

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

The Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here"

Jan/Feb 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024!

YOU CAN FIND US ON



Millcreek Community Methodist Church

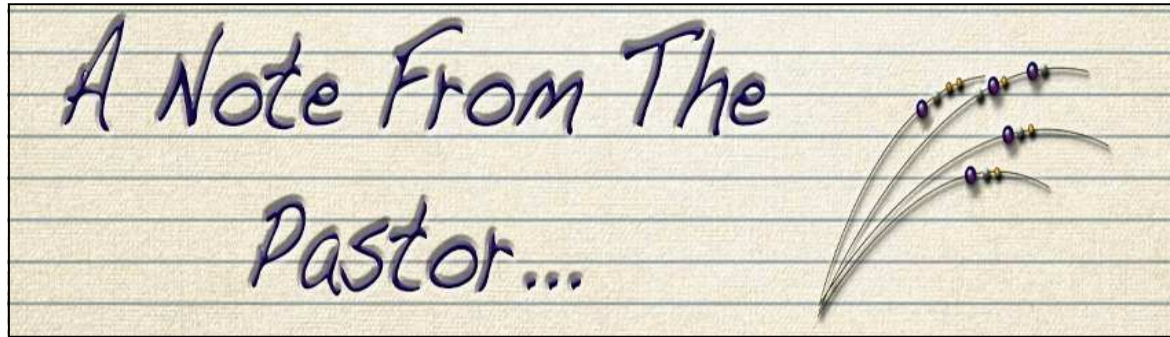
OFFICE HOURS

M-W-F 9am - 2pm

(330) 782-0573

info@millcreek.church (e-mail)

www.millcreek.church (website)



It's been said that "early to bed and early to rise makes a person healthy, wealthy and wise". We would all agree with Ben Franklin that there is value in getting a good night's sleep. We are reminded of that when we see commercials on TV for drugs and medications that promise us that we will rise rested and ready to attack the day if we just take one of their pills before we go to bed. However, those of us seeking those three somewhat elusive things will need much more than a good night's sleep if we are to succeed. The fact is that they are a result of our efforts and God's grace. It takes both.

Healthy people do get sick. Even though we might eat healthy foods, exercise regularly and visit our doctor annually for a checkup there is no guarantee that we will live to be 100 years old. It is also true that there are those who didn't care what they ate, never exercised and rarely went to a doctor and still lived to be 100. It is the same with material things. Most people that we consider wealthy have truly worked hard to get there, sadly sometimes at the expense of their families or moral principles. On the other hand, there is a great number of people who work hard day in, and day out and yet never seem to get ahead.

Health and wealth are gifts of God's grace, but what about wisdom? It is in short supply, but that is because most people don't know what it is or where it comes from. They equate wisdom with knowledge or intelligence or something you get when you are old. The truth is that it is something quite different. The author of Psalm 111 gives us a clue as to the source of wisdom, and unlike great wealth or living to an old age it is ours for the asking. Wisdom comes from a desire to know God. It begins with fear (awe!) of the Lord and ends with everlasting praise for Him. Proverbs 1:7 tells us that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction".

It sounds much too simple, but wisdom is knowing God, having love, awe and respect for our Lord, the One who created us and everything around us. Look again at Psalm 111 and see who God truly is and what He has done for us. He is ever majestic and righteous and His mighty works are beyond our comprehension. He is *the* ever-faithful provider, and most importantly He has sent us a Redeemer, His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. As we begin the Lenten season together, let us be inspired and led by Psalms 111, 112 and 113 and praise His Holy Name. Pastor Greg

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ash Wednesday Service February 14 6:00pm

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

December 12, 2023 @ 5:30pm

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

Pastor opened with Matthew's genealogy of Jesus and its meaning (brings women into it). "Sin is strong, but grace is stronger." No changes in last month's minutes. There was no old business.

Treasurer/Finance:

- Gain in investments and endowments
- Shortfall of \$5,000 for November. -\$23,000 for year

Missions/Outreach & Vision:

- January Missions:
 - Making Kids Count
 - 2 Pregnancy Help Centers
 - Church Monte Feria in Holquin, Cuba
 - Christmas Eve offering to go to children of our sister church in Cuba
 - January Drive-Thru Dinner: Chili – same menu as last January

- Total of \$1015 given to Protestant Family Services
- Total year mission's donations \$12,000 + (48 mission opportunities)

2024 SPR Team:

- Barb Hubler, Susan Justice and Diane Redfern

Worship:

- Mailers for Christmas Eve Service and Cantata went out

Building & Grounds/Maintenance:

- Furnace for kitchen and narthex was repaired-\$ 1200-(cheaper than new furnace (3000+))
- Pastor to fix water fountain and vacuum cleaners
- Will need to replace cracked pane of glass in sanctuary in the spring

Meeting closed with prayer. Next Leadership Meeting January 9, 2024 at 5:30pm.

January 16, 2024 @ 5:30pm

Present: Barb Hubler, Diane Redfern, Bill Stilson and Elaine Williams. Pastor not in attendance due to Amnestic Syndrome.

No problems were discussed other than furnace in fellowship hall needs to be fixed.

Chili dinner set for Saturday, January 20, with extra chili to be sold Sunday to the congregation.

