

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

# The Beat Newsletter

"Love Works Here"

May 2026

YOU CAN FIND US ON



**Millcreek Community Methodist Church**

OFFICE HOURS

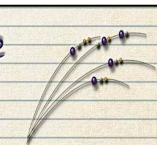
M-W-F 9am - 2pm

(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...*



*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.... (1 Peter 3:12) The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. (Proverbs 15:29) The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (James 5:16)*

*Call to me and I will answer you and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. (Jeremiah 33:3) Those verses and others like them bring assurance to us that God hears us when we pray. Prayer connects us with God. To say it another way, God is just as anxious to hear from us as we are to hear from Him. But what does God hear?*

Sometimes when we pray, we tend to address God with our typical “grocery list” of needs and concerns without considering how He has already provided for us. We will hear the answer to our prayer for today more clearly when we remember that God has already heard our prayers of yesterday, even when His answer was not what we expected or desired. When it comes to prayer and other matters of faith, we can be so focused on the here and now that we fail to stop and consider the past and the future. Of course, some things are best left in the past and should not be dredged up or reopened. Wounds that are healing are best left to heal undisturbed. However, many times the answers to our prayers will come when we ponder what God has already done for us and on our behalf, rather than on the immediate concern of the hour. By doing that, we are demonstrating our faith to God and are ready to hear what He has to say in response. Intercessory prayer is also something that God treasures. When we pray for the needs and concerns of others, rather than our own, it reflects our love of Jesus Christ. We will also hear the answer to our prayer of today more clearly when we consider what God has promised us for the future, namely the promise of resurrection, new life and perfect fellowship with God and other believers.

Prayer connects us with God, yet in the busyness and business of life there will be times when we may need help making that connection. When those moments come, help is at our fingertips, and it can be found in the Millcreek prayer calendar. You will find it published in our newsletter and on our website, and each day there is a specific need that we will pray for as a church. It is a great resource that will help us connect with God and help us to pray for needs other than our own. Let us pray, as God is waiting to hear from us! Pastor Greg

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUNDAY

9am Holy Grounds Café  
10:30am Worship



## WEDNESDAY

11am Pastor's  
Bible Study

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

Prayer Team @ 10:15am

## THURSDAY EVENINGS

Music Team Practice @ 6:30pm

## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

May 12th @ 5:00pm

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST

May 9th @ 9:00am - Truck World in Hubbard



Call any prayer requests to  
Barb Childs (330-360-6796)  
Mary Lois Floyd (330-782-7683)  
Betsy Stark (330-727-9634)



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 March 10, 2026 @ 5:30pm

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

The meeting was opened with a devotional about Martha and carrying burdens/seeking first the kingdom. Be more like Mary and less like Martha. Our one priority is seeking the kingdom. Minutes of last meeting were approved and discussed old business of painting quotes.

#### **Treasurer/Finance:**

- Received \$25,000 distribution from investment fund
- Giving was up for February; made up for missed Sunday in January
- Connectional giving to GMC for 2026 has been paid in full (\$1,319.04)
- Snow removal costs up significantly from last year
- Endowment and Investment funds were up from last month

#### **Administration:**

- Pastor will be on vacation April 7-14

#### **Building and Grounds:**

- Getting quotes from painters to paint kitchen cabinets and fellowship hall paneling
- Planning work day soon- remove fallen trees and do other spring cleanup

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

- April missions are Salvation Army, Warren Family Mission, Rescue Mission and Cuba church
- We've supported 12 missions so far this year
- 120 meals planned for community dinner on March 21st
- Medications will be sent to Cuba week of March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Planning to incorporate daily texts from prayer calendar

#### **Worship:**

- Good Friday 7pm & Community Easter Sunrise 7am services at Greenhaven Memorial Gardens
- Bring light breakfast item to share after Sunrise service
- Regular Easter service at 10:30am

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

### Millcreek Community Methodist Church Leadership Team Meeting April 21, 2026 @ 5:30pm

Present: Pastor Greg, Barb Hubler, Susie Justice, Diane Redfern, and Hope Sabanick.

The meeting was opened with a reading from Acts about the last days, "The Holy Spirit and the supernatural" and prayer. Minutes of last meeting were approved and there was no old business.

