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APRIL 2025 TIMELY NOTES

Milton Presbyterian
Church
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The Book of Mark

Geoffrey Darling gave a great performance on Sunday, March 2nd as a kickoff to Lent. Thank you Worship and Music Committee for arranging to have Geoffrey do his portrayal of Mark.



Worship Times

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am

WORSHIP 10:30 am

LENTEN SCHEDULE

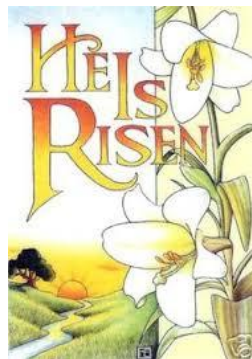
Keep in mind these special dates:

Sun., April 13 - Palm Sunday

Thurs., April 17 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service -
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Fri., April 18 - 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at Creston
Presbyterian Church

Sun. April 20 - Easter - Sacrament of Holy Communion



RUMMAGE SALE

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

7:00 PM, SETUP

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 AM, PRICING

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 AM-1:00 PM SALE

**For questions, contact Cindy Mann at
330-835-8913 or
Chris White at 330-703-2720.**



Community Meals



For our meal on Monday, February 24th, Chef Bill prepared his delicious baked potatoes and salad. Thank you to our speaker, C.J. Marciano, from Restore Addiction Recovery in Akron for explaining their program and his life's story on how Jesus saved him and how he became involved.

On March 31st, the speaker will be Ken Park with Rittman Lion's Club. The meal is soup and salad. April 28th's speaker will be Karen Noe from the Pregnancy Care Center.

Pastor's Note - Timely Notes, April 2025

There is a joke that ministers only really work one day a week - when they preach on Sunday. Everything else is just living as a professional Christian. I myself have made this quip before, but let me tell you that there are *several* weeks of the year when we have to work a bit more. Notably, on Christmas Eve and the week of Easter, where we have to work for *three days* during Holy week! Exhausting, I know - and it is coming up soon too. I still need to take care of myself—and my kids I suppose—and amidst all of this preparation, I can forget that my taxes are also due in the next 3 weeks. As of this writing, I still have not gotten them done. That status should change shortly after my wife reads this.

As I make my yearly requested gift to our great nation, I am reminded of the proverb that Benjamin Franklin introduced into our culture when he wrote to his friend in France Jean Baptiste Le-Roy in 1789: “Our new Constitution is now established, everything seems to promise it will be durable; but, in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes.” Not even a year after he wrote this, he would succumb to the former certainty just two days after his taxes were due. It is on account of such wisdom that Mr. Franklin’s face graces the highest denomination of our currency, and as I prepare to *give to Caesar what is Caesar’s*, I must also give Mr. Franklin his due, for this time of the year I too will be thinking of death and taxes at the same time, as *tax day* falls just two days before we honor the death and resurrection of Jesus in our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday worship services.

As many of you probably recognize, the term *giving to Caesar what is Caesar’s* comes from our scriptures, when Jesus himself taught directly about taxes. During the time of Jesus, Israel was occupied by the powerful Roman Empire, and as part of imperial decree, the people of Israel had to pay the *imperial* tax to Rome for ‘protection’. Knowing the issue of taxation to be a thorny one, a group of rival leaders known as the Pharisees and the Herodians wanted to catch Jesus in a trap. They knew that Jesus consistently taught his followers that God should be first in their life above all, and so they dedicate their entire lives to God and God alone. They also knew that Jesus frequently advocated giving directly and unhesitatingly to the poor, trusting in God’s power to provide. Knowing this, these groups of rival leaders thought they could entrap Jesus by asking him a question about ... taxes. If Jesus was teaching his followers to dedicate themselves to God completely and give to the poor, would he not instruct them to *refrain* from yielding their possessions to violent oppressors and heathens who had no respect for the God of Israel?

Well, when asked whether they should pay the imperial tax, Jesus responded by showing them the coin used to pay the tax and asking a question of his own: ‘Whose image is this, and whose inscription?’ The face on the coin was Caesar’s - and so Jesus responds accordingly. ‘Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.’ A wise answer, indeed. But we should expect nothing less from our Lord and teacher.

