



# The Connection

February 2024

A monthly publication of the

**Millington United Methodist Church**

**Our Mission: To Know Christ, and to  
Make Him Known**

## February Scripture Readings

1. John 3:16
2. John 15:13
3. 1 John 3:1
4. 1 Peter 4:8
5. Romans 5:8
6. Zephaniah 3:17
7. Psalm 107:8-9
8. Nehemiah 9:17
9. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
10. John 13:34-35
11. 1 John 4:7-8
12. Proverbs 10:12
13. Romans 12:9-10
14. 1 John 4:18-19
15. Micah 6:8
16. Ephesians 4:2
17. Luke 6:35
18. Ephesians 5:25
19. Galatians 5:22-23
20. Galatians 5:22-23
21. Romans 13:8
22. Romans 13:9-10
23. 1 John 4:9-11
24. Galatians 2:20
25. Psalm 89:2
26. Matthew 22:37-39
27. Romans 8:37-39
28. Isaiah 54:10
29. Proverbs 8:17

## February National Days

1. National Optimist Day
2. National Bubble Gum Day
3. National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
4. National Homemade Soup Day
5. National Weatherperson's Day
6. National Frozen Yogurt Day
7. National Send a Card to a Friend Day
8. National Boy Scouts Day
9. National No One Eats Alone Day
10. National Umbrella Day
11. National Peppermint Patty Day
12. National Clean Out Your Computer Day
13. National Paczki Day
14. National Organ Donor Day
15. National Gumdrop Day
16. National Do a Grouch a Favor Day
17. National Random Acts of Kindness Day
18. National Crab Stuffed Flounder Day
19. National Chocolate Mint Day
20. National Comfy Day
21. National Sticky Bun Day
22. National Cook a Sweet Potato Day
23. National Banana Bread Day
24. National Tortilla Chip Day
25. National Clam Chowder Day
26. National Letter to an Elder Day
27. National Polar Bear Day
28. National Tooth Fairy Day
29. National Leap Day



- 1— Bethany Morrill
- 2—Cindy Ayotte
- 2—Bud Schriber
- 8—Aleea Wilson
- 9—Lori Hall
- 9—Kathryn Malone
- 10—Alissa Vincent
- 10—Mark Truett
- 11—Melissa Trato
- 11—Michael Burks
- 12—Riley McKuen
- 12—Nolavay Blackmer
- 13—Peyton McKuen
- 15—Maury Chapin
- 15—Watson Gray Reinert
- 16—Brian Dickson
- 16—Chad Reinert
- 16—Fiona Wolf
- 17—Charlotte Buccaneer
- 19—Tonia Burns
- 19—Kathryn Cram
- 19—Jahari Tanner
- 22—Tammy Henderson
- 23—Robert Shepherd
- 27—Bobbye Thom
- 28—Devin Howell
- 28—Debbie Olmstead

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## Pastor Carol's Corner

I will start this by saying – I have no idea how long I will be the pastor of Millington UMC! But the original thought was no longer than June 30, 2025. So, no I don't know that I am moving this year! Yet, this is the time of year that every United Methodist pastor starts to get a little anxious when the phone rings.... Why? Because the Bishop and Cabinet have started to look at every church and every pastor to consider appointments for the 2024-2025 appointment year. We have a very unique form of policy, or organization; remember every pastor in the United Methodist Church is appointed by the bishop for one year and only one, at a time then it is renewed or changed. I will admit that the Bishop and Cabinet are working to make appointments longer, my last two, prior to coming to Millington as your interim, were for 7 years and 9 years.

So today, I would ask for you to be in prayer for our Bishop, David Bard along with the Appointive Cabinet which is filled with the 7 District Superintendents and the Clergy Assistant to the Bishop. They have already begun to meet regularly. They are in prayer as they discern the many transitions and changes that will be happening across the hundreds of churches here in Michigan. Most churches will not see a pastoral change but those that do, there is always disruption.

