

Church Office
330-925-2651
Pastor Alex
404-447-0273

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:15 am
WORSHIP
10:30 am

DECEMBER 2024

TIMELY NOTES

Milton Presbyterian
Church
250 North Street,
Rittman, OH 44270
(330) 925-2651

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SCHEDULE OF HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sun., Nov. 24th at 3:30 p.m. * Grieving Support Group

Mon., Nov. 25th at 7p.m. * Community Thanksgiving Service at Milton Presbyterian



Sun., Dec. 1st - Wed., Dec. 25th * Advent

Sun., Dec. 1st following service * Hanging of the Greens (Decorating the Church)

Sun., Dec. 1 at 3:30 p.m. * Grieving Support Group

Sun., Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. * Youth JAM in Congress

Sun., Dec. 8th at 4:00 p.m. * Blue Christmas Service

Sat., Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. * Youth Drama Practice

Sun., Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. * Youth Drama Play

Sun., Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m. * Christmas Eve Musicale

Sun., Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. * Christmas Eve Service

We would love to see you at our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. We will begin at 7:00pm with music that celebrates the birth of Christ, followed by a traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service that lifts up Christ as the light that overcomes the darkness.



Community Thanksgiving
Worship Service
Monday, November 25th
at 7 p.m.

For our Community Thanksgiving Worship Service, we will join together with a number of other local church bodies in Rittman to give thanks as the Church in Rittman. Refreshments will be available at the Church starting at 6:15 p.m. if you wish to arrive early and get some cookies and lemonade and other refreshments. Community choir practice is at 6:30 p.m.

The Giving Tree in the narthex is in need of hats, mittens, sweatpants, sweatshirts, underwear, socks and Chapstick for Rittman elementary children in need this winter. Your contributions throughout the month of December are greatly



In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. - John 1:4

Writing to the church from the start of the second century, the great church father Irenaeus observed that “the glory of God is a human being fully alive.” As he wrote this, it helps to know that Irenaeus was well known for writing against a strain of false teaching known as gnosticism, which often denied the body completely in favor of the spiritual, going even so far as to claiming that Jesus never truly came in the flesh. So the human being fully alive *must* also mean in the flesh, which also belies the importance of believing not just in the life eternal, but also the *resurrection of the body*. It is the body that *feels*, and when we too have felt fully alive, it is a feeling of great union between both body and soul - and each person has caught a glimpse of this life in its fullness in various ways.

Some of us have felt most alive at a ballgame, when the hope of victory that comes from a rousing rally stimulates all of the adrenaline in our body, and the roar of the crowd sweeps us up into something bigger than ourselves. I alluded to this feeling of excitement in last month’s Timely Notes when talking about listening to Tom Hamilton call the drama of the Guardians games in the playoffs! Some of us feel this excitement at a concert, and when the music drops and we feel the bass in our bones. I felt this too when Tony Monaco and Scott Turner had the whole Milton Church rattling with the bass from the Hammond Organ. It is that moment of music when we eagerly await the building crescendo that heightens every sense to something more heavenly, like the vocal runs of Handel’s Messiah. Then there are some of us find ourselves fully alive by free climbing el capitan, bungee jumping from tall bridges and jumping out of planes with parachutes. And by us, I mean maybe some of you ... because I don’t know what you’ve been into in your younger years. All jokes aside, this desire and feeling has driven warriors caught in battle throughout the centuries, and those who participate in sports today. It is also what drives *both* love and lust. That is why this feeling can also be so deceptive when it is not rooted in an eternal faith. Then, the tragic reality of chasing this feeling hits hardest when people turn to substances and drugs to fill their minds with a new - and deceptive - experience of being alive. This artificial rush is often so powerful that it can be addicting. It almost always is - and so that thrill of feeling alive never quite reaches what is hoped for. Because feeling alive in all of its fullness is something that human beings really have sought since the beginning of our shared story.

