

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

The Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here"

January 2022



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)



It is often said that history repeats itself and the headlines of today reveal that to be true. Although the names, places, and events may be different, the fallen nature of the world and our response to it has not changed. Today we have no less desire than those who lived many years before us to divert ourselves from painful things that threaten to sadden us, anger us, and steal our joy. The problem is that many of the diversions and solutions the world

offers are harmful alternatives. The New York Times recently reported that a record number of people in the US died from substance abuse between April 2020 and April 2021(100,000+). Statistics also reveal that suicide rates have soared among teens to an all-time high. Mental health professionals are now discovering that loneliness and isolation resulting from fear of Covid 19 were a contributing factor in both. That should come as no surprise to us, for history shows that great harm always comes to society when the social structures that God has designed and gifted to humanity are disrupted or corrupted.

Christians are not immune. Like the rest of society, Christians can be misled and become fearful people. We fear Covid, cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's, and traffic accidents. We fear terrorist attacks, financial setbacks, violence, and so-called natural disasters. We fear speaking in public, praying in public and at times worshiping in public. Fearing ridicule, chastisement, or financial loss, we are often afraid to speak up or speak out about our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and the love we have for His church. And when we do, we may find ourselves silenced on social media platforms that actively censor long-held traditional Christian views. Fear is a powerful and effective means of silence and control, and Satan uses it to lead people away from the truth.

Fear can keep us from growing in our faith. There will also be times when something much less obvious yet equally effective will be at work. A quick look at the discussion God had with the OT prophet Jeremiah will have us recognize it. One of the unique things about Jeremiah is that he honestly revealed much of his personal thoughts and emotions in his writings. Some are so obvious that he is often referred to as "the weeping prophet". Thankfully cancel culture was not around in his day! In the book that bears his name, we find that his problem was not despair or fear, but a very close cousin called doubt. Like fear, it has been around for a very long time.

Even so, it didn't keep him from praying. Perhaps desperately reaching out to God for a sign that He was still there, Jeremiah prayed, and God answered him in no uncertain terms. God told him "I knew you before you took a breath or spoke a single word. Do not be afraid, for I am with you" (Jeremiah 1:5). That is another way of saying "have no fear because I love you!". Jesus told His followers something similar moments before He left earth: "Lo, I am with you *always*, even to the end of the age". (Matthew 28:20) Fear and doubt are not new enemies. When they threaten our minds and spirit, let us remember His promise and the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 23. "Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil". Let us always be faithful and careful, but never fearful. Jesus will not lead us astray!

Pastor Greg

Announcements

WELCOME

Millcreek has a new worship leader! We are excited to welcome Dean Zawacki to our church family. He brings along a love for Jesus, a love for people and a love for music. It is our prayer that His gifts, skills and years of experience will help us to continue growing in faith and love together. If you would like to be part of the Millcreek music or technology teams, please join us for practice and worship Thursday evenings at 6:30.

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



Join us for *live* worship
at 10am on our website
www.millcreek.church

You 

Millcreek Community
UMC

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00am

(Praise, Pray & Proclaim)

 **facebook.**

Millcreek Community
UMC

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

Millcreek Community UMC - Leadership Team Meeting December 14, 2021 @ 6:30pm

December 14, 2021

In attendance: Pastor Greg, Susie, Elaine, Hope, Barb H., Doc Hovel, Diane

Pastor Greg shared from Max Lucado's devotional It's Not About Me.

Diane was volunteered to take the minutes.

The previous meetings' minutes were agreed upon.

Hope explained the finance report and the fact that we are down over \$20,000.00. Not only has income decreased, but also attendance. Apportionments for 2022 are going up by \$4,784.00.

Pastor Greg has looked some into marketing our church. RMH Marketing will be tabled until next month. They work with brand identity and messaging. We plan on looking at some creative ways to enhance our presence. Also, a stewardship letter will be going out.

There are a few concerns about the preschool that will be addressed.

Susie shared that the January dinner will be chili and fixings. It was noted that while we have been blessed to continue these "drive thru dinners", we are anxious to return to "sit down and get to know each other" dinners.