One traditional interpretation is that Jesus was showing them that Caesar was only the ruler of an Empire - but God was far greater than this. God was the ruler of *everything*. Another traditional interpretation is that *just as the coin bears the image of its ruler in Caesar, we are created bearing the image of God (Gen 1:26)*. So Jesus is calling us once again to give our whole person to God, for we are, ultimately, not our own person, but created for God. So God claims not the riches of money, but our entire life itself, in all of its unique and beautiful character. This teaching reveals a glimpse of how Jesus would show us what this ultimately means when he gives himself up on the cross so God may save the world through him—and when we continue to give our lives over to God, it really isn’t our face that is truly reflective of God. Instead, it is the face of Christ.

In our scripture, the letter to the Hebrews opens with the truth that *The Son is the radiance of God’s glory, and the exact representation of this being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Heb 1:3)*.

The Greek word used here for *exact representation of his being* is one that refers to a mold, such as the kind used for minting coins. So we too are molded into the image of Christ when we give more of our own life to God. This is what Jesus teaches us, and this is why the season of Easter and the hope of the resurrection is so powerful. Because when we remember the last supper on Maundy Thursday, we remember our relationship with Christ as being part of the Body of Christ, growing and learning what it means to pour ourselves out in sacrifice. On the cross, as we honor our Lord's sacrifice on Good Friday, we see the power of what it means to be purified by the blood of Christ. At the empty grave on Easter, we see the glorification of Christ's resurrected body, showing the power of faith in God's coming kingdom and He at its head. Now, at the culmination of Holy Week, and on the first day of the new week, we see that while death and taxes have been a certainty in this world, the faithful also believe that in Christ, the kingdom we inherit and resurrection to eternal life are every bit as certain. Amen.

-Rev. Alex Barnes

If you wish to contact Pastor Alex please give him a call, email or text. If unable to reach him at the office, please call him at cell phone number 404-447-0273.

MORE NEW BOOKS!

***The Art of Neighboring*, by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon, focuses on the easiest consistent opportunity for sharing the good news that we have. Taking Jesus' commandment to love your neighbor as yourself, the book simply defines our neighbor the same way the dictionary does: as the person who lives next door to you. The strength of this book is in its simplicity and writing about opportunities that are right in front of us, giving practical advice on how to be a better neighbor in Christ. This book was dedicated in memory of Deloris Rohrer, who was always excited to 'see someone new' in church, and who would call her neighbors consistently every morning to share conversation.**



***In The Darkness Has Not Overcome*, author Cliff Sims recalls his time in the White House as aide to President Trump and later as part of the CIA. This well written and fast paced book is full of important perspective by focusing on faith amidst violent conflict in the war in Syria and through the more subtle political conflicts that threaten us here in the United States. Mr. Sims shares powerful eyewitness accounts of Syrian Christians and converts of Jesus who did not fear death, as well as important wisdom that reminds us not to be distracted from God's truth amidst the culture wars that shape our political landscape. This book was dedicated in memory of Mike Labo, a man of deep convictions regarding the importance and power of God, faith, work and family in his own life.**

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Now that the weather has warmed up, more food can be stored in the church's food pantry. Supplies inside for the pantry are running low. If you can, please bring in some things to share with those in need.



ITEMS are always needed for the pantry. Staples are needed. Currently personal items are needed as are pasta or noodles, instant potatoes, cereal, pasta sauce, canned fruit, peanut butter, canned meat, quick foods like canned stew, and personal hygiene items (especially shampoo, toothpaste, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products.) Dish soap and laundry detergent are also hot items!





Adult Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. Students are studying the book of Proverbs.



Tuesday Bible Study will continue to meet and discuss the book of Isaiah. It meets at 12:30 p.m.

During Junior Church, the children will be learning more about "Walking With Jesus".



MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MPW Circle will meet on **Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

If you are interested in coming to the meeting, please let Kim Hart know. Her telephone number is 330-612-3302.

Circle will continue their studies in The Presbyterian Women Study Book "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation" by Patricia K. Tull. This month's lesson is Chapter 7 "Economic Climate Justice".



Our next **Youth JAM** will be hosted here at **Milton** on **Sunday, May 4** at 6:00 p.m.