As is true with every temporary yet powerful emotion of being and living, the problem is that we can be blinded by a manufactured feeling of life, and when we come down from it, we cannot see the narrow path that God has laid out for us. The reason for this is because when it is our own vision and feeling that we seek, we are limited to only the light that reaches our own eyes. That is why Irenaeus wrote not just that the glory of God is man fully alive, but that “The glory of God is man fully alive, and the life of man is the vision of God.” Because it is God’s story, and we are a part of it so long as we are in Jesus - and it is only Jesus who is fully alive. Just as Jesus taught us that the eyes are the lamp of the body, This vision of God in our story is the light of all mankind - and that light is also the word made flesh. The story made alive.

That is why it is such a blessing to remember that every Christmas, we celebrate Jesus’ arrival not as a disembodied Spirit, but as the word made flesh. In him was life - and this life was the light of all mankind. And this light did not begin as a blinding light. It began as a small flame illuminating the darkness with a soft light so we can see in the dark. The birth of Christ and the light of God coming into the world is not immediately a great crescendo of victory. Instead, the Word made flesh came with the wordless cry of an infant that revealed the presence of God in the stillness of the night. It was the symbol of a small flame from a sing candle representing the most fragile and precious of all life: the new life that is on its way, ready for growth in all of its beauty and trial.

The new life of an infant.

The new life of being re-born in the Spirit.

And the new life glorified in this Spirit after our body returns to the Earth.

The human being fully alive in God’s vision is part of the light eternal, and it is this hope of new life that illuminates our journey and brightens the dark nights and shortened days in this season that we enter. Being fully alive in Christ means not just the exhilarating feeling of ecstatic joy that comes and goes, but the purposeful peace and assurance of God’s presence, and God’s arrival to come. There are plenty of places in our scriptures that show us how Christ’s arrival is dramatic indeed, pumping the adrenaline of life into all of our senses! And yet the Christmas story that we remember and celebrate, with all of its drama, is still at its core an intimate story of the still small light of new life. A singular life that would come to embrace, envelop, seal and save all of humankind. It is this person, and this new life that we celebrate. And our celebration gives a light to open the eyes of all of us who sit in the darkness of our old thoughts, our old bodies, and our old lives in favor of the new one to come. Amen.

-Rev. Alex Barnes

Sunday, Nov. 24th at 3:30 * Grieving Support Group

Jesus teaches, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'

He teaches this because when we suffer loss, we do not feel comforted. It can be an especially hard time over the holiday season for those who are in the midst of grief. That is why it is important to share God's hope and faith amidst a hurt that God understands deeply. You are invited to join us for several grief support meetings on Sunday, November 24th and Sunday, December 1st at 3:30pm. We will meet in the church parlor. Our Blue Christmas service - a Christmas worship service that acknowledges the loss and grief felt by many in the holiday season, will take place in the parlor on Sunday, December 8th at 4:00pm.

CHRISTMAS BASKET SCHEDULE

Dec. 9 -12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. * Take Christmas Basket Telephone Calls at Rittman Methodist Church (RMC) All Christmas Basket events happen at RMC.

Sat., Dec. 14 at 8 am *Shop for Christmas Basket Toys

Mon., Dec. 16 at 7:00 p.m. * Wrap Present for Christmas Baskets at RMC

Tues., Dec. 17 * Assemble Boxes (anytime) at RMC

Sat., Dec. 21 at 9 a.m. * Pickup Day for Christmas Baskets at RMC, Take Boxes and Presents to Cars



Advent

**Sunday, December 1st -
Wednesday, December 25th**

The church season of advent is when we focus on our anticipation of the arrival of Christ. Our worship services during this season will focus on the light that shines in the darkness, and how Jesus - the light of the world - is coming into our midst. Advent devotionals are available for anyone interested.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you everyone who have helped with filling the Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. Our church was able to donate 27 boxes for children across the world. Please continue to pray for the those children and their families that these gifts touch them in a special way and they will learn of Christ's love for all people!



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE



It's the holidays so budgets are tight. Children are on winter break. Your help is crucial!

