

Church Office
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FEBRUARY 2024

TIMELY NOTES

Milton Presbyterian
Church
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SUNDAY SCHOOL starts at *9:15 am*

WORSHIP starts at *10:30 am*

WITH APPRECIATION!

Thank you Scott Turner for serving God and our church for the past two years.



LENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keep in mind these special dates:

Wed., Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday, Noon at Seville Presbyterian Church, light meal of soup and bread available during the service.

March 24 - Palm Sunday

Thurs., March 28 - Maundy Thursday

Fri., March 29 - Good Friday

Community Meals



Community Meals are back! Our first Community Meal was on Monday, January 29th. Troop 405 kicked off our meals with a terrific meal of spaghetti with meatballs, garlic bread, and salad. Loretta Vojtko, physical therapist and owner of HOPS Physical Therapy, spoke to the group in attendance about physical therapy and why she is become a part of a small business in a small community. Thank you both for sharing your time and talents with us!

The next meal is Monday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. with the speaker at 7:00 p.m. With us will be Ashley Smith, Envoy and Corps pastor in the Salvation Army at Wadsworth.



“He brings the clouds to punish people, or to water his earth and show his love.” Job 37:13

As I look outside of my window when I write this, the view isn't all that vibrant. Some leaves littering a scraggly and muddy lawn. Wet concrete. Damp wood. Naked trees, awkward branches exposed, jaggedly etching a backdrop of muted gray ...

It is no wonder I am taking 5 times the recommended daily amount of Vitamin D pills to physically cope with the season. There is a certain beauty to it, but even I - a lover of seasonal variety and all sorts of harsh weather - will be the first to admit that it would be really nice to see the sun poke out every once in a while. Even just once a week, perhaps?

But that is not the season we are in. We are in the gray season, and so it may be appropriate to revisit the book of Job - the patron saint of depression and belly-achers¹ - during the winter. I can see God and the devil holding court again as I write this (obscured by the heavy cloudcover ... naturally): “Job only praises you because he lives in San Diego. Send him to Rittman during the winter and see if he continues to praise you with faithfulness!”

As the clouds darken the sun for most days during these months, I read this Word of God that came through one of Job's friends, Elihu. Elihu also happens to be the only one of his friends who spoke to the truth of the matter - that God's mysteries go beyond our own assumptions and reasoning. He accuses Job's other friends of condemning Job without reason, and accuses Job of justifying himself rather than God. Unfortunately, when it comes to presuming the cosmic circumstance of others is justified while justifying ourselves and our own actions when we find ourselves in a more comfortable position, we have not exactly made much progress over the past 3500 years.

I can't always tell if the weather darkens in life as to whether God is punishing us for some reason, or giving us a proper perspective so we can get really excited for the spring when the clouds break and the flowers pop out. Quite possibly it is both, and so it is probably a good thing to experience a physical season and circumstance that challenges our feelings, because it is easy to see how the attitudes of our own hearts are so frequently affected by the comfort or brutality of our environment. It is also why I appreciate that in our church calendar, we recognize our own disciplined weathering and mortification of the flesh as coinciding with this last stretch of winter arrives. This yields even greater irony this year, as domesticated people all around our nation break out totes of heart decorations to celebrate Valentine's Day while dour pastors such as myself will bring out the ashes. Since Valentine's day also happens to coincide with Ash Wednesday, we get to observe the whole picture of chapters 2 and 3 of Genesis in one day: the reason for marriage and the sin and death that endangers these relationships all at once!

Yet in all sincerity, in this coincidence we are reminded that true love does require a more ultimate perspective and the discipline needed to endure the cloudy seasons of life which bring about a more mature, sacrificial love. It is this sacrificial love that Jesus was preparing for as he spent those 40 days being tempted in the desert: the costly and priceless love that both God the Father and Jesus the Son would show us on the cross.

