

## MINUTE WITH MIKE

*Finally, and in the strength of His might,  
Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm  
against the schemes of the devil.  
For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,  
but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness,  
against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.  
Ephesians 6:10-12*

Summer-time greetings to you and yours,

Praying that these warm temperatures remind you of our God who loves us and give us all things, including summer!

I have believed for all my years in the ministry that I, and you, and the entire Christian Church, is in a battle – a spiritual battle. We are learning about the history of that battle as we work our way through the book of Acts each Sunday morning. Jesus told Peter that “Satan wanted to sift you [Peter] like wheat...” (Luke 22:31) – not a good thing. Thus, the truth of the verse above; “...so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes (or attacks) of the devil...” The enemy of God is nasty and formidable; we don’t want to underestimate him, nor do we want to think that he’s not working to destroy you, me, our families, our communities, our churches, nations and world through a whole host of ways.

We must “be strong in the Lord...” and we must be alert. Michael Brown writes in Decision Magazine (May 2022); “The society around us will demand more and more compromise, and the moral revolutionaries will see the Christian church, bound to Scripture, and committed to the Gospel, as the great obstacle to their version of moral progress. And, once you untether yourself or your church from the Word of God, you had better expect the next wave of “progressive” energy to wash you and your church far out to sea.”

Are you up for a good fight? Paul said at the end of his life; “I have fought the good fight...” (2 Tim. 4:7). Our children and grandchildren are at stake. Will you continue to fight with me in keeping our eyes on the Lord and our confidence in His Word?

Bless you as you fight on and thank you for the privilege to be your preacher, brother and friend.

*Mike*

## SESSION NEWS

Session did not meet in June. Below is the Treasurer's Report for May. The June report was not available at the time of printing of the July edition of the newsletter.

### 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)
<b><u>\$30,807.95</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE</u></b>

(LESS FOLLOWING COMMITTED FUNDS)

- \$32	Accrued Joyful Noise offerings
- \$387.50	Building Fund (Summary below)
<b><u>\$30,388.45</u></b>	<b><u>Uncommitted Funds Available</u></b>

Notes:

- Uncommitted funds, as of 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 cancelled the move of the piano from New Jersey so we expect a refund check from moving company.
- I plan to cash-in the CD on June 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

### INTERIM BUILDING FUND BUDGET TO COMPLETE (as of Apr 30, 2022)

#### Irish

6' versus 3' doors =	\$814
Second Bathroom =	\$8,130 (only item budgeted at \$8,625)
Extra Outlets =	<u>\$275</u>
	<b><u>-0- Balance Due (\$9,219 paid versus \$8,625 budgeted)</u></b>

#### Mark

Painting =	\$2,900
Carpet =	\$5,000
Kitchen =	<u>\$2,500</u>
	<b><u>-0- Balance Due (\$13,000 paid versus \$10,400 budgeted)</u></b>

#### GSPC

Folding Tables (8) =	\$0 due - (\$998.76 paid)
Refrigerator =	\$0 due - (\$519.99 paid)
Sign balance =	\$0 due - (\$6,464 paid versus \$6,000)
Pulpit/Alter =	\$0 due - (pulpit-\$321.36 & communion table-\$412.34 - both paid)

Cross balance = \$387.50 due (1/2 down - \$387.50 paid)  
 Miscellaneous = \$0 due - Moving piano from New Jersey (cancelled for \$452 refund)  
 Miscellaneous = \$0 due – (keys-\$36.31, moving chairs-\$318, cabinet pulls-\$45.13, TV surge protector-\$31.79, bathroom cabinets - \$58.28, entrance sign lettering - \$50, literature rack - \$126.08, and entrance table - \$82.44 - all paid)

**\$387.50**

**Potential Additional Costs:** Camera, Bulletin Board, Raised Verse letters, Air filtration, etc.

**CURRENT REMAINING ANTICIPATED EXPENSES: \$387.50 (remaining of \$32,456.04 of an updated total for move) [TOTAL ALREADY PAID = \$32,068.54]**

**PLEASE NOTE: The Building Fund has grown from \$22,000 to the current of \$32,456.04, due to many changes (i.e., larger doors, 2 platforms, extra outlets, shelf, and electronics cabling, etc.)**

## THE SWEET SIDE OF LIFE

“I, Willy Wonka, have decided to allow five children – just five, mind you, and no more – to visit my factory this year.” and with this statement the story of Charlie Bucket begins! The musical *Willy Wonka* is based on the classic children's book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl.