#### **Treasurer/Finance:**

- March giving was over \$8,000
- Endowment and investment funds were both down about 10% but should rebound
- Reimbursement from school will show up in April

#### **Administration:**

- Annual Conference June 24-27 at Mt. Vernon. Pastor will attend with two lay delegates(Diane & Susie?)
- Change leadership meeting time to 5:00 PM
- "Stand in the Gap" ministries (Cornersburg) inquired about renting space from us on Sundays-they will meet with us after worship April 26 to discuss.

#### **Building and Grounds:**

- Received 2 estimates for painting of fellowship hall and kitchen-\$5000+. Tabled until May
- Spring Work Day Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>-indoor and outside cleanup

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

- April missions are Pregnancy Help Center, Yellow Brick Place, Samaritan's Purse and Church of Monte Fera
- Next community drive thru dinner is May 16<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be ham loaf, scalloped potatoes, etc.
- Special offering will be collected May 3 for Cuba pastor Liudmila's husband Julio Gonzalez who requires surgery

#### **Worship:**

- Dean is incorporating a special music selection in Sunday worship services

Meeting closed with prayer. Next Leadership Meeting May 12th at 5:00pm

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Joann Vitto  
 Domenic Viola  
 Jackie Makar  
 Erika Hubler  
 Lori Boyle

Elaine Williams  
 Mark Asher  
 Doris Molin -  
 (Barb Child's aunt)  
 Carole Simone



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

**Dominic Viola**  
 Austintown Healthcare Center  
 650 Meridian Rd, Rm 307  
 Austintown, OH 44509

**Elaine Williams**  
 Shepherd of the Valley  
 301 W Western Reserve Rd  
 Rm 123  
 Youngstown, OH 44514

Please join our card ministry & sign the cards on the table in the narthex each Sunday. Thank you!



4th - Elijah Ehret  
 11th - Benny Ferone

## Flying Trees Academy News

We have several exciting updates to share with you this month!

### (1) "WAIT...St. Patrick wasn't Irish???"

That moment of surprise rippled across the classroom this week as our students leaned in, full of questions, curiosity, and just a bit of disbelief. It's one of those moments you can't plan - but it's exactly the kind of learning we aim for. Pastor Greg and Betsy visited Flying Trees Academy on St. Patrick's Day (just a month after their Valentine's Day visit) to share lessons on the meaning behind these holidays.

But what stood out wasn't just what students learned - it was how they learned.



They questioned.  
 They connected ideas.  
 They challenged assumptions.  
 They engaged.



They enjoyed the treats Betsy so thoughtfully brought! And, they experienced what it feels like to learn in a community that shows up for them. We are deeply grateful to be surrounded by people who invest in our students in ways that go far beyond the expected.

### (2) Now Enrolling: A Few Seats Remaining

We have about 10 openings left for students who will be in kindergarten through 7th grade in the 2026-2027 school year. Flying Trees Academy isn't for everyone - and that's intentional. It's for families who want something different. Something grounded in how children actually develop. Something that prioritizes curiosity, engagement, and meaningful growth. Something that uses the science of neurodevelopment to guide what happens in the classroom. If that resonates, the next step is to attend an information session. Contact Dr. Farris at [FlyingTreesAcademy@gmail.com](mailto:FlyingTreesAcademy@gmail.com) or 330-412-1912 for more information.

### (3) Save the Date: Spring Carnival Fundraiser

One of the best ways to experience our community is to step into it. Our Spring Carnival - to be held on Saturday, May 2nd from 1:00 - 4:00 pm - is open to everyone and will include:

\*Games \*Food \*Prizes \*School tours

More details coming soon - we'd love to see you there.



### April Showers Bring May Flowers



The Mission Team continued receiving donations for the shipping of the 65 pounds of over-the-counter meds for our Monte Feria Methodist Church in Cuba. Thank you to all who donated close to \$210 to have it shipped from Florida to Cuba. "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." We also donated to Easter dinners at Rescue Mission, Salvation Army and Warren Family. Each received \$150 toward their Easter dinners. Our Soup Sale through the late part of February earned missions \$341. The Mission Team is very blessed that our congregation and mail-in's keep our missions strong and on the move helping our communities. We are grateful, Lord, for the family in our church.

