

Church Office  
330-925-2651  
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# JULY 2024

# TIMELY NOTES

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

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL** Will Return in the Fall

**WORSHIP** starts at *9:30 am*

## **Outdoor Services**

**June 23 at 9:30 a.m.**

**July 28 (at Hubbard Valley Park) at 10:30 a.m.**

**August 25 at 9:30 a.m.**

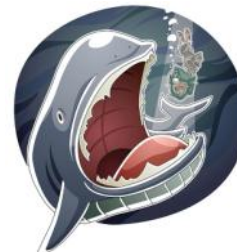


**Hubbard Valley Park  
Outdoor Service  
July 28, 10:30 a.m.**

Milton Presbyterian Church will join the Seville Presbyterian Church and Creston Presbyterian Church for worship at an outdoor service at Hubbard Valley Park on **Sunday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m.** There will be a carry-in picnic to follow the service. Rev. Alex Barnes and Rev. Michael Van Arsdale will both be sharing the message!

## **The Story of Jonah and the Big Fish VBS**

**2 Evenings!**  
**Friday, July 12th**  
**and Saturday,**  
**July 13th**  
**6 - 8 p.m.**



**For all kids  
ages 2–11  
(older kids  
are  
welcome  
to come  
help out!)**

Call or email Cindy Mann at the  
church office to register.  
Phone: (330) 925-2651 or  
Email: [miltonprechurch@gmail.com](mailto:miltonprechurch@gmail.com)

## **Free Community Dinner**



Our May Memorial meal was prepared by Rev. Alex and Andrea. Thank you for all your hard work in preparing this meal!

Our next Community Meal will be on Monday, June 24th at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be pulled pork and macaroni and cheese. Everyone is invited so bring your friends and family.



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*Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* -John 3:14-16

In preparing for this last sermon series on *Who Killed Jesus*, it has been impossible to escape the shadow of the cross. If we are being honest, this is true whenever we gather for worship. The cross is prominently displayed at the front of the sanctuary for a reason, and looms over our communion table for a purpose. In Brian Zahnd's new book *The Wood Between the Worlds*, he explores the image of the cross and what it means. At the beginning of the book, he recalls a cartoon where "two space aliens who have just landed their flying saucer on Earth are standing in front of a life-sized crucifix, like the kind you can find along the roadsides in Spain. One alien says to the other, 'You know what we need to do? We need to get the [hell] out of here, that's what we need to do.' ... The cartoon may be somewhat profane, but it also alerts us to how shocking and unsettling a crucifix is when considered objectively. The aliens have concluded that a planet whose inhabitants erect public depictions of crucifixions is probably not a safe place—and they are not wrong."

I too have found myself wondering what certain signs in our world might mean to extraterrestrials visiting earth and how confusing that might seem — like the fact that our signs for a bathroom might be mistaken for a store that holds triangle people, rectangle people, or people who sit in circles. But this cartoon makes a perceptive observation, because it can also reflect our own. This world *isn't* a safe place, and the crucifix certainly *is* a strange thing to be part of a dominant cultural imagery in our world.

I will also admit to altering the original quote a tad, inserting the word *hell* in lieu of another curse word that I would normally never dream of writing in an article to the church. Yet I did not change the word to sanitize the joke. After all, Mr. Zahnd wanted to point out how our reaction to the jarring profanity in the joke is odd if not accompanied by the jarring imagery of the crucifix. Instead, I think the 'curse' word *hell* better fits. After all, when we say that *we need to get the Hell out of here*, this *is* the purpose of the cross, is it not? It is the instrument that God used to remove the curse of *hell* from our lives. It also prompts us to quickly leave the disturbing image of suffering behind in favor of our life in the *risen* Christ.

Protestants, of course, do not adorn their churches with the crucifix. Their cross is free of a body, so it can symbolize resurrection in a neatly clean and abstract way. Many non denominational churches do not even prominently display a cross in their churches, choosing instead to focus on God's Word and teaching and life ... and this is not necessarily a bad thing, but it *can* distract us from the raw power of Jesus' teaching that as the church, there will be a time when we too must carry the scorn and pain and discomfort of the cross. The very real purpose of the cross in the first place is an instrument of suffering - and one of very public suffering. This is the thing that we must confront when John speaks of the Son of Man being lifted up. In confronting the suffering that Christ endured—and the suffering that we too must endure when we are called to give our life to Christ—that we find ultimately joy and meaning and purpose in our lives as a part of the larger life we have recovered in God.