*Willy Wonka Jr.* is a light-hearted, simplified version of this delightful musical that has charmed audiences for decades. Many of the songs you may remember from the 1970's movie starring Gene Wilder as Mr. Willy Wonka....*Pure Imagination, I've Got a Golden Ticket, and Oompah Loompah!*

StageGR is a local youth theater company, and this summer their junior high cast will present *Willy Wonka Jr.* Tons of kids, who just completed 5th-8th grade, auditioned to be in the show. GSPC member Faywen Adams was cast in one of the main character roles. She will portray Mrs. Gloop, the German overbearing, over-indulging, mother of Augustus Gloop! The Gloops, along with four other child/parent duos, find a Golden Ticket in a Wonka chocolate bar. With this ticket the five parent/child sets have the opportunity to visit Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious and magical chocolate factory! What happens inside the chocolate factory brings out both the best and worst in all the children and their parents!

**When:** Thurs. July 21 at 7pm, Fri. July 22 at 11am, 3pm, 7pm

(The show is about 1hr and 15 minutes long.)

**Where:** Matthews Performing Arts Center at Cornerstone University

**Ticket price:** TBD

These kids will put together the show with only two weeks of rehearsals!

Contact Cammi Adams for more information as the show dates approach. [cammi.adams@gmail.com](mailto:cammi.adams@gmail.com)

## DATES – JULY

1<sup>st</sup> Friday: Men’s Breakfast Devotional at (Bob Evans) – 9:30am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Worship and Communion at 10:00am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Devotion at Samaritas (the Woods) 2:30pm

4<sup>th</sup> Monday: Independence Day!!

6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm

7<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Bilyea’s Home group meeting at 1:00pm

7<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Bible Study at Grand Village (Barb’s home) at 1:00pm

9<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Worship Team meeting at 10:00am

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Worship service at 10:00am

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Devotional at Samaritas (The Lodge) at 3:00pm

13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Worship and Communion at 10:00am

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Devotional at Grand Village (Barb’s home) at 2:00pm

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Hymn-Sing and Ice Cream Social  
5:00pm  
18<sup>th</sup> Monday: Newsletter deadline  
20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: Lunch-n-Learn with Phil Smart  
WorldRenew at 11:30am (\$6.00 box lunch)  
20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm  
21<sup>st</sup> Thursday: Bilyea's Home Group meeting  
1:00pm  
21<sup>st</sup> Thursday: Bible Study at Grand Village (Barb's  
home) at 1:00pm  
22<sup>nd</sup> Friday: A Solemn Assembly of Prayer in  
Kalkaska, MI. noon to 4:00pm  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Worship at 10:00am  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Devotional at Brook Crest (Joan's  
home) at 2:30pm  
27<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: Prayer Call at 7:00pm  
29<sup>th</sup> Friday: Ladies Luncheon at First Wok (44<sup>th</sup>  
Street) at 1:00pm  
30<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Worship at 10:00am  
30<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Board of Deacon's meeting after  
worship

## LOOKING AHEAD

August 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Leadership training and  
luncheon 9:00am – 1:00pm  
August 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: Lunch-n-Learn at 11:30am  
Guests, Judge Randy & Marsha Heckman  
11:30am

## SERVING

3<sup>rd</sup>: Preaching - Pastor Mike  
Musician - Marjorie Boerema  
Special Music – Pastor Mike  
Communion Bread - Rachel Wahome  
Officiating at the Table - Henry Gachini and  
Robert Adams  
Greeting - Bill & Sandee Keating  
Sound Booth – Lehmanns  
Fellowship Host – Donna Baynai  
Cleaning this week - Mike & Donna  
10<sup>th</sup>: Preaching - Pastor Mike  
Liturgist – Dr. Laura  
Marjorie Boerema - Musician  
Special Music - Dana Bilyea and Dana  
Lehmann  
Greeting - Diane Solomon & Marilyn  
Potgeter  
Sound Booth – Adams  
Fellowship Host – Marjorie Boerema

