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MAY 2024

TIMELY NOTES

Milton Presbyterian
Church
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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am

WORSHIP 10:30 am

Worship Time will change to
9:30 am starting June 2nd.



Outdoor Services

Worship and Music Committee has announced 3 outdoor services for the summer:

June 23

**July 28
(at Hubbard Valley Park)**

August 25

TACO TIME

May 5th is Cinco de Mayo! We will celebrate by combining the regular Taco lunch hosted by the Hospitality Group with a “faith in action” spring cleanup day at church.

When you come, please wear work clothes. The congregation will help clean windows, clean the choir room and any other places in the church that need work done.



Before the work begins, Pastor Alex will continue his sermon series about the body with a shortened worship service before we get to work!



Thank you to the Community Meal cooks and planners for the March 26th meal. And a big thank you to Clyde and Betty Phillips for bringing their music.

The next meals are Monday, April 29th at 6:30. In April, Chef Bill plans to have shredded chicken, mashed potatoes and steamed vegetables. Our speaker will be Tessa Dalessandro from O’Huddle. The Community Meal after that is on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th. Come enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats Invite your family and friends to come. Thank you to all who help!

“But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.” - 2 Thessalonians 3:11

With these words, the apostle Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonian church. He does so, because he knows how tiring the work of life can be for the church. He knows this, because it is true with life in general—not just among the small community of believers who are living their lives together. Caring for one another and doing good takes work, work takes effort, and effort can lead to exhaustion, especially when seeds of division begin to grow in our field.

When it comes to ministry, it seems as if there is an *infinite* amount of things that need to get done. I think about this quite a bit! I could be doing lots of things: spending more time writing the sermon, spending more time visiting, sending cards, reaching out, checking in, preparing, praying, reading, volunteering, organizing, evangelizing. The list goes on - and the list doesn't even include household duties that are normal for any home with two working parents, which is normal for many families today. Coming out of spring hibernation, I have started to feel this ramping up of activity acutely - especially as I coach softball again and look towards the time when my own kids will be involved in more sports and activities. As I take on these roles, Andrea is also working full time taking care of people as a Physician's Assistant, teaching students who shadow her, and preparing for a lecture that she is honored to give.

I know that as busy as our life is, many of you are no different. You too are busy with work, parenting, sporting events, ministry, cards, organizing fundraisers, and caring for church members and family members. Every year when the Milton Presbyterian Women organize the rummage sale, I am amazed at how much gets done thanks to the diligence of our people! I also know that there is some *danger* in all of this activity. It can cause us to lose awareness of God's presence in our work, and our own presence in our relationships.

One day a few weeks ago, I recognized the problem with *busyness*. As Andrea sat down by her desk near the kitchen area to work on her lecture, the kids were downstairs playing on their own—which really means scattering toys all over the basement floor for me to pick up later. Meanwhile, I was twitchily pacing behind her looking for things to pick up. What was I looking for? I have no idea. I just felt like I should be doing *something* ... and I can't remember now because it was so unimportant. So she gently reminded me that it was difficult to concentrate on *her* work when *I* was walking back and forth with this strange hum of restless anxiety. It was all quite unnecessary on my part. I was so concerned with *doing* something that I was not present where I needed to be. Most of the time, being busy feels good to me. It *feels* like I am getting something done, even if I am not. Yet *work* for its own sake is not a part of the gospel, and can subtly undermine relationships. Anyone who has experienced a bad work environment knows this!

If you think about it, there is not much difference between *busyness* and *business*. Just a small letter. Yet that letter communicates quite a difference. The letter in the middle of *busyness* is not a statement but a question: *y*? As in *why* am I doing this? *Busyness* begs the question! When we get down to *business*, we see where *I* fit in the middle of the word. *I* know *why I* am doing something, and *I* get to work doing what *I* know how to do. There is personal ownership baked into the center of the word itself!

Just before Paul encourages the Thessalonians to not grow weary in doing good, he expresses a concern that we also should recognize in ourselves when he writes:

We hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work, being busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

The word *busybody* in Greek (*periergazomai*) is the same word for *work* (*ergazomai*), but adds the prefix *peri*, which means *around* (like *peripheral*). There is a connotation of someone who is *going around* or *running around*, but not just running around getting things done. There is a sense of running *around* the very task that needs to get done. They are particularly concerned with the work of others while not simply being present with the work that God has placed in front of them. There is a sort of disruptive quality about it - a relentless *restlessness* - that takes us away from the moment in front of us, and will lead not only us to exhaustion, but those around us as well.

So how do we prevent ourselves from becoming *busybodies*? Those who become so busy that we become idle in our work? By recognizing *God's* work, *our* role in that work, and prioritizing this over our own expectations or desires. There are too many times when I end up busying myself with work that *isn't* urgent, and I forget two very important things: to set aside time to prepare for the work ahead, and to do this so that I can be *present* here and now. If I prioritize on both preparation and presence over concern and worry, then I do not become weary or frustrated about doing good. I know that God will do God's own work through me, and I am secure in God's provision through the work of my hands and my head. With God's presence and peace, our mind is not always thinking of everything that has to be done. We don't have to run around the periphery of what is most important. We take a step back to see what is most important and recognize *God's* work *in* us, here and now.

