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404-447-0273



# FEBRUARY 2026 TIMELY NOTES

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

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## WORSHIP TIME

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM      WORSHIP 10:30 AM

WATCH YOUR EMAIL IN THE EVENT  
THERE IS A CHURCH CLOSING DUE TO THE  
WEATHER



## LENTEN SCHEDULE

Keep in mind these special dates:

Mon., Jan. 26 - Monthly Free Community Meal

Wed., Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday Service at Milton Presbyterian Church - Sacrament of Holy Communion



Mon., Feb. 23 - 6:30 p.m. Monthly Free Community Meal

Sun., March 29 - Palm Sunday

Thurs., April 2 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Fri., April 3 - 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

Sun. April 5 - Easter - Sacrament of Holy Communion



On the third Sunday of every month from 4-6 pm we will be hosting a 'kids club' at the church for children ages 3-14. There the kids will be learning more about the Bible, and more about the apostle Paul and his missionary journeys. Some dinner will be provided. Let your friends and neighbors know!

**2026 VISION RALLY**  
TO REACH WAYNE COUNTY

**Saturday, January 31, 2-4pm**  
887 West Main Street, Smithville

Calling All Churches & Believers to Join for:

- Worship
- An inspiring Gospel message from Scott Price
- A bold vision to reach Wayne County for Christ
- Prayer to the Lord of the Harvest

**SIGN UP HERE**  
to let us know you are coming & to receive further event updates






## Community Meal

Monthly Community Meals restart this month on January 26th at 6:30 p.m. Chef Bill is planning on making chili and salad. Our speakers Dr. Raines and Dr. Meyer from Faithful Servants Care Center, will start at 7:00 p.m. They have recently opened a new facility on Leatherman Road in Wadsworth. Faithful Servants Care Center provides free urgent health care services with a Christ-like compassion for those without insurance and the economic means to access traditional medical care. Hope to see you there!

The next meal will be Monday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. We'll be having baked potatoes and salad. Chuck and Natalie Wyatt from Anchor Heating and Cooling Clothing Pantry will be there to talk about this mission.



For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1 Corinthians 1:19–2

Just last week, I used Artificial Intelligence chat for the first time. I almost didn't want to, as it seems every company I know has been trying to get me to use AI to become more productive, and I often have a disinclination to try things that are advertised too aggressively. In addition to this, when it comes to momentum in general and new technologies, I can be a conservative traditionalist at heart. Yet I was curious. I wanted to see what it could do, and how it could make my job more focused and bear more fruit, spending more time actually ministering to flesh and blood human beings. So I asked it to generate a coloring page for the children, a children's lesson outline, and a sermon outline. In about 15 seconds, it gave a coloring page, a pretty generic sermon outline, and a children's lesson. I was pretty impressed! I can see this as a tool that will be very helpful in creating VBS lesson plans and activities. Of course my expectations were quite low, after hearing about how many mistakes can be made by AI. Sure enough, the coloring page created was titled the 'Baptism of Christ' ... but it gave a good start. I also didn't end up using the outline produced, but the outline was pretty good, with a focus on practical applications that could be worked with well.

After seeing this, I searched for what other pastors thought of the tool, and of course everyone had an opinion. Some found it quite helpful, but the most dominant voice was one that worried about how the use of Artificial Intelligence to preach the word also quench the spirit. Even as I write this, I can mentally see a number of you raising an eyebrow with skeptical concern. After so many years of schooling that stresses critical thinking, understanding, personal responsibility, and doing our own work, it can be disconcerting to simply take what a machine gives you, taken from our collective knowledge from the internet, trusting in the 'truth' provided.

The more that I find my footing as a preacher, being able to preach authoritatively about God coming from the heart brings the message across much more truly than a tight, well crafted, beautiful message. From what I've read, AI can craft beautifully eloquent sermons that are can be theologically sound, provided you send the right prompts and instructions. This makes sense, just as the machine makes sense of your own prompts. In some respects, it is merely a quicker form of our own education that has operated in a similar way—to return an answer that was judged to be correct. To fit within the guidelines. Especially when it comes to Catechism. When I graduated from Seminary, we all had to write a statement of faith—no different than many students who were being confirmed as full members of the church would today—and the structure of this always followed quite closely to the PC (USA) Brief Statement of Faith accepted into the confessions of the church in 1993.

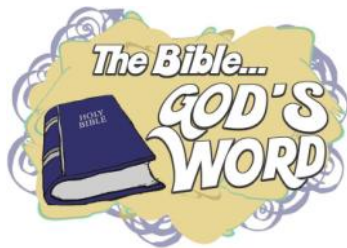
So Artificial Intelligence is merely our intelligence, written out and re-composed together by our thought that has been uploaded onto our collective mind. As these resources have been gathered online, the amount that we can learn is astounding. Yet amidst this incredible compendium of accessible information, we can very quickly lose our understanding of what the truth really is. What the gospel forces us to confront is the deceptive nature of even actual intelligence. Not to say that knowledge is bad by any means. Instead, there is a deeper truth and righteousness that is currently unfolding in God—and that is what we are witnesses to in our own individual lives.

