



December 2021 Timely Notes



Milton Presbyterian Church
250 North Street, Rittman, OH 44270 (330) 925-2651
miltonpreschurch@gmail.com
miltonpreschurch.org



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WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Available on Zoom,
Facebook or YouTube



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

HOLIDAY CALENDAR



HANGING OF THE GREENS
Sunday, November 28

YOUTH DRAMA

Sunday, December 12
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship



SONNENBERG STATION MEN'S CHOIR
Sunday, December 12
3:00 p.m. Milton Presbyterian Church

WRAP CHRISTMAS BASKET PRESENTS AT UMC
Monday, December 13
7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24
7:00 p.m. Musicales

Organ, Piano, and
Milton Church Choir Soloists will
be featured as we
anticipate the birth of Christ.



7:30 p.m. Worship
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be shared followed by
traditional candle lighting.

Please bring your friends and family and plan to join us
as we worship God, preparing heart, mind, and spirit for
the coming of our Messiah.

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***Have you opened up God's story yet today?
Or has there not been enough time in your day to do so?***

I must admit that even as a pastor, there is the occasional day I do not open the scripture to read about God's story and become more grounded in where the Spirit that lives in me came from. Every time this happens, I think to myself, "where did the time go?"

Whenever the holiday season descends upon us, there seems like so many things need to get done and I always think to myself, "Where did the time go?" Then, when I do sit down to rest, I begin to feel antsy, as if I need to be doing *something* productive even if I don't exactly know where to start. There is so much to clean, to bring to order, so many people to contact and greet and check in on – and that is on account of my privileged position where this is my job. For so many others, there are work obligations and bosses demanding expectations and growth and availability at all hours of the day, and we feel the need to be out doing *something*. We need to get something, we need to be making food, we need to go somewhere, and all the while there is an important game to attend or play.

I must admit that I don't always help out with this as your pastor when I ask you if you can help out with _____ at church or if you can volunteer at the Server or if you can come to church more regularly. Sometimes, it is just one more thing to add to the busy schedule and we are left asking ourselves, "Why don't we have *more time*?" But when we ask ourselves this question, Do we also ask, "Why don't we have *less time*?"

As I was preparing the Advent devotionals by reading the daily scripture readings from the *Book of Common Worship* in the Presbyterian Church USA, there is a consistent message about God's arrival that was *imminent* in some way. There is a great hope, warning and urgency present in God's Word when it comes to Abraham, Moses, the Prophets, and in Jesus himself when he came to this Earth. God's judgment and justice were always above the Earth, ready to befall us at any moment.

Yet in every one of these stories, our heroes of faith are left waiting for such a long time. Abraham had to wait in faith until Sarah was 99 years old for God's promise to begin – the promise that his descendants would number the stars. Moses had to wait 40 years wandering the desert before he could only glimpse the promised land – a journey that only his descendants could fulfill. The prophets warned urgently of the exile, but there were still 300 years of king after king who turned their back on God before the northern kingdom fell ... and then another 200 years before the southern kingdom fell. It was still *another* 600 years before the Messiah – the Christ – came to *finally* save the world. Then the world rejected him, let him die upon the cross, and he was resurrected to go back to sit on the right hand of his father with one promise: I will return soon.

So every time we ask the question, 'why don't we have *more time*?', we also should recognize the question, 'why don't we have *less time*?'

There is an answer to this: Because we don't have time at all. Time has always been in God's hands, and God's desire is for our faith to endure while His hope and mercy continues to spread around the world. As we busy ourselves with so many things around us, we should know that we have been *given* lost of time to open up God's story and turn to the Hope he gives. Time, after all, is always a gift, and in God's Word this leads to a place where time – along with everything else – is present in everlasting abundance - Rev. Alex Barnes

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MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETINGS

Thursday, December 16th, 7:00 p.m.

Contact Kim Hart for information. Meetings are open to everyone. December's lesson will be chapter 4, "Ruth, Loyal Love" of Horizons, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me" by Merryl Blair. This study covers women in the Bible. Please join us for an uplifting study and fellowship time. Contact the church office to join on Zoom.



EAGLE PROJECT

Brady Wachter, Life Scout, with Troop 405 is working on his Eagle project. He has chosen to create a nature walk on the church's wooded ravine. He will be removing trash and brush then laying out walking paths, one specifically for children. He plans to build a new bridge over the creek. Brady is working with Pastor Barnes and Ken Mann on the details. If you wish to donate money, materials, or time please contact Pastor Alex.

