

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

# MARCH 2026

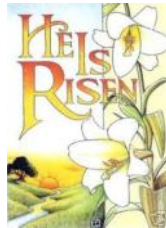
# TIMELY NOTES

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM • WORSHIP 10:30 AM



## Holy Week Worship Schedule

Sun., March 29 - Palm Sunday

Thurs., April 2 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion

Fri., April 3 - 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship at Seville Presbyterian Church

Sun. April 5 - Easter - Sacrament of Holy Communion

## Neighborhood Kids Club Bible Study!

On the third Sunday of every month from 4-6 pm we will be hosting a 'kids club' at the church for children ages 3-14. There the kids will be learning more about the Bible, and more about the apostle Paul and his missionary journeys. Some dinner will be provided. Let your friends and neighbors know. We had a great time hosting 12 kids at our first neighborhood gathering!



Chuck Wyatt: Happy to be here!

Chuck and Natalie Wyatt from Anchor Heating and Cooling joined us for our February community dinner, speaking more on God’s work through their free-of-charge clothing shop attached to the office in town.

March’s meal will be held on Monday, March 30th. Our speaker is Rudy Arnold newly elected mayor of Rittman.



Bill Crawford: Serious about making delicious chili

Our monthly Community Meal from January was cancelled by the heavy snow storm we had on January 26. Our scheduled speakers for that evening, Dr. Raines and Dr. Meyer from Faithful Servants Care Center, will now be speaking at the community dinner on April 27.

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*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” - Hebrews 12:1*

About six days after the winter Olympics began, I came home after a raucous Cub scout meeting very excited to sit down on the couch. Wanting to rekindle some nostalgia, I turned on the Olympic games and was so ready to watch that I was even happy to see the cross country skiers coming around the track towards the home stretch. After the announcer talked about the traditional dominance of the Swedes and Norwegians, the focus quickly shifted to the American competitor. Apparently she had suffered a fall a few days earlier, severely bruising a couple of ribs, and the pain was evident as she pushed herself around the bend towards the home stretch. The two skiers in front of her crossed the finish line, falling on the hard packed snow in a heap of exhaustion, labored breaths, and the glory of victory.

Not long after, [Jesse Diggins](#) made it across the finish line just before the next competitor, also crumpling to the ground, holding her rib and gasping for air like a fish out of water, groaning with each strained breath. She had won the bronze medal ... and I could only imagine the resolve needed to summon such an effort to place in that race. I was grateful for her victory. I was also grateful for my own angle of repose on the couch, in awe of the mental and physical effort I had witnessed from the comfort of my own home.

This sort of grit and determination was a culmination of years of effort and training—and this is part of what makes the Olympic games so compelling. Since these are races that are not run every year, victory—or even placing third—is all the more valuable an achievement. And the glory magnified by the fact that the whole world is watching.

I don't feel like I need to point out the esteemed place that athletics have always held in our own culture in the United States of America. Our entire economic ideal is based on competition, and has resulted in an incentive to discover incredible things as we are pushed to work hard towards the goal. Yet it was not America that invented these competitions. The Olympics, of course, began in ancient Greece, and in our scriptures, we see the letter to the Hebrews speaking to people in *this* competitive culture of ancient Greece in the first century, putting forth the image of Christ running the race before us. As followers of Jesus, we are compelled to give ourselves over to the same sort of resolve and determination that he had set for us as an example—and we are able to do this because we are encouraged in the faith by all those who have come before us in that *'great cloud of witnesses'*. In the Greek language of the original letter, the word for *witness* is *marturion*, which is where our own word for martyr is derived. So when the writer lifts up the great *'cloud of witnesses,'* this gathering crowd is made up of those who have given their lives for Christ, holding unwaveringly to the truth of Jesus in the face of great testing and trial.

For us as believers, this is a call to be prepared for our own disciplined training for this race. This is what Jesus was alluding to when he bids his disciples to *'take up his cross daily and follow me.'* (Luke 9:23). Only a few lines later in this same chapter of the letter to the Hebrews, it is acknowledged that *“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. (Hebrews 12:11–13)*

In our own lives, we know that there will be times when our faith is tested. Just like the rhythms that are established in training for a race, our church calendar established a rhythm to help us prepare for these tests. In the calendar, there are times of celebration such as Christmas and Easter. Yet before the victory is celebrated, we must practice waiting and training with discipline. That is why the celebration of Christmas is preceded by Advent, and Easter is immediately preceded by the 40 day period of Lent. During Lent, we observe and imitate the way that Jesus prepared himself for His mission of salvation that ultimately culminated on the cross, to be glorified in the victory of the resurrection which followed.

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**Pastor's note, continued from page 2:**

This season of Lent now allows us an opportunity to be disciplined in our faith by intentionally denying ourselves to better seek and know and carry out God's will for our lives. This takes consistent practice, dedication, and focus on holy living, transcendent forgiveness, and perfect love. It also takes great encouragement from others, and our own unwavering faith and belief. This is what the letter to the Hebrews ultimately reveals and underscores - the importance of faith and belief in what has not yet come to pass.

