

Church Office  
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# DECEMBER 2023

## TIMELY NOTES



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

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL** starts at *9:15 am*

**WORSHIP** starts at *10:30 am*

### CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES

Youth Drama

Practice \* Sat., Dec. 16 at 2 p.m.

Play \* Sun., Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Blue Christmas Service

Sun., Dec. 17th at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Musical \* Sun., Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

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

For those of us experiencing loneliness, sadness, and loss, the Christmas season can be difficult. The "most wonderful time of the year" can seem overwhelming.

You are not alone. Join us in a simple service reflecting on God's hope for us and presence in our story.

Milton Presbyterian  
Church  
Sunday December 17  
4 pm

*Blue Christmas*



### CHRISTMAS BASKET SCHEDULE

*All at Rittman Methodist Church*

- Dec. 4 - 7      9 am to 1 pm Take Christmas Basket Telephone Calls
- Sat., Dec. 9      8 am Shop for Christmas Basket Toys
- Mon., Dec. 11    7 pm Wrap Presents
- Tues., Dec. 12    Assemble Boxes (anytime)
- Wed., Dec. 13    Fill Food Boxes (anytime)
- Sat., Dec. 16      9 am Pickup Day, Take Boxes and Presents to Cars

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 appreciated.



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*They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?  
How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven?'" – John 6:42*

On the first Sunday after Thanksgiving, we wrapped up our fall sermon series asking the question *Who Is Jesus?* While preparing the messages through the series, I really enjoyed reading the gospel accounts of people in *his* time asking this same question. As they did so, one thing that they were consistently confused by was the question of *where* he had come from. I enjoyed reading the accounts of the people asking themselves this same question because sometimes I have to ask the same thing. With the question being raised, *how* is it all supposed to fit together and work, exactly? I'm not always certain that our own carefully crafted theological answers to try to determine this have cleared a whole lot up for most people, but when the people of his time asked this question - especially those who were from Nazareth and the surrounding area in Galilee - they were even more confused because they actually *knew* Jesus' family. They knew Mary and Joseph, and knew that they had raised him. So how could he have come down from heaven?

As we get prepared for Christmas with the season of Advent, together we will engage this question of where Jesus came from with how it is answered from the stories we have in scripture - especially the ones that focus on family and his family roots. When we take this closer look at Jesus' family on heaven and Earth, we will also see how families are forged and formed. We will see how gathering the generations through love and instruction is a necessary ingredient for keeping a faithful perspective. We will see how Jesus' own family prepared the way for his ministry, and we will realize how our family in God strengthens the love we have for each other by carrying God's story forward from everlasting to everlasting.

To speak honestly, when we use the word family, it can be both one of the greatest blessings and challenges of life for everyone. For most of us, family is something that we cannot live without, and for some of us, family can also be something that we have a very hard time living with. Even still, when we lose a member of our close family, it can be something that changes our experience of the Hope of Christmas for us for a long time. When this happens, while others celebrate around us it can be especially hard for us to share in the joy and peace of the season. In making room for this loss, we are coming together for a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 17th at 4pm. It will provide an important balance for the joy we will have earlier in the morning as the newest generation of children comes together for the Christmas Play for the regular worship service.

Everyone's family is unique - and that is certainly no different when it comes to Christ. His Earthly lineage is full of heroes of the faith: both men and women who were main players in both Israel's history and our own story preserved in scripture. His ancestral line featured both insiders and outsiders. It included people instrumental in maintaining tradition, order and discipline. It also was balanced by outsiders who God used to soften the heart of His people and strengthen their faith, demonstrating what it really meant to welcome the foreigner into your land and to love your neighbor as yourself.

As the Earthly family expands, we are challenged to love more unconditionally and faithfully. At the same time, when we acknowledge God as the head of the family, we also recognize the unique character and person of God who brings a spiritual lineage that makes us holy in a way we could never do on our own. I know that in my own life, I am incredibly blessed to have both a Spiritual family in the Milton church and in the wider Church that transcends race and boundary. I also have an Earthly family that I am blessed to be very close with. A consistent prayer of mine is that the two would come together more closely, and I have seen God's action in answering this prayer. I also know that for those of us who have had a much harder upbringing, it can be hard to trust in God's promise of adoption and experience God's love when we have not seen it in a pure unconditional form in our own family. That is why God teaches us to have faith - faith that our story is only complete when God descends to Earth once again so our family truly can be together in person as one, both in Heaven and Earth.

