

The Connection



January 2024

A monthly publication of the

Millington United Methodist Church

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

January Scripture Readings

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
2. Ephesians 2:8-10
3. Romans 6:11-14
4. 1 Corinthians 15:10
5. Hebrews 4:14-16
6. John 1:16-17
7. Romans 3:22-24
8. Titus 2:11-14
9. Colossians 4:2-6
10. Ephesians 2:4-7
11. 2 Timothy 1:9-10
12. Romans 6:1-4
13. John 1:14
14. Galatians 2:19-21
15. Hebrews 12:14-15
16. Romans 5:1-2
17. Romans 12:3-8
18. 2 Corinthians 6:1-2
19. Galatians 5:4-6
20. Romans 5:20-21
21. Ephesians 1:3-6
22. Titus 3:4-7
23. Ephesians 4:7-8
24. 2 Corinthians 8:7-9
25. Hebrews 2:9-11
26. 1 Peter 1:13-16
27. Colossians 1:3-6
28. Ephesians 1:7-10
29. Acts 20:32
30. 2 Peter 3:18
31. Isaiah 53:5

January National Days

1. National Thank God It's Monday Day
2. National Buffet Day
3. National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
4. National Spaghetti Day
5. National Keto Day
6. National Cuddle Up Day
7. National Tempura Day
8. National Winter Skin Relief Day
9. National Apricot Day
10. National Save the Eagles Day
11. National Milk Day
12. National Marzipan Day
13. National Sticker Day
14. National Dress Up Your Pet Day
15. National Bagel Day
16. National Fig Newton Day
17. National Classy Day
18. National Thesaurus Day
19. National Winnie the Pooh Day
20. National Cheese Lover's Day
21. National Hugging Day
22. National Sanctity of Human Life Day
23. National Pie Day
24. National Compliment Day
25. National Opposite Day
26. National Green Juice Day
27. National Holocaust Remembrance Day
28. National Blueberry Pancake Day
29. National Puzzle Day
30. National Croissant Day
31. National Backward Day



1 Lucinda Hall

3 Jonathon Burks

8 Kenzie Trato

12 Gene Koski

13 Sarah Gleason

Zac Johnson

18 Mary Garrett

19 Mindy Fabbro

19 Aurora Johnson

21 Lee Scott

22 Marie Bolton

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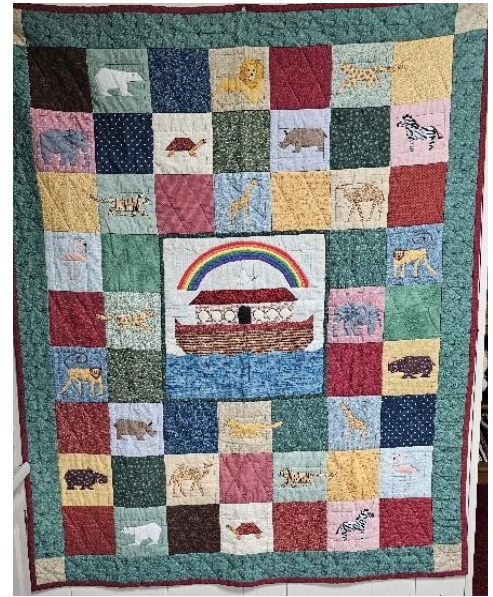
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Methodist Church**



Pastor Carol's Corner

I want to begin with a confession, I know nothing about quilting. I admire people who can quilt and the amazing hand-crafted art they create. If you have ever been in my office, you will notice that on the small wall opposite my desk is a wall hanging/crib quilt of Noah's Ark. This was given to me when Jacob was an infant, his nursery was animals.

When I am sitting at my desk at my office, I see this hand-crafted crib quilt/wall hanging and think about the hours that it took for Marti to make this quilt. I look at all the animals that are on the quilt and think about how she thought about Jacob as she made it. In the center of the quilt is the ark still floating on water, a dove is flying with a branch in its mouth and over the ark is a rainbow. Now I can look at this quilt and I see that rainbow and think about the story of Noah in Genesis 9:13 "I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."



In the days of old, when warriors would come together, a sign of peace was to have your bow in the air, showing that you could not shoot it at your enemy. That you came in peace. In these turbulent times, I look at that quilt and think about God's covenant with Noah.

As we move into the season of Christmas from December 25-January 6 then on to the season of Epiphany I think about how Jesus is the light of the world, and it is light shining through the water droplets that creates the rainbow. We continue to be in difficult and turbulent times, yet God continues to shine light through it all. God continues to remind us that we are not forgotten. We are called to be the reflections of God's light into the dark world. We must be the reflections of God's love each day. As I think about the hours of loving work that went into the quilt that hangs on my wall, I knew each stitch reflects her love. As a church, we are God's quilt, stitched together to reflect love to the world. Won't you join together in reflecting God's love today?




Finance
Moment

At the threshold of this New Year, we thank you for all you have contributed in the past year. Thank you for:

your prayers

your monetary support of our church and other worthy causes

your willingness to share your talents by volunteering where needed

your presence in worship services and other opportunities to learn how to serve others.

And thank you for your witness through your words and deeds.

At the start of this new year, please review Matthew 6:21. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” God calls us to be generous as he has been generous to us. The things we treasure we tend to eagerly support. How does your support of the Lord’s work measure with the other things you treasure?



