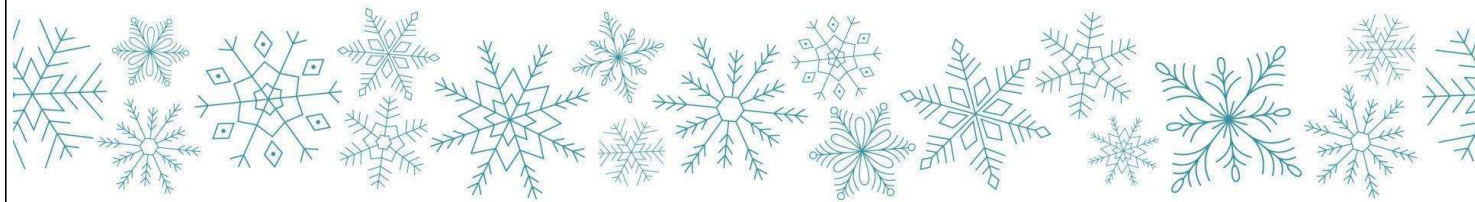


Millcreek Community Methodist Church
4570 Lockwood Boulevard
Youngstown, Ohio 44511-3799

The Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here" Jan/Feb 2025



YOU CAN FIND US ON



Millcreek Community Methodist Church

OFFICE HOURS

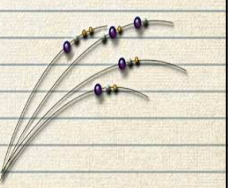
M-W-F 9am - 2pm

(330) 782-0573

info@millcreek.church (e-mail)

www.millcreek.church (website)

A Note From The
Pastor...



Doesn't it seem that it was a long time ago that we were told that the year 2000, the beginning of a new century, would bring indescribable chaos and turmoil to the world? Some were so consumed with fear that they built bunkers and stockpiled large supplies of food, water, flashlight batteries and other necessities required to sustain life. Others simply dismissed all the hype and hoopla and went about their daily routines without cause for alarm, believing that it would be just another day on the calendar. A few minutes after midnight, the latter were proved to be right as God blessed humanity with His grace once again.

Twenty-five years later we marked the beginning of another new year, this time with a different kind of fear upon us. The fear of an invisible threat triggered by a ticking clock at midnight has been replaced by fear of an invisible threat called artificial intelligence (AI), something few of us can even explain. Much like Y2K, AI is said by some to be the greatest danger to humanity since the development of the atomic bomb, likening it to an anti-Christ promising eternal artificial life. Others believe it is a powerful gift from God, one with great potential in helping scientists and doctors find cures for cancer and other deadly disease. Like Y2K, only time will tell whether fear of AI is warranted or ridiculed. What we can be sure of is that AI will not bring lasting happiness to the world or change God's timetable for our lives. In fact, despite technology and intelligence humanity continues to drift farther and farther away from the image of God in which we were created, and the farther people drift the unhappier they become.

Genuine happiness (joy!) does not come from intelligence, knowledge or circumstances but from faith in Jesus Christ. Long before AI, John Wesley once said, *"the more holy we are upon earth the more happy we must be"*. He is not implying we must "act happier" as we become more holy, but that holiness brings us happiness. That means we can be holy and happy, unholy and unhappy, perhaps even unholy and happy (for a time!) but never holy and unhappy. That is especially true for those of us who claim to know Jesus Christ as our Savior. We will have moments of despair and distress because we live in a sinful and fallen world, but unhappiness is never the norm.

As we begin a new year together let us resolve to choose happiness and holiness over fear and pessimism. When unhappiness or unholiness threatens to weaken our faith or damage or destroy a relationship with someone we are called to love, let us stop for a moment or two or three and remember the love of Christ. He chose to die for us because He loved us. That love has the power to change lives- even our own. Stay holy and happy! 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

Jan 11th & Feb 8th @ 9:00am - Truck World in Hubbard

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, Jan 14th & Feb 11th @ 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.**

You Tube

Millcreek Community
Methodist Church



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Millcreek Community Methodist Church Leadership Team Meetings

December 10, 2024 @ 5:30pm

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

Pastor Greg opened with reading from a devotional and with carols – "Come Now Our Long-expected Jesus". Minutes of last meeting were approved and there was no old business.

Treasurer/Finance:

- Showing a gain; November Alta check \$2,000+
- Will need to formulate a budget for 2025
- Approved increases in pay for Dean, Tay and Sally
- Hope fixed some small mistakes in accounting

Building & Grounds/Maintenance:

- Flush valves to be replaced on all toilets over Christmas break-1.3 GPF instead of current 5 gallon per flush should save a substantial amount of water
- Good job on concrete replacement; not so good on blacktop. Blacktop will have to be fixed next year. PG to file complaint with BBB.

