

Millcreek Community United Methodist Church
Boardman Campus
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Youngstown, OH
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January 2020 Volume #1 Issue #5

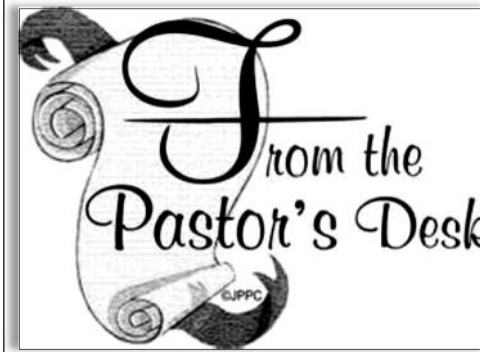
OFFICE HOURS: 330-782-0573

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 9 am - 2pm

The ♥ Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here!"

JANUARY 2020



Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne? Those questions from the Scottish ballad traditionally sung at 12:00 AM on New Year Day are worth considering as we begin the year 2020 together. The start of a new year is a great time to reflect upon the past and thank God for His grace and blessings. It is also a traditional time to resolve to make positive changes in our lives. It wouldn't hurt most of us to promise ourselves to

eat less and pray and read our Bible more and exercise our soul every Sunday morning in worship! But rather than make a list of resolutions we will quickly forget (*Auld Lang Syne?*), it will be better to begin a list of the new things God will bless us with this year.

Thus, says the Lord: "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

Those words recorded by the prophet Isaiah remind us that God is always up to something new, something good, something different. God routinely does the impossible, the unimaginable and the improbable, and the new things God will do for us this year will be even better than those we enjoyed in 2019. Every single day of 2020, God will bless us in some way with some thing or someone. And every one of those blessings will be too good to forget. So rather than making our usual "grocery list" of things we want from God, let's do something better this year. Let's do something new and begin a "blessing list" of the things God does for us. And on those days when everything seems to be going wrong, those days when our emotions and sinful nature threaten to gain a foothold on our faith, turn to that list and be reassured that God loves us. And then add that to our list!

Should old times be forgotten? Only those times when we fell short and missed the blessings God had intended for us. Regret is a tool of the enemy, and there is no better time to take it away from him than now. Let us forget the sins of the past, whether they be our own or those of someone else. As we enjoy the new blessings that lie ahead, may we never forget the greatest blessing of all, our faith in Jesus. I pray it will remain at the top of your list and mine every day!

Praying for our best year together with Him yet....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.

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

SUNDAY, January 5 . . . 10 am Bible Study, **EPIPHANY SUNDAY, COMMUNION SUNDAY, & 11 AM BAPTISM**

MONDAY, January 6 at 6 PM . . . 9 am Praise Team Practice

TUESDAY, January 7 at 6:30 PM . . . 11 am Praise Team Practice

WEDNESDAY, January 8 . . . 10:30 am Bible Study, 11:30 am Undecorating of the Church

THURSDAY, January 9 . . . 12 pm - UMW Meeting & 7 pm Choir Practice

SATURDAY, January 11 . . . 10 am - LEADERSHIP MEETING

SUNDAY, January 12 . . . Baptism of the Lord & 10 am Bible Study

MONDAY, January 13 at 6 PM . . . 9 am Praise Team Practice

WEDNESDAY, January 15 . . . 10:30 am Bible Study, 12:30 pm Choir Practice &
NEWSLETTER INFORMATION IS DUE FOR FEBRUARY

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

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

1st 2020 PRAYER VIGIL . . . There will be an opportunity to participate in the first 18-hour prayer vigil to usher in the New Year of mission and ministry for Millcreek Community UMC. The vigil will take place on Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 6 am to midnight. A sign-up sheet for 15 minute prayer slots will be available in the Narthex between December 29th and January 5th. For more information or questions please see Judy Williams or Diane Redfern.