Next meeting February 13, 2024 at 5:30pm.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Lottier
Kenny Charity & Family
Marge Whitacre
Marilynn Makar

P. Mae White
Quincy Penn
Sidney Wylie
Barb Childs
Steve Easter
Lloyd Sloger
Joann Vitto
Lou Stark
Mary Ann Dahman



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January Birthdays

1st - Nancy Stark
17th - Michael Williams
24th - MaryLue Shaw
25th - Kathy Miller

February Birthdays

2nd - Marcia Haire-Ellis
9th - Lillie Washington
25th - Macilla Grace
29th - Sean Roberts



JANUARY DAYS



The snowflakes fell softly to the ground. They covered the lawn evenly leaving the driveways clean. A smile parted my lips as I thought of the quiet beauty God allows us to enjoy. So often our days are full of hustle and bustle, trying our best to get so much done in a day. But it is these times that put our lives in perspective. With the passing of Winter Solstice, our days will begin to get longer. Let us not hurry the coming days that God has blessed us with. Maybe if you think back, you'll remember building that perfect snowman with a carrot nose, a black hat and dark eyes that seemed to twinkle. Gee, what about sledding down the hill at Rocky Ridge in Millcreek Park. We could really go fast! At last the special evenings at Lake Newport ice skating with the "special guy" who could skate just as well as you. At times you could hear the ice crack beneath your skates, knowing full well it was time to skate back to the safe area! Oh, how I enjoyed ice skating. I am sure each one of you, young or old, can remember special winter times. May they make a smile appear on your face.

Each snowflake is unique and sent from above. Some have six sides and some twelve; others can almost look like jewels as they sparkle so brite. Try to catch one on your tongue or just hold one in your hand. I am thankful to God who has sent these snowflakes for us to enjoy. Now I would like to share

"The Snowman" by T. Tilley:

The snowman is white and clean, depicting the pure sinless nature of our Savior, Jesus. Each snowflake is unique representing each person of the world that Jesus loves, for whom He came to earth to live and die.

The snowman lasts only for a season, and when melted turns to water, suggesting that we can turn to the Living Water, our source of Eternal Life.

The snowman's existence is a symbol of hope. It's cheerful nature gladdens our spirits. Likewise, when we feel burdened and our hearts are cold, Jesus tells us that He is our source of hope, and that the warmth of life can be found in Him.

"Snowmen teach the world that blessings fall from heaven." *Susie J, Mission Team Member*

"Souper" Bowl Sunday Soup Sale

Sunday, February 11, 2024
(Pickup right after worship)

- Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup
- Homemade Potato Cheddar Soup

Order forms are available in the church bulletin
or call the office 330-782-0573 to place your order



If you're not a sports fan, buy a quart for your Valentine!

MISSION TEAM

Saturday, February 10
at 10:00 am
to make the soup



Mission Bells Ring Out This January

Listening to the sounds of the bells, they call to all of us to support our community outreach programs and the world around us. Jesus told us that He is the vine and we are the branches, and if we let Him remain in us He will help us bear much fruit. After all, we can do nothing without Jesus' help - He must be in our hearts. Let us always keep Jesus close to us so we can help our neighbors in need.



January Mission Bells Ring For All of Us

Project MKC - Making Kids Count: Some of their programs include Diaper Bank- they distribute thousands a month; Comfort Kits - care bags for infants, children and teens entering foster care systems; Hope Totes - personalized bag of items for children who are undergoing chemotherapy at Akron Childrens Hospital; Mahoning Valley After School Tutoring, Summer Food Programs. And these are just a few! MKC received a \$200 check.

The Church Monte Feria in Holquin, Cuba received a check for \$150.

Two Pregnancy Help Centers (one at the Rescue Mission and one at the Market Street location) each received a check for \$200.

The Christmas Eve special offering - the children of Monte Feria church received a \$200 check.

February's Mission

- Someplace Safe - Domestic Violence Shelter
 - Samaritan's Purse - Israel
 - Rescue Mission Partnership
- The Church of Monte Feria in Holquin, Cuba

To my dear church family: Those who fill our pews on Sunday morning and those who watch from home. The Mission Team is very grateful for the support we receive for the missions our church generously donates to. May the face of God shine upon you and be gracious unto you. Bless your hearts.

Susie J, Mission Team Member

****Susie's Fun Corner****

Health Food Makes Me Sick



Who said money doesn't grow on trees...

That's why banks have branches!

Have You Heard of the "Chili Silly's" ?

It happened to be mid-January and believe me it was chilly! The story has it that the "Chili Silly's" breezed into the kitchen doors, and yes, I mean a very chilly breeze, deciding to make chili on this very chilly day. Unbeknownst to these chilly Chili Silly's, chili would be a delightful dinner to prepare to warm the souls of our chilly neighbors and friends. The Chili Silly's quickly had corn muffins baked, cheese bought to sprinkle on top the chili the Silly Chilli's made, and Frito's corn chips to add some crunch. Cookies were a favorite of the Chili Silly's. But some of the Chili Silly's, because it was chilly, thought ice cream would hold up very well. NO ice cream and NO hot sauce for one would surely cancel out the other!

The Chili Silly's on this very chilly day prepared the chili dinner that was fit for our neighbors and friends. As the containers were filled and our dinner boxes packed, the first automobile pulled into our lot! Dinner box after dinner box went out the door. The Chili Silly's had formed the most wonderful dinner line as the "Chef" of our Chili Silly's dinner ran the boxes outside. The Chili Silly's kept the lines of filled dinner boxes going and didn't think of how chilly they had been all day. Laughing and joking all the while, the silly Chili Silly's pitched in and clean up was a breeze.

Perhaps the story of the chilly Chili Silly's didn't actually happen this way, but we'll never tell!

Many Thank You's to those who helped, planned and worked this dinner. We are so thankful for those who made the corn muffins - for you we are ever so thankful. I am most grateful to our church family who support our missions.

I love you ,

Susie J, Mission Team Member



Now with great pleasure may I introduce the
Chilly "Chili Silly's"

Chef Pastor Greg
Diane Redfern
Barb Beach
Elaine Williams

Tami Calko
Janice Rose
Barb Hubler
Ken Bennett

Susie Justice