As I look again outside at a season that doesn't lift my spirit in the natural world, I am reminded to look at things from a greater perspective - to practice disciplines that build the endurance of my heart, strength, mind and soul so I can love both God and neighbor with a love that is not hidden by cloud cover or blown about by the winds of the seasons. A love that shows that even when our whole lives may seem but a season, God's love endures forever.²

-Rev. Alex Barnes

¹Job is, in fact, the Patron Saint of those suffering from depression or stomach ulcers. His feast day is on May 10th. National Catholic Register, May 10 2021 <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/saint-job>.

²Psalms 103:15-17

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.

Cub Scout Open House

On Sunday, January 14th, Cub Scout Pack 3405 invited the Community to share an Open House. The Pack brought

in entertainer David Weyrick and Friends. There was a lot of laughs and a lot of fun to be had. If you missed it, you can find the program on Milton Presbyterian Church's YouTube page under the "Live" heading tab.



Muskingham Valley Presbytery has set the Per Capita for 2024 at \$38.41.

OFFICER INSTALLATION



Thank you Linda Crawford and Donna Robertson for serving another 2 year term on Session.



Blub, blub, blub.

Help! I think it's time for a new flat roof. This is the church secretary's office and choir room. Attempted repairs over the last year has not stopped the leaks and they have escalated in the last month. There will probably be more on this later this year.



FIRST STATED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION: At the January 28th meeting the Board of Deacons was dissolved although people can still be ordained as a Deacon. The duties of Deacons will be carried on through congregational help. We encourage all to help with this transition especially aiding in Coffee Hours after service. During the meeting, Bill Crawford and Patty Cristino were nominated and elected to serve as Ruling Elders of the church.

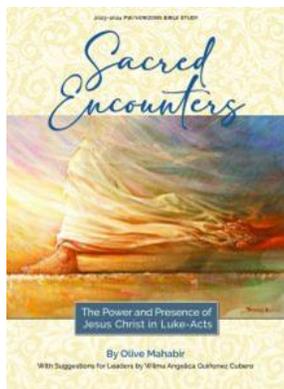
FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

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.



MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MPW Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. On Thursday, January 11th, The group will be studying again from the Horizons 2023-2024 study “Sacred Encounters” by Olive Mahabir. This month’s chapter is Lesson Five: “A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus”. All are welcome. Please let Kim Hart know if you are interested in joining over Zoom. Her telephone number is 330-612-3302.





The Server is in need of more pre-made frozen meals in gallon freezer bags. Please contact Pastor Alex if you can help.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your continued support!

Summary of December Revenue & Expenses

Financial Update – Budgeted Accounts Only:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Income from month of Dec. | \$ 10,334 |
| HeadStart Fees | <u>+2,400</u> |
| | \$ 12,734 |
| Expenses from Dec. | <u>\$ 12,163</u> |
| Dec. Net Income/Expense | \$ 571 |
| Annual Net Income/Expense | \$ 7,465 |
| <u>Transferred from Session to cover bill \$5,000</u> | |

December 2023 Boiler Donations: \$540

Total donations to date: \$48,494

Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 19,386

Thank you for all your donations!



Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



Our topic for the Adult Sunday School and Tuesday Bible Study is the books of the 12 minor prophets. Please come and join us to learn more about worshipping our Lord.

In Jr. Church we are going into the season of Lent, a period of 40 days before Easter when we remember Jesus being tempted in the wilderness after his baptism, and is a time where we focus on being intentional in our relationship with God. During these seven weeks leading up to Easter, we will be learning more about covenants - a very important part of our relationship with God as a people.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NEWS: Although we’re losing Scott Turner as our regular organist, the church will still be able to have organ music! *Thank you* to Neil Jackson for his time and talent as organist while he is recording the organ functions on the organ’s Midi. Scott Turner has also been recording some of his music for future use. The Midi allows the organ be played without anyone at the console. This amazing technology of the Midi actually uses the organ to play the music. Praise be to God!

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





**FEBRUARY
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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 TELEPHONE NUMBER!