-Rev. Alex Barnes

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## FOR MUSIC LOVERS

### SONNENBERG STATION CONCERT SCHEDULE

- Sat., Dec. 2nd, 3 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church-Millersburg
- Sat., Dec. 2nd, 7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church-Wooster
- Sat., Dec. 9th, 3 p.m. St. Peter's UCC-Apple Creek
- Sat., Dec. 9th, 7 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church-Massillon
- Sun., Dec. 10th, 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church-Orrville

### CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Scott Turner will be playing in a group from Common Ground Church on Friday, December 15th, at 7:30 pm at:  
 Heartland Community Church  
 3400 Weymouth Rd.  
 Medina 44356  
 Tickets are \$15.

*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.*

### Operation Christmas Child

Thank you everyone who participated in providing Operation Christmas Child boxes. Milton Presbyterian Church sent 28 boxes to children around the world. Please pray for those children who receive these boxes; pray for blessings of health and welfare and that this might open the door for the Lord to enter into their lives.



### Muskingham Valley Presbytery has set the Per Capita for 2024 at \$38.41. The breakdown for their collection is:

<b>MVP</b>	<b>\$25.36</b>
<b>General Assembly</b>	<b>\$9.80</b>
<b>Synod</b>	<b>\$3.25</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38.41</b>

### FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

**FOOD ITEMS are needed for the pantry. Staples are needed. Usage has been very high! Currently personal items are needed as are pasta or noodles, pasta sauce, canned fruit, peanut butter, personal hygiene items, and feminine hygiene products.**



**On Sunday, October 29, the Milton Church members honored Pastor Alex on Pastor Appreciation day by giving him a gift card to Whitefeather Meat. Thank you Alex for all you do for your congregation!**



And thank YOU for the truly generous card and gift. We were not expecting it! The biggest blessing has been your willingness to serve God alongside of my family and I as we seek God's Will in our community together. You are such a blessing!  
 - Rev. Alex Barnes

### MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MPW Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. We will be taking a short break in December from the study book and read the Christ story from the Bible. We will be sharing special memories, stories, cards, and poems that day as well as enjoy some holiday refreshments. Please join us on Thursday, December 14th.



**The Server is in need of more regular volunteers and pre-made frozen meals in gallon freezer bags. Shifts are Monday**

**through Friday 8:45 am to 11:30 am and 11:15 am to 2:15 pm. Please contact Pastor Alex if you can help.**

**A children's Christmas play is planned on Sunday, December 17th. Practices will be held during Jr. Church in November and December.**



The Adult Sunday School and Tuesday Bible Study will be studying from the 2023 Advent study guide "Jesus' Family Tree" by Stephanie Hovland. This study charts Jesus' family through prayer and study. The branches of the Jesse tree that Jesus (and we) are part of stretch back to Adam. Please come and join us.

The next Youth JAM will be Sunday, December 3rd, 6:00 p.m. at Congress Community Church. The group is made up of Jr. and Sr. high school students. The group meets quarterly throughout the year. The youth are encouraged to bring their friends!



**Thank you Deacons for organizing the "Hanging of the Greens" and for the food you provided!**



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your continued support!

Summary of October Revenue & Expenses

Financial Update – Budgeted Accounts Only:

Income from month of Oct. \$ 8,163

HeadStart Fees +2,400

\$ 10,563

Expenses from Oct. \$ 10,364

Oct. Net Income/Expense \$ 199

Annual Net Income/Expense \$ -10,003

Transferred from Session to cover bill \$5,000

**October 2023 Boiler Donations: \$170**

**Total donations to date: \$47,954**

**Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 19,861**



*Thank you for all your donations!*

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



**DECEMBER  
2023  
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.*

*Poinsettia Sale*



Milton Church is selling poinsettias this year to enhance the sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

The cost is \$12 each. The deadline to purchase a poinsettia is Sunday, December 17th. Please make checks out to Milton Presbyterian Church.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped me during my extended recovery after knee surgery and then a second knee surgery. I appreciate all those who brought me food, sent cards, prayed, gave me rides, and called me. Your help was a blessing to me. -Judy Twinem

**THANK YOU** I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food and messages of kindness after my recent knee surgery. I'm so grateful for our thoughtful and loving Congregation. - Nancy Leach

**CONGRATULATIONS** Katherine Saunders and Simon Russell were married on November 18, 2023. Best wishes to the happy couple. Their address is: 2649 Elmwood St., Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221



**\*Please remember our church family members who are in our local area nursing homes:**  
Sanctuary-Wadsworth, (365 Johnson Rd. Wadsworth, 44281) - Elsie Richards  
Apostolic Christian Homes, (10680 Steiner Rd., Rittman, OH) - Dorothy Johnson, Ron Steele  
Village of St. Edwards, (880 Main St., Wadsworth, OH 44281) - Sally Barnes

