

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



# MARCH 2025 TIMELY NOTES

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



*Daylight  
Savings Time  
March 9th*

## Worship Times

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am**

**WORSHIP 10:30 am**

### 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

**Sunday, March 2, 2025**

at the 10:30 am service

**Milton Presbyterian Church**

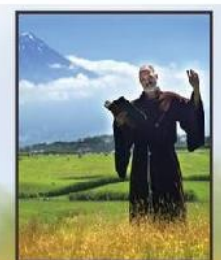
**250 North St, Rittman**

Geoffrey Darling presents *Mark's Gospel*

**A Fundraiser for Flat Rock Homes**

As a prelude to Lent, actor and author Geoffrey Darling performs several chapters of Mark's Gospel.

This year Geoffrey celebrates 25 years of performing Mark's Gospel, with an account of his experiences in *Beautiful Are the Feet*



GEOFFREY DARLING

- Freewill donations will benefit Flat Rock Homes Care Center & Community Services.
- *Beautiful Are the Feet* will be on sale for \$20 with \$5 of that also going to Flat Rock Homes.

For more information: [geoffrose05@yahoo.com](mailto:geoffrose05@yahoo.com)/ 330-819-8109  
[www.flatrockhomes.org](http://www.flatrockhomes.org)

### ***LENTEN SCHEDULE***

Keep in mind these special dates:

Mon., February 24 - Monthly Free  
Community Meal

Wed., March 5 - Noon on Ash  
Wednesday Service at First Presbyterian  
Church in Orrville - Sacrament of Holy  
Communion & Soup Luncheon

Mon., March 31 - 6:30 p.m. Monthly Free  
Community Meal

Sun., April 13 - Palm Sunday

Thurs., April 17 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy  
Thursday Service - Sacrament of Holy  
Communion

Fri., April 18 - 7:00 p.m. Good Friday  
Service at Creston Presbyterian Church

Sun. April 20 - Easter - Sacrament of  
Holy Communion

### **LENTEN STUDY**

BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR  
COPY OF "WALKING IN HIS  
WAYS" BY EMILY JAMINAT,  
THIS YEAR'S SUPPLEMENTAL  
DEVOTIONAL FOR LENT.  
COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE  
AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE  
SANCTUARY OR THE CHURCH  
OFFICE.



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During worship on March 2nd, I am looking forward to hear Geoffrey Darling perform a good portion of Mark's gospel during worship. He has learned the gospel by heart, and simply hearing the story of the good news voiced in the way that it was first passed on from person to person is a wonderful way to prepare for the season of Lent. Mr. Darling has great experience in telling the gospel story, as he has traveled by foot all along the coast of New Zealand, his native land, sharing the *good news* as Mark had recorded it 2,000 years ago.

As we were planning the flow of this unique service, one challenge that came to mind was the question of whether the younger children would have the patience to remain in the sanctuary for the duration of the service. The children are used to going to Junior Church after the service begins and it is a valuable time for them to learn the good news in a way that it sinks in for them. So Mr. Darling and I settled on this answer - that he would present the first chapter of Mark's gospel while the kids were up front. This will work well, because the first chapter of Mark's gospel certainly moves quickly, recalling Jesus' baptism to his temptation to gathering the disciples to exorcising demons and healing entire towns. Then, after we all listened to the *beginning* of the good news of Mark's gospel, while the kids were still in service, he will skip to the moment that Jesus taught *specifically* about the children!

It is written in the tenth chapter that *People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

It is a well known passage from Jesus' ministry - one that is sure to be included in every single children's bible ever written. As it should be! The children should know that this book was written for them has a story in it that teaches how they are an example for adults! It is a beautiful moment in scripture that is celebrated often, and *in* all of this celebration, I find many who question very quickly why the disciples would bar the children from coming to Jesus in the first place. The disciples are once again a familiar foil to the right way of doing things. Having parented directly now for the last six years, I have a much better understanding of the disciples' predicament and their rebuke. Children are an indescribably wonderful blessing. They are also often dirty, expert spreaders of sickness, loud, bringers of chaos, and easily frightened of things that aren't real while *not* being frightened of all of things that can actually hurt them, and because of this, they need to be protected and watched with a keen eye. Yet our LORD teaches *us* that it is only as a child that one can receive the Kingdom of Heaven. They are the example that Christ himself gave to us.