The Youth JAM (Jesus Alive Ministry) is our combined youth group with other Presbyterian Churches in our area. All middle school and high school age kids are invited to participate!

If you would like to help with setup or help prepare the meal for a group of hungry teenagers, please let Rev. Barnes know at (404) 447-0273.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Feb. Revenue & Expenses

Income from month of Feb.	\$ 13,021
HeadStart Fees	<u>+2,400</u>
	\$ 15,421
Expenses from Feb.	<u>\$ 14,275</u>
Feb. Net Income/Expense	<u>\$ 1,146</u>
<u>2025</u> Net Income/Expense	\$ 3,308

Feb. 2025 Boiler Donations: \$225

Total donations to date: \$ 52,035

Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 12,261

Feb. 2025 Roof Donations: \$50

Total donations to date: \$ 3,750

Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 31,958

Thank you for all your donations!

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



Time for Tea
WITH THE LADIES OF MPC
Join us for tea and brunch

FEATURING: KERRIE'S CUP OF TEA
INVITE A FRIEND

MAY 17 | 10:00 AM

@ The Server

RSVP to Andrea at 330-317-0386 or Call the church at 330-925-2651

APRIL 2025**TIMELY NOTES****Our Mission Statement:**

Believing in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, the Milton Presbyterian Church, as the Body of Christ, will carry out the ministry of Jesus within the congregation, within our community, and to the world.

To accomplish this mission we will:

***Experience God's presence through worship, prayer, Bible study, the sacraments, fellowship, and service;**

***Demonstrate our Savior's compassion through our daily lives to those in need;**

***Give our time, our talents, and our material possessions to serve and glorify God .**

***Share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed to all the world.**

Moved by the Holy Spirit, our mission as a congregation of forgiven and loved disciples will be carried out in the Name of Christ.

New Address!

Samantha, Alexis, & Kaleb Labo
4240 E. Sterling Rd.
P.O. Box 382
Creston, OH 44217



Milton Presbyterian Church is selling Lilies this year for Easter. The lilies will adorn our Sanctuary on Easter, Sunday, April 20. They may be taken home after the Worship service.

The cost is \$12.00/each and you may purchase your plant in honor or in remembrance of someone. You can also donate your plant to our Deacons or Pastor to be delivered to a homebound member if you like. Make check payable to Milton Presbyterian Church. The deadline will be Sunday, April 13. Remember payment must accompany order form.

****Please remember our church family members who are in our local area nursing or assisted living homes:***

Dorothy Johnson, Ron Steele - Apostolic Christian Homes, (10680 Steiner Rd., Rittman, OH)

Sally Barnes - Village of St. Edwards, (880 Main St., Wadsworth, OH 44281)

Judy Twinem - Heritage Crossing Assisted Living (251 Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Montrose, OH 44333)


Jim Davis, Jim Roberts - Autumnwood Nursing & Rehab (275 E. Sunset Ave., Rittman, OH 44270)

Rev. Jim and Joan Watt - The Echelon (629 N. Huntington St., Apt. 2742, Medina, OH 44256)

Karen Aberegg, Pam Ahrens, Brenda Arnett, Shawn Aronhalt, Dawn Bauman, Leigh Ann Berkley, Jen Bishop, Jonathan Bonilla, Josue Bonilla, Charlie Brandes, Boyd Breece, Levi Buxman, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Mike & Mandii Cramer, *Bill Crawford*, Stanley Crawford, Michael Crawford, Lesa Crawford, Megan Crawford, Jamie Culler, Jim Davis, Nicholas Dras, Deb Easterday, Jordan Edgar, Scott Erwin, Darla Fletcher, Maria Fortner, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Robert Gardner, Marcia Geyer, Chris Goodman, Reed Heggie, Dwayne Hopton, Veronica Hughes, Madi Jackson, Lori Johnson, Debbie Keel, *Alexis Labo*, Kevin and Linda Lampar, Abbey Lentine, Chad Lightner, Lisa Lipscond, Bill Loebick, Bob Ludolph, Lauren Mackie, Laurel Mader, Helen Mann, Keith Marsden, Lisa Martin, Gemma Matthews, PJ Miller, Kristen Morris, Corey Mullinax, Denise Neeley, Frances & Joyce Nichols, Dale Owen, Ethan Porter, Sally Porter, Ron and Sue Price, Linda and Geoff Pyle, John Ramsier, Roger Ramsier, Sue Ramsey, Toby Rinaldo, Jim Roberts, Karl Rohrer, Pat Rossmiller, Haylee Rufener, Jay Russell, Linda Rutter, Betty Santmyer, Sheryl Saunders, Colleen Sheppard, Betty Shreve, Sarah Shreve, Lavonne Silva, Rick Singleton, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Todd Stephan, David Stewart, John Swarzentrubler, *Carol Telford*, Ella Thomas, Kelly and Holly Thomas, Bill Timmons, Luke Truman, Alice Widmer, Sue Wilson