-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.

MPW RUMMAGE SALE

The rummage sale was a HUGE success. Honestly, there didn't seem like we had that much items other than clothing. Sales broke \$1,000 so that was terrific. Thank you Chris White for your hard work and suggestions this year. Sometimes a new influence makes a big difference. Many, many thanks to the workers, those who donated items and those who purchased items.



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

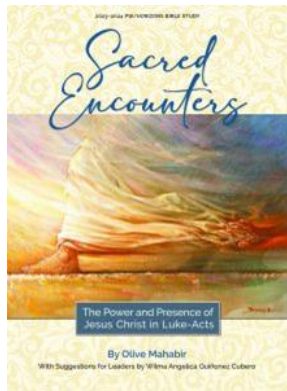
Thank you everybody that have been donating food pantry supplies. Your donations have helped so very much. Personal items like shampoo, soap, Kleenex, and toothpaste get taken very quickly. It would be wonderful if the donations can keep coming.

ITEMS are needed for the pantry. Summer is coming soon so think of easy meals for children that are home from school. Peanut butter, fruit, and canned meals are easy for lunchtimes. Snacks are also popular. If you need suggestions, ask any mom or dad!



MILTON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

MPW Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. On Thursday, May 9th, the group will be studying again from the Horizons 2023-2024 study "Sacred Encounters" by Olive Mahabir. This month's chapter is Lesson Eight: "Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship". 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 March Revenue & Expenses

Financial Update – Budgeted Accounts Only:

Income from month of Mar.	\$ 10,303
HeadStart Fees	<u>+2,400</u>
	\$ 12,703
Expenses from Mar.	<u>\$ 12,148</u>
Mar. Net Income/Expense	\$ <u>555</u>
<u>2024 Net Income/Expense</u>	\$ 3,020

March 2024 Boiler Donations: \$230

Total donations to date: \$49,145

Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 17,486

(New!) Roof Donations: \$550

Balance of Lance Fund loan: \$ 32,500

Thank you for all your donations!



Electronic giving services powered by Presbyterian Foundation.

Vacation Bible School

A two-day, evening Vacation Bible School is planned for Friday, July 12th and Saturday, July 13th. Please mark your calendars!



Our topic for the Adult Sunday School and Tuesday Bible Study is the books of the 12 minor prophets. April's study has covered Micah and Nahum. Only four more prophets to go! Please come and join us to learn more about worshipping our Lord.

In Jr. Church, the children are focusing on "Parts of the Body" of God.

RAISING THE ROOF (FUND)!

The figures are in from the bids for the flat roof. The lowest bid and one accepted was for \$49,000 from LS Commercial Roofing. Session voted to proceed with the replacement by borrowing some of the money needed from the Lance Fund as when we redid the boiler system. This money will be repaid to the Lance Fund as the boiler system has been repaid. Your donations are needed! The hope is that they will begin this month.



The next Youth JAM will be **Sunday, June 3**, 6:00 p.m. at **Milton 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! Anyone wanting to help host this quarter's meeting are encouraged to contact Pastor Barnes.

MAY 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Pastor Barnes mentions so often that he's an "old-soul". It must be official now since he's turned 40 this year!

The Server is always in need of more pre-made frozen meals in gallon freezer bags. Please contact Pastor Alex if you can help.



***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, Judy Twinem

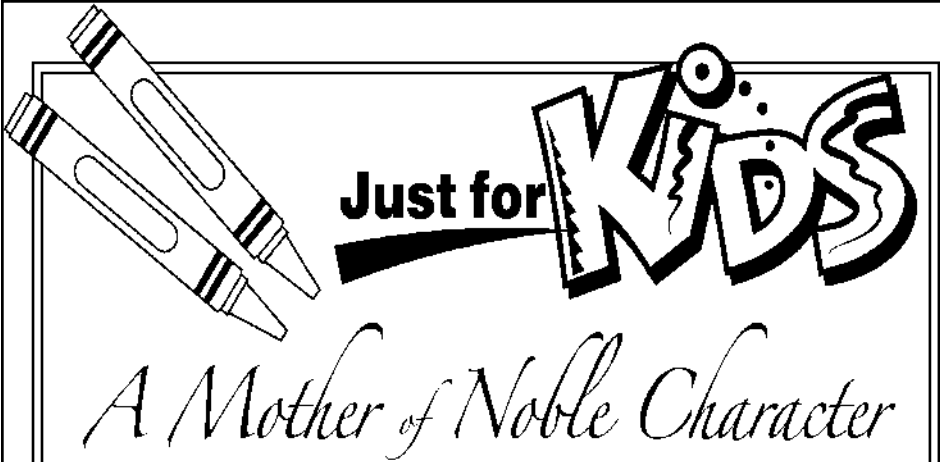
Village of St. Edwards, (880 Main St., Wadsworth, OH 44281) - Sally Barnes