Vallorie Farlow would like her friends at Milton Presbyterian Church to know that she has gotten rid of her "landline" telephone. She will only be using her cell phone for calls. The number for her is (330) 814-1520.



"We would like to take a moment to personally thank you for your generous gift of money and your assistance throughout the year for the Rittman Christmas Basket Program. Without your help and donation it would not have been possible for us to help over one hundred ten (110) families in Rittman."

Betty Winchell
Rittman Community Christmas
Baskets Chairperson

Dear Milton Presbyterian,

What a wonderful recognition by everyone. I was overwhelmed by the reception. All of the cards were very much appreciated. I hope to provide concerts in the future. They are definitely in my future plans. May the peace, love and grace of Christ fill this sanctuary.

-Scott



Our heartfelt prayers go to the family of Mike LaBo after his passing January 17, 2024. Mike had been a member since 1983 and served many years as a Trustee.



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

Inn at Coalridge (1300 Coalridge Pkwy., 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, *Jen Bishop*, Charlie Brandes, *Levi Brediger*, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Terri Click, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Conner Compton, Mike & Mandii Cramer, *Lesa Crawford*, Megan Crawford, Jamie Culler, Nicholas Dras, Deb Easterday, Jordan Edgar, Scott Erwin, Darla Fletcher, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Marcia Geyer, Reed Heggie, Dwayne Hopton, Dorothy Johnson, Lori Johnson, Alex & Diane Karther, Debbie Keel, Kevin and Linda Lampar, Kurt Lampar, Abbey Lentine, ConiAnn Limpert, Lisa Lipscond, Glenna Bennett Logiudice, Bob Ludolph, Lauren Mackie, Laurel Mader, Helen Mann, Keith Marsden, Lisa Martin, Bobby Martinez, Gemma Matthews, Erin McGorry, Linda Melenbacker, Lois Middleton, PJ Miller, Kristen Morris, *John and Joe Musgrave*, Taylor Netting, Frances & Joyce Nichols, Lee Owen, Karen Peters, Ethan Porter, Sally Porter, Ron and Sue Price, Linda and Geoff Pyle, John Ramsier, Sue Ramsey, Elsie Richards, *Bill Robertson*, Pat Rossmiller, Haylee Rufener, Jay Russell, Linda Rutter, Sheryl Saunders, Rose Serna-Wallander, Rick Shreve, Tina Simcox, Rick Singleton, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Todd Stephan, Gloria Stroll, Patti Stuart, John Swarzentrubler, 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.*