Cleaning this week - Henry, Bev & Dana B.  
17<sup>th</sup>: Preaching - Dr. Laura  
Liturgist - Pastor Mike  
Communion Bread - Rachel Wahome  
Officiating at the Table - Henry Gachini  
Maureen Sweet - Musician  
Special Music - Mercy Kamau  
Greeting - Roger & Marie Zoerner  
Fellowship Host – Sandee Keating  
Sound Booth – Adams  
Cleaning this week - Rachel and Mercy  
24<sup>th</sup>: Preaching – Pastor Mike  
Liturgist – Dr. Laura  
Musician - Maureen Sweet  
Special Music - Henry Gachini & Rachel  
Wahome  
Greeting - Henry Gachini and Mercy Kamau  
Sound Booth – Lehmanns  
Fellowship Host – Diane Solomon  
Cleaning this week - Bill and Sandee  
31<sup>st</sup>: Sound Booth – Lehmanns  
Special Music – Marjorie Boerema  
Preaching – Pastor Mike  
Liturgist – Dr. Laura  
Musician – Marjorie Boerema  
Greeting – Mercy Kamau & Pastor Mike  
Fellowship Host – Marcia Jones  
Cleaning the church – Mike & Donna  
Baynai

## 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 1:00pm, meeting at First Wok on 44<sup>th</sup> Street. 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.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4	Wilfred Keating
15	Amanuel Hailemariam
26	Fikre Norcha

## LUNCH AND LEARN

Join us on Wednesday, July 20 at 11:30am for a "boxed lunch" time of fellowship and then a half-hour presentation from Rev. Phil Smart, Director of Church Relations with WorldRenew. Phil has a whole host of experiences including missionary service (with his wife and three children) to Venezuela for 13 years. He will share with us the work of WorldRenew, both domestically and internationally, and will make time for our questions. Please be sure to sign up as the "boxed lunches" are purchased in advance (\$6.00)

Join us also on Wednesday, August 17 at 11:30am for our first Lunch-n-Learn luncheon. Our special guests will be the Honorable Randy and Marsha Heckman who will share with us some of their experiences in sharing their love of the Lord Jesus with others. We'll have a "boxed" lunch from Horrocks for all those planning on attending. The lunches will be made up of ham sandwiches and at a cost of \$10.00 per lunch. Please speak with Pastor Mike for more details and be sure to sign up.

## HYMN SING

We'll hold a good old-fashioned hymn-sing on Sunday July 17 at 5:00pm. Marjorie has agreed

to play and after singing a dozen or so of your favorite old hymns, we'll serve up dishes of ice cream. Please 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## NOTE OF APPRECIATION

As I have now closed out my official term as Elder on the Session, I want to express my appreciation to the Session for bestowing the title of Emeritus Elder on me and to you the congregation for your faith in me by allowing me to serve as a leader of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. It has been an honor and a privilege. Although not quite true, it sometimes seems I have been on Session since I joined JKPC while going through all of the highs and lows, but I'm grateful for the opportunity and for the friendship of all of you as members.

With love and appreciation,  
Betty Rittersdorf

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Zephaniah 3:18: I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly

