

The Beat Newsletter

June

"Love Works Here"

2020



The past few months have been difficult for those of us who crave fellowship and social interaction. Now that many of the stay at home restrictions have been lifted, we are like a bear hungry from sleeping through the winter, foraging for the things we need. Thankfully, most of us won't have to be concerned about filling our bellies. Even though shortages of some food items remain, most of the grocery shelves are back to normal. The Millcreek food pantry is also well stocked, and the last Wednesday of every month we still serve upwards of 50 disadvantaged families with dry goods, dairy, meat and produce. The hunger we have now is not for food, but for love, fellowship, and community worship. As we seek to satisfy those basic human

needs, social distancing and logistical considerations will make it necessary to adjust our schedules our way of thinking.

We are told there will be a new normal, yet God is the only One who knows what that will be. Things will certainly change. For a season, those with health concerns may still need to worship virtually. We will need to have one Sunday worship service instead of two, waves will have to take the place of handshakes and hugs and we will have to celebrate Holy Communion a bit differently (that alone makes me very nervous)! Our free community dinner will likely be carry-out only. Even so, I have no doubts that we will make those adjustments willingly so that we might continue to bring glory to God. Love still works here!

One of the things that will not change is our commitment to "worship without barriers". The concept is simple: provide an opportunity for all people to connect with Jesus through Millcreek Church and to remove those things that might get in the way. No stairs or steps? Done! Accessible restrooms? Done! Help for those with hearing problems? Done! But what about those barriers that are less visible, like cultural, social, and economic barriers and our personal preferences for worship? Are we willing to put others needs ahead of our own to help them make a commitment to Jesus Christ?

Worship without barriers...the concept is simple but implementing it is not. Let us be on the lookout for things we might have to change or remove. Let us be ready to explain what it means if someone should ask us. True worship is always more about Jesus than it is about us. I pray we truly become a church where people of all kinds can worship without barriers. May we continue to grow in faith and peace... Pastor Greg.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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.

CHURCH CALENDAR

June 6	D-Day
June 7	Trinity Sunday
June 8	National Best Friend's Day
June 14	Flag Day, US Army Day, Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 19	Freedom Day
June 20	American Eagle Day
June 21	Father's Day; Summer Begins, Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 26	Take Your Dog to Work Day
June 28	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Temporary Sanctuary Worship Guidelines

- Initially, a single 9:00 AM Sunday service will be offered. We will continue to video record our services for off-site viewing.
- For those choosing to worship in person, greeters/ushers will ensure seating with 6' social distancing between worshipers. Families are asked to sit together. Maximum pew seating capacity is estimated to be 50 people, including choir loft. We will do everything possible to accommodate everyone, including setting up folding chairs. When the service concludes, ushers will dismiss by pew if attendance numbers warrant.
- Weather conditions permitting, entry and exit doors in the foyer and sanctuary doors will be propped open to allow for air circulation and touch free entry and exit. Otherwise foyer entry/exit doors only will be propped open.
- Microphones will be assigned to each musician and other speakers and will be sanitized after each service, along with keyboards of pianos and organ if used. Musicians and worship leaders will also maintain 6' social distancing. Congregational singing will not be permitted at the present time.
- An abbreviated worship service (45 minutes or less) will be offered to help reduce the potential need for restroom use. E-giving is encouraged as offering plates will not be passed. A suitable container will be placed on the altar for those wishing to contribute with cash or check.
- Holy Communion will be offered in pre-filled individual cups. Baptisms will be postponed where possible. Worshipers may pray at the altar rail provided 6' spacing is maintained.
- Holy Grounds Café and childcare/nursery will not be available.
- Worshipers are asked to refrain from eating while in the building.

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

JUNE BIRTHDAY's

2nd - Janice Evick
3rd - Josh Ehret
5th - Ruth Abbot & Al Miller
9th - Dorene Oakley

10th - Jennifer Stauffer & Juanita Pasley
11th - Willie Floyd
12th - Kevin Hubler
16th - Verna Wylie
23rd - Elizabeth Penn

**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)
Tracy (Henry's Step-Sister)
Verna Wylie
Vicky LaCivita (Pam Boston's Sister)
Woody Anderson

Nursing Home

SICK AND SHUT-IN LIST

Gloria Finkley (shut-in)

Juanita Pasley (shut-in)

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

Florence Marsteller - c/o Hampton Woods,
1525 E. Western Reserve Rd., # 1309,
Poland, OH 44514

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

**June 14:
Flag Day**

On this date in 1777, the
Second Continental
Congress adopted the flag
of the United States.

Teaching resources at:
FCIT.USF.EDU/PROJECT/FLAG



The History of Father's Day

It was while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909 that the idea of Father's Day suddenly struck Spokane, Washington resident Sonora Dodd. She wanted to honor her own father, William Smart, who was well-deserving of a special day as a widowed farmer left alone to raise his six kids single-handedly. One year after, residents embraced the ideas so warmly that by June 19, 1910 the first Father's Day celebration was proclaimed in Spokane because it was the month of Dodd's father's birth.

