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Volume VII

Issue 12

MINUTE WITH MIKE

*After coming into the house, they (the Magi from the East) saw the Child with Mary His mother;
and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him.
Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod,
The Magi left for their own country by another way.
Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the Magi, he became very enraged,
and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity,
from two years old and under...
Matthew 2:11-12, 16*

Blessed Christmas time greetings to you and yours,

May the truth and glory of the season permeate your heart and the hearts of all your loved ones.

My heart, dear friends, is broken. What the voters in Michigan have done regarding Proposition 3 a few weeks ago is shocking. We have made Michigan the most radical pro-abortion state in the country. How could this be? How could so many of us be so godless?

It gives me pause to think about our Lord and the many times His heart was broken. Surely, it was when they came to Him with the report that John the Baptist had been killed. Surely, He was heartbroken when marching into Jerusalem, He said; "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!" (Luke 13:34). And again, when Judas, one of His own, who heard and observed Jesus for three years betrayed Him with a kiss.

Do you recall when Pilate wanted to release Jesus; "Pilate said to the crowd, 'Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?'" They all said, "Crucify Him!" And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!" When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." And all the people said, "**His blood shall be on us and on our children!**" (Matthew 27:22-25) Heartbreaking!

The voters of Michigan have blood on their hands, the blood of innocent unborn children. Now what shall we do? The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to repent of all unrighteousness and cry out to the Lord Jesus for His mercy. My prayer is that somehow, some way, in His mercy, this horrific law would be overturned.

Not the Christmas message you might have expected; it's surely not the one I thought I would write. But Jesus has a way of dividing people; one either submits and obeys His ways, or one rebels and serves self.

Babies died in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, and we know Jesus was heartbroken. Babies will die in Michigan, and the Lord Jesus grieves for them, too.

May the Christmas Child who is filled with peace and joy and love have mercy upon us all this Christmas season and throughout all eternity.

Thank you for the privilege of being your brother, friend, and pastor,

Mike

SESSION NEWS

The 84th Stated Meeting of the Session of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church was called to order Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 7:35 PM via Zoom conference, by Pastor Mike Baynai, Moderator.

Devotions and Prayer – Pastor Mike provided devotions from Oswald Chambers and the opening prayer.

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

Clerk of Session – By common consent, the Session received and accepted Robert Adams' resignation as a Ruling Elder and Clerk of Session. **A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to appoint Jim Miller as Clerk of Session.**

Clerk's Report

Next Communion will be observed on Sunday, November 20, 2022; the last communion was observed Sunday, November 6, 2022.

Correspondence

- A letter was received from Robert Adams announcing and detailing their family's departure from the church.
- Then Clerk Robert Adams drafted a letter to the Maddox family regarding their son Carter's baptism.

Membership

Active Membership as of 10/20/2022	42
No Change	
Active Membership as of 11/10/2022	42

Worship Services

Attendance	10/23/2022	38 Adults	2 Children at GSPC
Attendance	10/30/2022	34 Adults	2 Children at GSPC
Attendance	11/6/2022	28 Adults	0 Children at GSPC

Treasurer's Report –

\$ 22,501	Cash on Hand as of 10/30/2022
0	CD #1 (Northpointe Bank)
0	CD #2 (Northpointe Bank)

	(less following committed funds)
0	Accrued Joyful Noise offerings
0	Building Fund
<hr/>	
\$ 22,501	Uncommitted Funds Available

Treasurer’s Notes: Uncommitted funds, as of end of Sep, were \$22,102.03. Our GAIN in Oct was \$398.96. This is great, after significant LOSSES for the last 2 months. Hopefully, we may be changing the trend. See separate financial statement for October 2022. Potential Additional Costs: Camera (Dana L. TBD)

Consent Agenda – Approve the Clerk’s and Treasurer’s Reports, and the minutes of previous Session and Congregational meetings. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

Pastor – Following items, events and dates were discussed:

- Bob Askul will be the guest speaker at the Dec. 15 Lunch ‘N Learn.
- New Model Update – Presbytery has received our draft proposal and promises a response within a week or so. We’re informed it’s likely to be favorable. An extensive discussion ensued regarding introducing and implementing the model. No decisions taken pending a report from Presbytery.
- Carter Maddox Baptism – on hold due to a serious injury to a family member who would be attending; date yet to be resolved.
- Deacons – Mike will be meeting with the Deacons for lunch this Friday. Richard Soward’s continued absence from his Deacon duties as well as other church activities was noted. Mike will bring this up at the meeting and will recommend that, with the other Deacon’s agreement, Richard should probably be removed from the Board of Deacons by the Session.