I appreciate this, because admittedly there are plenty of times that I have lost patience in parenting. Times when irrational disputes or meltdowns have been as infectious as the other communicable gifts they bring home from school. When exhaustion exacerbates frustration and tests patience to its limits, I find myself struggling to be the Holy person and the good father that my Heavenly Father desires me to be. That is when God the Father shows His patience and mercy in caring for me. When I find myself in chaos or troubled emotionally or letting impatience get the best of me, God knows that I am still growing as well. Therefore God has surrounded me with older brothers and sisters who know I am still growing, and younger brothers and sisters who see someone who cares about their growth. The children are our example because they need to be taught, need to be provided for, and need to be helped ... and we do too, no matter how 'self-sufficient' and responsible we grow to be. What Jesus is teaching us is that in order to grow, we have to be ruled by faith. Faith that we have a father who loves us, and we will receive what we ask for when it is asked in good faith. Then our Father will grow us into people who know how to play as children while still learning to grow in love and gratitude. Even when we, like children, are so often ruled by our emotions and desires, God's anger is overtaken by God's love and understanding that we too can act like children. And that is a blessing, because when we are invited by Jesus to be with him, we are children of God - children of a God whose love is from everlasting to everlasting. 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.***

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## MORE NEW BOOKS!

Our library has received a number of new books in the last few months that were purchased in memory of some of members that have passed on. All books are available to be borrowed; we just ask that you sign them out.

**Wild Wonder** By: Stephen Proctor \* In memory of Erik Kinch who died Aug. 27, 2024 \* This book was picked for my brother Erik because of his love for the outdoors and his love of travel. It contains beautiful drone shots along with many quotes and sentiments.

**Sleep Psalms** By: Pray.com \* In memory of Debbie Russell who died Aug. 25, 2024 \* This book for Debbie was chosen for her ability to bring a sense of calm in difficult times. This is good to read at bedtime to give you peace.

**Chicken Soup for the Soul: Miracles and More** \* By: Amy Newmark \* In memory of Elsie Richards who died June 16, 2024 \* This collection of short stories gives hope that miracles do happen. It will strengthen your faith in the ways of God works. It was given in memory of Elsie but also dedicated to her daughter Linda Beddow who passed away July 23, 2024.

-Portia Kinch, Memorial Committee

## MORE NEW BOOKS NEXT MONTH!

## Community Meals

Our first community meal was a hit! Thank you to cook, Bill Crawford, who made chili and salad for everyone. Speakers, Doug and Jaquie Jensen, spoke about their experience in international missions in Africa and brought some interesting souvenirs. Cub Scout Pack 3405 was on hand to listen to the program and help with serving and cleaning up afterwards. Thank you to the Cub Scouts and their parents.

Monday, February 24th, will be the next meal. Chef Bill will be preparing baked potatoes and salad. Our speaker will be CJ Marciano from Restore Addiction Recovery where they offer 12 months of Christ-centered, Biblically-based, and clinically-supported residential care for men struggling with addiction. On March 31st, the speaker will be Ken Park with Rittman Lion's Club.



## **FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**



ITEMS are always needed for the pantry. Staples are needed. 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, toothpaste, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products. )





Adult Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. Students are studying the book of Proverbs.

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 "Who I Am in Jesus".



## MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MPW Circle will meet on **Thursday, March 13 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. This month's lesson is Chapter 6 "Economic Climate Justice".



**SATURDAY  
APRIL 26, 2025  
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**

A spring rummage sale is planned for Saturday, April 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your continued support!

Summary of Jan. Revenue & Expenses

Financial Update – Budgeted Accounts Only:

Income from month of Jan.	\$ 12,241
HeadStart Fees	+2,400
	\$ 14,641
Expenses from Jan.	\$ 12,478
Jan. Net Income/Expense	\$ 2,163
<u>2025</u> Net Income/Expense	\$ 2,163

**Jan. 2025 Boiler Donations: \$150**

**Total donations to date: \$ 51,810**

**Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 12,736**

**Jan. 2025 Roof Donations: \$50**

**Total donations to date: \$ 3,700**

**Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 32,229**

*Thank you for all your donations!*

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



**Please consider donating to the repayment of the loan from the Lance Fund for the flat roof of the church. Payments to the Lance Fund started in January. Thank you!**

**Muskingum Valley Presbytery has set the Per Capita for 2025 at \$39.60. Feel free to round up to \$40 if the Spirit so moves!**

The next Youth JAM is Sunday, March 2 at Wayne Presbyterian Church at 6:00 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.



