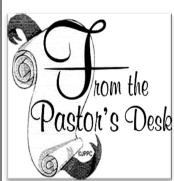
The Seat Newsletter

"Love Works Here"

APRIL



How quickly things can change. Last year at this time, the Millcreek Community UM Church was still known as YUMTEAM. We were four struggling churches, trusting God to lead us into the wilderness of merger and change. Eight months ago, one leg of our wandering journey ended with a series of charge conferences where we voted to leave the wilderness and enter a promised land of new beginning. We formed a new church, chose a new name and asked God for continued guidance and vision. Our prayers were answered! There aston's Desk have been some setbacks and bumps along the way, but there is no doubt we have been richly blessed with grace and love. We have a strong faith and a resolve to work together to overcome the

2020

temptations and ways of the world.

Five weeks ago we began the Lenten season, preparing ourselves for a season of prayer, fasting and penitence. Plans were made for Messy Church on Thursday

evenings, Lenten devotions on Wednesday evenings, a Palm Sunday service, a Maundy Thursday service, a Good Friday service, and two Easter Sunday services to celebrate the resurrection. And just when we finished putting those important events on our church calendar, a worldwide health crisis like we have never seen or experienced before forced us to change those plans and others. Our lives, our families and perhaps even our church will never be the same.

The lesson for us individually and as a church is that even the most well thought out plans often require adjustments and modifications along the way. It matters not whether we are working through a four- church merger or planning our Sunday worship hour or Lenten or Holy Week observances. There are times when we must be willing to set aside our preferences, set aside our supposedly well thought out plans and allow God to lead us where He would have us go. We have a choice to go willingly or be left behind kicking and screaming. Neither option is easy, but one results in blessing while the other

ultimately results in loneliness and separation.

During these next several months, it will be critical for us to remain focused on our ministry at Millcreek. One of the ways we can do that is to stay in communication with each other. A new church directory is included with this newsletter with

information that will help us make phone calls and send cards and letters of encouragement to each other. We are now video recording our Sunday worship hour and other special services. If you have internet access, you can access them on our

website, www.millcreek.church, Facebook page and YouTube channel (search for Millcreek Community UM Church). If you need help in finding them or if you don't have access to the internet, please call the church. We will do our best to help you become "digitally connected" or mail you a DVD of those services every week.

I thank each of you for your patience, for your faith and especially for your generosity during this critical time in the life of the church. I am so thankful for each person who has chosen to go willingly into this new Promised Land. I pray that we will find blessing and encouragement along the way and continue to learn and grow together.

Keep the faith! Pastor Greg



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

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, Don Mathews, Diane Redfern, Tina Serra, Mary Floyd, Gert Marinelli, Leslie Fitzgerald. If you would like to have a concern placed on the prayer chain please contact one of the following:

Judy Williams

ams 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

MESSY CHURCH... Thursday nights from 6 pm to 7 pm. This will be a meeting consisting of family friendly fun, food and fellowship. The evening will start with a quick game or craft, followed by a simple meal of soup or sandwiches, and ending with a hymn or devotional. Bring a friend! We will be inviting the community to join us and learn about who we are and what our plans are for the community at large. Your assistance is welcomed. Contact Gina Korp for more information at 330-397-5212.

<u>UMW Upcoming events</u>: The rummage sale *will NOT be held* on May 14/15. This is TBA. The UMW would like the Outreach team involved in this sale. UMW Sunday is April 18; the spring district meeting at West Austintown UMC was to be on April 22 (*note: was this changed to the 26th?), and ladies carpooling should meet by 9 a.m.; Overeaters Anonymous meetings will be on Monday's at 6 p.m.