MISSION TEAM - THANK YOU . . . The Mission Team would like to thank all who participated in giving gifts to Omni Manor residents. The blankets were received with great appreciation from Selina, Activities Director. She was so impressed by your generosity above and beyond the number of blankets which we were asked to provide. The gifts for those in assisted living were also gratefully received. My husband, Bud and I watched as one woman opened her very large teddy bear. She was so overwhelmed by receiving the bear that she gave it many hugs and squeezes. It seemed that she loved the Christmas card even more. It was a very joyful day!

Many thanks, Sandy White

The Mission Team will be collecting gloves, scarves, hats and mittens for the Rescue Mission this month. Please place your donations in the box outside the sanctuary entrance. Thank you to those who have already donated!

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING . . . January 11, 2019 at 10 am.

January Prayer Calendar

Jan 26 - Heavenly Father our hearts exalt you on this holy day. We lift our songs up to you in praise and thanksgiving. You are our strength and shield and our hearts trust in you. Psalm 28:7. May your praises be continually on our lips as we reflect our true feelings of our hearts. We worship you this day. Psalm 34:1 NLT. Hebrews 13:15.

Jan 27 - Great God who has proved to be a faithful Father to us. We pray to trust and rely on You. Help us to seek only affirmation and encouragement that comes from You as God's child. Psalm 103:13. We seek your blessing and claim Your promises in our lives. Matthew 7:11, Galatians 4:7. Our prayer today is to lead us to someone who also needs to know this heavenly relationship here on earth and God's great love for them. Psalm 68:5. Matthew 6:26.

Jan 28 - Everlasting God we thank you for our eternal salvation for us. Our keeping and staying power is now in us through Christ. Colossians 1:27. We thank you for the shaping of our lives and preserving us with your daily grace. Romans 8:29. He is able to keep you from stumbling and present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Colossians 1:22. We pray to claim these promises and share our testimony of God's saving and staying power in our lives.

Jan 29 - Heavenly Father we pray to live our lives as if the Lord were to be beside us at all times-because indeed He is. May we simply share the love of God, the concept of forgiveness and kindness. Let others see our light shine before them. Matthew 5:16. We thank you Lord for the light that shines in our hearts to give us the light of knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Cor. 4:6 NLT.

Jan 30 - Giver of Life we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to stay connected to the True Vine. We pray to be the branches that bear the fruit of Christ to others as we go forward in our faith. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15. We can do all things in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit who provides our attachment to the Vine to accomplish His purpose in our hearts and lives. John 15:5. Philippians 4:13.

Jan 31 - Sustaining God may we cast our cares upon you this day. Psalm 55:22. When reality sets in and the world feels like it is pressing down hard upon us, help us to keep looking up. Our hope and staying power is only in You and comfort from the Holy Spirit. You are the ever present help in time of need, giving peace and comfort. Father as we walk closer to you, may others see Christ in us and our help and hope and living grace. Psalm 33:20-22. Hebrews 4:16. 1 Peter 5:10.

**FREE
JANUARY, 18th
4:30 pm - 6 pm**



Community Meal

January Prayer Calendar

Jan 13 - Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us today. Isaiah 44:3. May we be encouraged in our spiritual walk. Psalm 23. When the enemy comes in Your Spirit will lift up the standard against him. Isaiah 59:19. May we be in awe and reverence as we accomplish Your purpose in our lives. Lead us into a deeper prayer life, fasting and seeking your word drawing ever closer to you. James 4:8.

Jan 14 - Heavenly Father we thank you for our eternal glory we look forward to through Christ dwelling in us. Colossians 1:27. We see Your Holy radiance and exact imprint of your nature in Christ. We are the heirs of Christ waiting on our eternal home. Romans 8:17. The universe is upheld by the power of Your word and we can put our lives and trust in You. All honor and majesty belongs to You. We glorify Your holy name. Hebrews 1:1-6.

Jan 15 - God of Grace we thank you for your great gift of salvation through grace. Just as you have saved us through grace, may we also live by grace. 2 Timothy 2:1. Holy Spirit, grant us your strength to show grace and kindness to others even when circumstances may seem overwhelming. May we be thoughtful and courteous to others. Psalm 27. Be the light of Christ shining on the darkness. Do a random act of kindness today.

