

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
9:15 am  
**WORSHIP**  
10:30 am

# JANUARY 2025

## TIMELY NOTES

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

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### Officer Installation

New officer installations will take place on Sunday, January 12th. The following people have agreed to serve 2 more years on Session:  
Rich and Vickie Schumacher,  
Portia Haller, Ken and Cindy Mann.  
Thank you to agreeing to serve another term on Session.



### ANNUAL REPORT TIME!

The annual report will be published by the end of the month. All heads of committees or group are reminded to turn in your report for 2024 by January 12th at the latest.



### Children’s Christmas Program



Thank you to our actors in our children’s Christmas Play. You all did a great job. Marcie, Lucy, & Charlie Cristino, Adyson & Carter Cristino, Gus & Ginny Barnes, Max & Olivia Millan, Henry Kissel, Landon Farron, Merida Cramer, Pastor Alex Barnes, Tabby Longenecker, Corey Mullinax, Kierston Reinhardt, and adult helpers Andrea Barnes, Tina Cristino, and Renee Busic.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> 9:45 A.M.**

Our next stated congregational meeting will be for the approval of the annual report and the election of the nominating committee. As

a change, we will be having the meeting before worship. The meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m.

Please attend this important meeting if you can.

## Congregational Meeting



### Community Meals

Monthly Community Meals restart this month on Monday, January 27th at 6:30 p.m. Our speakers, Doug and Jaquie Jensen, will start at 7:00 p.m. They will be speaking about their experience in international missions. Hope to see you there!

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. the old has gone, the new is here!  
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-17*

I feel like I have written a version of this note before. In fact, I am certain of it. It is the all too familiar pastor's note for January—a timely note for the new year. It is the note to encourage us to turn the page on our calendar and move past the grief, anxiety, guilt, shame, and mess that came in the year before so we can 'get our lives together' with a fresh start in Christ.

When preparing this note, I was again drawn towards the 'new life' that Christ promises, but I wanted to write something *new* about this. Something easy to digest, personal, and bring us to practically 'turn the page' on sin and strive again for our new life in Christ. Something that lifts up the member of our church who pulled me aside not long ago to say, "I am just so looking forward to 2025." I am sure it was echoed in the minds of so many others who have had a tough 2024.

And this *is* the message, because this is a crucial element of the *good news*. God's mercies that are new every morning. *At the same time*, as we come into January again with a 'fresh start' in hand, I want to acknowledge the reality of our wise teacher from Ecclesiastes who wrote:

*What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again;  
there is nothing new under the sun.  
Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"?  
It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.*

The note about the fresh start - the new start - is anything but new. It has been done, and will be done again, and it is easy to read this pessimistically. Because that is what seems to come of those bad habits and worldly temptations that draw me back in every year I resolve to put them behind me. So it seems that it is the habits that plague our previous lives that are those things that 'have been done, and will be done again! Our 'fresh start' seems to spoil so quickly sometimes as outside forces quickly overwhelm and the movement of passing time provokes our anxieties. Then, the revolution of the Earth around the sun simply starts another cycle that we cannot be freed from.

That is why it is crucial for us to know that this 'fresh start' is not dependent on our own will or way. It all depends on Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit. It is not our behavior that we must change, but our *perspective* that changes when we are in Christ. We no longer see with our own eyes, but with His—and the eyes of Christ *always* viewed everything in light of faith. As the season of Advent draws to a close, we no longer simply await a future hope. We live out that hope as a perfect promise that has already been fulfilled beyond time. If we are in Christ, our view of people - including ourselves - changes. We no longer look upon each other from a worldly point of view, but instead look to each other with a present faith. With faithful eyes, we see that the new creation has already come. The new creation that was here already, long ago, before our time. The new creation that is growing like a mustard seed and leavening like a fresh loaf of bread beyond our perception. The new creation that separates good and evil, whose foundation is God's sovereign grace. This is what Jesus teaches in his sermon on the mount about the kingdom of heaven that is near. It is the kingdom of heaven that is around us already if only our hope turns into faith.

So it isn't our actions that are changed and transformed, but our whole person - because we are transformed with Jesus already. So if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come! Here already, long ago. Hallelujah. Amen.

—Reverend Alex Barnes

## HOLIDAY FUN!

Thank you everyone for your help decorating the church.



