

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

JANUARY 2024

TIMELY NOTES

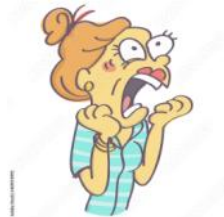
Milton Presbyterian
Church
250 North Street,
Rittman, OH 44270
(330) 925-2651

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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 2023 by January 10th at the latest.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH
11:45 A.M.**

Our next stated congregational meeting will be for the approval of the annual report. There will also be a proposal to change our by-laws that would disband the board of Deacons. If the by-laws are changed, in place of the board of Deacons we would have committees that meet to organize hospitality, assistance, and local missions. The board of Elders would then be in charge of preparing and serving Communion. Please attend this important meeting if you can.

SUNDAY SCHOOL starts at *9:15 am*

WORSHIP starts at *10:30 am*

Please note: Communion will be held at the Christmas EVE service at 7:30 pm.
(Not in the morning.)



Officer Installation

New officer installations will take place on Sunday, January 7th. Thank you to Linda Crawford and Donna Robertson to agreeing to serve another term on Session.

Wise men still
seek Him.



Offering Envelopes



**2024 Offering
Envelopes are available
for pickup in the
Narthex.**

Every holiday season, I am reminded from almost every aspect of society that this is the season of giving - especially from the advertisers. Everywhere we look, we are encouraged to give to one another, and we are encouraged to obtain things to give them. Of course, the generosity of the 'season of giving' might not extend to the retailers that we purchase these gifts from, but that is another matter. Make no mistake, Santa's main role is to bring good gifts for the good children, and many of us are expected to give good gifts to our children, nieces, nephews and others. This is, in fact, not a bad thing. In scripture, Jesus himself points out how we, even though we are evil, know how to give good gifts to our children! I am not here to deliver a sermon on the greed and materialism that comes from the holiday season. There have been plenty of great messages that point out the problem with the gross consumerism that comes from our practice of Christmas celebrations and the poverty that is often exploited for gain during this time. I think about the rampant sin of greed behind the World's accepted ways plenty enough already!

In reality, what I have been thinking about is that very thing our world encourages us to think about this time of the year: What gift to get certain people for Christmas? I get envious sometimes, because it seems like Santa has it easy. The kids make a clear cut list, and (provided that the things on that list are not too abstract for Santa's workshop to create) the item is then miraculously delivered through a chimney or air duct or vent so it arrives at your house without any windows broken or locks picked along the way. I'm always impressed by how surprisingly nimble he is considering his well-rounded frame! Just one more aspect that shows the magic of Christmas. Unfortunately, the question becomes trickier when we need some ideas, because sometimes we don't always know what we ourselves might want, much less one who we love!

As we grow older, gift giving changes as we accumulate more things throughout the year, and we generally have more power to obtain many things whenever we want. As this happens, things often are no longer of much importance to us, and we are taken to a place where we desire gifts that seem more impossible for the world to fulfill. And this is, in fact, what God wants us to desire. For these are gifts that only God can give. These gifts include health, blessings, peace, and joy and the like. Every bit as much as Jesus teaches us to give ourselves to one another, Jesus teaches us to turn to God as we seek his blessing for our lives. He teaches us to unashamedly ask for these things in prayer, and as we do so, we go to God as God's children who are dependent on His provision and instruction. This is one area of Jesus' teaching where we can see the multi-dimensional truth that shines forth in having multiple witnesses from different gospels: In Matthew's gospel, it is written that *'Which of you, if his son asks for bread will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you then though you are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?'* (Mt. 7:11) Immediately, we are put into the role of God's children, asking God to give good gifts - and when we turn to Luke's gospel, another layer to this request is uncovered when Jesus teaches them *'how much more will your father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?'* (Lk 11:13)

As the church began to grow in the power of Christ's victory over death itself, the Apostle Paul teaches the Church in Corinth about Spiritual gifts that are given to the believers through the power of the one Holy Spirit, empowering them in God's service. After instructing the believers on the diversity of unique gifts that are given to each believer, he then encourages them to yearn for even greater gifts. This is when he begins to describe the greatest gift: the gift of Love in its purest, most faithful and unadulterated form. As we think about both what we might want and how to bless others in the gifts that we give, think about the love that God desires and inspires. Think about our own witness and experience of God's grace. Where have we seen God? And how can we be an instrument to bring others to experience the greater gift of God's love even in little things? This doesn't always come in the form of a devotional or a book. In fact, for many who don't know God as well, it often doesn't. Pray that God will bring something for you to give. Then, as we look towards the coming year, do we ourselves ask God for the gift of His Holy Spirit? For this is the only gift where God's pure love can shine forth. May this season of giving demonstrate the incredible power and generosity of God as he instructs us what love really and truly is. 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.