COMING SOON! Blood Drive

Friday, January 18, 2023 Noon to 5:45 pm

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

To Pre-Register



Looking to 2024

On December 17 during our worship service we took the opportunity to make commitments for 2024. When we joined the Millington United Methodist Church, we vowed to uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, our witness. These important words help us move forward in our commitment to one another, with our commitment to God through Christ. As we consider the next steps of our church in 2024 we must consider our own place in it. How we will commit to the future and sharing Jesus in our community.

If you did not turn in a pledge card for 2024, please check either the statement that came in the mail or you picked up in early December for the one you received. If you no longer have the pledge card or did not receive one, please contact the office. Please prayerfully consider how you will commit to the ministries of Millington UMC for 2024 and return your signed pledge card as soon as possible. This will help us continue to plan as we move forward into this new year.

Worship December 31, 2023

Please us join together New Year's Eve morning at 10:00 am for a time of reflection as we celebrate a very old tradition. We will be gathering for the rich and meaningful Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service. The heart of the service is focused on the Covenant Prayer which is based on writings of John Wesley, updated for more modern language. The most famous part is taken from the Invitation:

Lord, make me what you will.

I put myself fully into your hands:

put me to doing, put me to suffering,

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

let me be full, let me be empty,

let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and with a willing heart

give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Please come ready for a meaningful service of committing yourself once again to the love of God.

Thank you for all the many ways that you encourage me and my family throughout the year. But especially this time of year. I just want to say how much I appreciate being a part of the Millington UMC family. I really do enjoy working with all of you.

Mission and Outreach Notes for January

We trust everyone has had a very Merry and Blessed Christmas as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and also enjoyed time with family and friends.

Some of the major things that have occurred locally in outreach to the community this past year, has been that we provided a lunch for the St. Paul's school staff and the staff at the Amish/Mennonite school. The lunches were much appreciated. Another outreach was pretzel dipping during the "Christmas in the Village". This was well attended.

We also supported Angel Tree again this year providing gifts to 20 children of incarcerated parents.

We also supported a Trunk-or-treat in conjunction with the National Honor Society at Millington High School on October 25th.

Please remember also the ministry here at our church as we reach out to the farmers in South America and other places as we purchase Equal Exchange products. This helps these farmers get a fair price for their produce.

We encourage you also to bring in your empty prescription bottles with labels off and cleaned if possible. These are taken to our free Medical Clinic in Flint. These are truly appreciated.

We just received the Walugembe World News today. As you know, they are very involved and are doing well. Peter and Kate are missionaries in Uganda. In addition to their school, and goat business and farming activities, they are deeply involved in a rapidly growing church in a nearby city. The Christmas pageant was attended by about 1,000 people. They send their best wishes to each of you, and they appreciate the support our church community provides.

We truly appreciate the cooperation of the congregation with these outreaches.

Wishing you the very best in the New Year 2024.

Maury Chapin, Chair

Mission and Outreach



Millington Arbela District Library

Craft Night—every 2nd and 4th Wednesday (January 10th and 24th) 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.

Our source of Light

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City


One hooky day a year

On a random Saturday, I threw the to-do list out the window, packed up the kids and headed to the mountains. Because Saturdays are usually for catching up on chores, my sons were surprised by their new, carefree mom. We played, laughed and explored — all with no agenda. I introduced them to the concept of a hooky day.

As a child, my parents allowed me one of those per year. It wasn't a sick day but a day off, just because. I could take it any time (but not to avoid a test), and I didn't need to plan ahead. It was okay to wake up one morning and play hooky.

Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV) wisely states, "A merry heart does good, like medicine." What will you do with an impromptu day off? Will you set your own pace walking through a park? Maybe stop at a restaurant you've wanted to try? Whether a fun day off includes spending time alone or with a friend, make the most of it as a God-given gift.

—Janna Firestone

January 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 8:30am Women's 4th Day	3	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord
7 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Epiphany Sunday	8	9 8:30am Women's 4th Day	10	11	12	13
14 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Human Relations Day	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16 8:30am Women's 4th Day	17	18	19	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Ecumenical Sunday	22	23 8:30am Women's 4th Day	24	25	26	27
28 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	29	30 8:30am Women's 4th Day	31			

A Note from Barb...

This has been a very busy year. After losing my mom in May, so many things that have happened since then were our new "firsts". Our first Thanksgiving without Mom, our first Christmas without Mom, and soon to be our first New Year's without Mom.

But probably the "first" that will be the most meaningful, will be the first Epiphany without Mom. You see, Epiphany is also my mom's birthday. She would have been 97 years old this January 6th. Although we miss her, we are so thankful that we had so many years with her. She was a great mom and grandma.

So instead of grieving her, we will rejoice in the memories we have of her, rejoice that God has been with us during our grief, rejoice in the community of friends and family that have helped us along the way, rejoice with rest and renewal during this busy season, and most of all rejoice by finding hope by revisiting and rejoicing in Christ's birth which is the true reason for the season.

Have a blessed New Year!

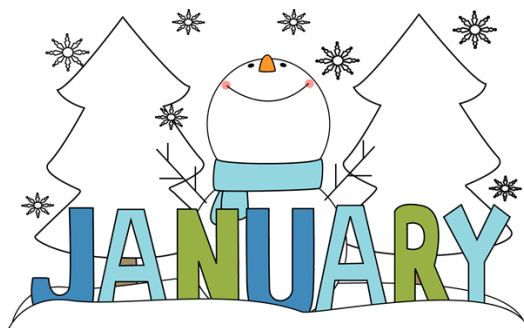


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Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Him known

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

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