This is what the Apostle Paul understands when he begins the letter to the Corinthians with a stress on the importance of the gospel - the good news of Jesus Christ that forms the foundation of our new life in Christ. He describes it as foolishness and a stumbling block.

The apostle who would go on to write the most eloquent and well known description of love that I have read also wrote that those words describing the beautiful and transcendent truth of love means nothing compared to the foolish love that Jesus shows for us upon the cross. It is Christ crucified that embodies this love once and for all. The power of Christ crucified is not in how it fits in neatly with the Hebrew scriptures. It is not in how it presents a logical wisdom for the world. Instead, it is a real power that has transformed lives in so many different ways over the course of a millennia, continuing to do so in our own neighborhood and lives today. It has saved lives from the richest to the poorest, from the most educated to the most uneducated. And it is only God’s power that can do so. As another tool and technology enters our lives, we remember that mere words do not save us from ourselves. It is only that the Word made flesh that can do that—and the good news of the kingdom of God that is being revealed. 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.*



Have you ever thought, *I am going to read through the Bible this year ...* but haven't had anyone to join you in this? Well now you can join us in reading at least the New Testament! As a church, we will be reading through the New Testament together over the course of the year. The plan we have been using is the *BibleProject New Testament in a Year* plan in the *youversion* Bible App.

Go to: <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/13233>. Creating an account is free and easy.

Alex has been sending out weekly emails to help keep us on track. If you’re like me, it’s hard to fit this into my day. I help myself sometimes to get caught up by listening to the verses on my phone with a voice version of the Bible.

If you have any problems getting the app on your phone, Alex would be happy to help guide you through it. Here is

**PER CAPITA**

Muskingham Valley Presbytery has set the Per Capita payment to \$40.02 for 2026.

New church directories have been printed. PDF versions can be emailed to you. Contact Cindy in the office for a copy.

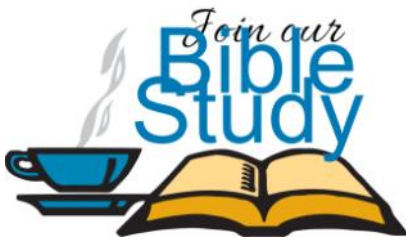


**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

ITEMS are always needed for the pantry. Certain items go very quickly!

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!





Jesus' commands cover a broad set of topics. If you would like to explore them more fully, come to Adult

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday Bible Study will continue to meet at 12:30 p.m. in the library.

During Junior Church, the children will go back to studying the book of Acts.



***There is a number of special donations that can use your help. The boiler and roof projects are still being paid.***

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Summary of Dec. Revenue & Expenses

Income Dec.	\$ 10,685
HeadStart Fees	<u>+2,400</u>
	\$ 13,085
Expenses from Dec.	<u>\$ 13,995</u>
Dec. Net Income/Expense	\$ <u>-870</u>
<u>2025 Net Income/Expense</u>	\$ <u>-435</u>

**Boiler Monthly Payments are \$475  
Balance of Lance Fund Boiler loan: \$ 9,976  
Roof Monthly Payments are \$271  
Balance of Lance Fund Roof loan: \$ 29,248**

*Thank you for all your donations!*

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



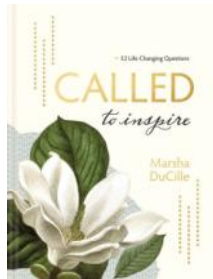
**MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**



MPW will be having a reading of the continue discussing the devotional book "Called to Inspire" by Marsha DuCille.

The next meeting will be

Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor.



All women of the church are invited to the meetings. If you are interested in coming to meetings please let Kim Hart know. Her telephone number is 330-612-3302. Study books are available in the church office.



Offering envelopes are available. If you have not gotten a box and would like one, contact the office.