**July 22nd  
2022**

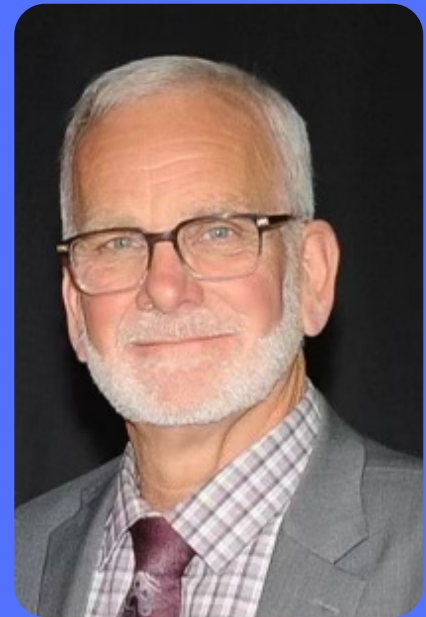
Praying at the Heart of Michigan

# SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

**KALISEUM RECREATION  
COMPLEX**

1900 FAIRGROUNDS RD.  
KALKASKA MI

Bishop Windle Davis



+269-468-3881



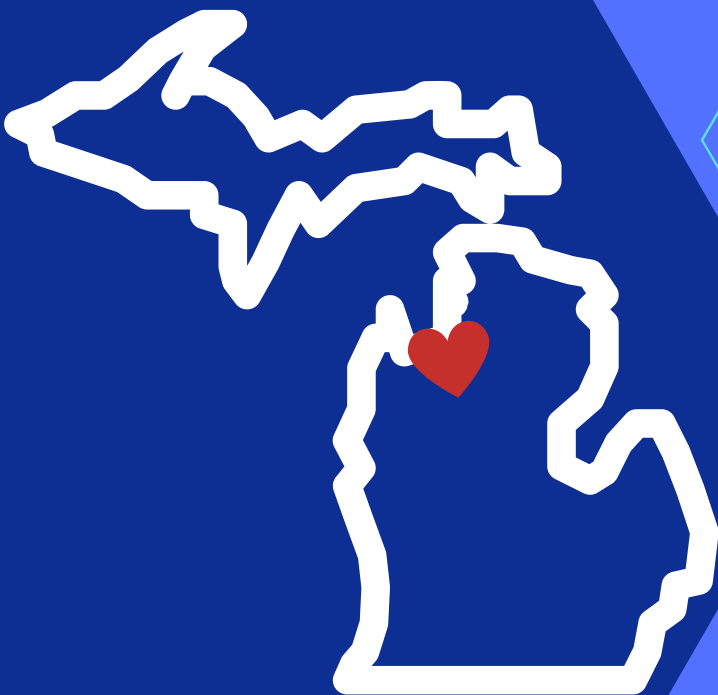
[paypal.me/elbethelcog5141](https://paypal.me/elbethelcog5141)



[revivalnowwd@yahoo.com](mailto:revivalnowwd@yahoo.com)



Solemn Assembly Kalkaska



*Kalkaska*

**12-4PM**





# PRAYER AT THE HEART OF MICHIGAN

## **What is Solemn Assembly?**

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord. (Joel 2:15-17)

Bishop Doug Small writes, “The term ‘solemn assembly’ is, as implied, a serious, somber assembly. It cannot be done virtually. It is a formal gathering of God’s people before His throne. It is not a celebration. It is not conducted in the light and shallow manner in which much of Evangelical-Pentecostal worship is conducted today.... It is not a private matter but a corporate gathering. One in which the tone is solemn, sober in spirit, earnest, and reverent. The name indicates both the nature and gravity of the gathering – not casual, but solemn; not private and devotional, but by its constitution, corporate!”

## **Why do we need a Solemn Assembly?**

Because America is in trouble! Again quoting Bishop Small, “That we are in trouble is obvious. Our deep racial wound has been explosively demonstrated. Our deficit continues to escalate, almost unnoticed, threatening hyperinflation. Our political divide seems irreconcilable. The national distrust of government is a danger to our stability. Our media seems to have lost all objectivity. We appear to have made an irreversible commitment to religious pluralism.”

Our colleges and universities, and even public schools have become breeding grounds for liberalism and even socialism. Drug addiction is rampant, alcohol use is glorified, abortion on demand is a cherished right, and the so-called gay community is preying on our children. I could go on and on, but the simple truth is America is messed up!

## **Is America a nation under judgment?**

In my opinion we are, because we have rejected the God of our founders. But while judgement consummated is total destruction, judgement deferred is a call to repentance, and that is where America is right now, and that is what Solemn Assembly is all about. (See 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, chapters 9-10)

God has given us a mandate to call the **State of Michigan to a Solemn Assembly**, to be held at the geographical center of the state in Kalkaska on **July 22<sup>nd</sup>** from **12:00 – 4:00 pm** at the Kaliseum Recreation Complex. This will be a non-denominational event, but we invite all believers to join us. It will be a non-political meeting open to everyone. Everyone who longs for revival and the healing of our nation is urged to attend.

In this effort we are partnering with “Prayer at the Heart Ministries,” Gerald Long, Executive Director, and Bishop Doug Small, President, in an effort to bring Solemn Assembly to all fifty states. We are also looking for prayer leaders who are willing to join us and help make this the best it can be. If you are a prayer warrior, and intercessor who loves this state and nation and would like to help make it happen, please contact me to find out how you can help.

Bishop Windle H. Davis  
El Bethel Church of God