

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

The Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here"

December 2023



YOU CAN FIND US ON



Millcreek Community Methodist Church

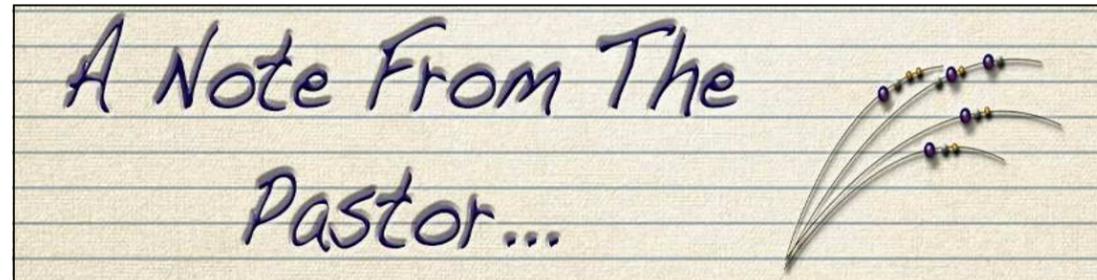
OFFICE HOURS

M-W-F 9am - 2pm

(330) 782-0573

info@millcreek.church (e-mail)

www.millcreek.church (website)



During this special time of the year, as we prepare our hearts and our homes for the coming of Christ, we can easily get caught up in the busyness and business of the season and overlook some of the signs and symbols of the season that will help us see Jesus. The star is one of them. In the OT Book of Numbers 24:17, we find that a star representing the first coming of Jesus was foretold. A prophet named Balaam said this about the coming Savior Messiah: "I see Him, but not now. I behold Him, but not near. A star shall come out of Jacob". The interesting thing is that the prophet was no friend of the Israelites and would eventually betray them to the Moabites by enticing them into idolatry and sexual sin. God even uses the wicked for His eternal purposes! Those of us living in the 21st century know for certain that star did come, for two thousand years later these words of Jesus were recorded by the apostle John in Revelation 22:14. "I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.

The carols and hymns we sing this time of year also help us to see Jesus. Christmas carols were first written to help people who couldn't read tell and retell the story of Christ in a way that was simple and easy to remember. Today we hear them so often that by the time Christmas Eve arrives we miss much of their beauty and meaning. The First Noel tells the Christmas story found in Luke and Matthew's Gospels. The first verse recalls that 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. The story of that star is found in the Gospel of John, where we learn that Jesus is the light of the world that first began to shine that day so long ago in Bethlehem. Shepherds and wise men alike saw the star, and followed it wherever it went. Wise men and women still follow that star of Christmas today.

We are immersed in a culture that has little trouble identifying stars in the form of Hollywood actors and famous athletes while failing to see the Star that promises to bring change to the world. If we are not careful, we will do the same. Let us never forget the real star of Christmas, the one who humbly came to change lives and change the world. The true Star of the world, the eternal Star of the universe, is none other than Jesus, God revealed to us in human form. If you look for Him, you will find that He is with us! Emmanuel, Jesus the Christ. Let us find Him, follow Him, and then worship Him by sharing His love with each other, now and in the times to come. Merry Christmas! PG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY

9am Holy Grounds Café
10:30am Worship



WEDNESDAY

11am Pastor's
Bible Study

THURSDAY EVENINGS

Music Team Practice @ 6:30pm

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, December 12th @ 5:30pm



Call any prayer requests to
Barb Childs (330-360-6796) or
Mary Lois Floyd (330-782-7683)



Join us for *live* worship
at 10:30am on our website
www.millcreek.church

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

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Millcreek Community Methodist Church Leadership Team Meeting November 14, 2023 @ 5:30pm

Present: Pastor Greg, Barb Hubler, Susie Justice, Diane Redfern, Hope Sabanick, Bill Stilson, and Elaine Williams

Pastor opened with a devotion from Job 19. Minutes from last meeting approved. There was no old business.

Treasurer/Finance:

- Investment fund has had distributions and is decreasing. The endowment fund has also decreased but over ten-month period it is about the same.

Missions/Outreach & Vision:

- November Missions:
 - ◊ Rescue Mission
 - ◊ Salvation Army
 - ◊ Church of Monte Feria in Holguin, Cuba \$150/month
 - ◊ Protestant Family Services – donations of cereal, jelly and rice
 - ◊ Free drive-thru Thanksgiving dinner Saturday, November 18th

Building & Grounds/Maintenance:

- Furnace by kitchen may have to be replaced. We need three quotes
- New soundboard was installed

Coming events:

- Decorate church for Christmas after Thanksgiving (November 26). Luncheon of pizza or lasagna
- Advent Retreat on Saturday, Dec 2nd. Map will be provided to find Birch Hill cabin. Sign up – limit of 40 people
- 6:00pm Christmas Eve service
- 10:30am Sunday regular service

Meeting closed with prayer. Next Leadership Meeting December 12, 2023 at 5:30pm.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Lottier
 Kenny Charity & Family
 Marge Whitacre
 Marilynn Makar

P. Mae White
 Quincy Penn
 Richard Bland
 Sidney Wylie
 Barb Childs
 Steve Easter
 Lloyd Sloger
 Terry Crosby
 Joann Vitto



Barb Zautner
 Morningside House of Ellicott City
 5330 Dorsey Hall Drive, Rm 312
 Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