Jan 16 - God of Light we pray to have the light of Christ shine through us today in our life so that others will get a glimpse of Your character and love. 1Thessalonians 4:1-12. We pray for opportunities to share His truth and show them to the way of eternal hope through salvation in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Jan 17 - Great Redeemer has provided forgiveness for all our sins and now we are all redeemed, we praise you today. Luke 1:68. Let us shout it from our hearts. Psalm 107:1-3. Our mission is to freely share the life-changing message of salvation with those who desperately need to hear it. We pray to move forward in unity as a church and further the kingdom work in our community. Bind our hearts together in love for one another as we share the goodness and grace of God to others.

Jan 18 - Plentiful God today we put our faith into action. As we prepare our community dinner we pray to not just meet the physical needs of our guests, but touch their spirits. May we as a church reflect God's love to our guests. May the hands that prepare the food, those who serve and clean up do all this unto your glory and holy name. May we present Christ as if He were seated at our table beside us. Matthew 25:35-36,40. Romans 12:9-13.

Jan 19 - God of Heaven one day we will worship you face to face before your heavenly throne. We have been transformed from eternal death into eternal life through Your giving of Your Son Jesus Christ. 1John 3:14. We worship You in song and praise as we lift our hearts unto You. We gather and unite as one in believers welcoming Your Holy Spirit in our presence among us. Matthew 18:20. Glory be to God in the highest.

Jan 20 - Heavenly Father our calling as a believer is in You, not something such as our career, or even someone else. May our agenda be guided and directed by You as we lay our own desires down. Help us daily to see the greater needs of others more than ourselves. Matthew 16:24. We pray for grace and courage as we live. Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly. We pray for strength and true commitment to be revealed when trials come our way. They will know we are Christians by our love. John 13:35.

Jan 21 - "O God, make us willing to do your will, come what may. Increase the numbers of persons of good will and moral sensitivity. Give us renewed confidence in nonviolence and the way of love as taught by Christ. Amen." (P. 119) Adapted from "Thou, Dear God", Prayers That Open Hearts and Spirits, The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr., edited by Lewis V. Baldwin (Beacon Press, 2014) We remember Dr. King today and celebrate the life he lived.

Jan 22 - Holy Spirit we thank you for our spiritual gifts that you have given to each one of us. May use our gifts to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1Peter 4:10. We thank you as we grow in grace our gifts grow in their magnitude and usefulness. May our gifts continue to manifest themselves when we empty ourselves and seek to live for Jesus Christ. We pray God to use us in different ways according to our gift we have been given. Holy Spirit, work through us in the love of God. 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11.

Jan 23 - Loving God we thank you for giving us your Son who became flesh and blood. For only humans could he know death. Then by his dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Hebrews 2:14. Thank you Christ for defeating death at your first coming and we look for your second coming to bring things to full fruition in the kingdom of heaven. Hebrews 2:5-18 NIV.

Jan 24 - Heavenly Father, create in us a clean heart filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Psalm 51:10. We pray to have a clean mind that will produce the right desires and habits. May our right habits produce a life of joy and power that is pleasing to You. Our prayer is to live a life in the light of His power and purpose and good character. Think about these things; what is true, pure, noble, right, lovely, praiseworthy and admirable. Philippians 4:8 NIVB.

DECEMBER OUTREACH – RECAP

Happy New Year from the Outreach Team. "What are we doing next and who are we doing it with?" is our motto for the Outreach Team.

To recap 2019. . . It was an exciting seed planting season for MCCUMC. Following are just a few activities we participated in:

- We distributed 600 copies of the gospel of Mark to local area high school students at the annual, "See You at The Pole" prayer vigil.
- Trunk or Treat mas us aware of the children in our surrounding neighborhood and new ministry opportunities for MCCUMC.
- We celebrated with the city of "YOU" in the Christmas Parade and tree lighting in downtown Youngstown by providing 300 cups of coffee, hot chocolate, cookies and candy canes free to onlooker extending the love of Christ in friendship to others.
- 500 pocket crosses with information cards were passed out between November and December 2019 at our "Welcome Table", Community Dinner, AA and in our Christmas cards at Fellows Riverside Gardens Holiday Festival of Trees.
- 350 Christmas cards were written by our members and passed out with our church information to the community at our Christmas Tree display at Fellows Riverside Gardens along with handmade ornaments which represented God's wonderful love to those who visited the gardens.