ITEMS are always needed for the pantry. Staples are needed. Usage has been very high! 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 and bar soap, and feminine hygiene products.)



Adult Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. Beginning in November and into December, the study will begin on the book of Jude then switch to the Advent Devotionals.



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

The children will be working on the Christmas play in December and the story of Jesus' birth. Jr. Church is looking for adult helpers. See Vickie Schumacher.

MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MPW Circle will meet on **Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. (Weekday changed for schedule conflicts.)** If you are



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

This month will be Circle's gathering to celebrate the Christmas season and story. Please bring a snack and a story or reading to share with the group. Members are asked to wear either a "ugly" Christmas shirt or festive clothing.

Next month 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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your continued support!

Summary of Oct. Revenue & Expenses

Financial Update - Budgeted Accounts Only:

Income from month of Oct.	\$ 6,257
HeadStart Fees	<u>+2,400</u>
	\$ 8,657
Expenses from Oct.	<u>\$ 10,079</u>
Oct. Net Income/Expense	\$ -1,422
2024 Net Income/Expense	\$ -3,390
Transferred In from svgs.	\$ 1,980

Oct. 2024 Boiler Donations: \$220

Total donations to date: \$ 50,945

Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 14,161

Oct. 2024 Roof Donations: \$100

Total donations to date: \$ 3,350

Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 32,500

Thank you for all your donations!

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



Our wishes for happiness to Madison Aberegg and Austin Kasper who

were married November 12, 2024. They will be residing at 18 Birdie Drive, West Salem, OH, 44287.



The next **Youth JAM** will be on **Sunday, December 1st** at Congress Community Church at 6:30 p.m.

The Youth JAM (Jesus Alive Ministry) - our combined youth group with other Presbyterian Churches in the area, will be meeting at Congress Community Church. Youth JAM is open to all middle school and high school age kids.

DECEMBER 2024

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.

Thank you to Pastor Alex for his many kind and thoughtful visits to Erik. To the MPW for their delicious meal after the service. Thanks especially for all the prayers, cards, and encouraging words from all of our church family. I can't tell you how much we appreciate all that you've done for us. *Karen Kinch & Family*



Thank you to everyone for cards, calls, texts and prayers following my recent surgery. It's so good to be a part of such a caring church family. Bless you, Vickie Schumacher



Our thoughts and prayers go out to several families in the Milton Presbyterian Church group.

Please remember the family of Anita Vohar who passed away on October 31, 2024.

Also, Mark Hisem passed away November 13, 2024. Mark had been a member as a youth and was the son of Dephine and Frank Hisem.

***Please remember our church family members who are in our local area nursing 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)

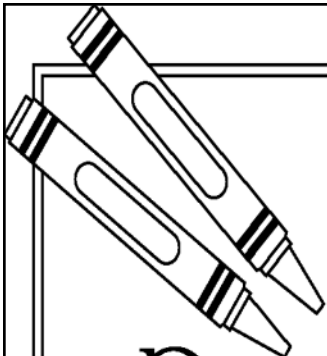
Judy Twinem - Heritage Crossing Assisted Living (251 Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Montrose, OH 44333)

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

Brenda Arnett, Shawn Aronhalt, Dawn Bauman, Leigh Ann Berkley, Jen Bishop, Jonathan Bonilla, Charlie Brandes, Levi Buxman, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Mike & Mandii Cramer, Drew 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, Todd Hardgrove, Reed Heggie, Dwayne Hopton, Madi Jackson, Lori Johnson, Debbie Keel, 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, Lois Middleton, 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, Sheryl Saunders, Vickie Schumacher, Colleen Sheppard, Betty Shreve, Sarah Shreve, Lavonne Silva, Rick Singleton, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Todd Stephan, Rev. Chris Stewart, David Stewart, John Swarzentrubler, Ella Thomas, Kelly and Holly Thomas, Bill Timmons, Luke Truman, Don Vohar, Alice Widmer, Amy Wilson, Sue Wilson, Bobby Wolf

**Italicized are recent*






Just for **KIDS**

Peace on Earth

Do you remember what King Herod did when he heard about the birth of Jesus? He was so troubled that he issued a decree ordering the death of all male children younger than 2 years old. Jesus was not born in a time of peace, but we can look forward to His return and believe what the heavenly host proclaimed.

