

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

# The Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here" December 2024



YOU CAN FIND US ON



**Millcreek Community Methodist Church**

OFFICE HOURS

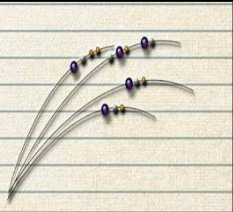
M-W-F 9am - 2pm

(330) 782-0573

[info@millcreek.church](mailto:info@millcreek.church) (e-mail)

[www.millcreek.church](http://www.millcreek.church) (website)

## A Note From The Pastor...



I hope it stops snowing. I hope the Steelers win. I hope I get a good report from the doctor. I hope to see you soon. More than anything, we need to experience hope. That little four-letter word is one of the most powerful yet misunderstood words in the English language. It is an action, a positive feeling that motivates us to get out of bed in the morning and face the day. Hope can also be something physical, like a person or thing in which we place our trust. It can be something abstract- a feeling of security or excitement about the future. Where does hope come from? Is it something in the air, like the common cold or a computer virus where we catch it from someone else and spread it around to others? Do we conjure it up by reading Dr Norman Vincent Peale's book "The Power of Positive Thinking"? It is tempting to think so, but the problem is that kind of hope quickly vanishes when things don't work out as we expect or as quickly as we expect. Human hope is a false hope that often brings disappointment and despair.

In Romans 15:4 the apostle Paul speaks of a different kind of hope, one that comes from the "patience and comfort of the Scriptures". It is not something we receive on our own, as 15:13 reveals that it comes by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is not an uncertain hope like hoping our team will win a ball game but a holy hope- the confidence in knowing that God wins over evil. In his book Mere Christianity CS Lewis describes this kind of hope as "a continual looking forward to the eternal world". It is a holy hope, knowing that God loves His people- including you and me- and that He has a plan for our lives and a place reserved for us in eternity.

That kind of hope is a prevalent theme of the Scriptures. The word hope is found 130 times in 121 verses and the message the writers consistently convey to us is this- where there is holy hope, there is joy. Paul goes on to remind us in Romans 8:24 that we are saved by hope, and without hope the people perish. There is an old hymn that reminds us of that! *My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' Name.* That kind of hope cannot disappoint us.

With human hope there will be despair, but when we place our hope and trust in God and the cross of Jesus, despair turns to joy. Let us seek holy hope this Advent season and beyond, individually and corporately as the body of Christ. Let us set ourselves aside and glorify Father, Son and Holy Spirit and share our hope, our living hope, Jesus Christ, with others. Stay hopeful! Pastor Greg

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUNDAY

9am Holy Grounds Café  
10:30am Worship



## WEDNESDAY

11am Pastor's  
Bible Study

## THURSDAY EVENINGS

Music Team Practice @ 6:30pm

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST

Dec 14th @ 9:00am - Truck World in Hubbard

## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, December 10th @ 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](http://www.millcreek.church)

.Pastor Calko is available for visits. He can be reached at  
[pastorgreg@millcreek.church](mailto:pastorgreg@millcreek.church) or by phone at 330-782-0573.

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## Millcreek Community Methodist Church Leadership Team Meeting

**November 12, 2024 @ 5:30pm**

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

Pastor Greg opened with a reading from Matthew 5: 24-45 and a prayer.

Minutes of last meeting were approved and there was no old business.

### **Treasurer/Finance:**

- Nice gain in October because of ALTA (+\$10,000)
- Investments and endowments went down by \$12,000
- We may try to move some of our assets into higher-yielding equity, etc (Maybe 1/3)

### **Administrative:**

- Charge Conference November 16<sup>th</sup> time was changed to 10:00 am
- SPR will meet after Charge Conference to discuss salary increases

### **Building & Grounds/Maintenance:**

- Water bill is high – more water efficient toilets needed
- Concrete installation hopefully will be done Nov 22
- Floor in kitchen is coming up. Will have AI check it

### **Missions/Outreach & Vision:**

- Drive-thru dinner Nov 16
- Special November collection for hurricane victims (Samaritan's Purse) \$350 to date
- Pumpkin pie sale to go to Samaritan's Purse
- Church at Monte Feria and extra money for the children of Monte Feria