"Love Works Here!" We can't stop now!

The 1st Outreach Team Meeting for 2020 will be on January 11th at 12 pm. We will be planning our Outreach calendar for the new year. All are welcome as we start our new seed planting season and new ideas.

We pray to have "2020 vision" as we seek Gods direction for the MCCUMC. Onward and upward for His Kingdom work in the new year.

Be a blessing to someone today!

"What are we doing next and who are we doing it with?" Do something!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Barry Ervin

Eleanor Ramson

Georgia Witt

Gertrude Roche

Gloria Finkley (shut-in)

Gordon & Rose Milliken

Irene Wagner

Jim Lottier's cousins who are battling severe health issues

John & Dorothy Kaglic (shut-in)

Juanita Pasley (shut-in)

The Family of Kevin Chizmar (Louise Easter's Brother)

Marge Whitacre

Muggs Ashbaugh

P. Mae White

Pastor Susan Brown (Pastor Jerry Kruger's Wife)

Penny Hiller & family

Richard Boston (shut-in)

Ruth Mattern (Penny's Sister-in-Law)

Stella James

Terry (Dawn Crosby's Brother)

Verna Wylie

Vicky LaCivita (Pam Boston's Sister)

MCCUMC LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 3, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Greg Calko Susan Justice Hope Sabanick
 Penny Wells Steve Easter James Hovell
 Betsy Stark Elaine Williams Barb Hubler
 Bill Stilson LK Williams

PASTOR GREG opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer

OLD BUSINESS: Contract was signed for the roofers with a darker color being preferred. All banking accounts have been consolidated. We are still looking at investments. There is still a lot to be resolved. Centenary Parsonage has been sold. Looking to net around \$56,000 and clear the slate. All utilities except EOG cancelled. Richard Brown arrearages have been paid.

FINANCE: Came up with a budget deficit of \$52,300 (cut expenses or increase giving). Passed out hand-out.

Questions regarding the following came up: Membership & Shut-In List

We have a tentative list for a blanket mailing for stewardship. (presence, prayers, gifts & finances) Sell bulletin ads to members of the congregation who own businesses. If you cut expenses, we don't want to cut ministry. Cause and effect. Hold for further discussions.

Flowers:
Funeral: \$125 cap
Who do we send flowers to? If funeral is here. . .

Development for Youth Ministry need budget amount (connect with Doc Harshbarger before February).

What have we done to support annual conference asked by Steve, make a new policy?

A meeting with Brian Scheetz is scheduled for December 4th at 1 pm.

ADMINISTRATION: E giving. Go to website to donate. This will take you to an online giving with checking preferred with a 1% fee. Text to give for visitors, a one-time gift or recurring gift and missions. APLOS Text Giving handout was distributed.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Tree is still in front yard. Selling extra electric piano for \$300. 2 brown rugs for \$16. Barb Beach put a notice in the District newsletter.

MISSION, OUTREACH, VISION:

Mission: Nursing home – meeting a need somewhere and spiritually.
Outreach: Getting our name and who we are out in the community
Vision: Where are we going to be in 6 months; Youth ministry

MISCELLANEOUS:

Have a planning meeting in January for 6 months – suggested by Penny
Pam Raidel from HSL – play for dinners; we feed them; Youngstown Community Band.
Meal after Cantata – need someone to head it up. Put sign-up out for salad, dessert and casserole.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY BETSY STARK.

Typed by Debbie Myers

January Prayer Calendar

Jan 1 - Our God of All Eternity we seek you this day with our whole hearts. Help us to be secure in your eternal plan and purpose for our lives. May we believe in your path for our lives. We walk in your name with a sincere, faithful and repenting heart. May we continue to seek you with our whole heart in this fresh and upcoming New Year. Jeremiah 29:11-13. 3 John 1:2 Happy New Year.