As the rhythm of my own life took me to Cleveland the other day, I visited Anita, who has been on our prayer list for some time. She has endured so much - and has been faithful through it all. She is currently downtown at the Cleveland Clinic. When I went to see her, I was quickly reminded that this hospital is consistently the busiest place I've experienced in Cleveland. It is filled with people who are enduring ailments and tests, and those who compassionately walk beside them and care for them. The experience of walking through a place where people of all races, classes, and creeds are gathered to be healed is immediately humbling. It can also be exasperating and depressing. That is, until we see Jesus in the midst of the people, and we know he is there, because that is where he often appeared in the gospels: among the throng of people crying out to be healed.

When we go through seasons where our prayer list lengthens like the shadows that are cast by the end of a day, the images of suffering that we see in the news, the struggles that we hear in the voice of those whom we love, and the pain that we experience and feel in our own bodies can all weigh very heavily upon our souls. This is especially true when others are enjoying the weather and the blessings of their lives. Yet as Christians and followers of the man who gave his life for ours, we do not turn away from this experience. We do not look away from the cross and the pain he bore - and we do not look away because we see not death, but life—and life eternal. Our hope and joy finds a greater place because in this love, we have found greater purpose in his Kingdom. We have looked upon our life in the eternal Life of God.

-Alex

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## ***CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!***



**Emma Pyle**

**Daughter of Mike Pyle and Lori Pyle**

**Rittman High School**

**Emma graduates from Rittman High School. She will be attending Kent State University this fall.**



## **NEW ADDRESSES**

Debbie and Jay Russell have moved to Wadsworth. Their new address is:  
8191 Leatherman Road, Wadsworth, OH 44281

Samantha Williamson is now in Colorado at her mother's:  
210 Garden Dr., Penrose, CO 84210

Caleb and Brenna Wilson  
115 Parkside, Creston, OH 44217

Anita Vohar (at Cleveland Clinic Hospital)  
c/o Diane Karther, 1325 Carriage Hill Ct., Ashland, OH 44805

Judy Twinem  
Heritage Crossing, 251 Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Montrose, OH 44333



## **FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

It amazes me how fast the food pantry items fly out of there. Please try to remember that this is a constant need and with summer, children are out of school and will need things to eat at home.

ITEMS are 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 will not meet until fall.

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

Jr. Church will continue on throughout the summer.

### MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MPW Circle is "on vacation" until the end of summer. If you are interested in coming to meetings in the fall, please let Kim Hart know. 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 May Revenue & Expenses

Financial Update – Budgeted Accounts Only:

Income from month of May.	\$ 7,617
HeadStart Fees	<u>+2,400</u>
	\$ 10,058
Expenses from May	<u>\$ 9,590</u>
May Net Income/Expense	\$ <u>468</u>
<b>2024 Net Income/Expense</b>	<b>\$ 3,690</b>
Transferred In from svgs.	2,700

**May 2024 Boiler Donations: \$225**  
**Total donations to date: \$ 49,590**  
**Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 16,565**  
**May 2024 Roof Donations: \$1,250**  
**Total donations to date: \$ 1,900**  
**Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 32,500**

*Thank you for all your donations!*

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



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



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA**

**The Boys' and Girls' Club of Rittman will be having a family fun night on Friday, July 26th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the front of the Milton Presbyterian Church For more information, or to help with it, please contact Andrea Galehouse-Barnes at (330) 317-0386.**

The next Youth JAM will be in September, at Seville Presbyterian Church. The group is made up of Jr. and Sr. high school students. They meet quarterly throughout the year. The youth are encouraged to bring their friends!





**JULY 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:**

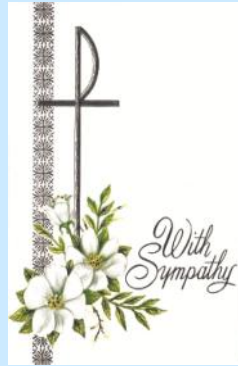
**\*Experience God's presence through worship, prayer, Bible study, the sacraments, fellowship, and service;**

**\*Demonstrate our Savior's compassion through our daily lives to those in need;**

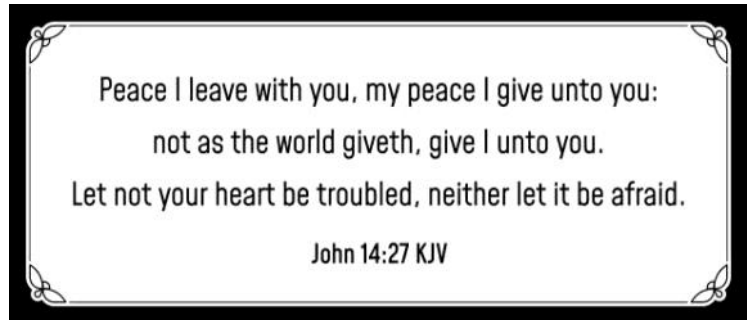
**\*Give our time, our talents, and our material possessions to serve and glorify God .**

**\*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.*



Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family of Elsie Richards who passed away Sunday, June 16, 2024. Elsie joined the church in 1996 and had been a past member of Session and Milton Presbyterian Women. Her service will be tomorrow, Monday, June 24th at 11:00 a.m. Calling hours are from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Auble-Gillman Funeral Home.



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

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

**Heritage Crossing Assisted Living (251 Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Montrose, OH 44333) - Judy Twinem**

**Village of St. Edwards, (880 Main St., Wadsworth, OH 44281) - Sally Barnes  
Autumnwood Nursing & Rehab (275 E. Sunset Dr., Rittman, OH 44270) - Jim Davis**



Larry Amstutz, Shawn Aronhalt, Linda Beddow, Leigh Ann Berkley, Jen Bishop, Jonathan Bonilla, Charlie Brandes, Levi Buxman, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Terri Click, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Mike & Mandii Cramer, Drew Crawford, Lesa Crawford, Megan Crawford, Jamie Culler, Jim Davis, Nicholas Dras, Deb Easterday, Jordan Edgar, Scott Erwin, Amy Fletcher, Darla Fletcher, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Robert Gardner, Marcia Geyer, Todd Hardgrove, Reed Heggie, Dwayne Hopton, Lori Johnson, Debbie Keel, Erik Kinch, Kevin and Linda Lampar, Kurt Lampar, Abbey Lentine, ConiAnn Limpert, Lisa Lipscond, Bob Ludolph, Lauren Mackie, Laurel Mader, Helen Mann, Keith Marsden, Lisa Martin, Gemma Matthews, Linda Melenbacker, Lois Middleton, PJ Miller, Kristen Morris, Frances & Joyce Nichols, Dale Owen, Lee Owen, Ethan Porter, Sally Porter, Ron and Sue Price, Linda and Geoff Pyle, John Ramsier, Sue Ramsey, Toby Rinaldo, Karl Rohrer, Pat Rossmiller, Haylee Rufener, Debbie and Jay Russell, Linda Rutter, Sheryl Saunders, Colleen Sheppard, Betty Shreve, Lavonne Silva, Rick Singleton, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Todd Stephan, Rev. Chris Stewart, Patti Stuart, John Swarzentruuber, Bill Timmons, Luke Truman, Judy Twinem, Anita Vohar, Don Vohar, Amy Wilson, Sue Wilson, Bobby Wolf, Ron Woodward, Jim Zimmerman



*\*Italicized are recent*



# THE LORD IS MY ROCK

Skipping stones, rock climbing and hiking are all fun summer activities. What do they all have in common? Rocks! Look at Psalm 18:2 to see the strength in the ONE rock we can depend upon.

Search the puzzle for the **BOLD** words from Psalm 18:2, and circle them. The words **MY** and **ROCK** only need to be found once.

**"The LORD is MY ROCK, MY FORTRESS and MY DELIVERER; MY GOD is MY ROCK, in whom I TAKE REFUGE. HE is MY SHIELD and the HORN of MY SALVATION, MY STRONGHOLD."**

S	T	R	O	N	G	H	O	L	D	T	S
O	L	O	B	K	I	E	Y	E	J	S	A
R	E	F	U	G	E	I	Y	N	T	V	L
R	O	G	H	A	R	L	Q	R	A	Y	V
S	X	C	T	T	I	M	T	K	K	M	A
H	O	R	N	C	E	Y	R	A	E	D	T
I	G	F	V	L	O	L	K	E	N	S	I
E	N	F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S	G	O
L	T	U	R	G	Q	A	C	K	J	Q	N
D	C	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	R	E
K	Y	U	X	O	C	N	O	O	Y	Q	S
X	H	X	A	R	K	L	R	C	N	H	Y
G	O	D	T	D	K	A	D	K	U	D	X

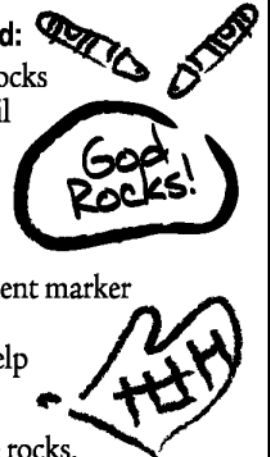
## GOD ROCKS.

