship and Communion at 10:00am
7th Sunday: Devotion at Samaritas (the Woods) 2:30pm
10th Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm
14th Sunday: Worship at 10:00am
14th Sunday: Devotion at Samaritas (the Lodge) 2:00pm
17th Wednesday: Beth Moore Bible Study begins 1:30pm
17th Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm
18th Thursday: Lunch-n-Learn with Randy & Marsha Heckman 11:30am
18th Thursday: Session meeting 7:30pm (Zoom)
19th Friday: Fellowship Feast – Baynai's at 6:00pm
21st Sunday: Worship and Communion service at 10:00am
21st Sunday: Devotional at Grand Village at 2:00pm
22nd Monday: Newsletter deadline
24th Wednesday: Beth Moore, class number 2 at 1:30pm
24th Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm
26th Friday: Ladies Luncheon at 1:00pm (Peking

Inn – 602 68th ST SW)
28th Sunday: Worship at 10:00am
28th Sunday: Devotional at Brook Crest (Joan's home) at 2:30pm
31st Wednesday: Beth Moore Bible Study, class number 3 at 1:30pm
31st Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm

SERVING

Week of August 7:

Greeting: Bill & Sandee
Sound Booth: Lehmanns
Musician: Maureen
Special Music: Pastor Mike
Communion Bread: Rachel
Elder Officiant: Henry
Preaching: Dr. Laura
Liturgist: Pastor Mike
Cleaning: Henry & Mercy

Week of August 14:

Greeting: Bettye & Marilyn
Sound Booth: Adams
Musician: Marjorie
Special Music: The Danas
Preaching: Pastor Mike
Liturgist: Henry
Cleaning: Dana B. & Bev

Week of August 21:

Greeting: Roger & Marie
Sound Booth: Adams
Musician: Maureen

Special Music: Mercy
Communion Bread: Rachel
Elder Officiant: Henry
Preaching: Pastor Mike
Liturgist: Robert
Cleaning: Rachel

Week of August 28:

Greeting; Henry & Mercy
Sound Booth: Adams
Musician: Maureen
Special Music: Henry and Rachel
Preaching: Pastor Mike
Cleaning: Bill & Sandee

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.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

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 together we, “pour out our hearts before Him”.

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

Access Code: 6914064

LADIES LUNCHEON

You’re invited to join some of the ladies of the church each **LAST FRIDAY** of the month at the Peking Inn at 1:00pm. It’s a great time of prayer and fellowship as the “sisters meet. (Everyone is “Dutch”). For more information contact Elaine Miller or Betty Kay.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12	Bev Schaafsma
15	Toni Kenyi
17	Dan Vanderberg
21	Al and Marjorie Boerema (Anniv.)
24	Marcia Jones
31	Vi Squires

LUNCH AND LEARN

Join us on Wednesday, August 17 at 11:30am for Lunch-n-Learn luncheon. Our special guests will be the Honorable Randy and Marsha Heckman who will share some of their experiences in sharing their love of the Lord Jesus with others. We’ll have a “boxed” lunch from Yo Chef’s Catering Company (\$5.00 per person). Please speak with Pastor Mike for more details and be sure to sign up.

COMMUNION THIS SUMMER

After celebrating communion every Sunday during the Lenten season, the Session has considered the benefit of having communion more often. It has been decided that for the summer months (June, July and August) we will have communion on every first and every third Sunday.

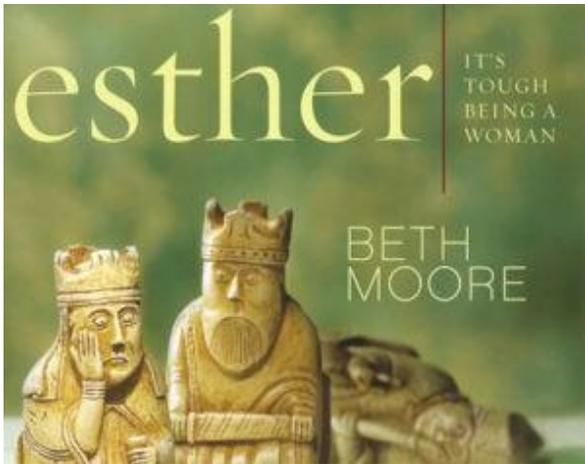
Additionally, we will be introducing real wine to the congregation. Please note carefully the communion trays will contain BOTH grape juice and real wine. They will be clearly distinguished from one another and thoroughly explained before each communion service. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to speak with pastor Mike, Dr. Laura or any of the members of Session. Thank you for your willingness to explore what might be extremely meaningful for another.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Rev. Nancy Dumford will be with us on Saturday 6th for session two of our Leadership training. The session will begin at 9:00am and after a short, boxed-lunch break, will conclude at 1:00pm. Everyone in our church community is invited and encouraged to attend. There is a workbook to purchase for \$10.00.