Decades later, the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Father's Day in America has been officially celebrated annually since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it permanent. Then the whole world celebrated it too. Due to her efforts, Sonora Dodd is known today as "the mother of Father's Day".

MILLCREEK COMMUNITY "MISSION TEAM" TO THE RESCUE!

Our Mission Team was called upon to support the "Rescue Mission."

A generous group of donors has provided several thousand dollars for the work at the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning valley this summer, and has challenged us to match it with a donation.

We answered their call with a check for \$125.00. Our gift will provide 2Xs the life changing care in the amount of \$250.00

Many thanks and blessings to our "church family" who has given so generously to our "Mission Basket."

- Bless Your Hearts,

Susan Justice

CARDS

Barb Beach is running low on cards. If you can help, please drop them at the church office.

A MESSAGE FROM REV. ABBY AUMAN, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Dear churches,

Your pastors are exhausted.

If you want your pastor to still be a pastor “when this is all over” (whatever that even means!), please go email or text them right now and ask them which week they and the entire worship staff would like to have off in June. Ask which church your church should connect with instead for online worship, and promise to tell your friends not to complain about not having your pastor for one week.* Go on; I’ll wait.

The pandemic is hard on everyone—just in different ways. It’s not really helpful to argue about harder and hardest because it’s so hard for all of us that the most appropriate words are not printable here! So we all need to take care of each other however we can and give each other breaks however we can. In addition to why the pandemic is hard for everyone (loss of control, fear of illness, grief, no clear end in sight, etc.), here are some of the reasons your pastor is at high risk for burnout.

Nearly overnight, your pastor had to completely shift how they do almost all aspects of their ministry to do it remotely and/or electronically. By and large, they did an AMAZING job, but if they had wanted to be video producers, they would not be your pastors. Removing their direct contact with you removes a lot of the joy and energy from their ministry. They also feel the sad weight of inadequacy every time they can’t go to your hospital room or hug you because it was a phone call instead of lunch.

Having been sprinting since March to reconfigure everything, some pastors finally felt like they were able to slow to a jog—new systems and rhythms were in place. But now the reopening guidelines look like another mountain to climb. Some people want to sprint up that mountain, while others want to wait awhile before starting, and which of our pastors are epidemiologists with good data to use for a decision?! Some people are bored at home—which is its own challenge. Your pastor, however, is busier than ever and still might feel like it’s never enough.

Your pastor may be lying awake nights, worrying about whether the church will run out of money—and thus they will be out of a job—or if they personally have what it takes if church has to be totally reinvented. The loss of boundaries between work and home, plus feeling responsible for the church’s mental health and morale, has equaled seven day workweeks, week after week. They’ve been called to leadership, and right now that means exploring questions and waiting on the Lord. Does that sound good to you? Of course not! Everyone really just wants to know the answer!

Jesus was fully divine as well as fully human—and he took breaks. The very first story in the Bible ends with God taking a break! We all need breaks. We may not be able to go on vacation like we want, but you can still bless your pastor and the worship staff with a week off* to recharge for whatever lies ahead, and do what you can for yourself under the current constraints. We can offer each other appreciation and compassion. In doing so, we “bear each other’s burdens and in this way fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).

Hear me clearly: Your pastor loves Jesus. Your pastor loves you. Your pastor loves the church. Your pastor finds much blessing and joy in being a pastor, or they would be doing something else. If they haven’t had a break in the last month, they probably just need one so they can continue to serve with hope and joy.* You are in the wonderful position of being able to give that gift.

May we all know ourselves held and comforted by the great big love of God, our refuge and strength, our rest and our joy.

Love,

Your DS who is trying to practice what she preaches

***P.S.** - Listen to what your pastor says about their actual needs. A few pastors have been really energized by finally getting to do online ministry the way they've always wanted. Others might be wanting to take a little more time in July, etc. Thank you for listening to your pastor’s actual needs for renewal!

To the members of Millcreek Community UMC

It's with mixed emotions that I write to you. As many of you have heard, I will be leaving on June 5, 2020.

I greatly enjoyed working for Lockwood UMC and seeing the transition to Millcreek Community UMC, and with all of you. An opportunity has arisen that I could not easily turn down.

Thank you so much for your support and friendship over these past years. I am grateful for having had the chance to work with such an incredible group of people.

Love to all of you.

Debbie Myers

Boardman Campus & Offices

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Youngstown Campus

1205 Elm Street
Youngstown, OH 44502

Pastor Greg Calko

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pastorgreg@millcreek.church

Debbie Myers, Office Manager

Phone: (330) 782-0573
Visit us: www.millcreek.church
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 pas-
torgreg@millcreek.church
or by phone at 330-782-0573.**

Millcreek Community United Methodist Church - Boardman Campus

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