

Millcreek Community United Methodist Church
Boardman Campus
4570 Lockwood Blvd.
Youngstown, OH
44511-3799

December 2019 Volume #1 Issue #4

OFFICE HOURS: 330-782-0573

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 9 am - 2pm

The Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here!"

DECEMBER 2019



Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Fearing a foreign invasion, King Ahaz of Judah received those words from the Lord through the prophet Isaiah more than 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. At the time, they were meant to bring reassurance to him and the people of Judah that the marauding armies threatening their nation would not prevail.

Though we immediately recognize them as a reference to the virgin birth of Jesus, the people of Judah understood them somewhat differently. In chapter 9, Isaiah continues:

Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Although King Ahaz was a mighty ruler, God wanted him and the people of Judah to believe that a different kind of king, someone much more powerful than an earthly ruler, would be coming to bring the everlasting peace they sought. God wanted the people to know that the birth of Isaiah's son was to be a sign of the virgin birth of another Son, one coming to rule like no other earthly king. Above all, God wanted Ahaz and the people of Judah to know that "God is with us". And He was! Judah survived the immediate threat, and though Judah would eventually suffer earthly defeat, God remained at their side. They didn't realize it at the time, but they were a small part of His big plan to bring everlasting peace and justice to a world broken by sin.

Centuries later, the plan God has made to bring peace to creation continues. The Virgin birth of Jesus was one of many ancient prophecies that have been fulfilled, and there are greater ones to come! What a joy we have in knowing that we are part of His plan. During this Advent and Christmas season we remain confident that Immanuel has come and will never leave or forsake us. God is still with us, and we call upon His name Jesus. He is asking us to do what He asked Isaiah to do, to bring hope to the fearful and fortify the faith of the broken hearted. He is asking us to remain steadfast in our faith, especially in difficult times and ages. So when the foreign armies of our day threaten our inner peace, may we remember these words of the prophet Isaiah and speak them once again in a loud voice:

Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us! Isaiah 8:10

The greatest gift of all is Emmanuel, God with us. The greatest gift to all is Jesus. In love and joy, let us share our wonderful gift with someone this Christmas season.....

Emmanuel! Merry Christmas! Pastor Greg

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday's 10 am and Wednesday's 10:30 am at Lockwood

All information for next months Newsletter is to be submitted no later than the 15th of each month by emailing to info@millcreek.church. Please state "NEWSLETTER" in the Subject line.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CHAIN . . . A PRAYER CHAIN has been formed. Members include Judy Williams, Elizabeth Penn, Barb Childs, Roosevelt Glover, Tina Serra, Mary Floyd, Gert Marinelli, Marge Whitacre.

If you would like to have a concern placed on the prayer chain please contact one of the following:

Judy Williams	330-793-7302
Barb Childs	330-360-6796

We thank you for your support as we also pray for the needs listed in our bulletin each week.

- Judy Williams, Facilitator

MARY "MUGGS" ASHBAUGH . . . Muggs fell on Saturday, November 16th and broke her hip. She had emergency surgery and will soon be going to a skilled nursing facility to recuperate. Well wishes can be sent to her at 2150 Ronda Granada, Unit A, Laguna Woods, CA 92637.

NURSERY HELP NEEDED . . . Please see Tina Serra or Pastor Greg for information about volunteering.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 4 PM - DOWNTOWN YOUNGTOWN TREE LIGHTING . . . We will be participating in the Tree Lighting ceremony. We will be passing out "free" hot chocolate, cookies and candy canes as our December Community Outreach Project. Cookie donations for this event are appreciated. Please see Lucy Moreland-Smith or Betsy Stark.

UM WOMEN . . . Meet on November 2 and presented and approved the 2020 budget which will fund several different missions including the District Pledge. UMW members were asked to help out with two Thanksgiving dinners, one on Nov. 16 at Millcreek Community UMC, Boardman Campus and the other at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Elm Street at 6 p.m. on Nov. 22.

Next meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, December 5. Lunch will be a pot luck, and members are asked to bring a side dish.

Next up on the UMW agenda we will be participating in the pizza party at the Richard Brown location on Dec. 8 for the group home and the Christmas Cantata, "The First Noel" set for Dec. 22.

DECEMBER MISSION: We invite you to make Christmas merrier by giving gifts to residents of The Omni Manor Assisted Living and Nursing Home. The recipients are those who do not have contact with family or friends. To participate, please select a name/gift request from the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Purchase, wrap or put in a gift bag, include a Christmas card if you like. Bring the gift to the church by Sunday, December 15th.