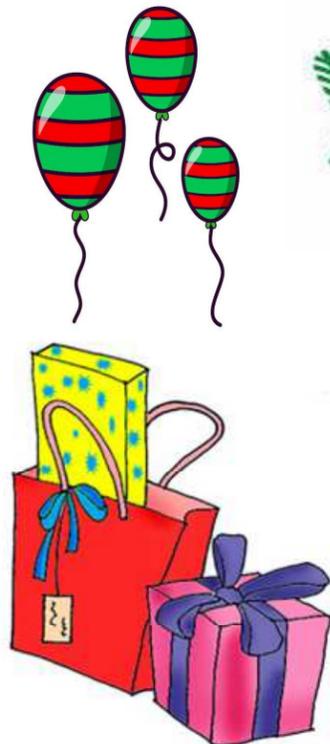
Shirley Stauffer
 Humility House
 755 Ohltown Rd, Rm 37B
 Austintown, OH 44515

Gloria Finkley

Margaret Whitacre
 Briarfield Manor
 461 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Rm 317
 Austintown, OH 44515

Marilynn Makar
 Humility House
 755 Ohltown Rd., Rm 20B
 Austintown, OH 44515

Quincy Penn
 Canfield Place
 2300 Canfield Rd., Rm 118
 Youngstown, OH 44511



December BIRTHDAYS

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



Millcreek Community Methodist Church

Christmas Events

Sunday, Dec. 24th
 10:30am

*Cantata and
 Worship Service*

Sunday, Dec. 24th
 6:00pm

*Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Service*

4570 Lockwood Blvd Youngstown, OH
 (330) 782-0573
www.millcreek.church



The Sound of the Mission Bells



November was a wonderful mission month. We were able to help our Monte Feria Church in Cuba, then circle the globe to send aid to Israel, and journey back to help our communities in the USA. Without the help of our own church members we would not have been able to help those in need. Thank you, Lord, for the donations from our Mission Basket and those who send through the mail. Bless these who have the heart to help others.

November Missions

The Church Monte Feria in Holquin, Cuba received a check for \$150.00

Through Samaritan's Purse we could send a donation of \$300.00 to help the Israeli people in war torn communities.

Rescue Mission's Benefit Dinner doubled our donation and covered a Christmas Dinner for 50 people. We were able to send \$375.00 to help provide food, shelter and care for our struggling neighbors.

Protestant Family Services received \$340.00 in cereal for adults and children and jars of jelly - specific items they asked for. Through the help of Don and Sally Kurjan (Sally is our Office Manager) we were blessed with loads of boxes of cereal and jelly. Don is Sally's husband and he is in charge of Aldi in Hermitage, PA. The extra bonus were the Aldi shopping bags! Bless your hearts Don and Sally, the Mission Team is grateful for all you have done.

A special "Thank You" to our Bill Stilson who graciously delivered the food to Protestant Family Services. We love you Bill.

December's Missions Will Be:

- Salvation Army - Red Kettle Fund (Youngstown)
- Samaritan's Purse - People of Israel
- Protestant Family Services - Gift cards for food items in the amount of \$25 (grocery stores); \$25-\$50 gift cards for food, clothes, and toys (WalMart)
- Children of the Church Monte Feria in Holquin, Cuba
- Warren Family Mission - Christmas Dinner

Susie J. Mission Control



Susie's Fun Corner

The world is round so that friendships may encircle it.



Some people do things right.
Others do the right thing.
That is integrity.

The Passengers of the Millcreek Community Ship



These Pilgrims landed out by the Rock. "Peter" smiled, gave them a nod and continued to tie up their ship. Twelve of them gathered in the kitchen preparing to do their work. Gee, I wonder what ship they arrived on? Could these Pilgrims really prepare a Thanksgiving dinner? Well, as the story goes, they began their busy work.

The turkeys were cooked and needed sliced, soooo in walks Pilgrim Ken with his trusty electric knife - imagine that! It seemed funny to us that it wasn't confiscated when he got off the ship! Oh well, he did a fine job getting those birds sliced.

Lady Pilgrims were busy getting the dinner boxes ready and some managed to get the cranberries in the cranberry containers. The other Pilgrims were making sure the dinner rolls were wrapped in the cello bags to keep fresh. Finally, most of the Pilgrims got a chance to have some snacks and cold beverages. Wow! What a relief it was. The ship ride rattled their bones and they needed a break. You know those white support stockings give support only so long!

More of the large pots were put on the stove which meant the vegetables and potatoes would soon be cooking. Hallelujah! We were getting to the stuffing of this turkey dinner and the kitchen smelled so good. Yum!

All twelve were in the kitchen and at their stations and the excitement filled the air when our look-out spotted the first 30 horse and carriages. Automobiles and busses filled the parking lot. The excitement of the first 30 of 158 dinners served never died off until we ran out of food. We scurried about in the cleanup, and believe me everything was clean and shiny. Don't ever get in the way of Pilgrims when they are cleaning. They had a ship to catch; Peter was waiting at the rock.

I am still perplexed about these Pilgrims - they did look familiar to me. They worked endlessly and gave thanks to God for allowing them to serve 158 dinners. They all prayed for a safe journey home and that they may be called to help next year at Thanksgiving time.

As for me, I was ready to SING, SHOUT, DANCE, PRAISE, REJOICE, BE HAPPY, CELEBRATE & GIVE THANKS!

Let us remember that as much as been given us, much will be expected from us and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips and shows itself in deeds.

*Happy Thanksgiving to all,
Susie J, Mission Team Member*

Thanks to our faithful Pilgrims: Cheryl Viola, Diane Redfern, Barb Beach, Keith Makar, Ken Bennett, Janice Rose, Barb & Kari Hubler, Elaine Williams, Susie J, "Chef" Pastor Greg & Tami