**MARCH 2025****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.*

**CONGRATULATIONS KRIS AND HELEN MANN**

on the birth of their daughter, Binyamina Lillian Mann born January 31, 2025. She joins brother Meyer at home. Happy grandparents are Ken and Cindy Mann.



***\*Please remember our church family members who are in our local area nursing or assisted living 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)**

**Rev. Jim and Joan Watt - The Echelon (629 N. Huntington St., Apt. 2742, Medina, OH 44256)**

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, *Bill Crawford*, 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, 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, Colleen Sheppard, Betty Shreve, Sarah Shreve, Lavonne Silva, Rick Singleton, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Todd Stephan, David Stewart, John Swarzentrubler, *Carol Telford*, Ella Thomas, Kelly and Holly Thomas, Bill Timmons, Luke Truman, Alice Widmer, Sue Wilson



*\*Italicized are recent additions.*



## A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

**KEY:** a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

"H e    nd    ll    hs    fm l   
A+C    A+D    A+D    B+C    A+D    B+C    A+B

wr     dv     t nd  
A+C    A+C    A+C    B+D    C+D    A+D

Gd-f r ng; h    gv   
B+D    A+C    A+D    B+C    A+C    A+D    A+C

gn r  sl    t    ths n  
A+C    A+C    B+D    C+D    A+B    B+D    B+D    A+C    B+C

n d nd    pr  d    t    Gd d  
A+C    A+C    A+D    A+D    A+B    A+C    B+D    B+D

r g l rl     cts 10:2, NIV  
A+C    C+D    A+D    A+B    A+D

"He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

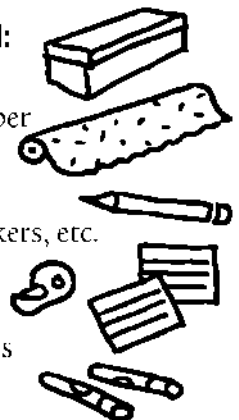
Answers:

## PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

### What you need:

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens



### What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.



# March 2025



## ***BIRTHDAYS***

2nd	Luca Pink
5th	Nancy Leach
6th	Rev. Jim Watt
8th	Bill Crawford
14th	Kinley Shreve
22nd	Kaleb Labo
24th	Robin Goodman
30rd	Ron Hart III

## ***ANNIVERSARIES***

24th Erick & Kristen Shreve – 17 yrs.

## ***MEETING DATES***

Worship & Music - Mon., Mar. 3 at 10:00 a.m.  
 Building & Grounds - Thurs., Mar. 6 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Session Meeting - Wed., Mar. 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
 MPW Circle - Thurs., Mar. 13 at 7:00 p.m.  
 Hospitality Team - TBD



## ***JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE***

2	Cindy Mann
9	Renee Basic & Tammy Wilson
16	Andrea Barnes & Lindsey Millan
23	Angel Mackey
30	Vickie Schumacher

## ***FLOWER SCHEDULE***

2	Sheri & Mark Wachtel
9	Tammy Shreve
16	Cindy & Ken Mann
23	Vickie & Rich Schumacher
30	

## ***LITURGIST SCHEDULE***

2	Pastor Alex Barnes
9	Kim Hart
16	Ken Mann
23	Donna Robertson
30	Lindsey Millan

## ***COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE***

2	
9	Bill & Linda Crawford
16	
23	
30	







# March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  6:00 pm Youth JAM Wayne Presbyterian Church	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 am Worship &amp; Music Comm. (Library)</b>	<b>4</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	<b>5</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <b>Noon - Ash Wednesday Service at First Presbyterian Church in Orrville</b> 7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Library)	<b>6</b> <b>6:30 pm Bldg. &amp; Grounds (Library)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	<b>11</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 pm - Session Meeting (Library)</b>	<b>13</b> <b>7:00 pm MPW Circle (Parlor)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Practice (Fellowship Hall)
<b>16</b> 9:15am Sunday Sch. 10:30 am Worship  1:30 pm Cub Scout Pinewood Derby (Fellowship Hall)	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	<b>19</b> 6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day at laundromat 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting (FH)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  <b>30</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting  <b>31</b> 6:30 pm Community Meal 7:00 pm Speaker Ken Park, Lion's Club	<b>25</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library) 1:30 pm - Prayer Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

**Milton Presbyterian Church**  
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