

Millcreek Community United Methodist Church
4570 Lockwood Boulevard
Youngstown, Ohio 44511-3799

The Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here"

December
2020



YOU CAN FIND US ON



Millcreek Community UMC

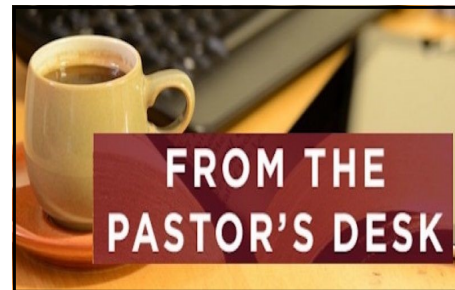
OFFICE HOURS

M-W-F 9am - 2pm

(330) 782-0573

info@millcreek.church (e-mail)

www.millcreek.church (website)



As we prepare our hearts and our homes for the coming of Christ this Advent season, I encourage you to take fresh notice of the signs and symbols of Jesus that touch our senses during this special time of the year. For many of us, the childlike excitement and anticipation of Christmas morning we once experienced is long past. Now that Covid19 is wreaking havoc, we will need to become even more intentional in seeking hope, peace, joy, and love. One of the ways we can recapture the delights of Christmas is to find new meaning in the things we see, do, and hear during this time of year. The simple candy cane is a perfect example. Found only at Christmas, it is often regarded as a piece of cheap candy. But when we see it as a symbol of Christ, it becomes something special. It is shaped like a shepherd's staff, representing Christ as the Good Shepherd. If you look at it another way, you will also see the first letter in Jesus name. The hardness of the candy can represent the solidness of the Christian faith and the white color symbolizes purity and the holiness of Christ. The red stripe reminds us of the beating He endured and the blood that He shed for the remission of our sins. You will not look at a candy cane the same way again if you keep those things in mind!

The carols and hymns that we hear this time of year are also filled with the imagery and teaching of Christ. Before large numbers of people could read, they were a means of telling and retelling the story of Jesus in a way that was easy to remember. Today, many of us know them so well that we sing them from memory with ease. Yet because they are so familiar, we can easily miss the deep truths they convey. The First Noel tells the Christmas story found in Luke and Matthew's Gospels. The first verse recalls how an angel told the shepherds of the good news- born is the King of Israel. Verse two tells of a special star, one that gave great light to a world filled with darkness. The star of the first Advent was first foretold in the OT Book of Numbers 24:17, where the prophet Balaam said this about the Messiah: "I see Him, but not now. I behold Him, but not near. A star shall come out of Jacob". The star of the Second Advent is revealed in the Book of Revelation 22:16, where John quotes these words of Jesus: "I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star". Wise men saw the star and followed it wherever it went, and today wise men and women still follow Him!

Even our Christmas tradition of giving gifts to each other began with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that three certain wise men brought the baby Jesus. The story is told in the hymn "We Three Kings", where they followed the star, found the Christ Child and gave them their gifts. They brought gold, a highly prized metal fit for a king, and frankincense, used by the priests in the temple to worship God. They also brought myrrh, an expensive spice used to prepare a body for burial that foreshadowed the atoning death of the Messiah.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a few weeks, let us find new meaning in the routines and traditions of the season. Let us follow and worship the Star of Bethlehem this Advent season and beyond. Pastor Greg

Announcements

In Memory of Florence Marsteller

The beautiful poinsettia's on our platform were graciously donated by daughters Cheryl Durham and Amy Donatella.

We want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of

Arlene Griffis.

She passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, at the age of 90. Arlene was a long time member of our church and will be greatly missed.

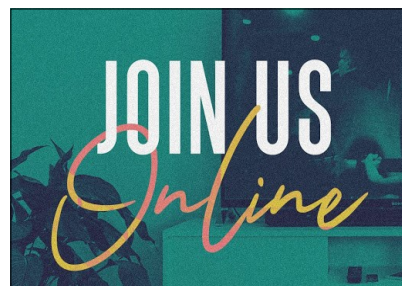
OFFICE CLOSED

On Friday, December 25th and Friday, January 1st the church office will be closed for Christmas and New Year's Day.

NEWSLETTER

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.

**Would you like a Sunday Bulletin or Upper Room mailed to you?
Call the church office at 330-782-0573 or
e-mail us at info@millcreek.church to add your name to the list.**



Unable to join us on Sundays?