Dean Zawacki will be joining us starting January 2nd on an 8 week trial basis as our choir director/worship leader. All will be in earnest prayer for a positive outcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane

Thank You

A big thank you for making our December Mission another success! We were able to send \$500 in gift cards (\$25 increments) to

Protestant Family Service

to help families in need during the Christmas Season. We are so grateful for our church family to have such giving hearts.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Cheri & H. Blackann
 Dom Viola
 Gordon & Rose Milliken
 Harriet Case
 Jeri Witt
 Jim Lottier

Marge Whitacre
 Marilyn Makar (HOSPICE)
 P. Mae White
 Pam Crowe
 Penny Hiller & family
 Verna Wylie



Barb Zautner
 Morningside House of Ellicott City
 5330 Dorsey Hall Drive, Room 312
 Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
 (330) 207-3750 cell

Gloria Finkley
Margaret Whitacre
 Briarfield Manor
 461 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Rm 301
 Austintown, OH 44515
 (330) 270-3468

Marilyn Makar
 Park Vista
 1216 5th Avenue, Rm 160B
 Youngstown, OH 44504



BIRTHDAYS
 THIS MONTH

JANUARY



1st - Nancy Stark
 4th - Jean Armstrong
 17th - Michael Williams
 24th - MaryLue Shaw
 25th - Adella Fitz &
 Kathy Miller



The "Star" Over Millcreek Community A Story of "Three Wisemen"

Mission of Love

A few hundred days ago, unlike the "ancient of days", there were three (3) Wisemen who did not come from afar, a little town called Canfield I believe. They were locals of sorts, guided by a "Star"! The story has it that they were summoned in a dream to follow that star wherever it led. They packed their bags, but not with gold, frankincense and myrrh, but with hammers, tape measures, screws and nails. It was their intent to repair a church called Millcreek Community in need of repair. As they packed their camels--oops!-- I mean trucks they exclaimed "we must follow that "Star"!"

Were they aware of the work to be done, we are not sure, but in their hearts they wanted to pay homage to God's own Son. They set about lighting up the church inside and out, rearranging the altar, removing old pews and actually, building a desk out of one of the pews to hold computer equipment in the back of the church.

With the blessings of a Leadership Team (not run by a King like Herod of old) these three Wisemen set about renewing this church.

Busy at task these three Wisemen worked to bring in new windows, and to remove an old door that didn't work at all. A new mailbox was installed at the front of the building with a lock and key to protect the mail our church members send.

Inside and out holes and cracks were filled-in so small creatures and bugs couldn't get in. A birds nest was moved from above the cross, now on the Sunday morning the sweet sounds of birds cannot be heard. A new floor was installed under the kitchen sink, this too will help keep small critters out. These Wisemen toiled many a day and managed to install the siding, under our new windows before winter had set in.

So we have a story of these wonderful Wisemen, who were guided by a Star to do repairs to Millcreek Community UMC. Their vision, their hearts, their love of a baby boy born in a manger and a Star that guided them to this place. We thank you with grateful hearts for all that you have done to make God's House a Home for ALL OF US.

As with gladness, men of old
 did the guiding star behold;
 as with joy they hailed its light,
 leading onward, beaming bright;
 so, most glorious Lord, may we
 evermore be led to thee.

Susie J.
 - Mission Team Member

The Three Wisemen:



Pastor Greg Calko
Steve Easter
Bill Stilson

“January Mission”



**Let's work together to make
the world a better place**

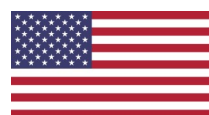
Our purpose, vision and goals

Global Ministries partners with agencies and individuals to alleviate human suffering; seek justice, freedom and peace; strengthen congregations and communities; and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

GIVE LOVE JOY HOPE PEACE

MISSION MOMENTS

NEWS... NEWS ...NEWS!!



Veteran's from Army, Navy, Airforce, and Marines, along with family members and friends took part in placing Christmas Wreath on the graves of America's Heroes.

Millcreek Community's "Kevin Hubler" was the Master of Ceremony at this event called Wreath's Across America. Kevin has participated in this for almost 4 years. We salute Kevin for taking the time to honor our veterans, your church family is proud of you!

Remember to take time to shake Kevin's hand and thank him for a job well done.

**A NATION REVEALS ITSELF NOT ONLY BY
THE MEN IT PRODUCES BUT ALSO BY THE
MEN IT HONORS, THE MEN IT REMEMBERS.**

- JOHN F. KENNEDY -

Millcreek Community United Methodist Church
invites you our FREE drive-thru dinner.

SATURDAY
January 15th
4-5:30pm

(or until dinners run out)



Menu:

*Chili w/ shredded cheese, carrot/celery sticks,
bag of Fritos corn chips, cornbread, cookies for dessert.*

Donations thankfully accepted

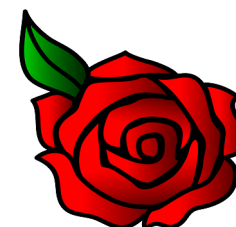


Do you know a Rose is a Rose?



If you don't know Janice Rose, make it a point to get to know her. She is a sweetheart of a lady. She is always willing to help out, especially in the kitchen and has been our go to when our community dinners were needed to be taken to some of our shut-ins. She sits quietly in the back of the church but is always ready to lend a helping hand.

Yes, indeed our Janice is a Rose!



**-Susie J.
Mission Team Member**