**The next Youth JAM will be Sunday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wayne Presbyterian Church.**

**If you would like to help provide flowers, handle the liturgical reading or help with Jr. Church, please contact the office at 330-925-2651.**

**FEBRUARY 2026****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.*

**Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Elizabeth Vermilyae who passed away New Year's Day. She will be missed at Tuesday Bible studies and MPW Circle meetings.**

**PORTIONS OF THANK YOU NOTES SENT TO CHURCH:**

Hi Friends, Wanted to send a note to thank you for the Christmas card and for always remembering my birthday with a beautiful card. I am doing well. Moving to Michigan was a good move. It's been two years already. Love, Judy Beuth

I just want to take a moment to personally thank you for the generous donation that helped the Community Christmas Basket Project. ... without your donation and time, it would not have been possible for us to help the over 120 needy families in Rittman. Sincerely, Betty Winchell, Chairperson

***\*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 - 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)**



**Dale Alexander, Barbara Bartholomew, Jonathan Bonilla, Josue Bonilla, Charlie Brandes, Courtney Breece, Levi Buxman, Sandy Calvert, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Mike & Mandii Cramer, Lesa Crawford, Jim Davis, Marilyn Dlesk, Nicholas Dras, Deb Easterday, Jordan Edgar, Scott Erwin, Anne Fischer, Lonnie Fletcher, Debbie Fortunot, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Robert Gardner, Veronica Hughes, Cathy Imhoff, Madi Jackson, Dorothy Johnson, Debbie Keel, Kevin and Linda Lampar, Abbey Lentine, Chad Lightner, Sophia Lightner, Bill Loebick, Bob Ludolph, Don and Martha McDonald, Joshue Makaryk, Charles Mann, Keith Marsden, Gemma Matthews, Erin McGorry, Sherri Miglio, PJ Miller, Francie and Howard Morris, Kristen Morris, Corey Mullinax, Denise Neeley, Tom Niehaus, Joyce Nichols, Charlie Owen, Dale Owen, Bob and Sue Plank, Ethan Porter, Sally Porter, Ron and Sue Price, Linda and Geoff Pyle, John Ramsier, Roger Ramsier, Sue Ramsey, Jim Roberts, Dave Rogers, Chris Rufener, Haylee Rufener, Linda Rutter, Howie Ryder, Emily Mann Schott, Colleen Sheppard, Betty Shreve, Sarah Shreve, David Simpson, Rick Singleton, Jim Skolnik, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Debbie Steiner, Todd Stephan, Ginger Stucky, John Swarzentruuber, Doris Taylor, Phyllis Teter, Ella Thomas, Kelly and Holly Thomas, Bill Timmons, Judy Twinem, Tim Van Arsdale, Ellen Williams, Jamie Williams**







**Just for KIDS**

*God's teaching is like....*


In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

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Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.

CODE    


"Let my teaching fall like \_\_\_\_\_




and my words descend like \_\_\_\_\_,




like \_\_\_\_\_




\_\_\_\_\_,




like abundant \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_,



\_\_\_\_\_,



Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants

# DIRTY CUPS

Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

**What you need:**

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

**What you do:**

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.



# February 2026

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Adyson Cristino
- 6th Fred Weller
- 6th Laurie Watson
- 7th Lincoln Boggs
- 10th Ken Mann, Mitchell Shreve
- 11th Bill Timmons
- 13th Christopher Schar, Ron Steele
- 14th Vallorie Farlow
- 15th Lindsey Millan
- 17th Rich Schumacher
- 18th Kim Rigas
- 21st Emma Goodman, Alexis Labo
- 25th Doug Schar
- 28th Cindy Vaughn

## FLOWER SCHEDULE

- 1 Needed
- 8 Cindy and Ken Mann
- 15 Marge and Larry Boggs
- 22 Nancy and Hal Leach

## MEETING DATES

- Worship & Music - Mon., Feb. 2 at 10:00 a.m.
- Building & Grounds - Thurs., Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- MPW Circle - Thurs., Feb. 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Session Meeting - Wed., Mar. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 17th Gerald & Karen Aberegg - 53rd
- 23rd Dave & Lori Rue - 7th

## JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

- 1 Vickie Schumacher, Angel Mackey
- 8 Andrea Barnes, Lindsey Millan
- 15 Renee Busic, Vickie Schumacher
- 22 Elena Swartzentruber, Andrea Barnes

## COMMUNION PREPARERS

Wednesday, Feb. 18th - Ash Wednesday

## LITURGIST SCHEDULE

- 1 Donna Robertson
- 8 Donna Robertson
- 15 Lindsey Millan
- 22 Vickie Schumacher

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

- 1 Andrea and Alex Barnes
- 8 Needed
- 15 Renee Busic
- 22 Needed



# February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship	<b>2</b> 10:00 am <b>Worship &amp; Music (Library)</b>	<b>3</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm <b>Building and Grounds (Library)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship  5:00 pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Dinner	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm Den Meeting (FH) 7:00 pm <b>MPW Circle (Parlor)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship (Communion)  4-6 pm Kids Club Bible Study for Neighborhood Children (FH)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday Service   6:00 - 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day at laundromat	<b>19</b> 6:00 pm Cub Pack Meeting (FH)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm - <b>Community Meal (F.H.)</b> 7:00 pm - <b>Anchor Htg. &amp; Clg. Clothing Pantry</b>	<b>24</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:00 pm Pack Leadings Meeting (FH)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

**Milton Presbyterian Church**  
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