Dr. Laura conducted the first session a few months ago. What we learned is that we are all leaders in this our new and growing church. We all have something to contribute. Please make the effort to join your pastors and elders as we work together to develop our church into the kind of community the Lord Jesus will use in a mighty way. For more information, please feel free to speak to Dr. Laura or pastor Mike.

BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY



The new Beth Moore Bible Study class is beginning Wednesday, August 17, at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. It is a 10-week series of classes to be held each Wednesday starting at 1:30 PM, and they will be studying the Book of Esther. For more information, cost of materials, and to sign up call Donna Baynai at 616-822-7527.

THE BOB AND BARB BAILEY MEMORIAL FUND

As we are all mourning the passing of our dear sister in the faith, I wish to share some news with you that will lift your heart and kindle even more fond memories of Barb. Before she died, she instructed her family to establish a memorial fund here at the church for those who are in need of financial help for any number of reasons. The Session is thrilled to inform you that a \$10,000.00 Bob and Barb Bailey Memorial Fund is being established. As we prepare to administer this fund, we will say more about access and eligibility. As those of you who attended Barb's funeral will recall, the family was encouraging donations to this fund in lieu of flowers. To donate, make your check payable to Good Shepherd and designate the Bailey Fund on your check. Join me as we thank God for yet another love gift! For His praise and glory!

DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS PROGRAM

As you know, we are participating in the SpartanNash Direct Your Dollars Program and, for the last several months have been accumulating your Family Fare and D&W receipts. Once we reach \$150,000 in receipts, we'll receive \$1,000 from SpartanNash as a donation for us to apply through our Missions program.

We're pleased to tell you that in just a few months we've already collected \$11,746 in receipts (as of July 17, 2022). Great work, everybody; let's keep them coming.

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERINGS

The Missions Team will soon be meeting to determine the schedule for the Joyful Noise recipients for 2023. At a recent congregational meeting a question was raised regarding how the recipients were selected since they always seemed to be the same organizations. At a meeting of the Team in 2019 the following guidelines were recognized and adopted: a local ministry, smaller ministries where our gifts would have a significant impact, and willingness to send a speaker to the church to describe their ministry (Minute for Mission). At that same meeting the committee confirmed its commitment to collect two months of Joyful Noise collections for each ministry recipient so that the amount given would be substantial enough to make an impact. The Team also confirmed that we would continue to match Joyful Noise collections with Mission money to increase the contribution. Exceptions such as startup Legacy Church in Ohio and the church of Henry's brother in Kenya have been made in the past.

Members of the congregation may submit other mission options meeting the above guidelines to the Mission Team for consideration along with rationale for consideration. At this time there is no date set for the Mission team meeting, but considerations may be submitted to the Missions Team.

NOTES FROM AFAR

Rev. Mike,

I hope this email finds you doing well. This is Ken—this email is for my Princeton one. I could arrive safely in Princeton this Wednesday. I am pretty excited to start my study at PTS where you studied!

With the help of you and the financial support of Good Shepherd Church, I could bring all my packages to Princeton. I truly appreciate the kindness of you, Dr. Laura and the folks of Good Shepherd Church. So, please extend my deep gratitude to them. And I will send the letter to Good Shepherd Church when my life at Princeton will be settled.

I am really looking forward to meeting you at Princeton in the near future!! When you and Donna will travel there, please let me know!!

Sincerely,
Ken Miyagi

P.S. I am also attaching the photo that we took and of our school!



Dear Pastor Mike and Mr. Jim,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a winner of the Brooks Memorial Scholarship. It greatly helps me in being able to afford and attend the university. I will be sure to use it in a way deemed satisfactory.

Thank you once again,

Liam Adams

Dear Brethren,

I want to thank you all for the Brooks Scholarship Fund. It is timely support and makes a difference in our lives and studies. Thank you again for the support from BSF!!!

The Lord be with you all and continue to use you for His glory.

Blessings
Fikre

Dear Brooks Scholarship Fund Trustees,

I just want to let you know that I have received your gift for the 2022/2023 School year, and I just want to say thank you so much. I really appreciate your support in my journey, and it means so much to me.

Thank you again and God bless you all.

Amanuel Hailemariam