

KELLOGGSVILLE CONNECTIONS

December, 2018

The Connections is a monthly publication of church news and events. The next one will be published on January 6. The deadline for submissions is the Tuesday before publication.

Upcoming Sundays

December 2

9 am: Group Prayer Time
 9:30 am: Worship Service
 (Preacher: Pastor Martin)
 11 am: Discovery

December 9

Communion Sunday
 9:30 am: Worship Service
 (Preacher: Pastor Martin)

December 16

Baptisms of Violette and Faraja, children of Domatira

9:30 am: Worship Service
 (Preacher: Pastor Martin)

December 23

9:30 am: Worship Service
 (Preacher: Pastor Martin)

Tuesday, Dec. 25

9:30 am: Christmas Day
 Worship Service
 (Preacher: Pastor Martin)

December 30

9:30 am: Worship Service
 (Preacher: Becky Tjapkes)

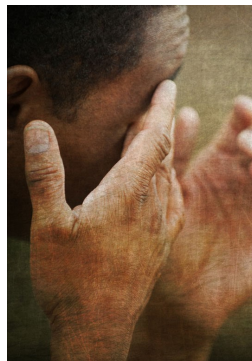
Kelloggsville Church
 610 - 52nd St. SE
 Kentwood, MI 49548
 616-534-0085
 www.kcrc.org

Operation: No More Tears

-Pastor Martin

Thanksgiving is over and the first thing students get is a snow day. Not sure if you were cheering for that or not, but it is certainly beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Dr. Scott Hoezee, Director of the Center for Excellence in Preaching at Calvin Seminary, wrote "Christmas means thousands of shimmering lights gracing trees, bushes, front porches, and sometimes entire houses, transforming the familiar landscape of our



neighborhood into a cozy fantasy kingdom. Christmas means switching off the stark, incandescent illumination of our table and floor lamps and replacing it with banks of scented red candles and the softer, warmer light they provide. Christmas means seeing the shining eyes and flushed faces of children as they come alive to the wonder of the season. In general Christmas means mustering an attitude of 'good cheer' as we all strive to create an aura of serenity, stillness, and peace on earth. Hence, the ideal Christmas is one that is sealed off from anything sad or unsettling."

So the question then becomes, what do we do when Christmas does not

feel much like...well... Christmas? Sometimes our hearts resonate more with lyrics like these from the folk music group *Over the Rhine*:

"It's been a long year
 Every new day brings one more tear
 Till there's nothing left to cry"

The answer? We turn to God. In a world of darkness and despair, God reaches in and shows us the way from darkness to light, from despair to hope. You might even call God's plan *Operation: No More Tears*, which is the name of our sermon series this Advent.

Advent is like standing in the middle of a long road. Look back to the past and we see Jesus Christ coming as the light of the world full of grace and truth. Look forward to the future and we see the second coming of Jesus Christ where Jesus will make all things new. For now, though, we are in the middle of the journey, when God's plan of salvation is not yet fully complete. In this "between" time, things like selfishness, injustice, sexism, racism, violence, and hatred do not stop just because it's Christmas. Indeed, as *Over the Rhine* put it, "every new day brings one more tear". Which is precisely why we need *Operation: No More Tears*.

Advent is about how we live in this "between" time. How do we live into the

Operation: No More Tears, *cont. from p. 1*

kingdom of God here and now as people of hope? I am comforted by the words of Revelation 21:4, which promise us that “He [God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (NIV)

Dr. Neal Plantinga, President Emeritus of Calvin Seminary, reflected in one of his sermons,

“If we believe in the Kingdom of God we will pray, and we will hope for those without much hope left. And one more thing, one more tough thing. We will work in the same direction as we hope.” He went on to quote renowned author and theologian Lewis Smedes, who said, “That hoping for others is hard, but not the hardest. Praying for others is hard, but not the hardest. The hardest part for people who believe in the second coming of

Jesus Christ is in living the sort of life that makes people say, ‘Ah, so that’s how people are going to live when righteousness takes over our world.’”

And that is a great description of how we intend to journey through Advent, as people of hope whose lives point others towards Christ. Even when it doesn’t feel much like Christmas in our world or in our hearts. Let *Operation: No More Tears* begin!

Christmas Cards for Shut-ins, Missionaries

Christmas is a special time when family and friends get together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. But there are some for whom getting to these celebrations is difficult or even impossible. We invite you to make or buy cards for these folks, so they know we are thinking of and praying for them in this holiday season. It is always appreciated!

Here is the list of our shut-ins this year. You are invited to bring in cards for each of these individuals/ couples by Sunday, December 9, and their Shepherd Leaders will deliver them on your behalf:



SHUT-INS LIST

1. Carolyn DeVries
2. Henry Diederling
3. Joanne Gilmore
4. Jennie Hoekstra
5. John and Lucille Huisman
6. Don and Mary Knight
7. Mukeh Kutubu (in prison)*
8. Shirley Ross
9. Marilyn Stellema

**Cards for Mukeh must not have any glitter, jewels, or removable items*

On the right you will also find a list of our missionaries and their emails. If you would prefer to give them a card instead, please put those it in the shut-ins basket at the Info Booth by December 9:

MISSIONARIES LIST

1. George & Sarah deVuyst, Abigail, Matthew & Elizabeth (Ukraine) - gdevuyst@crcna.org
2. Leanne & Caspar Geisterfer (Honduras) lgeisterfer@worldrenew.net
3. Josh & Mandy, Lydia, Grace, Luka & Emalai Shaarda (Uganda) shaarda@hotmail.com
4. Tim & Angie Sliedrecht, Miriam, Avalien, Moses, Zulea, Eliana, & Amara (Uganda) sliedrechts@hotmail.com
5. Lee Warsen (Florida) - Lee.Warsen@sim.org

We hope that you will help us shower our shut-ins and missionaries with love and encouragement this Christmas season!