Missions/Outreach & Vision:

- January to November – spent \$11,000 on 44 missions
- Continue with Monte Feria, Someplace Safe and Tunnel to Towers
- January 18th drive thru dinner; turkey and dumplings
- Take decorations down January 12th – pizza?

Worship:

- Luncheon after Cantata on December 22nd – Sloppy joes, chips, drinks, etc
- Christmas Eve service December 24th at 6:00 pm

Meeting closed with prayer. Next Leadership Meeting January 14th at 5:30pm.

January 14, 2025 @ 5:30pm

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

Pastor Greg opened with reading from Romans about hope – Jesus is the solution to all our problems, for everyone. Minutes of last meeting were approved and there was no old business.

Treasurer/Finance:

- Identified giving \$9,000 for December (up \$2000 from November)
- Investment fund loss and endowment loss of over \$9,000 for December. Total unrealized gain for 2024 of \$53, 255.
- Seedbed double billed us for SS materials. PG to check with them

Administration:

- Working on budget this week

Building & Grounds/Maintenance:

- Flush valves were changed
- Work on outdoor repairs when weather breaks
- Al replaced tile in kitchen

Missions/Outreach & Vision:

- Wreaths Across America, Wounded Warrior
- February – Monte Feria, Making Kids Count, Rescue Mission
- Broccoli Cheddar & Vegetable Beef Soups, second Saturday of February

Worship:

- Need winter decorations for after Christmas
- No new hymn books needed at this time

Meeting closed with prayer. Next Leadership Meeting February 11th at 5:30pm.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Joann Vitto
Lou Stark
Mike Calko
Shirley Stauffer

Donna Kiroff
P. Mae White
Lloyd Sloger
Marilynn Makar



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January Birthdays

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

February Birthdays

25th - Macilla Grace



"Souper" Bowl Sunday Soup Sale



Sunday, February 9, 2025
(Pickup right after worship)



#8 Quart or #4 Pint



Homemade Cheddar Broccoli Soup

&

Homemade Vegetable Beef Soup



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

MISSION TEAM

Please meet at the church
Saturday, February 8th
at 10:00 am
to make the soup

Proceeds support Millcreek mission projects





Happy Mission Bells Ring



JANUARY



- * Methodist Church of Monte Feria, Cuba - \$150
 - * Wreaths Across America - \$275
(our donation was doubled to \$550)
 - * Wounded Warrior Project - \$200
 - * Free Drive-Thru Dinner January 18th



FEBRUARY

Methodist Church of Monte Feria, Cuba

Warren Family Mission - Food, Shelter & Care

Project MKC - Making Kids Count - Caring for Children

Partnership Renewal - Rescue Mission -
Food, Shelter & Care



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

Did you ever stop to think and
forget to start again?



The most expensive vehicle to
operate, per mile, is the
shopping cart.

*Thank you dear church
family for the many
blessings!*

Susie J, Mission Team Member



January's Dinner and the "Snowflakes"



It was time already for our Community Drive-Thru Dinner.
Rain mixed with snow was falling to the ground. All of a sudden
SNOWFLAKES were coming through the kitchen door! Imagine snowflakes of all sizes and
shapes - WOW!

It was as though these **SNOWFLAKES CAME ALIVE!** The beauty of these
Snowflakes was that they knew just what to do. Their crystal-clean chatter was
somewhat like music in the air as they prepared our meal.

The Snowflakes came in all sizes. The taller and stronger Snowflakes helped with the
turkeys, dumplings and vegetables, while the smaller and crafty Snowflakes assembled
the boxes our dinners went in. Funny and lovely sayings decorated these boxes, while
other Snowflakes fixed the salad containers.

Snowflake after snowflake tumbled and danced throughout the day - Gee, they
were a lovely sight to see. I thought perhaps God had sent them to teach our Mission
Team how to serve others! God's generosity inspired these Snowflakes to keep working
on all that needed done. When the Snowflake Salad Gal finished with the salads, she
quickly wheeled the salads outside to keep cool. The Snowflake Gals were working on the
homemade brownies, slicing them and putting them into the brownie containers. The
Snowflakes swirled and floated in the air, Yes they were so beautiful and such a delight!

I said, "So what if these snowflakes fell from Heaven to show us how to serve
others?" Our Mission Team members don't mind the lessons we learn in our Sunday
School, church service and Bible study group. After all, Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that
"we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works."

Thank you, Jesus for rewarding to us the intricate details of each of our Snowflakes!



Our Beautiful Snowflakes As Follows:



Barb Beach

Bill Stilson

Ken Bennett

Diane Redfern

Hope Sabanick

Keith Makar

Janice Rose

Barb & Kari Hubler

Pastor Greg & Tami Calko

*Susie J
Mission Team Member*