Last but not least is our Pastor Greg and Dean Zawacki. Many "Thank you's" for a wonderful Holy Week. It was certainly beautiful and wonderful, Pastor Greg. We thank you Dean for providing us with the "sound of music"!

*Sincerely, Susie J. Mission Team*

#### May Missions

- Pregnancy Help Center
- Samaritan's Purse
- Yellow Brick Place
- Church of Monte Feria

#### Special Offering

On May 3rd there will be a special offering collected for the Monte Feria, Cuba pastor's husband who is having surgery.

#### Our **FREE** Community Drive-thru Dinner

May 16th 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Featuring: Glazed Ham Loaf, Scalloped Potatoes, Dinner Roll & Pineapple Upside-down Cake

COME ONE COME ALL

and join us for this "Old Favorite" dinner.

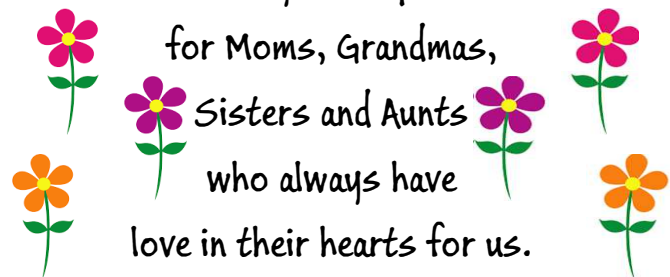
The finest Chef in town with the most wonderful dinner crew will serve up this specialty meal!

(Donations thankfully accepted)

#### Mother's Day

May 10th

This Sunday let us praise God



for Moms, Grandmas, Sisters and Aunts who always have love in their hearts for us.

Let's celebrate!

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

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.



There are 3 kinds of people: Those who can count and those who can't.

#### **Pastor's Recommended Reading**

**LOVE GOES FIRST**

*Reaching Others in an Age of Anxiety and Division*

By: Andrew Forrest

### An "Irish Beef Stew" Story and How It Came To Be - A Millcreek Community Church Folklore

Let us all go to Ireland to get the Irish Beef Stew recipe! We can be there in the wink of our Irish Eyes. Imagine how green the valleys will be with laughing leprechauns and those silly "little people" running and jumping about! We must remember the potatoes to peel and slice, onions and green beans to add flavor. Remember this dinner brings out the Irish in us so don't forget to roll your R's and G's to keep that Irish brogue!

Our Pastor "Chef" Gregory was just beside himself with all the malarky of the "wee little folks" so he crossed himself (the good man that he is) and said, "May the saints preserve us." He asked we return to our kitchen at Millcreek Community, not realizing the leprechauns and the "wee little people" would follow along. As we entered our kitchen door we were surprised with sounds of giggles and happy laughter. Leprechauns were jumping about and flying through the air. Amid the dancing and squealing of the "little people" we went to work on the stew.

Some of us were setting up the food boxes and containers to be filled as "Saint Patrick" entered our kitchen. All of a sudden the Leprechauns and Little People hushed their blarney, stopping their tomfoolery to join in singing with Saint Patrick. "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light." (Methodist Hymnal pg 451) Sing along as did our beloved kitchen group. We formed our line to fill the dinner boxes and we heard St. Patrick say he could hear the Emerald Island call to him. Chef Pastor Gregory said to us all, "May the saints preserve us."

The dear man himself, Saint Patrick, yes he himself left us with an Irish Blessing: "May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home. May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam. May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures. May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours." With an Irish Brogue, we hope you enjoyed your Irish Beef Stew! Maybe it really didn't go this way, but we'd like to believe it did!

Many thanks to our Leprechauns who helped prepare this dinner:

Ken Bennett Elaine Williams Barb Hubler Barb Beach Keith Makar Betsy Stark Lisa Schwab Tami & Chef Pastor Gregory Calko

*Susie J. Mission Team*

My church family proves that God is always faithful. Jesus call us to bring love and light to those in need. You folks are the Christians that bring love, kindness and grace to those around us in partnership with God who reflects His love and light in this world.

Are we not blessed when blessing others? Thank you for your generous support to our missions.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.

*Susie J. Mission Team Member*