***All meetings/activities are subject to cancellation and/or rescheduling because of our ongoing community health concerns. ***

CHURCH CALENDAR

April 1 - 10:30 am - Bible Study; 12:30 pm - Music Team Practice; 6 pm - Lenten Bible Study at Western Reserve UMC April 2 - 12 pm - UMW Mtg; 6 pm - Praise Team Practice; 7 pm - Music Team Practice; 6 pm - Messy Church

April 4 - 10 am - Leadership Team Meeting

April 5 - PALM SUNDAY; 10 am - Bible Study; 11 am - Praise Team; 6 pm - 9:30 pm Sunday Night AA

April 6 - 6 pm - Power Hour Praise Team Practice

April 8 - 10:30 am - Bible Study; 12:30 pm - Music Team Practice; 6 pm - Lenten Bible Study at Western Reserve UMC

April 9 - HOLY THURSDAY; 7 pm - Music Team Practice; 6 pm - Messy Church

April 10 - GOOD FRIDAY

April 12 - EASTER SUNDAY; 10 am - Bible Study; 6 pm - 9:30 pm Sunday Night AA

April 13 - 6 pm - Power Hour Praise Team Practice

April 14 - 6:30 pm - Mission Mtg

April 15 - 10:30 am - Bible Study; 12:30 pm - Music Team Practice

April 16 - 7 pm - Music Team Practice; 6 pm - Messy Church

April 19 - 10 am - Bible Study; 6 pm - 9:30 pm Sunday Night AA

April 20 - 6 pm - Power Hour Praise Team Practice

April 22 - EARTH DAY; 10:30 am - Bible Study; 12:30 pm - Music Team Practice

April 23 - 7 pm - Music Team Practice; 6 pm - Messy Church

April 24 - NATIONAL ARBOR DAY

April 25 - FREE COMMUNITY DINNER; 4:30 pm - 6 pm

April 26 - 10 am - Bible Study; 2 pm SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE @ Western Reserve UMC; 6 pm - 9:30 pm Sunday Night AA

April 27 - 6 pm - Power Hour Praise Team Practice

April 28 - Food Truck Delivery at RB Event Center. Help is needed to unload. Please see Penny Wells or Karen Myers.

April 29 - 8 am - Food Truck Distribution at Richard Brown Event Center. See Penny Wells or Karen Myers; 10:30 am -Bible Study; 12:30 pm - Music

Team Practice

April 30 - 6 pm - Praise Team Practice; 7 pm - Music Team Practice; 6 pm - Messy Church

Check our website at www.millcreek.church for updates regarding services and other happenings at the church.

The SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 26th at 2:30 pm at Western Reserve UMC.

APRIL BIRTHDAY's	18th - Linda Taylor
	19th - Quincy Penn & Sterling Glover
1st - Sue Springer	20th - Muggs Ashbaugh & Becky Willis
4th - Jim Lowe	23rd - Cindy Renner
8th - Logan Poulakos	24th - Terry Crosby
10th - Mike Headlee	25th - Marilynn Makar
14th - Barbara Zautner	28th - Shawna Rohrman
16th - Kurt Resch	29th - Jane Frederick

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Barry Ervin Georgia Witt Gordon & Rose Milliken Irene Wagner Louise & Steve Easter Marge Whitacre Muggs Ashbaugh P. Mae White Pat Charity & Clara Charity Penny Hiller & family Ray Mercado & Family **Ron Miller** Ruth Mattern (Penny's Sister-in-Law) Terry (Dawn Crosby's Brother) Terry Crosby's Friend's wife (Mrs. McFarland) Tracy (Henry's Step-Sister) Verna Wylie Vicky LaCivita (Pam Boston's Sister) Woody Anderson

Overeaters Anonymous

Will be meeting on Monday's from 6 pm -7 pm in the Parlor. All are welcome to attend.

Gloria Finkley (shut-in)

Juanita Pasley (shut-in)

John & Dorothy Kaglic - c/o Omni Manor, 3245 Vestal Road, Youngstown, OH 44509

Florence Marsteller - c/o Hampton Woods, 1525 E. Western Reserve Rd., # 202, Poland, OH 44514

Esther McClain - c/o Shepherd of the Woods, 1500 McKinley Ave., Niles, OH 44446

Doris Neal - c/o Arbor at Fairlawn, 5755 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd., Fairlawn, OH 44333

Gertrude Roche - c/o The Inn At Christine Valley, 3150 S. Schenley Ave., Youngstown, OH 44511

MCCUMC LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Bill Stilson Barb Hubler Barbara Beach

Pastor Greg Calko Betsy Stark Dr. Hovell Lenora Jefferson David Shaffer LK Williams Elaine Williams Gina Gorp Don Mathews Susan Justice Hope Sabanick Diane Redfern

Pastor Greg opened with a prayer and devotion.