In many respects, we too admire Jesus from the comfort of our own rest and weariness, witnessing in awe the trial he endured so we *ourselves* can cross the finish line to enter into God's eternal glory. This gives us the inspiration to build up to endure anything for Jesus, because Jesus has already shown us the path for victory. He has shown us this path, because he has already opened the door and carried us there.

- Rev. Alex Barnes

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Our prayers and joy goes out to Colleen (Hart) and James Underwood on the birth of their precious baby girl, Luna Raye on Wednesday, February 11th. Kim and Ron Hart are proud grandparents.**



ITEMS are always needed for the pantry. Certain items go very quickly! 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), dish soap and laundry detergent.

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

**7:00 PM, SETUP**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10**

**9:00 AM, PRICING**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

**9:00 AM-1:00 PM SALE**



**SATURDAY  
APRIL 11, 2026  
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**

**DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED. PLEASE PLACE THEM IN THE BASEMENT CLASSROOM NEXT TO THE BOILER ROOM. IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CONTACT CINDY MANN 330-835-8913 OR CHRIS WHITE 330-703-2720.**



Have you ever thought, *I am going to read through the Bible this year ...* but haven't had anyone to join you in this? Well now you can join us in reading at least the New Testament! As a church, we will be reading through the New Testament together over the course of the year. The plan we have been using is the *BibleProject New Testament in a Year* plan in the *youversion* Bible App.

Go to: <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/13233>. Creating an account is free and easy.

Alex has been sending out weekly emails to help keep us on track. If you would like to catch up, on March 1st we begin chapter 8 in Mark, and by April 1st, we begin chapter 8 in Luke. Look how nicely that worked out!

**Upcoming Community Events:**

**Saturday, February 28th—**  
Lion's Club Chili Cookoff 4-7pm at Heritage Hall.

**Wednesday, March 4th at 5:30pm—**Server Volunteer Meeting for current and interested volunteers at The Server

**Sunday, March 15 in the afternoon—**Cub Scout Pinewood Derby at the Milton Presbyterian Church. Come cheer on and support our scouts!

**Sunday, March 15th at 4pm—***Trio 42* (violin & harp) will be playing Irish Music to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at 4pm at Seville Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$5. Kids under 10 are free



Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 a.m. and our Tuesday Bible Study meets at 12:30 p.m. in the library. Both bible studies will follow along our reading of the New Testament over the course of the year.

Over the season of Lent during worship and in Junior Church we will be going through the different parts of the Lord's prayer.

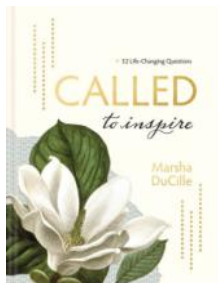
### MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



MPW will be having a reading of the continue discussing the devotional book "Called to Inspire" by Marsha DuCille. The next meeting will

be Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor.

All women of the church are invited to the meetings. 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.



**Please help us pay down the boiler and roof funds!**

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Jan. Revenue & Expenses

Income Jan.	\$ 11,273
HeadStart Fees	<u>+2,400</u>
	\$ 13,673
Expenses from Jan.	<u>\$ 13,309</u>
Jan. Net Income/Expense	\$ <u>386</u>
<u>2025</u> Net Income/Expense	\$ 386

**Boiler Monthly Payments are \$210**  
**Balance of Lance Fund Boiler loan: \$ 9,501**  
**Roof Monthly Payments are \$150**  
**Balance of Lance Fund Roof loan: \$ 28,977**

*Thank you for all your donations!*

Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.



The next **Youth JAM**—our combined youth group for kids in MS/HS will be Sunday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wayne Presbyterian Church. We will be engaging what it means to be a child of our Heavenly Father through the Holy Spirit.

### Rose Darling Concert & Worship

Organist Rose Darling will be playing a concert at Milton on Sunday, May 3rd at 3pm.

She will also be playing for us during worship on Sunday, March 22nd and Sunday, April 19th. How exciting!

### Interested in volunteering?



The Server, a volunteer run café and coffee shop, is looking to open on Saturdays soon from 9a-2p in addition to the normal hours of Monday-Friday 9a-2p. Everything at the café is served free of charge.

There will be a volunteer meeting on Wednesday March 4th at 5:30pm for those interested in helping out.

The Server is also always in need of more pre-made meals that can easily be frozen, preferably in 9x13 disposable pans. Please let Alex know if you are interested in helping out!

(404) 447-0273 — rev.alexarnes@gmail.com

### 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.*



Ron & Janet Steele celebrating their 60th anniversary at the church in 2017

Longtime member Ron Steele passed away on Sunday, February 22nd.

Ron was born on February 13, 1936, in Smithville, Ohio, to the late Ira and Mae (Killough) Steele and graduated from Rittman High School with the class of 1954. He married the love of his life, Janet R. Gwaltney on March 31, 1957, in Rittman, Ohio and she preceded him in death on May 28, 2020.