Linda Beddow, Leigh Ann Berkley, Megan Blosser, Charlie Brandes, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Terri Click, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Conner Compton, Mike & Mandii Cramer, Megan Crawford, Jamie Cullie, Sue Schumacher Doig, Nicholas Dras, Deb Easterday, Jordan Edgar, Scott Erwin, Darla Fletcher, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Shawn Gammell, Marcia Geyer, *Wendy Bausman Gray*, Reed Heggie, Renee Heslop, Dwayne Hopton, Dorothy Johnson, Lori Johnson, Alex & Diane Karther, Debbie Keel, Mike LaBo, Kevin and Linda Lampar, Kurt Lampar, Abbey Lentine, *ConiAnn Limpert*, Lisa Lipscond, Bob Ludolph, Lauren Mackie, Laurel Mader, Helen Mann, Keith Marsden, Lisa Martin, Bobby Martinez, Gemma Matthews, *Jane McClain*, Finegan and Slone McGee, Erin McGorry, Linda Melenbacker, Lois Middleton, Kristen Morris, David Nardechia, Taylor Netting, Frances & Joyce Nichols, Lee Owen, Karen Peters, Ethan Porter, Sally Porter, Ron and Sue Price, Geoff Pyle, John Ramsier, Sue Ramsey, Elsie Richards, David Robey, Pat Rossmiller, Haylee Rufener, Jay Russell, Linda Rutter, Sheryl Saunders, Rose Serna-Wallander, Rick Shreve, Tina Simcox, Rick Singleton, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, *Terry Stefan*, Todd Stephan, Gloria Stroll, Patti Stuart, John Swarzentruuber, Bill Timmons, Laura Toledo, Luke Truman, Judy Twinem, Anita Vohar, Amy Wilson, *Sue Wilson*, Bobby Wolf, Ron Woodward, Jeff Yund, *Jim Zimmerman*



*\*Italicized are recent additions.*



# 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**

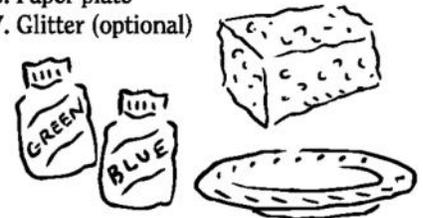
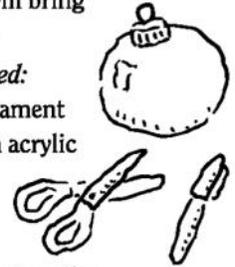
## "Peace on Earth" Ornament



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.





**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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 12th Gregg & Cassie Shreve 8 yrs.
- 20th Chris & Angel Mackey 26 yrs.
- 21st Bruce & Laurie Watson 22 yrs.

**JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE**

- 5 Tammy Wilson
- 12 Vickie Schumacher
- 19 Andrea Barnes
- 26 Angel Mackey

**FLOWER SCHEDULE**

- 5 Poinsettias
- 12 Poinsettias
- 19 Poinsettias
- 26 Poinsettias

Coffee Hour Deacon: Patty Cristino

**MEETING DATES**

- Building & Grounds - Wed., Dec. 6 at 7:00pm
- Deacons Meeting - Sun., Dec. 10 at 11:45am
- Worship & Music - Mon., Dec 11 at 10:00am
- MPW Circle - Thurs., Dec. 14 at 7:00pm
- Session Meeting - Wed., Jan. 10 at 1:00pm



“For unto us a Child is born,  
 Unto us a Son is given;  
 And the government will be  
 upon His shoulder.  
 And His name will be called  
 Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty  
 God, Everlasting  
 Father, Prince of Peace.”  
 Isaiah 9:6

*Rev. Alex will be on study leave from December 4th-10th to prepare for next year’s worship schedule. Elder Ken Mann will be preaching on Sunday, December 10th. Please be praying for them both!*

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 3:00 & 7:00 pm Sonnenberg Station Concerts
3 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	4 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	5 Noon - Bible Study (Library)	6 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 7:00 pm Bldg. & Grounds (Library) 7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Parlor)	7	8	9 3:00 & 7:00pm Sonnenberg Station Concerts <b>See Schedule</b> 2-5 pm Fellowship Hall Rental
10 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Deacons (Library) 3:00 pm Sonnenberg St.	11 10:00 am Worship & Music (Library) 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting 7:00 pm Wrap Presents-Methodist	12 Noon - Bible Study (Library)	13 6:00 pm DAA (FH)	14 7:00 pm MPW Circle (Library)	15	16 9 am Christmas Basket Pickups -Methodist Ch. 2 pm Children's Play Practice
17 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship- Childrens Play 4:00 pm Blue Christmas Service	18 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	19 Noon - Bible Study (Library)	20 6:00 pm DAA (FH)	21	22	23
24 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (Communion) 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 	25 <b>Merry Christmas</b> 	26 No Bible Study	27 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day At Laundromat	28	29	30
31 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship						



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