We are also planning on singing carols at Omni Manor and Paisley House. A date is to be determined. Please see Sandy White if you would like to participate.

Looking ahead: Our January Project - We will be collecting men's, women's and children's gloves, hats and scarves for the Rescue Mission.

2019 Youngstown Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting

Millcreek Community UMC will be passing out hot chocolate and cookies during this event. Please see Betsy Stark for more information on how you can help.

Festivities begin throughout downtown at 4:00pm. The parade will commence at 6 pm. The route will begin on E. Federal Street near Champion and will finish on W. Federal Street at Symphony Place. The tree lighting will take place immediately following the parade (approximately 7:30pm), followed by pictures with Santa.

Other activities include:

- Memories of Christmas Past at the Arms Family Museum from 12:00p-4:00p
- Free admission to OH WOM! The Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology from 4:00p-7:00p
- Free Admission to Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center from 4:00p-7:00p
- Family Fun Night with the Youngstown Phantoms at 7:05p – Children 12 and under will receive a \$5 Ticket, Free 8oz Pepsi, cotton candy and popcorn
- Youngstown Holiday Flea at the DeYor Performing Arts Center from 4:00p-8:00p
- The Nutcracker by the Ballet Western Reserve at Stambaugh Auditorium at 8:00p

To sponsor or to participate in this year's parade, visit www.youngstowncityscape.com for all forms or for questions call 330-742-4040.

*Stepping Stones Through the Holidays
for children and teens
Saturday, December 7, 2019
from 10 am to 2:30 pm
at Zion Lutheran Church
3300 Canfield Road
Youngstown, OH 44511
(Snacks and lunch will be provided)*

Children & teens from 6 years to 15 years are invited to join and share ideas and feelings with each other relating to the holidays when a loved one has died. The event will include: Memory ornament, discussion and sharing, healing stones, balloon release, memory chains and much more.

*For additional information about this event, please contact Sr. Pat Fesler, HM - Grief Support Specialist at 330-792-2323
This event is sponsored by Higgins-Reardon Funeral Homes and Zion Lutheran Church.*

**Jack Peterson and Rodd Coonce
present**

Music at Madison

*1205 Elm Street
Youngstown, OH 44505*

**Cost is \$20
per person
For reservations
call
330-743-2665**

December 3rd 7:00 p.m. – Live Talk Show at the Richard Brown Event Center – First Tuesday of every month.

December 21st – Our 17th Annual Christmas Show!

January 10th, 11th, 12th "Vincent" Returns. The one man play about Vincent Van Gogh starring Rodd Coonce, written by Leonard Nimoy

Starting in January, each month Music at Madison will be a variety of songs ranging from old standards, country, Broadway, pop, etc. in order to bring even more of a variety of entertainment

We already are booking events at the new location! Weddings, anniversaries, showers, birthdays! Call Rodd. at 330-720-4597. We also offer the flowers, music, and catering! Come and see the space available for rentals!

Break Through the Darkness

**2 pm on Sunday, December 15, 2019
Zion Lutheran Church
3300 Canfield Road
Youngstown, OH 44511**

As the hustle and bustle of the holidays approach, do you find yourself unable to "Break Through the Darkness?" Attending services during the holidays can often be very emotional and painful. "Break Through the Darkness" is a non-denominational service for families and friends of loved ones who have died. This service of light, scripture, music and anointing will celebrate you, the life of your loved one, and what the holidays will mean to you without that special person at your side. We hope this service will help you find comfort, peace and healing.

**For additional information contact Sr. Pat Fesler, HM
Grief Support Specialist at 330-792-2323 or 330-792-4046.**

Nov. 30, 2019
thru
Dec. 29, 2019

Winter



Wonderland

Celebration

at Fellows Riverside Gardens
123 McKinley Ave, Youngstown, OH 44509

Tuesday - Friday 10am to 5 pm

Winter Night's
Saturday's from 10 am to 7 pm

Come enjoy the 56 trees that will be on display
along with viewing the Flower Gardens as they
will be lite up for the holiday.

There will also be activities for the little ones.

The "Rs" of ADVENT

Come Worship With Us
Every Sunday in December
at 9 am & 11 am



Sunday, December 1 - Readiness

Mathew 24: 36-44

Sunday, December 8 - Repentance

Mathew 3: 1-12

Sunday, December 15 - Relationship

Mathew 11: 2-11

Sunday, December 22 - 11 am Service

Christmas Cantata

"The First Noel"

Tuesday, December 24 - Routine

5:00 PM

Candle Light Service

Mathew 1: 18-25



MCCUMC LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 05, 2019

ATTENDANCE:	Pastor Greg Calko	Susan Justice	Cynthia Renner	Cheryl Viola
Barbara Beach	Don Mathews	Hope Sabanick	Penny Wells	Steve Easter
Tina Serra	Sandy White	James Hovell	Karen Myers	Betsy Stark
Elaine Williams	Barb Hubler	Diane Redfern	Bill Stillson	LK Williams
Lucy Moreland-Smith				

PASTOR GREG opened the meeting with a prayer.