Follow the maze through the verse.



START

And suddenly there

was with the angel

a multitude of the

heavenly host praising God,

and saying, "Glory to God

in the highest, and on earth

peace, good will

toward men." Luke 2:13-14, KJV **FINISH**

"Peace on Earth" Ornament



Make this Earth ornament as a reminder to pray for the peace Jesus will bring when he returns.

What you will need:

1. Clear glass ornament
2. Blue and green acrylic craft paint
3. Sponge
4. Scissors
5. Black permanent marker (Sharpie) or black puffy craft paint
6. Paper plate
7. Glitter (optional)



What you need to do:

1. Cut the sponge into 2 rectangles, about the size of your tallest finger.
2. Pour a little paint onto a plate. (Add glitter if you want your ornament to sparkle.)
3. Use one sponge for blue and one for green.
4. Dab the paint onto your glass ornament one color at a time. Use green for land and blue for ocean to make the ornament look like our planet Earth.
5. When the paint is dry, use the marker or puffy paint to write PEACE on the ornament.
6. Use your ornament as a Christmas decoration or give it as a present.





December 2024



BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Bryan Dodrill
- 3rd Jim Roberts
- 4th Angel Mackey
- 4th Sarah Shreve
- 5th Taylor Thomas
- 10th Sally Porter
- 12th Libby Rigas
- 13th Linda Pyle
- 16th Cade Wilson
- 17th Tammie Shreve
- 24th Betty Shreve
- 27th Helen Berg
- 27th Zane Stanger

MEETING DATES

- Worship & Music - Mon., Dec. 2 at 10:00 a.m.
- Building & Grounds - Thurs., Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- Session Meeting - Thurs., Dec. 12 at 6:00 p.m.
- MPW Circle - Tues., Dec. 17 at 7:00 p.m.
- MVP Stated Meeting - Wed., Dec. 11 at 6:00 p.m.
in Canton at Christ Church
- Hospitality Team - TBD

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

- 1 Hanging of the Greens-Lunch
- 8
- 15 Children's Program
- 22
- 29

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12th Gregg & Cassie Shreve 9 yrs.
- 20th Chris & Angel Mackey 27 yrs.
- 21st Bruce & Laurie Watson 23 yrs.

JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

- 1 Andrea Barnes
- 8 Tammy Wilson & Lindsey Millan
- 15 Children's Program
- 22 Angel Mackey
- 29 Renee Basic

FLOWER SCHEDULE

- 1 Portia Haller-Poinsettia
- 8 Portia Haller-Poinsettia
- 15 Portia Haller-Poinsettia
- 22 Portia Haller-Poinsettia
- 29 Portia Haller-Poinsettia

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

- 1 Patty Cristino
- 8 Renee Basic
- 15 Children's Program
- 22 Donna Robertson
- 29 Bill Robertson

COMMUNION PREPARERS

- Nov. 24th - Bill & Linda Crawford,
Donna Robertson
- Dec. 24th Christmas Eve - Ron and Kim



December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p>  <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 Decorate Church 3:30 pm Grief Support Group (Parlor)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 am Worship & Music Comm. (Library)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Parlor)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm Bldg. & Grounds (Library)</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm Blue Christmas Service (Parlor)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 pm MVP Stated Mtg. in Canton</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 pm Session Gathering at Barnes' home</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Children's Christmas Program 2:00 pm Brady Wachter Eagle Court of Honor</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group 7:00 pm MPW Circle (Parlor)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting (FH)</p>	19	20	21 Private Party Use of Fellowship Hall
<p>22</p> <p>9:15am Sunday Sch. 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting (Fell. Hall)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (Communion)</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> 	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	30	31				

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