

Review of February 25th Soup-er meeting

It is time to celebrate our successful meeting on Sunday, February 25 and thank everyone who stayed to help think through the year ahead. We had a great turn out and started out with lots of amazing homemade soup, those of you who could not stay, missed out!!!! We had multiple kinds of chili, homemade split pea, chicken and rice, bean, and a few others. There was so much it was hard to choose! In addition to the soup, there was home baked bread, & cornbread, crackers, chips and dip, and desserts! It was a great reminder of just how God provides.



After everyone had their fill, Pastor Carol led us through a time of brainstorming ideas. (We once again can say that we got to see some of what Pastor Carol does for the District.) These ideas that were shared could be anything we would love to see here at MUMC, no matter how difficult or easy they would be to accomplish; we came up with three pages of ideas. Then the hard part came... everyone was given six stickers to pick their top six priorities.

Pastor Carol was not surprised by the voting of the top priority. In the discussion of the day, and in other discussion, one of the biggest concerns that has been showed is a need to rebuild our sense of community internally. There was damage caused by the pandemic, then pastoral transitions and leaders, followed by disaffiliation issues. Any one of these could make it difficult to hold a community together, but with one on top of another, it has made it very difficult, without intentional work. Thus, the activities getting the greatest number of votes were ideas around building our internal community. We must continue to acknowledge and realize that if we don't rebuild our internal community, it is difficult to draw new people into the life of the congregation.

So, we will be taking time to focus on internal activities such as regular pot-lucks, game nights, movie nights and restarting the ice cream (social) from Arbela UMC. People volunteered to coordinate much of this work that afternoon.



We also decided that we wanted to do some new things including participate with the M-15 garage sale by hosting a few food trucks with the possibility of renting out spaces on the lawn for "garage sale" sites. All of this is being planned and organized by a committee led by Rich Hebner and Bill Bushaw.



The last area of focus that got a great deal of traction was the need to improve our communication, both internally and externally. How do we use the tools that we have more effectively to share with the community that we are here. Pat Burns is coordinating that team. Other ideas will be picked up as they fit into the church calendar.



Mission Notes

First, I want to speak to those who attended the planning session after our soup-er potluck lunch on Sunday, February 25th. We were all asked to offer our ideas as to what we would like to see happen in our church in the coming year. Many good social outreach suggestions were made. One suggestion was to have Pastor choose a bible related book for everyone to read and then meet to discuss each chapter. I had the thought to propose that we have a group gather weekly to study the bible. I failed to suggest that, so I am suggesting that now. Maybe we, as a church, could discover the key to follow Jesus' "Great Commission" as well as His "Great Commandment".

Now, what is happening in the Missions we support:

Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti - This hospital treats children and also treats adults. No one is ever refused treatment. They treat malnutrition, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and all respiratory diseases. Five hundred (500) people are seen each day.

Positive Alternatives – We had the pleasure of having their director, April Woodall, speak to us on January 28th. They do a great work with and for parents with unwanted, unplanned pregnancies, giving them a very positive option as opposed to abortion.

Inter-varsity Ministry to the Greek community at Central Michigan University (CMU). Steve and Bethany Lambert lead a very effective ministry, starting Bible studies in Fraternities and Sororities. In their last newsletter, Steve made this statement, "While church attendance nationally is at a all time low, we had more Greek students attend churches than ever before."

Peter and Kate Walugembe – reported that they have, in the past 6-8 weeks have had many ups and downs. Sick children, and challenges in meeting the needs of many very needy people. She closed their letter with this statement, "I could have written a much different letter (one of a boo-hoo, woe is me one) It's all how you frame it! But we maintain a perspective that it's all about being connected to something bigger going on."

They also thank us for our support.

Maurry Chapin

Mission and Outreach




Finance
Moment

Jesus tells us to: 1) feed the hungry, 2) give water to the thirsty, 3) clothe the naked, 4) visit those in prison and 5) give comfort and healing to the sick. That is a pretty tall order. We can't do all that...

But, yes, we can! When we give, our gifts work toward accomplishing all that we have mentioned, and then some! God uses our gifts to touch lives around the world. Let us give gratefully and joyously.⁵¹⁸

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God has given us two hands--one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing. **Billy Graham**



Blood Drive coming soon!

Friday, March 15th, Noon to 5:45 pm

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

To Pre-Register



Holy Thursday Service

7:00 pm

March 28, 2024

Service of Communion
and Tenebrae



Easter Morning Breakfast

9:00 to 10:00am

March 31, 2024

Pancakes, Sausage &
Eggs

Freewill
offering



When it rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.



When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

—Janna Firestone

Millington Arbela District Library

Craft Night—every 2nd and 4th Wednesday (March 13th and 27th) from 4:30—6pm. Tweens through adult ages can participate in a different craft each week. Watch the Facebook page or go to millingtonlibrary.info for more details.

March 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 World Day of Prayer 	2
3 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 3rd Sunday in Lent	4	5 8:30 am Women's 4th Day	6	7	8	9
10 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 4th Sunday in Lent	11 5pm Trustee mtg. 7pm Mission & Outreach mtg.	12 8:30 am Women's 4th Day	13	14	15 Blood Drive 12 to 5:45pm 	16
17 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 5th Sunday in Lent	18 5:30pm -Church Council mtg.	19 8:30 am Women's 4th Day  First day of Spring!	20	21	22	23
24 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  Passion/Palm Sunday	25 Holy Monday	26 8:30 am Women's 4th Day Holy Tuesday	27 Holy Wednesday	28 Holy Thursday 7:00 pm service	29 Good Friday	30 Black Saturday
31 9am All Church Breakfast 10am Worship  Easter Sunday Alleluia!	<h1>Holy Week: March 24th to 30th</h1>					

A Note from Barb...



This has been a roller coaster week as far as the weather is concerned. Have you held on or did you fall off the ride? March tends to be like that as well. Sometimes we think that winter is going to go on forever. And sometimes we think that Spring is finally here (only to find out that it's really not). It's a good thing that we live in Michigan where it is never a dull moment. Where most all of us have learned to adapt to the many changes. There have been many signs of spring lately. I saw a groundhog sprinting across the road, the grackles are back, there was a robin in our tree the other day, and I've since seen many others. This morning I heard a red-winged blackbird as I walked up to the church. The maple sap is flowing and the farmers are planning their planting already. And I saw my first dead skunk on the side of the road! Most of these are signs that many of us watch for each year. But the greatest sign of all is celebrating that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again on Easter morning. Alleluia!

Millington United Methodist Church

9020 State Rd.

Millington, MI 48746

Phone: 989-871-3489



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9020 State Rd., Millington MI 48746

989-871-3489 email: millingtonumc@millingtonumc.com

www.millingtonumc.com or on Facebook @ Millington United Methodist Church

Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Him known

Check out our Sunday sermon online on our Facebook page at :

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