Stewardship – Committee chairperson Jim Miller reports that the stewardship letter was mailed out on Tuesday, Nov. 8, and Consecration Sunday will be Nov. 20.

Worship – The preaching schedule for December is Pastor Mike on 12/4, Rev. Cammenga on 12/ 11 & 18, and guest preacher Rev. Bill Crawford (a retired ECO pastor) on 12/25.

Bailey Fund – A \$100 donation was received from a Bailey family member in Houston.

Missions – The Missions Committee met on Nov. 6, 2022, and Betty provided minutes of the meeting. Essentially, we will be following the same Joyful Noise and matching mission funds plan as we utilized in 2022, and the recipients will stay the same although on a different schedule. They will be:

Jan/Feb	Pregnancy Resource Center
Mar/Apr	Mel Trotter Ministries
May/Jun	In The Image
Jul/Aug	Manna Media
Sep/Oct	Women at Risk (WAR)
Nov/Dec	Forgotten Man Ministries

Next Presbytery Meeting – At the national gathering in January 2023. **Session Meeting** – The next Session meeting will be **Thursday, Dec. 8** at 7:30 PM via Zoom. The Clerk will forward the Zoom link.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Mike closed the meeting with prayer; adjourned at approximately 9:22 PM.
Respectfully submitted,

Jim Miller, Clerk of Session

DATES – DECEMBER

1st Thursday: Prayer Hour 10:30am
2nd Friday: Men's Breakfast Devotional at (Bob Evans) – 9:30am
4th Sunday: Worship & Communion 10:00am
[Second Sunday of Advent]
4th Sunday: Devotion at Samaritas; The Woods
2:00pm
7th Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm
8th Thursday: Prayer Hour 10:30am
8th Thursday: Bilyea's Home Group meeting
1:00pm
8th Thursday: Bible Study at Grand Village 3:00pm
8th Thursday: Session Zoom meeting 7:30pm
11th Sunday: Worship at 10:00am [Third Sunday in
Advent]
11th Sunday: Devotion at Samaritas: The Lodge
(Bob's home) 2:00pm
14th Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm
15th Thursday: Prayer Hour 10:30am
15th Thursday: Lunch-n-Learn 11:30am [Bob
Azkul's Christmas Program]
18th Sunday: Worship & Communion 10:00am
[Fourth Sunday in Advent]
18th Sunday: Devotion at Grand Village 2:00pm
19th Monday: Newsletter deadline
21st Wednesday: Church-wide Prayer Call at
7:00pm
22nd Thursday: Prayer Hour 10:30am
22nd Thursday: Bilyea's Home Group at 1:00pm
22nd Thursday: Bible Study at Grand Village at
3:00pm
23rd Friday: Christmas Program at Samaritas – The
Woods 1:30pm
23rd Friday: Christmas Program at Samaritas – The
Lodge 3:00pm
25th Sunday: Worship at 10:00am
25th Sunday: Devotion at Brook Crest (Joan's
Home) 2:30pm
28th Wednesday: Prayer Call 7:00pm
29th Thursday: Prayer Hour at 10:30am
30th Friday: Ladies Luncheon at 1:00pm [Russ' on
Division near M6)

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

9 Jim Miller
15 Jerry Bruinekol
16 Scott Gipe
20 Linda Van Heuvelen

SERVING

Week of December 4:

Flowers: Marilyn
Greeting: Bill & Sandee
Sound Booth: Gary & Dana
Musician: Marjorie
Special Music: Henry, Jackson & Rachel
Preaching: Pastor Mike
Communion Bread: Rachel
Elders Serving: Henry & Jackson
Fellowship Host: Bev
Cleaning: Henry & Mercy

Week of December 11:

Greeting: Bettye & Marilyn
Sound Booth: Gary & Dana
Musician: Marjorie
Liturgist: Pastor Mike
Special Music: Pastor Mike
Preaching: Rev. Carolyn Cammenga
Fellowship Host: Marcia
Cleaning: Mike, Donna & Bev

Week of December 18:

Greeting: Roger & Marie
Sound Booth: Gary & Dana
Musician: Maureen
Liturgist: Pastor Mike
Special Music: Marjorie/Dana & Dana
Preaching: Rev. Carolyn Cammenga
Communion Bread: Rachel
Elders Serving: Henry
Fellowship Host: Dana B.
Cleaning: Rachel