OLD MINUTES: Approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: Pastor Greg talked about the purpose of the Mission Fund. Mission is defined as meeting a physical need (PG)

- Apportionments are being paid monthly.
- All bills are currently paid and up to date.
- All Stock certificates have been located and are going to be transferred to the foundation. Once this has been completed, all old church information will be closed out.

SPRC: Completed the job description for Music Director (Karen Myers) and will continue to work on job descriptions for other paid staff. We will also do one for a youth leader.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Per Bill Stilson (Boardman Campus) :

- The Sanctuary will be painted before Easter, ceiling fans will be removed.
- The outside entrance lights will be replaced.
- The closet in the hallway will be removed and the coat rack will be placed there.
- Hope received estimates on painting.
- Altar AC unit needs repaired.
- Pastor Greg's office will become the prayer room and his office will be moved to the Parlor.
- The spare classroom will become the new Multi-purpose Room.
- There was discussion of the many benefits of a prayer room.
- Plans to update the Chancel area will be discussed soon.
- We need to bring our church into a "new look" to match our new mission.
- Need quotes for new carpet and windows for the multi-purpose room. Decorating the new room will be led by Lenora. Barbara Beach suggested Budget Blinds. Gina commented on getting a "younger look."
- David commented on the age of the congregation and the heaviness of the doors. Suggested handicap button. Pastor Greg is already looking into handicap doors and openers along with updates to the entrance doors.

RB Event Center: We are getting quotes for the replacement of the storm windows and the frames painted.

MISSION/WORSHIP:

Mission

- We currently have \$11,000 in the Mission Fund. Signers on the Mission Fund Account are Susan Justice, Penny Wells and Cindy Renner.
- Messy Church send postcards out
- Facebook Page like and share
- Alta & AA outreach programs
- Overeaters Anonymous Will meet at MCCUMC beginning March 16 at 6 pm with the focus on "Eating for the wrong reasons." (LK)
- Prayer Bear Ministry We are out of bears. More are needed to continue this ministry. You can find bears at the dollar stores reasonably priced.
- Youth Minister job description is being worked on

Worship

- Podcast Ministry, etc. will be put on the website
- Retreat Feedback
- Easter week service discussed
- Suggested a continental breakfast between services, 9 am to 10 am
- Barbara Beach Pastor Greg updated directory and membership list
- David reminded us to stay on track even when we fail. Continue to start again in our self-denial and focus on Christ.
- Video Ministry was discussed

Barbara Beach closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Stark

Typed by Debbie Myers

OLD BUSINESS: None.

MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Apr 10 - Great Redeemer who gave Your life on Calvary, we thank you. A love that will not let us go, paid through the suffering, shed blood, and cost of Your earthly life. 1 Peter 1:3. We now have an eternal home in heaven with you. John 11:25-26. We thank you for the finished sacrifice of the cavalry's brutal cross and for taking our place. Isaiah 53:5-8. We are forgiven, healed and set free. Romans 10:9.

Apr 11 - Great Redeemer, who redeemed us from the curse of the law Galatians 3:13, we praise you for the completed work on the cross. Galatians 3:13. "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-even death on a cross." Philippians 2:8. For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:28.

Apr 12 - Happy Easter! "Oh death where is thy victory, oh grave where is thy sting. The chains of death could not hold our Lord, He is risen!" 1 Corinthians 15:55-57. Christ the Lord is risen today. Luke 24:6-7. John 3:16-17.

Apr 13 - God of Peace, that comes only through you. May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and minds today. We are called to peace in Christ as members of one body. Let the message of Christ dwell among us as we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in our hearts. Colossians 3:15-16, NIV.