Jan 2 - Ever Present God, we thank you for being a "with us" God. Things and people change and shift around us, but God, you never change. Malachi 3:6. Hebrews 13:8. During the past year you have allowed things in our lives, good and hard, to remind us how much we need you. May we continue to rely on your presence filling us with your Holy Spirit to give us new strength daily. Philippians 4:13. You are our portion and our strength. Psalm 73:25-26. Isaiah 40:29-31.

Jan 3 - God of Grace we thank you for sending the Messiah to restore the relationship between heaven and every person from every nation on Earth. Titus 2:11 Revelation 7:9-13. Jesus Christ was that man. He fulfilled every requirement and His sacrifice unlocked every promise of God. Making them all available to all who believe The Good News! The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10.

Jan 4 - God of Love we thank you for your unconditional and unfailing love. 1 John 4:16. You are faithfully present and care about our every detail of our lives. Romans 5:8-9. We thank you for satisfying the deepest longings of our souls. Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV. You enable us to love ourselves and frees us to love others. May we share this great love today with others no matter where we go or what we are doing. Help us to live our lives as a trophy of your grace. Romans 8:38-39.

Jan 5 - Heavenly Father today we pray to be passionate followers of Jesus. Use us to help others find joy and purposeful living through deeper intimacy with God. Order our steps today with your direction and path. Psalm 37:23. Here is our life, our talents and gifts to do with as you please. May others see your reflection in us. We offer ourselves up to you as a living sacrifice. Romans 12:1. Bless all those who come in our path today. Proverbs 11:25-26.

Jan 6 - God of Grace as we partake in Holy Communion today remembering the sacrifice Christ made for our atonement. 1 Corinthians 10:16. Help us to solemnly do our part in consecration unto You and to your service. We give thanks for the bread and the cup and do this until You come again. We celebrate You, our hope and future. 1 Corinthians 11:23-31. John 6:53-58.

Jan 7 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6. Merry Christmas to all those who are celebrating the birth of Christ today. Merry Christmas! Good Tiding of great Joy.

Jan 8 - God of All Time help us to make a special time each day with You. May we cease from our activities, and draw from the inner strength that only comes from being in your presence. Holy Spirit, supply us with guidance as we open our hearts unto You. May we learn to trust in you as we move forward in obedience and not depend upon ourselves. We thank you for the inward strength that is found only in you to face life's challenges in quietness and trust. Proverbs 3:5-8. NIV.

Jan 9 - God of Endless Grace we thank you for letting us receive Your limitless flow of grace through faith and the completed work of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:7. Measureless grace by no merit of ours! Ephesians 2:8-9. Your limitless mercy and grace is here to help us meet the challenges of our day whenever we have need of it. Help us as believers to draw near to You in confidence and receive all You have to give. We pray for our neighbors and friends who have yet to receive the most important gift in their lives. Hebrews 4:16.

Jan 10 - Heavenly Father we thank you for Your transforming power within our hearts and lives. You change our nature from the inside out. We pray to have obedient hearts as your spirit indwells within our very beings. Ezekiel 36:26-27 NCV. We are still pestered with temptation, but it will not master over us through the power of your Holy Spirit within us. He who has started a good work in you will be faithful to complete it. Philippians 1:5.

Jan 11 - Spirit of God today we pray to not get caught up in traditions and heavy church rituals that falsely claim as necessary elements of our Christian faith. May we walk in your true spirit and not in the flesh. Romans 8:14. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. Thank you for the leading of your Spirit that will never direct us into something that conflicts with Your word. Galatians 3:1-4.

Jan 12 - Great Shepherd we thank you for the earthly shepherds you have placed over your children who will feed us with the knowledge and understanding of your word. We intercede for our Pastor Greg Calko to teach your unadulterated word of God with power and anointing. We pray for angels to cover and protect his leadership as we your church press on in the kingdom work here on earth. Colossians 1:9. James 5:16. Ephesians 6:18. 1 Timothy 2:1. 2 Thessalonians 3:1. Philippians 1:9-11.