Week of December 25:

Greeting: Henry, Jackson & Mercy
Sound Booth: Gary & Dana
Musician: Maureen
Liturgist: Pastor Mike
Special Music: Mercy
Preaching: Rev. Bill Crawford
Fellowship Host: Sandee
Cleaning: Bill & Sandee

MEMBERS/FRIENDS IN NEED OF PRAYER

Marie Zoerner recovering from cancer surgery, Bill Keating cancer treatment, Marilyn Potgeter cataract surgery, Mary Zichterman hand surgery

LADIES LUNCHEON

You're invited to join some of the ladies of the church each LAST FRIDAY of the month at 1:00pm. It's a great time of prayer and fellowship as the "sisters" meet (everyone is "Dutch"). For more information and location please contact Elaine Miller of Bettye Kay.

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 OPPORTUNITIES

NEW: A Mid-Morning prayer hour at the church at 10:30am has begun recently. Pastor Mike will lead this time and everyone; members, friends, visitors, and guests alike are invited. For more information, please contact Pastor Mike.

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".

NEW Dial-in-number: 1-720-843-2755
SAME Access Code: 6914064

THANKS...

Thanks to Donna Baynai who recently completed an 11-part Beth Moore Bible Study series through the book of Esther. The course was well attended by a number of guests to GSPC. There is already consideration of another Beth Moore Study for the spring. Thanks Donna!

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

The Joyful Noise Offering for this month and next will be taken up for Forgotten Man Ministries which has been renamed – Reach the Forgotten (RTF).

"Jail is not a desirable place to be, but it was the place that saved me, thanks to Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry. It's not just a job for them. They are just trying to show love in the most broken part of our broken world" says Joshua from Genesee County.

RTF believes in the redemption and restoration of inmates through Jesus Christ. As the largest jail-focused ministry in the U.S., we empower chaplains and volunteers to share hope and salvation with the "forgotten" women and men incarcerated in Michigan's county jails.

RTF can be contacted at 1480 Buchanan Ave. Grand Rapids, MI. 49507. (616) 784-4620.
office@jailministry.org.

BANNER BOOK

Thanks to Diane, our dear sister in the faith, who has recently put together a Banner Book containing a photograph of all our banners and a brief explanation about their origin and use. Thanks, Diane!

REMEMBER THE STAFF

Christmas is a time of giving. Our limited staff have been generous throughout the year giving of their time and their talents. Once again, this year, the Personnel Team is asking those of us who have been so gifted by our limited staff to donate to the staff Christmas gifts to be divided equally between the staff members. Staff included this year are Pastors Mike and Laura as well as our musicians Marjorie and Maureen. With Christmas coming on a Sunday this year the Personnel team is asking your donations be submitted by December 18 thereby enabling the treasurer time to get them prepared for Christmas. There will be envelopes available or put them in an envelope making sure to note they are for Staff gifts on the Memo of checks or on the envelope.

JUMP FOR JOY WITH Rev. CAROLYN CAMMENGA

With prayers for her full and speedy recovery, Rev. Carolyn Cammenga will be postponing her Jump for Joy class until January. Carolyn returned recently from Egypt not feeling well. She was hospitalized for a couple of days and will need to rest and guard her recovery.

As details unfold for the rescheduled date, we will post them. Should you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Mike.

ADVENT WORSHIP AT GSPC

This Advent season promises to be a very special one. We'll have two special guests in our pulpit enhancing the proclamation of the Christmas Gospel. Rev. Cammenga will preach in the Advent series - weeks three and four. Christmas day our guest will be Rev. Bill Crawford, a recently retired ECO pastor who has relocated to the Grand Rapids area to care for an aging parent.