Apr 14 - God of Wisdom, we thank you that we are able to ask for wisdom and you give it to us freely. James 1:5. Your wisdom is pure and peace-loving and full of mercy. Fill us with considerate and impartial wisdom, sincere and submissive to bring forth good fruit. We pray to be peacemakers who sow in peace to raise a harvest of righteousness in your holy wisdom. James 3:17-18.

Apr 15 - Author and Finisher of our faith we look to you today for strength and guidance. Hebrews 12:2. In the disruptive moments of our lives help us remember you are always doing a new thing in our life to bring honor and glory to You. We pray to lean into the power of your hope in our moments of transition. You have started a good work in us and will be faithful to complete it. Philippians 1:6.

Apr 16 - Heavenly Father we practice today our spiritual act of worship as we present ourselves to you. We pray to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto you. Romans 12:1-3. We pray to not be conformed to this world and allow our hearts and minds to be renewed in your Holy Spirit daily. We pray to be yielded to Christ as an instrument of righteousness as a testimony of God's great love for us, to others. Romans 6:12-13.

Apr 17 - God of all Time, help us to cherish the gift of life and time you have given to us to love and serve you here on earth. Psalm 139:13-16. Jeremiah 1:5a. Help us to plan our work around our day instead of our day around our work. Psalm 16:11. We pray to prioritize our day and seek you first in all we do and say. Teach us Lord to number our days and walk wisely before you. Psalm 90:12. Colossians 4:5.

Apr 18 - God our Creator, we are created in your image. You made us in an amazing and wonderful way. Psalm 139:14. Help us not to listen to the lies of the world and others. We are your handiwork, created in Christ to do good works, which God our maker has prepared in advance, for us to do. Ephesians 2:10, NIV We are God's masterpiece. We pray to give ourselves to Christ, that we may use our gifts given to us to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10.

Apr 19 - God our refuge, we have our security in You. Our lives are beneath the shelter and in the shadow of your wings. We thank you for being our fortress, shield, deliverer, rescue and satisfaction. We claim the power, presence, intentions, protection and covering that you speak to us in your Holy Word against fear. Psalm 91. In the wonderful name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Apr 20 - God our Helper, we pray for those who have been abused or are recovering from domestic violence. We pray they will learn to trust in you and not feel abandoned. Hebrews 10:39. We pray for people to come forth in their lives and lead them to safety, and a way to start healing and a new life. May they find the emotional support in brothers and sisters in Christ. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. Help them to see a new future free from the oppression they have suffered. Jeremiah 29:11.

MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Apr 21 - Righteousness God as we follow Christ, help us not to live as a slave to sin, but to live as a slave to righteousness. Romans 6:18. The Holy Spirit convicts us when we get bossy or start complaining or even running ahead of You working in our lives. Ephesians 2:8. Remind us that our flesh needs put down because we are bound to Christ and He is our Master. When Jesus is our focus then God can be the center of our daily lives.

Apr 22 - Creator of Heaven and Earth, we thank you for the beauty and bounty of the earth. The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Psalm 24:1. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Psalm 19:1. We pray to be good stewards of the things you have been given us dominion over and all things you have put under our feet. Help us to guard, protect, keep and watch over what you have entrusted to do. May we practice good stewardship. Happy Earth Day!

Apr 23 - Jehovah Jireh. God our Provider we thank you for meeting all our needs according to his glorious and wonderful riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19. We pray to trust in how he will carry out His promise. Free us from the joy stealer of worry. Help us to learn to cast all our cares upon the Great Shepherd, who holds his sheep close his heart \Box . 1 Peter 5:7; Isaiah 40:11.

Apr 24 - Solid Rock we thank you for your care of us when we feel like we are weighed down with grief, disappointments and failures. We all experience these seasons and times in our lives. May we lean on you and remind us you are in charge of everything. When times of challenge come to us and we wrestle with our doubt, sin, fear and questions, may we look to you. You are a great God, very near and bigger than any season of distress can bring. Lift us higher in the midst of it all. May we soar on eagles wings. Isaiah 40:31, NLT.

Apr 25 - Ever Present God who will never leave us nor forsake us, we cling to you. Deuteronomy 31:6. We thank you for your great comfort and strength as we encounter difficulties and quandaries. You are alive and go before us and walk alongside us. You are the ever faithful and ever-loving one who sustains us. Isaiah 41:10. We Pray to live our lives in faith and trust in you that others will see and believe in the true and living loving God.