Some pastoral changes are due to retirements, some because of disagreements and conflict, some because of financial challenges, some happen after prayerful discernment of the gifts and graces of a pastor that are needed at a different church, some because an opportunity for advancement is offered, sometimes there are family situations that have not been publicly shared, and sometimes we may never understand. The truth is we don't always know, we may never know, and it is not our place to know.

So, what is our place? The very first place to be is on our knees in prayer. In prayer for our church, our Bishop and the Cabinet as they make decisions on not just Millington UMC but every UMC in Michigan. That they would listen to the Holy Spirit, be open to the leading of the Spirit and guided by Scripture.

We need to be praying for each other. We need to be looking at who is not in worship and going and visiting and asking how we may be a community together again.

Our place is also to be in worship, continuing to worship, praising God and being together as the people of faith. If we quit being the people of faith then we have let evil win. That is not what we are called to do. We must fight harder! We have let evil win too much in this world, too often we have given up the fight for what is right.

We need to be planning into the next year. On Sunday, February 25, right after worship we are having a Soup-luck planning afternoon. Bring a pot of soup, cheese and crackers, some bread, or just yourself. Whatever you can contribute to our Soup-luck planning afternoon. Most importantly bring yourself. We are going to talk about looking forward, not back. Where do we go from here!

We may be small, but let's be mighty and small!

Where is our place? On our knees, in worship, with each other, and planning for the future. Please join us in looking for the future.

Pastor Carol



**Finance**



**Moment**

Sometimes we think there will be a better time to give to the church and we put it off until it is easier to give. Please consider this excerpt from the SeedTime website.

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I think the reason that some of us wait for the perfect time to do something is because we are trying to wait until there is no risk. It is human nature – we want to eliminate any and all risk of bad things happening.

No matter how much we try, **we can NEVER eliminate all risk**. Any time we step out into anything there will be some level of risk, but that is not an excuse not to take action.

If it is stepping out into a new job, taking the first step to get out of debt, quit a bad habit, or anything else – there will always be an excuse not to take action.

Step out and be one of those people who realizes that the perfect time is now.<sup>418</sup>

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## **COMING SOON! Blood Drive**

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

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

**To Pre-Register**





Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

## *Learning to forgive*

Forgiveness is great in theory, and it's a wonderful blessing to receive. But granting forgiveness can be another story. As C.S. Lewis said, "Everybody says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." Likewise, forgiveness doesn't simply happen over time, as forgetting often does. Instead, it's "an act of volition," said Simon Wiesenthal, "and only the sufferer is qualified to make the decision."

Because forgiveness has many spiritual, emotional and even physical benefits, the secular world is taking notice. Colleges now offer classes about forgiveness skills and strategies. "You practically never hear sermons on forgiveness that are practical and give clear instructions on how to approach it," Professor Robert Enright tells the Washington Post.

Graduate student Shyanne Sporrer says a forgiveness class helped her realize the danger of holding grudges. "Forgiving does not mean you are giving up power," she says. "On the contrary, when you forgive, you are the person who is in control. By forgiving, you can empower yourself to move forward from the anger and resentment to be a better version of yourself."





## The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

Corrie ten Boom

### Millington Arbela District Library

**Craft Night**—every 2nd and 4th Wednesday (February 14th and 28th) 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](http://millingtonlibrary.info) for more details.

February 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						
<b>4</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  5th Sunday after Epiphany	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:30am Women's 4th Day	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  Transfiguration Sunday	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30am Women's 4th Day	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday   	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  1st Sunday in Lent	<b>19</b>  President's Day	<b>20</b> 8:30am Women's 4th Day	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  11—2pm –Planning mtg in Fellowship Hall.  2nd Sunday in Lent	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30am Women's 4th Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  	For those of you who only get an "official" birthday once every 4 years, wishing you the very best of birthdays!	

## *A Note from Barb...*

*Here it is, February. Many people think it is the month of love,. But people not in a romantic relationship may feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love – and love certainly is not limited to the romantic kind. Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around and make someone's day. Jesus taught us that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (I John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that – beyond candy hearts and roses!*

*But Valentine's Day is as good a reminder as any.*



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**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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