Join us for virtual worship at 10am on our website www.millcreek.church, our YouTube channel or Facebook page Millcreek Community UMC



WORSHIP SCHEDULE - Boardman Campus
10:00am (Praise, Pray & Proclaim)

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

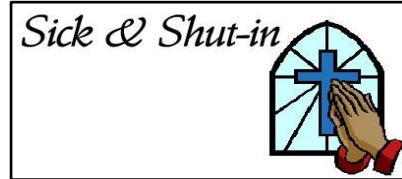
6. The new chairs have been placed on the platform area and rear wall of the church.
7. The Heartbeat will be one week late this month due to Covid-19 related delays. Brooke is working from home after testing positive.
8. The SPR team did scheduled performance reviews of Timothy Mattern and Brooke Scott and found both to be exceeding expectations.
9. We plan to offer live-stream worship services beginning this Sunday. This will allow folks to join us live at 10:00AM by going to our website and clicking a link. To accommodate that, a USB camera adaptor was purchased (\$139.41) and our internet service was upgraded (\$60.00 additional per month). The recorded versions will remain available for viewing as in the past.
10. Worship is a basic and fundamental expression of our faith, and we join the great majority of faith communities in the valley, including the Catholic diocese that have chosen to keep our doors open during this pandemic. As in the past, physical attendance at worship remains at the discretion of the individual. We are a relatively small church, and as such we can gather while maintaining recommended social distancing protocols. Even so, the health of our body is never entirely in our hands. The health of our soul is. The choice of how or when or even who to worship is ours and ours alone and should be made without outside influence. Each of us must decide for ourselves what God is asking (requiring) of us as His people.
11. A new virtual book study is almost ready. Because of Covid-19, I am behind and still working on the weekly study materials. It is based upon the book "The Dream King", (\$10.99 at Christianbook.com) and my prayer is that it will lead us into Biblically based discussions and Christ-like actions surrounding issues of racial discrimination and bigotry. Those evils affect each one of us and the church in too many ways to count, and our response is long overdue! Each participant will obtain and read the book at their own pace and then complete the assignments that go with each chapter (7). A link to the study materials is available on our website, along with a moderated forum for community comment. I am asking for everyone in leadership at Millcreek to participate. Unless there are objections, I will order the books and a few extras for those who may have limited financial resources. You can pick them up at the church or have it mailed to you. Remember that this is also open to those outside of our immediate church family. If this works, we may use it as a platform for Bible studies and other faith building activities.
12. If you have concerns about being exposed to Covid-19 by someone who has tested positive for it, or being exposed to it from someone who has it and does not know it, please consider the following information from the CDC:
 - A. Individuals testing positive are no longer considered to be contagious or actively shedding the virus after a ten-day isolation period, even though some symptoms (coughing etc.) may continue several weeks after the initial ten-day isolation. A negative Covid test is *not* required or suggested to allow return to the general population.
 - B. You can contract Covid by being in "close contact" with someone who is contagious (actively shedding the virus). Close contact means you were indoors less than 6 feet from them for at least ten minutes (cumulative) in a 24 hour period. It does *not* matter whether one or both were wearing face coverings. Yes, that means both of you can be wearing face coverings and still infect one another. The 6 feet 10-minute rule is probably the best precaution against catching Covid-19 one can take.
13. Tami and I are so very thankful for each and every prayer, card and phone call we received from our church family while we were recovering from Covid-19. There were two times when I thought I would have to be hospitalized, but by the grace of God I was wrong! I believe it was your prayers that made the difference. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

This list covers the bigger issues and concerns for the moment. If there are questions or additional things that need to be addressed, please reply via email so that I may bring them to everyone's attention. I am hoping we can have a leadership team meeting on January 12th, 2021. Once again, thank you for your patience, flexibility and willingness to serve Christ here at Millcreek.

May your Advent be special as we prepare for Christ's return.
PG

Prayer Requests

Barry Ervin
Carol Rinehart
Cindy Renner
Donna Howell (Sean Roberts Aunt)
Georgia Witt
Gordon & Rose Milliken
Harriet Case
Marge Whitacre
Marilyn Makar (HOSPICE)
Mark Boston
Marlene Renner (Cindy Renner's Mom)
Muggs Ashbaugh
P. Mae White
Pat Charity & Clara Charity
Penny Hiller & family
Ray Mercado & Family
Rev. Mike & Sue McHale
Rita Wolfe
Ron Miller
Ruth Mattern (Penny's Sister-in-Law)
Verna Wylie
Vicky LaCivita (Pam Boston's Sister)
Woody Anderson



Sick & Shut-in

Gloria Finkley
(shut-in)

Juanita Pasley

Esther McClain
Shepherd of the Woods
1500 McKinley Ave.
Niles, OH 44446

Margaret Whitacre
Briarfield Manor
461 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Rm 325A
Austintown, OH 44515
(330) 270-3468 ext. 1591

December Leadership Team Information

Due to Covid-19 we will not be physically meeting in December. I realize this now makes 2 months without a leadership team meeting, something that causes me great concern. Even so, we can all rest assured knowing that ministry continues at Millcreek, even though our ability to be truly together is severely hampered at present. Our finances are a concern but considering current economic conditions we remain blessed. Empirical and statistical evidence both suggest that our former churches would be in a much different position right now if we had not merged when we did. God is good!