- First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 27): Pastor Mike – Love
- Second Sunday of Advent (Dec. 4): Pastor Mike – Hope
- Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 11): Rev. Carolyn Cammenga – Peace
- Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 18): Rev. Carolyn Cammenga – Joy
- Christmas Day (Dec. 25): Rev. Bill Crawford who will provide us with a different kind of Christmas message. he writes ... *I've put together a sermon about A Christmas Carol. Not the one we sing. It's about the classic novel by Charles Dickens. The essence of the story is the change that takes place in Ebenezer Scrooge... how his ice-cold, stony heart became warm and tender. Dickens was not an orthodox Christian, but he was a believer in God and his work reflected in many ways both a Christian worldview and Christian values. While I don't think we should derive our theology from Dickens, I think I've put together a message that touches on some Biblical themes that will stir hearts and inspire people as we walk through the*

miraculous transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge. The message would fit many different contexts. I know from about 40 years of pastoral ministry how coming up with fresh angles to approach Christmas messages can be paralyzing. So, I look forward to sharing this message with you and your congregation on Christmas day.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

The Mission Team is asking the congregation once again to support a Christmas Angel Tree program that will benefit the Norcha family.

Fikre, his wife Alem and their two daughters continue to live in the North Kansas City area. Fikre is about seven months into writing his dissertation and is currently pastoring an Ethiopian congregation that is renting space from a local church. He expects that it will take another year or so to finish. Alem continues to work at a local supply company. Their oldest child Amanuel is halfway through his third year at Southeastern Missouri University. Aside from being a stellar student, he works and is involved in a local church. Yesem is in her senior year and is looking at a number of colleges. Mieraf is a freshman and is enjoying high-school life.

With all the changes in the world today, the children are getting older and more particular about styles, and as the cost to ship goods across the nation is expensive, we want to invite you all to purchase a gift card for the family. Here are the steps:

- Purchase a gift card from one of the businesses listed below. These are companies that are here in our area and in their area as well. *

Denny's	Burlington
Chipotle	Walmart
Steak'n Shake	T.J. Max
Panda Express	Nordstrom Rack
- Put your gift card in a Christmas card to the family. You may wish to sign your name or simply write something like "Your Good Shepherd family"
- Bring your card into the church by or before December 18.

- On Monday, December 19 we'll mail all the cards together in a UPS protected envelope.
- *Although gift cards are preferred, if for some reason you are unable to purchase a gift card and prefer to send a check, please make out the checks to the church. Our treasurer will make a check in the total amount of checks received and send that for Fikre to divide among the family. Please be sure to make a note in the memo that the check is for the Angel Tree Program and place it separately from the Christmas card.

Thanks for your willingness to spread God's love and goodness. If you have questions or comments, please speak with Betty or Pastor Mike.

CHRISTMAS AT SAMARITAS

Many of you know GSPC has a very good and close relationship with Samaritas Home on 32nd Street. We have had many members and friends living there over the years. Also, for years Pastor Mike has led devotions at the Terraces, the Lodge, and the Woods.

Arrangements are now being made to hold Christmas concerts at both the Woods and the Lodge on Thursday, December 22. The Woods will be held at 1:30pm, and the Lodge will be held at 3:00pm.

Our Board of Deacons will be working to prepare small Christmas gifts to hand out to the residents. They will be calling on all of us to help spread Christmas joy with these dear souls. Samaritas Home will provide the refreshments.

The uniqueness of these Christmas concerts is that the residents of the homes will make up the choir. We'll have the staff helping everyone wear red, and we'll position them up front as family, friends, staff and other residents gather as an audience to cheer the singers on.

It promises to be one of the most touching experiences of the season. Would you please consider attending one of the events? If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Mike.

HELP WANTED

Now that the Adams family has left the church, seeking a church closer to their home, we are once again seeking a volunteer photographer. Cammi's photographs enabled us to have pictures in the newsletter and to compile photos for our church history. The Session and the newsletter staff would appreciate someone with a Smart Phone to step to the plate to capture church activities for the present and for posterity and pick up the small job as a gift to the church.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Would you like to purchase a poinsettia plant to decorate the church for Christmas? We are once again taking orders for them. The plants this year will be between \$8-10. (If you want to order, place your order, and watch the bulletin for the final price.) You may take the plant home with you on Christmas day. Orders should be in by December 11 with flowers in church on the 18th. Please look for the order form in the Sunday bulletin or speak with Diane about your order.



You are invited to ...

Lunch-n-Learn

Thursday – December 15, 2022
11:30am

Our special guest

Bob Azkul –

A

Christmas
Extravaganza

Join us for a very special time as Bob and Bonnie share the Christmas message and lead us in some of the most treasured carols and hymns of the season. Bob is a master pianist and the former director of the Kentwood Senior Chorale.

Kentucky Fried Chicken Luncheon, sides and dessert

\$5.00 per person

Reservation requested:

Mike Baynai

(616) 822-9988

RevMCB@hotmail.com