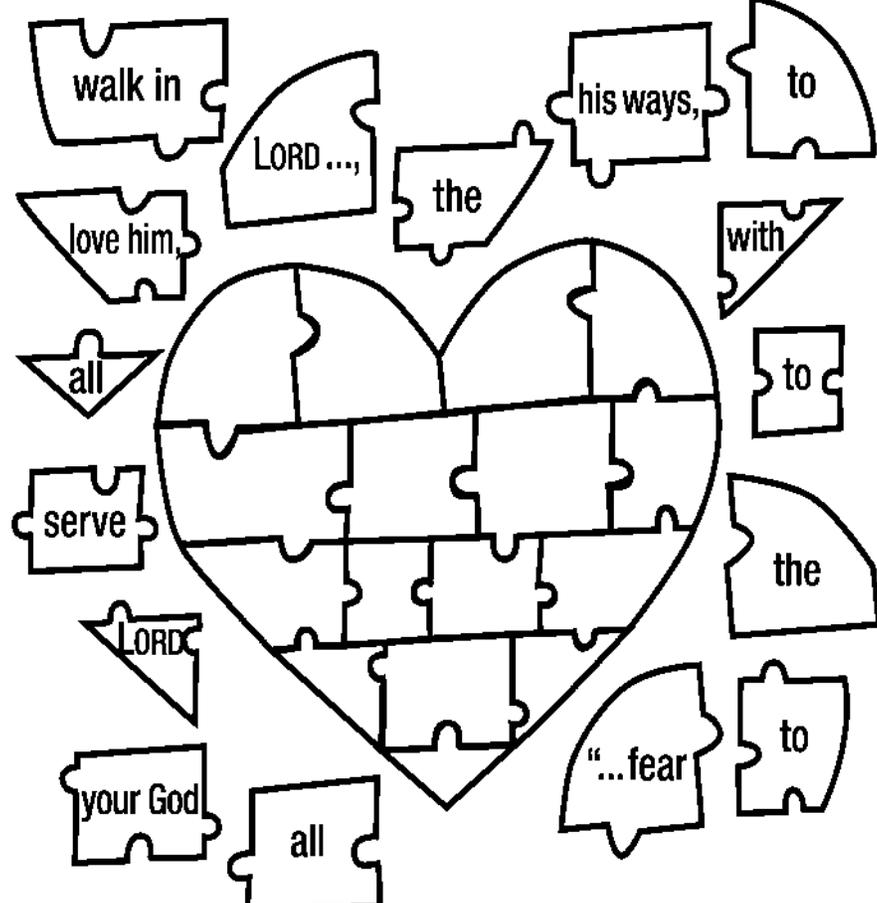


Just for KIDS

Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ...

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ... "

* A JAR OF * Love and Appreciation



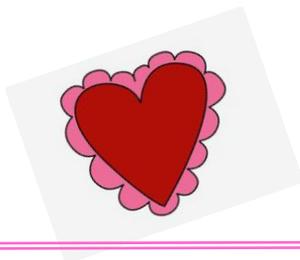
Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!



February 2024



BIRTHDAYS

1st Adyson Cristino
 6th Laurie Watson
 7th Lincoln Boggs
 10th Bob Bowden, Cheri Hall,
 Ken Mann, Mitchell Shreve
 11th Bill Timmons
 13th Christopher Schar,
 Ron Steele
 14th Vallorie Farlow
 15th Lindsey Millan
 17th Rich Schumacher
 18th Kim Rigas
 20th Kyle Fetter
 21st Emma Goodman,
 Alexis Labo
 23rd Amy Phillips
 25th Doug Schar
 26th Dana Stanger
 28th Cindy Vaughn

ANNIVERSARIES

17th Gerald & Karen Aberegg - 51st
 23rd Dave & Lori Rue - 5th

MEETING DATES

Building & Grounds - Wed., Feb. 7 at 7:00pm
 Deacons/Hospitality Comm. Meeting - TBA
 Worship & Music - Mon., Feb. 5 at 10:00am
 MPW Circle - Thurs., Feb. 8 at 7:00pm
 Session Meeting - Wed., Feb. 21 at 6:30pm

JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

4 Tammy Wilson
 11 Vickie Schumacher
 18 Andrea Barnes
 25 Angel Mackey

FLOWER SCHEDULE

4 Nancy & Hal Leach
 11 Traci & Steve Coso
 18 Cindy & Ken Mann
 25

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

4 Ken Mann & Patty Cristino
 11 Traci Coso
 18 Rich Schumacher
 25 Kim Hart

COFFEE HOUR

4 Vallorie Farlow
 11 Christie Yoho
 18 Portia Haller
 25 Kim Hart



February 2024



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship | 5 10:00 am Worship & Music Comm. 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting | 6 Noon - Bible Study (Library) | 7 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 7:00 pm Bldg. & Grounds (Library) 7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Parlor) | 8 7:00 pm MPW Circle (Library) | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (Communion)  | 12 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting | 13 Noon - Bible Study (Library) | 14 Noon Ash Wednesday Service-Seville  6:00 pm DAA (FH)  | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship- | 19 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting | 20 Noon - Bible Study (Library) | 21 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day 6:30 pm Session | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship | 26 6:30 pm Community Meal 7:00 pm Speaker for Meal (Fellowship hall) 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den | 27 Noon - Bible Study (Library) | 28 | 29 | | |

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Visit us at: www.miltonpreschurch.org