Thank You

“Dear Kelloggsville Church family, Thank you all for the wonderful funeral celebration for our father, Bart Boogerd.

Pastor Martin we appreciated all your support through his illness. Sincerely,” - *Chip, Tim, Mike and Ginger Boogerd*



Highlights from the November Council Meeting

The agenda at the November 14 Council meeting gave many opportunities for discussion.

VOICE OF THE CONGREGATION

The Council is very grateful to those who attended the congregational gathering on October 14. The theme of that meeting was “missional living”. The comments documented at the tables have been recorded and these comments will continue to give the Council valuable information going forward. The Council is especially grateful to those who shared personal and ministry stories at the meeting:
 Melanie Doezema shared about GEMS and James Snyder shared his personal testimony. Their stories impacted many people and we believe God will continue to use their words.

Additional congregational gatherings are being planned: one in January and one in March. Watch for the dates to be announced. The Council’s goal with these gatherings is to communicate with and to receive input from the congregation. We did learn from the October 14 gathering that we did not leave enough table time for discussion so that will be a priority at the next meetings. Thanks to everyone

for caring enough about Kelloggsville Church to take the time to speak into our future.

SEARCH UPDATE

The search continues for the Director of Faith Formation and the Director of Missional Living. The search team continues to discern the candidates who have applied. They will keep the Council informed, and the Council will pass along new information to the congregation.

GRAND RAPIDS CLASSIS SOUTH

Elders Julie Feenstra and Jason Slot, and Deacon Mark Oostema attended the Grand Rapids Classis South meeting on October 18. At that meeting the Classis processed the request from Kelloggsville Church to approve the retirement of Rev. Maury De Young, and to award him honorable emeritus status, effective April 1, 2019. Pastor Maury was on the pastoral staff at Kelloggsville from 1990-2006. He was called then to be the Executive Director of Sportspersons Ministry International. Since that time Kelloggsville has held his ministerial credentials so his request for retirement needed to be processed through our church. Honorable Emeritus status was approved. Congratulations to Pastor Maury!

DEACONS

The Council thanks Michelle Podbregar and Mark Vander Meulen, who volunteered to review the financial records of the church. They found the books to be in good order, submitted their review in writing and gave some valuable advice for recording revisions. Thanks Michelle and Mark!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Worship Committee is looking for new committee members. If you have a desire to be a part of this important committee, please contact Katlyn Cabrera.

The Building and Grounds Committee continues to refresh the building with new paint in specific areas. They are also working on a refresh of the downstairs kitchen.

COUNCIL MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTED

Deacon Margie Brummel and Brandon Rowles were married on November 10, so Margie is now Deacon Margie Rowles. Congratulations Margie and Brandon!

Deacon President Darren Cupery continues to fight cancer with valiant stamina. He has not missed any Council meetings and he continues to serve well. The Council continues to hold Darren up in prayer as he faces continued treatments and surgery.



December Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY/SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:00 am: Group Prayer Time 9:30 am: Worship 11:00 am: Discovery 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	3 3:30 pm: Kids' Life Bible Club	4 7 pm: Men's Bible Study	5 11 am: Joy Club Christmas Brunch 3 pm: Griv Prep Bible Study 6:45 pm: Gems 6:45 pm: Cadets 7 pm: Shp Leaders	6 8:15 am: Griv Prep Prayer Grp 9am: Sr Singles 6:30pm: Griv Prep NHS Ceremony	7/8 Sat: 4-9:30 pm: Member FLC Rental Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
9 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	10 3:30 pm: Kids' Life Bible Club	11	12 3 pm: Griv Prep Bible Study 6 pm: Deacons 6:30 pm: Apple- tree Christmas Program 7 pm: Council	13 8:15 am: Griv Prep Prayer Grp 7pm: Women's Bible Study	14/15 Sat: 3-9 pm: Member Cave Rental Sat: 3:30-9 pm: Member FLC Rental Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
16 3rd Sunday of Advent Baptisms 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	17 3:30 pm: Kids' Life Bible Club	18 7 pm: Men's Bible Study	19 3 pm: Griv Prep Bible Study 6:45 pm: Gems 6:45 pm: Cadets	20 8:15 am: Griv Prep Prayer Grp 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	21/22 Sat: 5-9 pm: Member Cave Rental Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
23 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	24 Christmas Eve All Day: Office Closed	25 Christmas Day 9:30 am: Christmas Day Service	26	27	28/29 Sat: Noon-4pm: Member FLC Rental Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
30 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	31 New Year's Eve Office Closes @ Noon	JANUARY 1 New Year's Day All Day: Office Closed	2	3 9am: Sr Singles	4/5 Sat: 4-9 pm: Member FLC Rental Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group

Upcoming Birthdays to Celebrate

Member Birthdays 70+

Dec. 4—Dave VanPutten
 Dec. 11—Jerry VanZalen (91)
 Dec. 13—Gert Schimmel (92)
 Dec. 14—Stan Sinnema (83)
 Dec. 16—Marie VanZalen (85)
 Dec. 18—Cal VanderWal
 Dec. 30—Joanne Gilmore (80)

Member Birthdays 70+

Dec. 30—Larry Klein
 Jan. 1—Char DenHouten
 Jan. 8—Carol Hoffman
 Jan. 8—Gloria VanPutten
 Jan. 22—Dick Bolt
 Jan. 26—Carrie Herrema (85)
 Jan. 30—Shirley DeWaard

Missionary/Staff Birthdays

Dec. 15—Mandy Shaarda
 Dec. 20—Amanda Benckhuysen
 Jan. 28—Pastor Martin
 Benckhuysen