**Italicized are recent additions.*



Just for KIDS

SYMBOL OF SACRIFICE

At this time of the year, we see many crosses draped in purple, black or white cloth. They remind us of the loving sacrifice Jesus made for us – and that he rose again.

Use the code in the big cross to complete 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NIV.

“ i i i i i

i i i o o ou

i i i ... a

u i i i ...

a a i i i i

o i i i i

i i i i a ”

Answer: Christ died for our sins ... he was buried ... he was raised on the third day.

A colorful CROSS

Create a beautiful decoration for your window this Easter. It will remind you that Jesus rose from the dead to save you from your sins.

What you need:

- 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
- Pencil
- Clear transparency sheet (or clear report cover)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Colored tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Scotch tape

What you do:

1. Draw a large cross that takes up most of the paper.
2. Put the transparency over the paper and trace the cross onto it with a permanent marker.
3. Cut the colored tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares.
4. Using a paintbrush, spread glue onto the tissue paper squares and then place them on the cross. (Add a few drops of water to the white glue to make it more spreadable.)
5. After the glue is dry, cut out the cross. Then tape it in a window and enjoy the beautiful colors.



April 2025

BIRTHDAYS

1st	Portia Haller
4th	Mandii Cramer, Dorothy Johnson
6th	Mike Pyle
10th	Merida Cramer
11th	Jeff McMillen
12th	Alex Barnes
13th	Bruce Watson
21st	Judy Twinem
22nd	Andrew Mackey, Jay Russell, Will Yoho
24th	Tim Fetter, Laurie Pink
27th	Mickey Shankland

ANNIVERSARIES

1st	Cindy & Ken Mann	30 years
17th	Ryan & Laurie Pink	21 years
27th	Colleen & James Underwood	1 Year

MEETING DATES

Worship & Music - Mon., Apr. 7 at 10:00 a.m.
 Building & Grounds - Thurs., Apr. 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Session Meeting - Wed., Apr. 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 MPW Circle - Thurs., Apr. 10 at 7:00 p.m.
 Hospitality Team - TBD

JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

6	Renee Busic
13	Andrea Barnes & Vickie Schumacher
20	Lindsey Millan & Tammy Wilson
27	Angel Mackey

FLOWER SCHEDULE

6	Alex & Andrea Barnes
13	Palm Fronds
20	Amy & Jim Fletcher
27	Cindy & Ken Mann






LITURGIST SCHEDULE

6	Donna Robertson
13	Church Youth
20	Cindy Vaughn
27	Mandii Cramer



April 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm -	2 7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Library)	3 6:30 pm Bldg. & Grounds (Library)	4	5
6 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	7 10:00 am Worship & Music Comm. (Library)	8 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	9	10 7:00 pm MPW Circle (Parlor)	11	12
13 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship PALM SUNDAY 	14 6:30 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	15 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	16 6:30 pm - Session Meeting (Library)	17 7:00 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Service (Communion) 	18 7:00 pm GOOD FRIDAY Service (Creston) 	19
20 9:15am Sunday Sch. 10:30 am Worship (Communion)  	21	22 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	23 6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day at laundromat 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting (FH)	24 7:00 pm - Setup for rummage sale	25 9:00 am - Pricing for rummage sale	26 9:00 am to 1:00 pm MPW Rummage Sale
27 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	28 6:30 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:30 pm Community Meal 7:00 pm Speaker Karen Noe, Pregnancy Care Center	29 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	30			

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Visit us at: www.miltonpreschurch.org