2021 Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in some way with the November 13th Holiday Arts and Crafts Show and helped to make it a safe and successful event, masks and all! Thank you to our talented crafters, cooks, servers, bakers, workers, and so many members and friends of the church who donated items for the sale. Due to your generosity, we were able to raise \$2,506.00 to be applied towards our boiler fund. We are truly a Blessed and Giving Congregation!

With deepest appreciation,
Nancy Leach



Angel Mackey, Raffle Winner

Arts & Craft Show Raffle

**Bauman Orchard Basket -
Tara Musser**

**Morton Salt Basket -
Vickie Schumacher**

**Kids Girls' Night Out Basket -
Francy Morris**

**Lock-N-Lock -
Angel Mackey**

Christian Education

Tuesday Book Study and Sunday School

The Book Study group and the Sunday School class will be switching to a lectionary of Advent Bible verses to study over December in our booklet "Reading With Anticipation".

If you'd like to join either group call or email the office - rev.alex.barnes@gmail.com or miltonpreschurch@gmail.com.

Annual Reports are due in the church office by Sunday, January 9, 2021. If you are responsible for compiling a report for your Committee or Board within the Church, please email a report to miltonpreschurch@gmail.com or bring in a hard copy to the Church office.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for keeping up the donations! Everyone has been so generous.

Summary of October Revenue & Expenses

Financial Update – Budgeted Accounts Only:

Income from month of Oct.	\$	9,720
HeadStart Deposit		2,150
	\$	11,870
Expenses from Oct.	-\$	8,590
Net Income/Expense	-\$	3,280

Boiler Donation Update:

Oct. 2021: \$ 710

Total donations to date: \$40,014

Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$31,261

Thank you for all your donations!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BASKETS SCHEDULE EVERYTHING HELD AT UMC

TELEPHONE CALLS ~ United Methodist Church (UMC)

Nov. 29 ~ Dec. 3 ~ UMC members

Dec. 6 ~ Dec. 10 ~ Milton Church Members

Calls taken from 9 am ~ 1 pm

Sat. Dec. 11 at 8:30 am ~ SHOPPING FOR TEENS

Mon. Dec. 13 at 7 pm ~ WRAP PRESENTS~ AT UMC (note location!) Bring your scissors, wrapping paper and tape.

Tues. Dec. 14 at 6:15 pm ~ MAKE BOXES

Wed., Thurs., Fri. Dec. 15 ~ 17 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm ~ FILL BOXES
Call Betty to come in the evening at 330-317-2354 (cell phone)

PICKUP MORNING

Sat. Dec. 18 7:15 am Get perishables

7:30 am IGA

7:30 am Panera Bread

9 am ~ Move Boxes out for pickup

9 am ~ 12 pm Pick Up Times

ALL PRESENTS AND BOXES WILL BE PICKED UP AT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THROUGH A DRIVE THRU SYSTEM. ALL RECIPIENTS WILL NEED TO PICK UP THEIR ITEMS AT THE CHURCH.

Offering envelopes are available now.

Muskingham Valley Presbytery has announced the

Per Capita amount for 2022 will be \$30.59. (This is the same as 2021.)

December 2021**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 according to God's gifts of them;*

**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.



To all my wonderful friends at Milton. Thank you for all your prayers when I broke my hip. I know they have helped in my fast recovery. Thank you too for the calls, cards, food and best wishes. You truly are a caring congregation. - Justine Brandes

Brandes

Thank you for my gift card to White Feather Meats - my gift for winning the chili cook off. It was a very nice surprise! - Justine Brandes

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, cards, word of condolence and support during a very difficult time and the loss of our loved one. ~ The Family of Harry Johnson.



Milton Church would like to extend our sympathies to the family of Donna Duckworth Yoder who passed away October 29, 2021.

Our thoughts and prayers also go to the family of Nancy Berkey after her loss on November 17, 2021. She was the sister of Marge and Larry Boggs.

The Fletcher Family is pleased to announce the recent appointment of their grandson, Gunnery Sergeant Thomas W. Roesch, USMC, as National Assistant Commander of all V.F.W.s in the United States. Thomas is a career Marine who already has served 15 years, and is well known for his integrity, loyalty, sense of duty, courage, and steadfast community mindedness wherever he has been stationed, including two tours in Afghanistan. He lives by "The Golden Rule" and always places the needs of others ahead of his own. He remains "Semper Fi" and also soon will receive his degree in electrical engineering. Thomas is the best of the best and makes his family proud.