### **Worship:**

- Hanging of the Greens November 24 with sandwiches after
- Cantata will be December 22 with punch and cookies to follow
- Christmas Eve Worship Service December 24 @ 6:00pm

Meeting closed with prayer. Next Leadership Meeting December 10th at 5:30pm.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Joann Vitto  
Lou Stark  
Janice Rose  
Shirley Stauffer  
Cheryl Viola  
Marilynn Makar

John Carney  
Donna Kiroff  
P. Mae White  
Barb Childs  
Lloyd Sloger  
Dawn Crosby



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

**Gloria Finkley**  
Caprice Health Center  
9184 Market St, Rm 604  
North Lima, OH 44452

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

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



## December BIRTHDAYS



11th - Randy Carman

17th - Gloria Finkley

18th - Barbara Hubler

20th - Janice Rose



## Millcreek Community Methodist Church

## Christmas Events

Sunday, Dec. 22nd  
10:30 am

*Cantata and  
Worship Service*

*Punch & Cookies to Follow*

Tuesday, Dec. 24th  
6:00 pm

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service*

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## Christmas Mission Bells Ring-out This December



- Our Sister Church of Monte Feria in Holquin, Cuba (\$150)
  - Christmas Gifts for Monte Feria Children (\$350)
  - Rescue Mission - Christmas Dinner (\$150)
  - Warren Family Christmas Dinner (\$150)
- Samaritan Basket for North Carolina, Tennessee & Georgia (\$700 collected)

### Of Honor and Faith

We gratefully thank our men and women who have served and those serving today in our Armed Forces. May God continue to bless them and keep them in His grace. President John F. Kennedy, days before his assassination, wrote a proclamation aimed to unite a divided nation. He wrote:

“Today we give our thanks, most of all, for the ideals of honor and faith we inherit from our forefathers - for the decency of purpose, steadfastness, of resolve and strength of will, for the courage and the humility which they possessed and which we must seek every day to emulate.”



### The Snowman

The snowman is white and clean, depicting the pure, sinless nature of our Savior. 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. Its 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.

### *\*Susie's Fun Corner\**

Why does Christmas always  
come just when the stores are  
so crowded?



Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, If you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.  
(Methodist Hymn Book Pg 593)

*Susie J, Mission Team Member*



### Pilgrim's Progress - What Progress They Made!

The journey the Mayflower ship made was dangerous and hard to take. Only sixteen (16) of them decided to travel on to a land called Lockwood and within this wooded place they would come upon Millcreek Community Methodist Church, which of course had its own “Rock” out front. The Rock at Plymouth was not where they wanted to be. They were happy when they saw Millcreek Community, surrounded by streams and woods, wild turkeys and deer. With happy hearts the “16” found an indoor kitchen and decided to make a Thankful Dinner that would continue in the month of November for years to come.

Our famous Chef/Pastor, Greg, was anxious to get the turkeys in the oven. Several of the Pilgrims helped with cleaning those birds and cutting the meat off the bones. The Pilgrim ladies found cranberries and made cranberry sauce, which was packed into containers for our guests. Oh, yes, we had guests! Not all were Indians that approached. They brought corn that could be used for this special meal. The Pilgrim women in this group and neighbors helped in making the dinner rolls and packaged them carefully. Potatoes and a special gravy was made from the juice of the turkeys. Thankfully all agreed everyone had something to offer for this special meal. With help from our Indian friends, cornmeal stuffing was added to our menu.



These 16 Pilgrims wanted a table of family and friends to gather together to enjoy this wonderful meal all had joined in making.

God had blessed these Pilgrims, Indians and those who had come from the woods of Millcreek. Perhaps they were not of the Mayflower ship and didn't land in Plymouth, but they came to serve all who came for a wonderful, different kind of a meal -that they called “Thanksgiving”.



The sixteen Pilgrims who landed at the Millcreek Methodist Church, Yes! at our rock are as follows: Barb Beach, Kevin, Barb & Kari Hubler, Ken Bennett, Diane Redfern, Bill Stilson, Hope Sabanick, Bud & Sandy White, Louise Easter, Janice Rose, Laura Johnson, Tami Calko and our Renowned Chef/Pastor Greg Calko.

Many Thank You's to all of you for your donations for this wonderful meal. Thank you for all the Pilgrims in the kitchen!

*Susie J  
Mission Team Member*