



Sonshine News and Weekly Update

January 11, 2021

A Few Thoughts...

The first time I saw a little shack sitting on the ice of a frozen Mississippi river, I was confused. To me it looked like some mischievous teenager had pushed an outhouse onto the ice as a joke. When I shared what I had seen, and after my friend finished laughing at me, he explained it was a shack used for ice fishing. Ok. So, I had no idea the Mississippi could freeze thick enough for someone to be able to safely go out on the ice; until I recalled having read in the book, *Little House on the Prairie*, the story of the family when they moved from Wisconsin. They had to cross the big river while it was still frozen over. Oh yeah!

I didn't see the draw of fishing when the river was frozen over. Seemed like a lot of work for no guaranteed return. That's when I remembered my grandfather's words: "The idea behind fishing is to know the fish you are looking for and attract it so you can make the catch." As I settled into my student pastorate, it didn't take long for me to realize one thing - if you want to eat fish in the winter, then you have to break through the ice to get to them.

Fishing for people isn't any different. We have to go where they are. Because no more than the fish will jump out of the river, clean themselves, and jump into my frying pan; people aren't going to jump into a relationship with our church - or more importantly - with Jesus unless we reach out to them first and share the salvation of Jesus.

In the gospels, when Jesus completes His wilderness experience, He begins to bring together the apostles - His inner circle. He goes to them and then He calls them into a relationship with Him. "Come, follow me!" *Read Mark 1: 16-20.*

Jesus didn't sit on the riverbank and wait for them to come to Him. Instead, Jesus sought them out and called them to follow Him. Not much different than fishing. We have to go where the fish are. