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

JULY 2026 TIMELY NOTES

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

Table of Contents:

Pg. 1 – Important Announcements
Pg. 2 – Pastor's Note
Pg. 3 – Church News
Pg. 4 – MPW, Deacons, Youth, Announcements, & Financial Update
Pg. 5 – Prayer Concerns
Pg. 6 – Children's Page
Pg. 7 – Birthdays & Anniversaries
Pg. 8 – Calendar

SUMMER HOURS: WORSHIP 9:30 AM
JULY 5TH AND COMMUNION SUNDAY, JULY 12TH, WILL BE INSIDE. WORSHIP IS OUTDOORS ON JULY 19TH AND 26TH UNLESS WEATHER DOES NOT PERMIT.

RITTMAN LIONS COMMUNITY PARADE 2026

Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 6 p.m. (Lineup begins at 4:30 p.m.) Milton Presbyterian Church would like to have a float again this year. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Pastor Alex or the office.

Grief Group - Led by Marilyn Dlesk

Do you still struggle some days with the loss of someone or even more than one person? Marilyn Dlesk is going to lead a grief support group here at the Milton Presbyterian Church on Thursday, July 16th at 2:00 p.m. On the 3rd Thursday of the month Marilyn will cover various aspects of grief. Each session involves devotional, education, reflection, writing, and voluntary sharing. The first session covers the stages of grief.

Marilyn did grief groups as part of her job duties as a hospice social worker for 35 years. She holds a LISW-S (licensed independent social worker with supervision designation). These sessions are free as part of her student pastor project.

COMMUNITY DINNER

The Community Meal on Monday, June 29th was well attended. Everyone enjoyed the pulled pork, macaroni and cheese, and coleslaw provided by Bill Crawford. Kathy Tschiegg, the director of CAMO (Central American Medical Outreach), shared her story and journey with us in what was a very inspirational evening. Her book *HOPE for the Forgotten* is available in our church library if you'd like to check it out.

Kathy Tschiegg

Our next guest speaker is Nadine Kirkland, founder of "Really Recovered", a ministry that prepares 'welcome bags' to people entering into addiction recovery.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the community dinner previously schedule for July 27 has been moved to Monday, August 10th. Normal time. Thank you!

Pastor's Note - July Timely Notes

As we are reminded of America's 250th birthday across the country this year, I have heard much about the value of freedom used to describe our Nation . Although the word does not directly appear in the Declaration of Independence, the right to liberty certainly is, and the ideal itself is quite clearly laid out when the framers compiled the constitution of the United States of America. For the constitution begins not with a set of law codes prohibiting individuals from various actions, but rather a series of inalienable rights designed to check the power of a government from devising a law code too constricting of individual freedom. This aspect has allowed our society to flourish when it comes to empowerment of the person, and for protecting a natural diversity that comes with this ideal. The *first amendment* to this constitution begins with these words: *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*

Although the 'establishment clause' has at times allowed secular groups to silence some religious expression in the public sphere, I also appreciate how this freedom has kept the church independent from the commanding power of the state, keeping the ideals of Christ from being corrupted by the worldly aims of sinful man. While I do worry about the first amendment being used to shield the truth, I also believe that it is on account of this freedom of speech that allows this same truth to be discovered when information is sought to be repressed. Unfortunately, my tolerance of this freedom was put to the test the other day as I was walking back to my car from enjoying a thrilling baseball game in downtown Cleveland.

I was happy to be with my family, but I must admit that after 8 innings of watching the Guardians abandon a small army on the basepaths, my spirits and body were beginning to wilt under the summer sun. Then, in a flurry of excitement, we were able to break through for five runs in the bottom of the 8th—and we would need every one of those runs to pull out the much needed win! With the thrill of victory and newfound energy, our family triumphantly began walking back towards the car. As I passed the figures of Jim Thome and Larry Doby frozen in time, I heard a voice cry out.

He was a very normal looking guy in his 30s. In his hand was a large, professionally printed sign of some sort with block writing. I didn't bother to read what was read, as his voice conveyed the message plenty clearly. Lacking in the creative power, striking imagery and captivating eloquence of Dante Alighieri or Jonathan Edwards, he opted for the more straightforward message of '*You are all going to hell!'* This jarring message of *not so good news* was stereotypically amplified by a trusty megaphone.

Needless to say, I can get a little jazzed up sometimes when I take offense at something, and I strongly felt the urge to respond to this wayward brother in Christ. So as I walked past holding my son's hand, I looked at him, attempted to raise my own voice above his to speak God's truth as it has been written, '*clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience …'* It was one of our 'memory verses' from VBS, and I was proud that I had memorized it too and to be able to put it to good contextual use. The problem was that I did not recognize the obvious fact that people with megaphones do not often prove to be the best listeners. This enterprising young man was no exception. As I began to quote our shared Holy scripture, he simply stared at me and shouted "*You're going to hell!*" It was then that I truly realized how fruitless my voice would be. Andrea tugged at my arm to move on, and always looking on the bright side of things simply said 'at least he is supporting a local business by having that fancy sign made!'

It didn't take long for me to recognize myself the sad irony of quoting a scripture without putting that very word into practice. In that moment, I was not clothing myself in any of those Holy virtues. I was not *compassionate* towards this screeching, obnoxious soul misrepresenting the compassion of Christ. I was not *kind* when I quickly matched his accusing, combative tone. I was not *humble* when I knew I knew better than he did. I was not *gentle* when my anger was palpable. I was not *patient* when I was quick to speak up while continuing to walk past. On the heels of a Vacation Bible School that saw nearly 30 kids come through he doors to learn, it was I who needed to keep learning what it meant to be an ambassador of Christ, urging reconciliation while clothing myself with these virtues of compassion and kindness, first Seeking God in prayer to speak clearly and effectively before speaking out in frustration. So the lesson was learned—and another opportunity was gained. To grow more faithful to Christ, and the love that draws me near to be assured of my own faithful salvation. Although the man with the sign did not know me, Jesus does. So we too may be free to speak and share the good news, the truth of grace that has been revealed *us*. So we celebrate by doing just that! Amen.

- Rev. Alex Barnes

2026 VACATION BIBLE

Did we have fun at Vacation Bible School? It's pretty safe to say "yes". The children learned about the apostle Paul and what it means to be an "Ambassador in Christ".

Praying to get out or just "hamming" it up?

Thank you to all our volunteers.

Are they worried about getting out?

Great crafts and games.

And good food.

Two Community Meals in August!

On Monday, August 10th we will enjoy Barbecue chicken and hear from Nadine Kirkland of Really Recovered.

On Monday, August 31st, the *National Alliance of Mental Illness* will be partnering with us to invite a professional chef to prepare a soup supper for the community dinner and speak on the support programs available in our county!

Upcoming Events from the Worship and Music Committee

Worship and Music Committee has been arranging some special events for the church. Watch for more information as it unfolds:

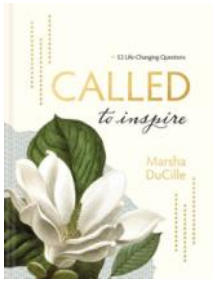
September 13th, the Milton Church will meet with several other Presbyterian churches for a service/ picnic at Hubbard Valley Park.

On September 20th, Heather Evert and her father will play during our service.

Rose Darling will return to perform another concert on November 8th.

MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle Meeting



MPW will be taking a break over the summer. Our next gathering for a study will be in September. The book that we used this past year "Called to Inspire" by Marsha DuCille will continue to be used.

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.

Milton Presbyterian Women are having their annual school supply collection during August. These supplies will be passed on to the school to help children have necessary items for the best education possible . Suggested school items are: Crayola crayons (8 or 24 count), glue sticks or bottles, baggies (gallon and quart), colored pencils, scissors, loose leaf paper, pencils, Kleenex, and disinfecting wipes. More items are suggested on the school's website. Thank you for your donations.

Adult Sunday School will be on "vacation" over the summer.

The Tuesday Bible Study will continue to meet at 2:00 p.m. in the library. The bible study will follow along our reading of the New Testament over the course of the year.

Junior Church will be going through the Book of Acts.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of May 2026 Revenue & Expenses

Income May	$ 6,667
HeadStart Fees	+2,400
	$ 9,067
Expenses from May	$ - 10,888
May Net Income/Expense	$ - 1,821
2026 Net Income/Expense	$ - 1,998

Transferred $2,000 to cover bills in May. Please donate!

Boiler Monthly Donations are $240
Balance of Lance Fund Boiler loan: $ 7,681
Roof Monthly Donations are $120
Balance of Lance Fund Roof loan: $ 27,893

Thank you **for all your donations!**

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.

Upcoming Events for Children & Youth:

The next **Youth JAM**—our combined youth group for kids in MS/HS—will be meeting at Seville Presbyterian Church at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20.

Our next **Neighborhood Kids Club Bible Study** for kids ages 4-12 will be held on July 19th, 4-6pm. We will be learning more about Paul's travels and the 'fruit of the Spirit' from his letter to the Galatians.

The Neighborhood Kids Club is held on the third Sunday of each month. If you would like to help out with preparing a meal for a kids club or 'shepherding' the kids, please let Rev. Barnes know at (404) 447-0273. Thank you so much!

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 sympathies go out to the family of Faye Telford who passed away Friday morning, June 26th. She had been a school secretary for 30 years for the Rittman Schools. Please remember her family in prayer. Faye had been a member since April 7, 1944. She had been the oldest living member with the church and member the longest time.

In the News!

Former member Roger Ramsier's grandson Reed Ramsier has been courted by multiple colleges to play football for them. He made his choice and has committed to Auburn in Alabama. Reed played in the Navy All American Bowl this year and has gained attention all over the United States. Roger and his family are former members of Milton but currently make their homes in Orlando, Florida. Reed attends the Christian high school First Academy in Orlando.

Please remember our church family members in nursing or assisted living homes:

Dorothy Johnson, Faye Telford - Apostolic Christian Homes, (10680 Steiner Rd., Rittman, OH)

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

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

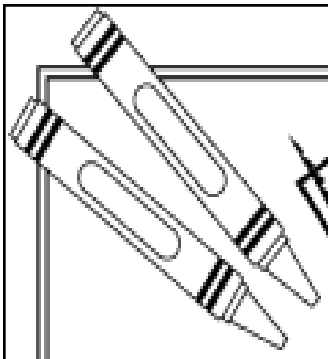
Jim Davis - Autumnwood Nursing & Rehab (275 E. Sunset Ave., Rittman, OH 44270)

Rev. Jim and Joan Watt - Story Point (629 N. Huntington St., Apt. 2742, Medina, OH 44256)

Karen Aberegg, Dale Alexander, *Maryann Barnes*, Linda Beckstein, 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, Wilfred Ford, Debbie Fortunot, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Veronica Hughes, Cathy Imhoff, Madi Jackson, Dorothy Johnson, Debbie Keel, *Donald "Skip" Kiene,* 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, Kristen Morris, Corey Mullinax, John Musgrave, 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, Matt Reid, Jim Roberts, Dave Rogers, Chris Rufener, Linda Rutter, Emily Mann Schott, Joanna Shankland, Colleen Sheppard, Betty Shreve, Sarah Shreve, David Simpson, Rick Singleton, Jim Skolnik, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Debbie Steiner, Todd Stephan, Ginger Stucky, John Swarztentruber, Doris Taylor, Phyllis Teter, Ella Thomas, Kelly and Holly Thomas, Bill Timmons, Judy Twinem, Tim Van Arsdale

**Italicized are recent additions.*

Children's Activity



PUZZLE

KNOW THE WAY

Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (John 14:5, NIV).

Directions: To read Jesus' reply, shade in the letters that contain an asterisk (*) and write them in order on the blanks below.

u n s w e r e i a m h w a
y a n t l r u t c h l f i v f e
n o o n a e c s o x m e s
f a z t h e r r o u c d g h
p u m r x e s t j v g o h n

Jes ___ ans_____d, "__ ___ the ____

___d the _____ and the _____.

__ ____ _____ to the

_____ except th_____ ___."

_____ 14:6, NIV

comes to the father except through me." John 14:6, NIV

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

Play this game with a group of friends to remind you to follow Jesus.

What you need:

- Large space for running
- 3 jump ropes or 9 traffic cones

What you do:

1. Using jump ropes or traffic cones, form lines at both ends of the playing area. Also make a dividing line in the middle. Designate one side as "The Way" and the other as "The Truth." The center line is "The Life."
2. Choose one person to stand in the middle of the center line. He or she is the caller, yelling, "The way!" or "The truth!" or "The life!" The rest of the players also start on the middle line.
3. When a location is called, players run as fast as possible to the designated area. The last person to arrive switches places with the caller.
4. When "The Life" is called, players run to the center line and raise both hands. No one gets out.

July 2026

Birthdays

2 Karen Aberegg

3 Erick Shreve

6 Max Pyle

7 Gerald Aberegg

8 Mike Cramer

13 Drew Fetter

13 Chris Mackey

13 Olivia Millan

15 Geoffrey Pyle

21 Kim Hart

25 Katherine Saunders-Russell

25 Andrea Barnes

28 Ellen Williams

29 Madison Aberegg

31 Bill Cristino

Meeting Dates

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

Worship & Music - Thurs., July 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Grief Group - Thurs., July 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Session Meeting - Wed., Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Anniversaries

10 Michael & Lori Williams 33 yrs.

15 Jim & Beth Lance 43 yrs.

23 Randy & Mary Adams 43 yrs.

Jr. Church Schedule

5 Renee Busic & Lindsey Millan

12 Angel Mackey & Kelly Hartshorn

19 Vickie Schumacher & Elena Swartzentruber

26 Andrea Barnes & Cindy Mann

Liturgist Schedule

5 Donna Robertson

12 Cindy Vaughn

19 Kim Hart

26 Donna Robertson

Flower Schedule

5 Sheri & Mark Wachtel

12

19 Vickie & Rich Schumacher

26 Donna & Bill Robertson

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

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 **6:30 pm Building and Grounds (Library)**	3	4 HAPPY 4th July *250 Years!*
5 9:30 am Worship	6 6:00 pm - Rittman Garden Club (Parlor)	7 2:00 pm - Bible Study (Library)	8	9	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship (Communion)	13	14 2:00 pm - Bible Study (Library)	15 6:00 - 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day at laundromat	16 **9:30 am Worship & Music (Library)** **2:00 pm Grief Group (Library)** 6:00 pm Cub Pack Meeting (FH)	17	18
19 9:00 am Choral Practice 9:30 am Worship **4-6pm Neighborhood Kids Club Bible Study**	20	21 2:00 pm - Bible Study (Library)	22	23 4:30 pm Lineup 6:00 pm Start Rittman Lions Community Parade During Sleepwalker	24	25 Jayden Boyer Eagle Court of Honor
26 9:00 am Choral Practice 9:30 am Worship	27 **Community Dinner moved to August 10th**	28 2:00 pm - Bible Study (Library)	29	30 6:30 Cub Scout Leaders Meeting (Library)	31	

Alex on Vacation this week. ——————————————————————————————>