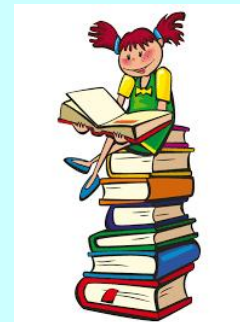
And you got rewarded



## NEW BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

A number of new books have been added to the library in memory of those who have passed during the last two years. This will be a partial list as more books are purchased. All books are available for borrowing.

- Barbara Ramsier Choose Joy: Three Minute Devotional for Women
- Mike LaBo The Darkness Shall Not Overcome By: Cliff Sims
- Rick Shreve Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools By: Tyler Staton
- Elsie Richards Miracles and More By: Amy NewMark
- Debbie Russell Sleep Psalms By: Pray.com
- Erik Kinch Wild Wonder By: Stephen Proctor



## **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.

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

During Junior Church, the children will be learning more about the Kingdom of Heaven as Jesus taught it through stories and descriptions.



### MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MPW Circle will meet on **Thursday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m.** If you are interested in coming to the meeting, please let Kim Hart know. Her telephone number is 330-612-3302.

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.



The next **Youth JAM** will be on **Sunday, March 2 at Wayne Presbyterian Church** at 6:30 p.m.

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

### Muskingum Valley Presbytery has set the Per Capita for 2025 at \$39.60. The breakdown for their collection is:

<b>MVP</b>	<b>\$25.36</b>
<b>General Assembly</b>	<b>\$10.84</b>
<b>Synod</b>	<b>\$ 3.40</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39.60</b>

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your continued support!

#### Summary of Nov. Revenue & Expenses

Financial Update – Budgeted Accounts Only:

Income from month of Nov.	\$ 9,532
HeadStart Fees	<u>+2,400</u>
	\$ 11,932
Expenses from Nov.	\$ <u>11,958</u>
Nov. Net Income/Expense	\$ <u>-26</u>
<u>2024</u> Net Income/Expense	\$ <u>-3,416</u>
Transferred In from svgs.	\$ 1,980

**Nov 2024 Boiler Donations: \$425**

**Total donations to date: \$ 51,370**

**Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 13,686**

**Nov. 2024 Roof Donations: \$150**

**Total donations to date: \$ 3,500**

**Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 32,500**

*Thank you for all your donations!*

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



I once made some remarks about the hidden books in the Bible. It was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the books were not capitalized. But the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others it was a **real job**. We want it to be a **most** fascinating few moments for you. Yes, **there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others might require **judges** to determine. We will quickly admit it usually takes a minister too find one, and there will be loud **lamentations** when you see how simple it is. A little lady says that if **she brews** tea, she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax, now, there are sixteen in this paragraph.

Answers to hidden Bible names:

**JANUARY 2025**

*We Believe*

**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.*

**Put on your reading glasses and find no less than 16 books of the Bible in the following paragraph: (Courtesy of Jay Russell)**

I once made some remarks about the hidden books in the Bible. It was a lulu: kept some people looking so hard for facts. And to others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others might require judges to determine. We will quickly admit it usually takes a minister too find one, and there will be loud lamentations when you see how simple it is. A little lady says that if she brews tea, she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax, now, there are sixteen in this paragraph.

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

*Karen Aberegg, Pam Ahrens, Brenda Arnett, Shawn Aronhalt, Dawn Bauman, Leigh Ann Berkley, Jen Bishop, Jonathan Bonilla, Josue Bonilla, Charlie Brandes, Boyd Breece, Levi Buxman, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Mike & Mandii Cramer, 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, Reed Heggie, Dwayne Hopton, Veronica Hughes, Madi Jackson, Lori Johnson, Debbie Keel, Alexis Labo, 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, Betty Santmyer, Sheryl Saunders, Vickie and Rich Schumacher, Colleen Sheppard, Betty Shreve, Sarah Shreve, Lavonne Silva, Rick Singleton, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Todd Stephan, David Stewart, John Swarzentruuber, Ella Thomas, Kelly and Holly Thomas, Bill Timmons, Luke Truman, Alice Widmer, Sue Wilson*