Thank You to everyone who helped with this year's Children's Christmas Play! If you missed it, you can still watch on the church's YouTube page.



Our participants: Youth-Zane Stanger, Max Millan, Gus Barnes, Charlie Cristino, Henry Kissel, Ginny Barnes, Landon Farron, Merida Cramer, Tabby Longenecker, Lucy Cristino, Marci Cristino, Olivia Millan, and Samantha Williamson Adults-Bill Robertson, Todd Shreve and Nate Millan



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

MVP	\$25.36
General Assembly	\$9.80
Synod	\$3.25
Total	\$38.41

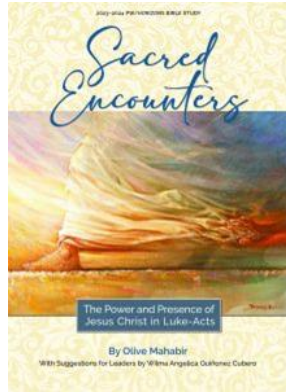
FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

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 Four: “Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus”. All are welcome. Please let Kim Hart know if you are interested in joining over Zoom. Her telephone number is 330-612-3302.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your continued support!

Summary of November Revenue & Expenses


Financial Update – Budgeted Accounts Only:

Income from month of Oct.	\$ 10,793
HeadStart Fees	+2,400
	\$ 13,193
Expenses from Oct.	\$ 11,227
Oct. Net Income/Expense	\$ 1,966
Annual Net Income/Expense	\$ 8,036
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.




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.



Our topic for the Adult Sunday School and Tuesday Bible Study will cover the various elements of worship within the church. The study will cover baptism, communion, and other elements and what Scripture says about them. Please come and join us to learn more about worshipping our Lord.

The next **Youth JAM** will be **Sunday, March 3** , 6:00 p.m. at **Wayne Presbyterian 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!





**JANUARY
2024
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.



THANK YOU

Thank you everyone who donated items for the giving tree. These items will help keep our Rittman Elementary children warm and dry!

Humor to Break Up the Winter Blahs

- Don't let your worries get the best of you.
- Some people are kind, polite and sweet spirited . . .until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world.



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

Inn at Coalridge (1300 Coalridge Pkwy., Wadsworth, 44281) - Elsie Richards

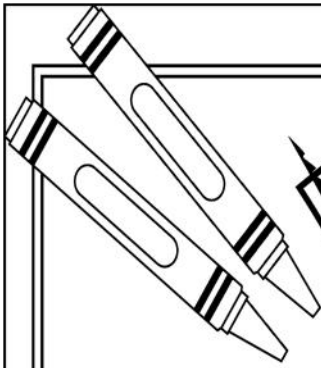
Apostolic Christian Homes, (10680 Steiner Rd., Rittman, OH) - Dorothy Johnson, Ron Steele

Village of St. Edwards, (880 Main St., Wadsworth, OH 44281) - Sally Barnes

Linda Beddow, Leigh Ann Berkley, Charlie Brandes, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Terri Click, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Conner Compton, Mike & Mandii Cramer, Megan Crawford, Jamie Culler, Sue Schumacher Doig, Nicholas Dras, Deb Easterday, Jordan Edgar, Scott Erwin, Darla Fletcher, *Charlotte Ford*, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Marcia Geyer, 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, Glenna Bennett Logiudice, Bob Ludolph, Lauren Mackie, Laurel Mader, Helen Mann, Keith Marsden, Lisa Martin, Bobby Martinez, Gemma Matthews, Finegan and Slone McGee, Erin McGorry, Linda Melenbacker, Lois Middleton, PJ Miller, 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, 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.*