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

Inn at Coal Ridge , (1300 Coalridge Rd., Wadsworth, 44281): Elsie Richards


Apostolic Christian Homes, (10680 Steiner Rd., Rittman, OH) - Barbara Ramsier

(10710 Steiner Rd, Apt. 14, Rittman, OH) Dorothy Johnson

Oak Point Nursing & Rehab (130 Buena Vista, Baltic, OH 43804): Gus Brandes


PRAYER CONCERNS

Dale Alexander, Shawn Aronhalt, Jessica Austin, Sally Barnes, Linda Beddow, James Bennett, Bill & Judy Beuth, Jane Bishop, Bill & Jackie Boak, Gracelyn Burgess family, Pam Burres, Tanya Coleman, Mike & Mandii Cramer, Linda Crawford, Megan Crawford, Jim Davis, Dan Denino, Lonnie Fletcher, Donnie Foutty, Vickie Fox, Shawn Gammell, Marcia Geyer, Chris Goodman, Laurie Halliwell, Dwayne Hopton, Debbie Keel, Larry Kollert, Kevin Lampar, Tom Langton, Abbey Lentine, Bob Ludolph, Helen (Grubb) Mann, Lisa Martin, Gemma Matthews, Linda Melenbacker, Frances Nichols, Karen and Art Oppy, Karen Peters, Barbara Ramsier, John Ramsier, Jim Roberts, David Robey (Debbie Russell's brother), Sancy Robey (Debbie Russell's sister-in-law), Bill & Donna Robertson, Pat Rossmiller, Haylee Rufener, Jay Russell, Kati Russell, Linda Rutter, Ed Schendel, Anne Schumacher, Tina Simcox, Rick Singleton, Ed Steele, Todd Stephan, Patti Stuart, Bill Timmons, Anita Vohar, Amy Wilson, Scott Wilson




The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter A and finishing with a word starting with the letter Z.



angels	Bethlehem	car	dance	ease
cat	bear	child	donkey	egg
fast	gap	feathers	Earth	flocks
holy	glory	grapes	inn	jacket
hat	quiet	peace	shepherds	righteous
only	Lord	king	Joseph	kelp
tidings	unique	night	Mary	loop
water	virgin	wise men	paper	maze
young	excitement	word	nest	open
zillions saved by this baby called Jesus				



Answer: angels, Bethlehem, child, donkey, Earth, flocks, glory, holy, inn, Joseph, king, Lord, Mary, night, only, peace, quiet, righteous, shepherds, tidings, unique, virgin, wise men, excitement, young, zillions (saved by this baby called Jesus)

Yuletide

GAMES

Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z

What you need:

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)



What you do:

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.

PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER

What you need:

- Butcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



What you do:

On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.



DECEMBER

2021



December 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
- 24th Deloris Rohrer
- 27th Helen Berg

December Anniversaries

- 12th Gregg & Cassie Shreve-6 yrs.
- 20th Chris & Angel Mackey-24 yrs.
- 21st Bruce & Laurie Watson-20 yrs.

Please let the church office know of address or telephone number changes. If your birthday or anniversary was missed or is incorrect we will gladly update our records. Thank you!

THANK YOU!!

Flower Schedule

- 5 - Portia Haller
- 12 - Portia Haller
- 19 - Portia Haller
- 26 - Deloris Rohrer



Nursery workers are needed! Please contact Cindy Mann to help at (330) 925-2651.

Junior Church Schedule

- 5 - Play practice - Cindy
- 12 - Play practice - Alex
- 19 - Angel Mackey
- 26 - Cindy Mann



December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 pm Bldg. & Grounds Meeting (Library)	2 10:00 am Worship & Music (Library)	3	4
5 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6	7 Noon - Book Study	8	9	10	11
Telephone calls for Rittman Christmas Baskets at Rittman United Methodist Church - Dec. 6-Dec. 10 (9am-1pm)						
12 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Deacons 3:00 pm Sonnenberg Stat.	13 7:00 pm Wrap presents at UMC	14 Noon - Book Study	15 7:00 pm Session - (Library)	16 7:00 pm MPW Circle (Library)	17	18 9 am - Noon Christmas Basket Pickups
** See Page 4 for the Christmas Basket Work Schedule**						
19 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	20	21 Noon— Book Study (Library)	22	23	24 7:30 pm Musical 8 pm Christmas Eve Service (Communion)	25 
26 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27	28 Noon— Book Study (Library)	29	30	31	

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