### THERE IS NO ROCK LIKE OUR GOD

Try this fun summer craft that transforms rocks into beautiful waxy jewels! This craft can remind you that "there is no Rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2).

#### What you need:

- Smooth flat rocks
- Aluminum foil
- Oven mitt
- Newspapers
- Old crayons
- Cookie sheet
- Black permanent marker (optional)\*
- An adult to help



#### What you do:

1. Clean off the rocks.
2. With an adult's help, set the oven to 225 degrees and bake your rocks for 15 minutes on a foil-lined cookie sheet.
3. While the rocks bake, remove the paper wrappers from the old crayons.
4. With an adult's help, use an oven mitt to remove the rocks from the stove and set them on a pad of newspapers. The rocks will be VERY HOT, so be careful!
5. Draw on the stones with the crayons. The heat will melt the crayons into vibrant liquid wax. For a swirl effect, hold each crayon against the rock in one place to create a puddle of color, and continue to swirl the color around with the end of the crayon.
6. \*After the rock cools, use the marker to write "God Rocks," "The LORD is my Rock" or "My God is my Rock."



### BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Karen Aberegg
- 3 Erick Shreve
- 6 Max Pyle
- 7 Gerald Aberegg
- 8 Mike Cramer
- 10 Elsie Richards
- 13 Drew Fetter
- 13 Chris Mackey
- 13 Olivia Millan
- 15 Geoffrey Pyle
- 21 Kim Hart
- 24 Donna Wachtel
- 25 Katherine Saunders
- 25 Andrea Barnes
- 28 Ellen Williams
- 29 Madison Aberegg
- 31 Bill Cristino

### MEETING DATES

- Building & Grounds - Wed., July 3 at 6:30 pm
- Hospitality Coordination Meeting - TBA
- Worship & Music - Mon., July 8 at 10:00 am
- MPW Circle - Back in the Fall!
- Session Meeting - Wed., July 17 at 6:30 p.m.

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Todd & Sarah Shreve -21 yrs.
- 10 Matt & Patty Cristino - 43 yrs.
- 10 Michael & Lori Williams - 31 yrs.
- 15 Jim & Beth Lance - 41 yrs.
- 23 Randy & Mary Adams—50 yrs.

### JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

- 7 Tammy Wilson
- 14 Vickie Schumacher
- 21 Andrea Galehouse Barnes
- 28 At Hubbard Valley Park

### FLOWER SCHEDULE


- 7 Ron & Kim Hart
- 14 Sheri & Mark Wachtel
- 21
- 28 At Hubbard Valley Park





# July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 6:30 pm Garden Club (Fel. Hall) 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting</p>	<p>2 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>	<p>3 6:00 pm DAA (FH) <b>6:30 pm Bldg. &amp; Grounds</b> (Library) 7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Parlor)</p>	<p>4 </p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 9:30 am Worship</p>	<p>8 <b>10:00 am Worship &amp; Music Comm.</b> 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting</p>	<p>9 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>	<p>10 6:00 pm DAA (FH)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 6:00-8:00 pm VBS</p>	<p>13 6:00-8:00 pm VBS</p>
<p>14 9:30 am Worship</p>	<p>15 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting</p>	<p>16 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>	<p>17 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day 6:30 pm Session (Library)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 9:30 am Worship</p>	<p>22 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting</p>	<p>23 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>	<p>24 6:00 pm DAA (FH)</p>	<p>25 Community Parade 4:30 pm Line Up Parade at 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26 Boys' and Girls' Club Family Fun night from 6-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 10:30 am Worship <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT HUBBARD VALLEY PARK WITH SEVILLE PRESB. PICNIC TO FOLLOW</b></p>	<p>29 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting <b>6:30 pm Community Meal</b> <b>7:00 pm Speaker for Meal</b> (Fellowship hall)</p>	<p>30 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>	<p>31</p>			

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