He was employed by the Former Packaging Corp. of America in Rittman and then later retired from

PPG in Barberton in 1982. Ron enjoyed working in his yard and was extremely particular in the care he took of his property. He liked listening to Country music and watching old Western movies, classic cars, especially Pontiacs, watching basketball and taking long walks with Janet. He will be missed.

***New Addresses: Patty Cristino 1003 Eagle Dr., Apt. 112 Akron, OH 44312***

***Jim Davis is now in Apt. 112 at Autumnwood Nursing & Rehab. Yes-they BOTH have apt # 112!***

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

***Dorothy Johnson - 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 - 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)***



Prayer  
Requests

Karen Aberegg, Ralph Adams, Dale Alexander, Barbara Bartholomew, 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, Debbie Fortunot, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Veronica Hughes, Cathy Imhoff, Madi Jackson, Dorothy Johnson, Debbie Keel, 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, Francie and Howard Morris, 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, Jim Roberts, Dave Rogers, Chris Rufener, Haylee Rufener, Linda Rutter, Howie Ryder, Emily Mann Schott, Colleen Sheppard, Betty Shreve, Sarah Shreve, David Simpson, Rick Singleton, Jim Skolnik, Paul Sparkman, Verns Steele, Debbie Steiner, Todd Stephan, Ginger Stucky, John Swarzentruuber, Doris Taylor, Phyllis Teter, Ella Thomas, Kelly and Holly Thomas, Bill Timmons, Judy Twinem, Tim Van Arsdale, Ellen Williams, Jamie Williams



# PUZZLE

## *The purpose of the gospel*

The gospel of John records many signs and miracles that Jesus performed in front of his disciples. Discover why these were written.

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**Directions:** Use a Bible to fill in the missing letters of John 20:31. Then write the shape-enclosed letters in the corresponding boxes and circles below, in order of appearance, to discover John's message.

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is th      es    iah, the S   n

of    od,    nd tha   by

be          ing    ou m   y

ha   e lif   i    hi    na   e."

JOHN 20:31, NIV

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# Resurrection COUNTDOWN

Make this interactive craft to use as Easter approaches.

**What you need:**

- An empty egg carton
- Scissors
- Tissue paper (a dark color)
- Pencil
- Bible
- 12 slips of white paper
- Glue
- Marker



**What you do:**

1. Cut the lid and side flaps off the egg carton.
2. Lay the carton open-side down on tissue paper. Trace and cut out the rectangular shape.
3. On the paper slips, write 12 verses from John 12 about Holy Week (including one about Easter).
4. Place each slip in an egg cup, in order, starting at the top left and ending (with the Easter verse) at the bottom right.
5. Put glue around cups and carton edges. Lay the tissue paper on top.
6. Gently mark numbers 1-6 on the tissue paper along the top row and 7-12 along the bottom.
7. Before Easter, punch through one cup each day and read the verse.

Just Believe!

Answers: "... believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."



# March 2026



## ANNIVERSARIES

24th Erick & Kristen Shreve – 17 yrs.

## 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

## JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

- 1 Angel Mackey, Vickie Schumacher
- 8 Andrea Barnes, Kelly Hartshorn
- 15 Renee Busic, Elena Swartzentruber
- 22 Lindsey Millan
- 29 Elena Swartzentruber, Andrea Barnes

## FLOWER SCHEDULE

- 1 Sheri and Mark Wachtel
- 8 Tammie Shreve
- 15 Linda & Geoff Pyle
- 22 Cindy & Ken Mann
- 29 Palms for Palm Sunday

## LITURGIST SCHEDULE

- 1 Hal Leach
- 8 Jesse Hunt
- 15 Kim Hart
- 22 Mandii Cramer
- 29 Youth Reader

## MEETING DATES

- Worship & Music - Mon., Mar. 2 at 10:00 a.m.
- Building & Grounds - Thurs., Mar. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
- Session Meeting - Wed., Mar. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- MPW Circle - Thurs., Mar. 12 at 7:00 p.m.

## COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

- 1 Ron & Chris White
- 8 Linda & Bill Crawford
- 15 Jesse Hunt
- 22 Justine Brandes
- 29 Portia Haller & Nancy Leach

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.



# March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Youth JAM at Wayne Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Worship &amp; Music</b> <b>(Library)</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 5:30pm—Server Volunteer Mtg</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> <b>Building and Grounds</b> <b>(Library)</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:00 pm Den Meeting (FH) <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>MPW Circle</b> <b>(Parlor)</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship</p> <p><b>Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby</b></p> <p><b>4-6 pm Neighborhood Kids Club Bible Study</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p> 	<p><b>18</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day at laundromat</p>	<p><b>19</b> 6:00 pm Cub Pack Meeting (FH)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> Renee Busic Fel. Hall Rental</p>
<p><b>22</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 6:00 pm Pack Leadings Meeting (Library)</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> 9:15 am Sunday School (Library) 10:30 am Worship <b>Palm Sunday</b></p> 	<p><b>30</b> <b>6:30 pm - Community Meal (F.H.)</b> <b>7:00 pm - Rudy Arnold, City of Rittman</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)</p>				

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

Visit us at: [www.miltonpreschurch.org](http://www.miltonpreschurch.org)