Here are some things we should know and consider:

1. RBUMC investment funds were finally transferred to Millcreek and liquidated. A check in the amount of \$67,120.28 was deposited into the general fund. Pending building repairs (windows) and ongoing expenses will determine if a portion can go to the foundation for reinvestment. The stock transfer of shares from Home Savings is still outstanding.
2. Imperial Glazing Concepts was awarded the job for window replacement that was e-discussed. Total for work is \$ 66,725.00. The bulk of that work is for the classroom wing totaling \$53,245.00, and it will not be completed or paid for until spring.
3. The exterior painting and window repairs at the Youngstown campus will begin in the spring as weather permits.
4. Four new LED lights have been installed on the church to illuminate the parking lot and yard surrounding our building. The cost of the fixtures and photosensors was \$283.78 with volunteer labor used to install them.
5. The sanctuary will be decorated for the Advent and Christmas seasons on December 5. Please talk to Susan Justice if you can help.



THE MILLCREEK COMMUNITY UMC THANKSGIVING DRIVE-THRU DINNER

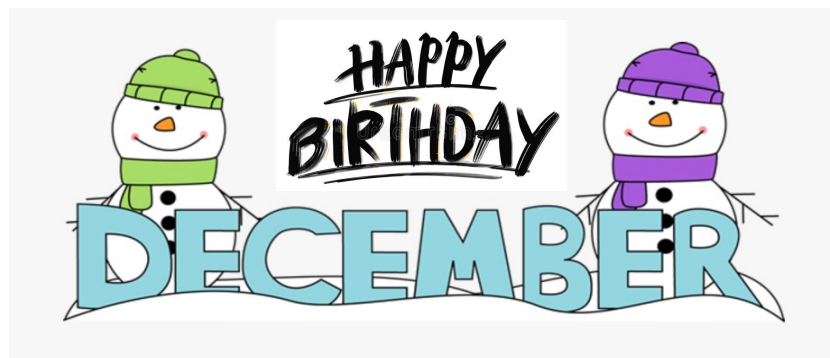
“Say Pilgrim, with all that horsepower under the hood of your car, could you please get in the correct line?” I like stories. My Grandpa always told my two sisters and me many stories, made-up mostly. Yet the story I have to tell is actually TRUE.

I’ll begin with the kitchen help, you understand of course they are Methodist women in a church kitchen, that should tell you a lot. Let’s see there was Barb Hubler, Barb Beach, and Barb Childs. You remember the 3 lovely Barb’s from our rummage sale. We continue with Janice Rose, Diane Redfern, Louise Easter (she brought her computer so we could watch the Ohio State football game) and I was there, the one who doesn’t cook.

Our plan was for 170 dinners to go out these kitchen doors or else we would end up looking like the stuffed turkey’s! As busy as our hands were, so were our mouths with talking, joking, and laughing at ourselves and each other. I didn’t know cooking could be such fun. Remember, I am the one that doesn’t cook! So from 11:30am til 6:00pm most confusion took over the kitchen with cutting cakes and putting 1 piece into containers and 170 containers of cranberry sauce (Louise took 1st place in filling the cranberry containers, so it’s her job from here on in). Janice Rose was our mashed potato cook and she along with Barb Hubler really made a team when they jumped into the “mashed potato dance”. You go girls! Barb Childs wrapped each container before being put in the to go bag. These containers held the mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, and turkey. Mixed vegetables were packaged by Barb and Louise, as Barb Beach continued making stuffing. Diane Redfern and I had the job of packing “to go” bags. Remember the dinner roll!

The “to go bags” were then handed to Al and Kathy Miller and Steve Easter. They were the hero's that kept those Pilgrims in line as car after car came and went even though at one time they were lined up and down Lockwood Blvd! Such a wonderful day. How can we not be thankful to God for those who contributed, cooked, packaged, took orders from the cars that drove in and out, baked cakes, gave monetary gifts and those that wrote notes thanking us for the wonderful dinners. I am thankful for our church and all of you who make these dinners possible with the help you provide. You make the mission possible for many!

It truly was a Thanksgiving from the heart.
- Susie J., Member of the Mission Team



3rd - Ruth Alli
11th - Randy Carman
17th - Gloria Finkley
18th - Barbara Hubler
20th - Janice Rose



Millcreek Community Mission Team

**From our November Mission,
we were able to send a check
for \$250.00 to the Sojourner House**

COMPASS
SOJOURNER HOUSE
domestic violence program

DECEMBER MISSIONS

Do you know of a family in need this Christmas? Please let Pastor Greg know ASAP.



A check in the amount of \$250.00 was sent to
The Salvation Army “Red Kettle Fund”



\$400.00 in Wal-Mart gift cards were delivered to
Protestant Family Service “Christmas Family’s”

*Due to Covid-19, gift cards were requested by PFS - Parents will be able to shop for their children with the gift cards.