*God's  
Answers  
Prayers*

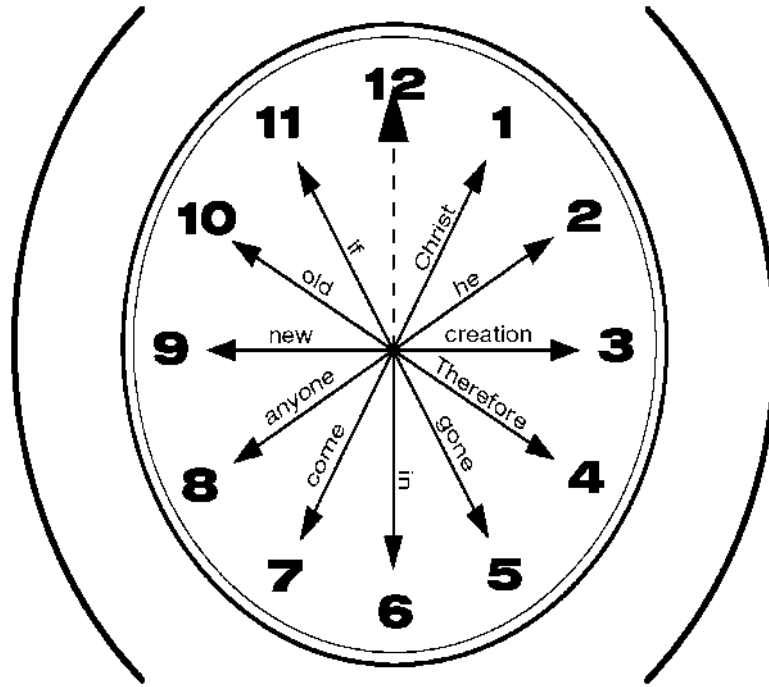
*\*Italicized are recent*



# IN WITH THE NEW

*It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.*

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



" \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ; the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ , the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ !"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

## COUNTDOWN TO THE New Year

Celebrate the blessings of the previous year and the hope of the New Year with this fun party idea and craft.

### What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bags or colorful bags
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)
- Inexpensive prizes or treats (see ideas below)



### What you do:

1. Before New Year's Eve, assemble a bag for every hour before midnight that you plan to celebrate.
2. Use construction paper and markers to make a clock with a different time for each bag.
3. Glue a clock onto each bag.
4. Decorate the bags with stickers or other designs.
5. Fill the bags with inexpensive prizes or treats, each accompanied by a Bible verse. Here are a few suggestions:

- Plastic party-favor watches ("The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" Psalm 121:8, NIV.)
- Bookmarks ("Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture" 1 Timothy 4:13, NIV.)
- Small notepads and pencils ("Let love and faithfulness never leave you ... write them on the tablet of your heart" Proverbs 3:3, NIV.)
- Sweet treats ("Taste and see that the LORD is good" Psalm 34:8, NIV.)
- Party noisemaker, in a bag to be opened at midnight ("Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth" Psalm 98:4, NRSV.)

6. Open each bag at the time shown on its clock.

Answer: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"



# January 2025



## BIRTHDAYS

1st	Allan Mackey
4th	Nick Cristino
7th	Lori Williams
10th	Chris Robertson
14th	Judy Beuth
15th	Karen Dodrill
19th	Lockie Bodager
22nd	Carter Shreve
22nd	Kim Stanger
25th	Gabriel Shreve
30th	Noah Knight

## MEETING DATES

Worship & Music - Mon., Jan. 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Building & Grounds - Thurs., Jan. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Session Meeting - TBD

MPW Circle - Thurs., Jan. 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Installation of Officers - Jan. 12th during worship

First Annual Congregational Meeting - Sun., Jan. 26  
before worship at 9:45 a.m.

Hospitality Team - TBD

## ANNIVERSARIES

None!

## JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

5	Andrea Barnes
12	Tammy Wilson
19	Vickie Schumacher & Renee Busic
26	Angel Mackey & Lindsey Millan

## FLOWER SCHEDULE

5	Open
12	Linda & Geoff Pyle
19	Linda & Bill Crawford
26	Tammy Shreve

## LITURGIST SCHEDULE

5	Kim Hart
12	Cindy Vaughn
19	Patty Cristino
26	Donna Robertson

## COMMUNION PREPARERS

Sunday, January 12th - Patty Cristino  
and Portia Haller



# January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Parlor)	2 6:30 pm Bldg. & Grounds (Library)	3	4
5 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6 10:00 am Worship & Music Comm. (Library)	7 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	8	9 7:00 pm MPW Circle (Parlor)	10	11
12 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (Installation of Officers) (Communion) 	13 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	14 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	15 6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting (FH)	16	17	18
19 9:15am Sunday Sch. 10:30 am Worship 1-5 pm Fellowship Hall Rental	20	21 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	22	23	24	25
26 9:15 am Sunday School 9:45 am Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Worship	27 6:30 pm Community Meal 7:00 pm Speaker 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	28 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	29	30	31	

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