Apr 26 - Holy Spirit we thank you for the oil of gladness that fills our hearts as a gracious result of your sacred presence dwelling within us. Psalm 45:7; Acts 13:52. May we share your comforting and cheering influence of joy and peace to others. We pray to be believers filled with the fruit of joy to serve You in gladness. Psalm 100:2. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Nehemiah 8:10

Apr 27 - Spirit of God we pray that Christ will be revealed to all people. 1 Corinthians 2:10, NLT. We pray for a divine anointing to fulfill the great plan of redemption. Luke 4:18; 1 John 2:27. Jesus gives repentance, and your Spirit works in us. May our faith focus on Christ and we ask for the Spirit to fill us with more faith. Open our eyes to see more of Jesus as we walk with you daily.

Apr 28 - Heavenly Father we thank you for all have equal access to your heavenly throne. We thank you for Jesus Christ as our one mediator between God and man. 1 Timothy 2:5. We pray to take the time to seek your for ourselves first before we rely on others for our concerns. Isaiah 55:6-9. We pray to love you first and seek you with our whole heart. Only then can we be filled to minister to our neighbor and love others as ourselves. Matthew 22:37 -39.

Apr 29 - God of Love, one of our greatest gifts is your love. Help us to share another gift we have with our family, friends and loved ones, is that gift of our time. Ecclesiastes 3. Psalm 90:12. That love gift of time can be spent with you, with others and sharing good seeds of faith, hope and generosity. We pray to do unto others as you have given unto us. Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31.

Apr 30 - Heavenly Father sometimes we come to you with weary hearts, minds, tired bodies. You invite us to come when we are weary and heavy laden to rest in you. Thank you for your outstretched arms and hands to pull us into your tender love and care. We find rest in you and in the shadow of your love. May others feel your tender love and touch as we share your grace to others. Matthew 11:28-30. Jeremiah 15:16.

Prayers For Those Affected by the Coronavirus

A <u>new coronavirus disease</u> is spreading rapidly around the world, officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11. More than 741,000 people have been infected and the death toll is over 35,100 people. <u>The numbers are increasing daily</u>, and the disease has impacted at least 175 countries.

As Christians, we turn to God in times of fear and uncertainty as we do in times of joy and celebration. Please join us as we pray for God's heart of love, mercy, and truth to dwell in us and show us how to face the challenges posed by the new coronavirus.

Pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine.

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.—*Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*

Pray for people at higher risk of developing the disease.

Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 — the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones.

Pray for medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting the new coronavirus.

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job.

Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.—*Psalm 23:4 (NIV)*

Pray for leaders responsible for making decisions about the new coronavirus.

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families,

communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers ...—2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)

Prayers For Those Affected by the Coronavirus

Pray for families adjusting to new ways of life.

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.—*Psalm 57:1 (NIV)*

Pray for business owners and families facing financial stress.

Jesus, we thank You for Your faithfulness in how you have guided and equipped people in their jobs and have provided in the past. It can be scary and overwhelming not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for families. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them that You are there for them. Provide for them in their times of need.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.—*John 14:27 (NIV)*

Pray for the disease to stop spreading.

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of traveling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands properly. And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea \dots *Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)*

Boardman Campus & Offices 4570 Lockwood Blvd. Youngstown, OH 44511

> **Youngstown Campus** 1205 Elm Street Youngstown, OH 44502

Pastor Greg Calko 330-533-6358 pastorgreg@millcreek.church

Debbie Myers, Office Manager Phone: (330) 782-0573 Visit us: <u>www.millcreek.church</u> E-mail: info@millcreek.church

Millcreek Community UMC

OFFICE HOURS Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9 am - 2 pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE Boardman Campus

9:00 am Power Hour (Praise, Pray & Proclaim)

11:00 am Blended Service (Praise, Pray & Proclaim)

Pastor Calko is available for visits. He can be reached at pastorgreg@millcreek.church or by phone at 330-782-0573.

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