Rocky River Assisted Living, (22900 Center Ridge Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116) - Anita Vohar

Larry Amstutz, Shawn Aronhalt, Linda Beddow, Leigh Ann Berkley, Jen Bishop, Jonathan Bonilla, Charlie Brandes, Levi Brediger, Jan Champa, Thelma Chapman, Marie Cole, Tanya Coleman, Conner Compton, Mike & Mandii Cramer, Drew Crawford, Lesa Crawford, Megan Crawford, Jamie Culler, Nicholas Dras, Deb Easterday, Jordan Edgar, Scott Erwin, Amy Fletcher, Donnie Foutty, Patrick Gable, Robert Gardner, Marcia Geyer, Reed Heggie, Dwayne Hopton, Lori Johnson, Debbie Keel, *Erik Kinch*, 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, Erin McGorry, Linda Melenbacker, Lois Middleton, PJ Miller, Kristen Morris, John and Joe Musgrave, Taylor Netting, Frances & Joyce Nichols, Dale Owen, Lee Owen, Ethan Porter, Sally Porter, Ron and Sue Price, Linda and Geoff Pyle, John Ramsier, Sue Ramsey, Elsie Richards, Toby Rinaldo, Karl Rohrer, Pat Rossmiller, Haylee Rufener, Debbie and Jay Russell, Linda Rutter, Sheryl Saunders, Rose Serna-Wallander, *Colleen Shephard*, 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 additions.*



Just for KIDS

A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

- 1** “A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies” (v. 10).
- 2** “She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life” (v. 12).
- 3** “She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands” (v. 13).
- 4** “She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks” (v. 17).
- 5** “She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy” (v. 20).
- 6** “When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet” (v. 21).
- 7** “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised” (v. 30).

Caring Godly Prepared
 Hardworking Hearty Priceless
 Kind

Answers: 1. priceless, 2. kind, 3. hardworking, 4. hearty, 5. caring, 6. prepared, 7. godly

A HEART FOR Mom

Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this “heartfelt” craft. Give it to her on Mother’s Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire’s length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. With an adult’s help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that’s tied to the heart.



May 2024



BIRTHDAYS

Eleanor Stufft	5/1
Traci (Cristino) Coso	5/3
Isabelle Shreve	5/3
Samantha Williamson	5/6
Cindy Mann	5/8
Garrett Farlow	5/11
Rocco Pink	5/13
Alice Gilman	5/16
Denise Bennett	5/17
Mark Wachtel	5/20
Kaitlyn Thomas	5/27
Barbara Dean	5/27
Colleen Sidol	5/31

MEETING DATES

- Building & Grounds - Thurs., May 2 at 6:30 pm
- Hospitality Coordination Meeting - TBD
- Worship & Music - Mon., May 6 at 10:00 am
- MPW Circle - Thurs., May 9 at 7:00 pm
- Session Meeting - Wed., May 29, at 6:30 pm

COMMUNION PREPARERS

5/19 Linda & Bill Crawford



ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/4 Dennis & Tracy Wilson - 22 yrs.
- 5/15 Traci & Steve Coso - 3 yr.
- 5/29 John & Sandi Trogdon - 42 yrs.

JR. CHURCH SCHEDULE

- 5 Tammy Wilson
- 12 Angel Mackey
- 19 Renee Basic
- 26 Andrea Barnes

FLOWER SCHEDULE

- 5 Not Needed
- 12 Vickie & Rich Schumacher
- 19 Marge & Larry Boggs
- 26 Linda & Geoff Pyle

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

- 5 Not Needed
- 12 Patty Cristino
- 19
- 26 Ken Mann

COFFEE HOUR

- 5 Taco Lunch
- 12 Cindy Vaughn
- 19 Renee Basic
- 26 Chris & Ron White



May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 7:00 pm Pack Leaders (Parlor)	2 6:30 pm Bldg. & Grounds (Library)	3	4
5 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship & Work Day 11:45 Taco Lunch	6 6:30 pm Garden Club (Fel. Hall) 10:00 am Worship & Music Comm. 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den	7 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)	8 6:00 pm DAA (FH)	9 7:00 pm MPW Circle (Library)	10	11
12 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 	13 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	14 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)	15 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 6:00 to 8:00 pm Free Laundry Day	16	17	18
19 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (Communion) 	20 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	21 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)	22 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 6-8:00 pm Musk. Valley Presbytery Stated Meeting (Online)	23	24	25
26 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27 6:30 pm Community Meal (Fellowship Hall) 	28 12:30 pm - Bible Study (Library)	29 6:00 pm DAA (FH) 6:30 pm Session (Library)	30	31	