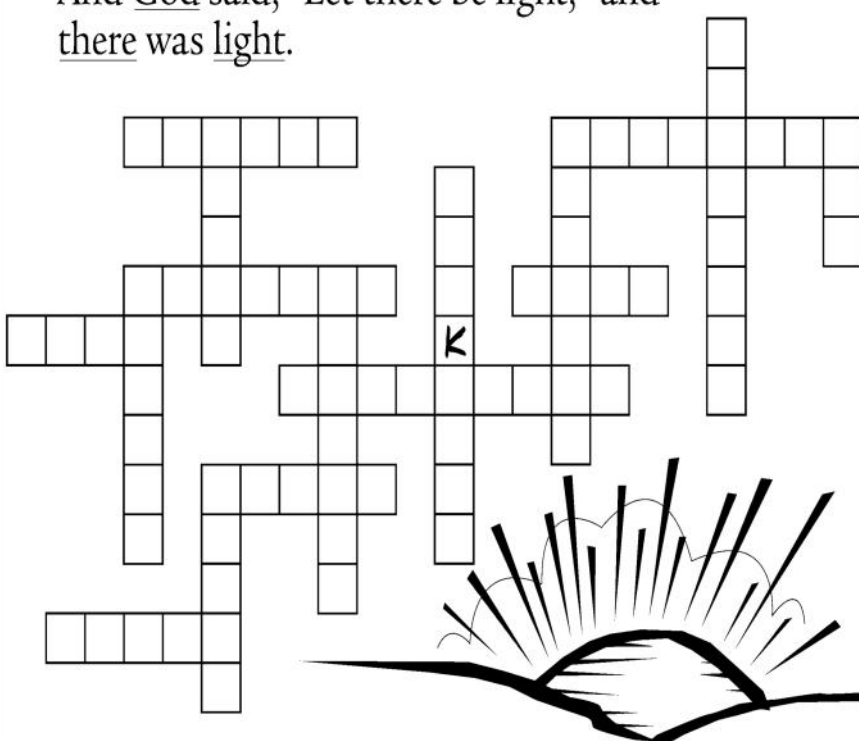
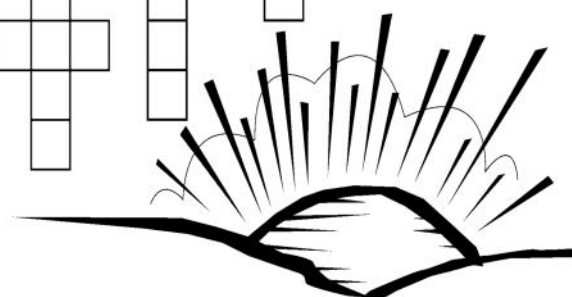
PUZZLE

The Beginning

The start of a new calendar year is a great time to praise God for his amazing creation.

Directions: Read Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV), below. Place the underlined words into the crossword. One letter has been provided to help you start.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Creation KALEIDOSCOPE

Make this fun craft to remember what our heavenly Creator made.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Tall chip can with lid
- Hammer and nail
- Acrylic paint; paintbrush
- Water, glitter, white glue
- Colored tissue paper
- Stronger craft glue (not hot glue)
- Star stickers or sequins
- Two 4" x 5" pieces of clear Con-Contact paper
- Scissors; pencil; permanent marker

What you do:

1. In bottom center of can, hammer a hole with a nail. Paint outside of can. Let dry.
2. Add glitter and a little water to white glue. With a clean paintbrush, glue tissue paper to bottom outside of lid.
3. Add stars to sticky side of Con-Contact paper. Place a matching piece on top, sticky sides together.
4. Put craft glue along edge of can opening. Glue Con-Contact paper square over opening. Let dry.
5. Place lid on can, over Con-Contact paper. Turn lid to get kaleidoscope effect.
6. With marker, write "In the beginning ..." on can.



January 2024

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
-

MEETING DATES

- Building & Grounds - Thurs., Jan. 4 at 7:00pm
 - Deacons/Hospitality Comm. Meeting - TBA
 - Worship & Music - Mon., Jan. 8 at 10:00am
 - MPW Circle - Thurs., Jan. 11 at 7:00pm
 - Session Meeting - Wed., Jan. 10 at 6:30pm
-

ANNIVERSARIES

None!

JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

- 7 Tammy Wilson
 - 14 Vickie Schumacher
 - 21 Andrea Barnes
 - 28 Angel Mackey
-

FLOWER SCHEDULE


- 7 Justine Brandes
 - 14 Marge & Larry Boggs
 - 21 Christie & Jeff Yoho
 - 28
-

Do you wish to help out more at church but don't want to be committed to an office? You can help with coffee hour after church. Please contact Patty Cristino to ask how!

Her telephone number is 330-347-0200.

January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 No Noon Bible Study	3 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Parlor)	4 7:00 pm Bldg. & Grounds (Library)	5	6
7 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	8 10:00 am Worship & Music Comm. 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	9 Noon - Bible Study (Library)	10 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 6:30 pm Session (Library)	11 7:00 pm MPW Circle (Library)	12	13
14 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:30 pm Cub Scout Open House (Fellowship Hall)	15 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting 	16 Noon - Bible Study (Library)	17 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day At Laundromat	18	19	20
21 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship-	22 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	23 Noon - Bible Study (Library)	24 6:00 pm DAA (FH)	25	26	27
28 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Congregational Meeting	29 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	30 No Bible Study	31 6:00 pm DAA (FH)			



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Visit us at: www.miltonpreschurch.org