FINANCE: Finance report given. August income low due to first week of giving was still separated by former churches. September and October shows 2 full months of giving. September had higher expenses than August and due to annual subscriptions being paid. Alta school reimburses ½ of heating and snowplowing costs Final apportionment numbers have been handed down from conference. Pastor Greg expressed that we need to be conscientious about paying these apportionments because we are a new church and need to show that we are viable. These numbers will be added to the budget. A discussion about the RB Event Center's income and expenses suggested that Penny Wells could prepare a separate income statement from the Event Center if it is needed to keep separate from MCCUMC. No conclusion was drawn. Investments are to remain as they are until it is determined how best to invest.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Estimates to a complete tear from the sanctuary from 2 different companies, AIM and Mulholland. AIM - \$14,850.00, Sanctuary and \$7,690.00, Fellowship Hall for a total of \$22,540.00. This is for 50-year shingles with a limited lifetime warranty and they can do it now. Mulholland - \$12,390.00, Sanctuary and no estimate for Fellowship Hall. They would have to wait until Spring for an estimate on Fellowship Hall. It was decided to go with AIM as it can be done immediately because of not wanting to go through the winter.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Pledge cards and new membership cards will be mailed out and are to be returned no later than the 2nd week of December. Online donations using APLOS and PayPal were discussed. Hope is going to research to see if APLOS has a phone application that guests can use if they would like to contribute. APLOS has no additional fee for using the online donation but fees are applied to each donation given. A decision was not made at this time. It was also discussed that we need 1 or 2 people from each service to announce the Stewardship Campaign.

GRANT FROM DISTRICT UNION: James Hovell went to the District Union with an application for a grant for a Youth Director. We have been approved for \$5,000.00 to put towards the Youth Director's salary. We only have 1 year in which to obtain this money.

SURPLUS ITEMS: Disposal of surplus items from former churches was revisited. A suggestion that we place an ad in the District Newsletter or selling via an auction. Hymnals will be taken to the Rescue Mission.

CENTENARY PARSONAGE: Has been sold. Proceeds from the sale will be sent to the Conference to pay for arrearages of healthcare and pensions. Richard Brown's arrearages are paid from the sale of the parsonage.

MISSION, OUTREACH, VISION: The difference in mission, outreach and vision was discussed. MISSION is sharing the gospel and meeting the needs of the people. OUTREACH is telling people who we are, why we are here and what we are about. VISION is us knowing where we want to be and coming up with a game plan.

Cheryl Viola reported on the 1st Mission Team meeting held on October 29th. Nine people attended the meeting. It was decided that the Mission Team would meet the 3rd Tuesday each month at 6 pm. Penny Wells will handle the money.

The November Mission is on November 22nd with our participation at the First Unitarian Universalist Church 's dinner and Decembers Mission is Christmas gifts for those at Omni Manor Nursing Home who have no family and gifts to families in need.

Betsy Stark reported on Outreach projects. October's Trunk or Treat was considered a success. November and December will be Fellows Riverside Gardens Christmas tree decorating, writing messages on Christmas cards to be taken to Fellows on November 25th at 2 pm. We will also be preparing OUTREACH Bags for the students of ALTA.

HOSPITALITY: There was a discussion on creating a Welcome Center. Holy Grounds Café is asking for helpers to prepare and cleanup on Sunday mornings with preparation beginning around 9:20 am and cleanup at 10:45 am. Please consider helping. It is a good time for Fellowship with "Name That Hymn", "Characters of the Bible" and sometimes a hymn sing. Dave Shaffer and Gina Korp would like to start a "Messy Church" night.

WORSHIP: "Hanging of the Greens" will be on Sunday, November 24th after the 11 am service. Pizza will be served. December 22nd we will have our Christmas Cantata, "The First Noel". There will be a potluck luncheon after.

CHERYL VIOLA CLOSED THE MEETING IN PRAYER.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY BETSY STARK.

MILLCREEK COMMUNITY
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

presents our first

Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 22, 2019
during our 11 am service**

THE FIRST NOEL

We will still have a 9 am Service this day.

Singing

Singing

and

MORE

Singing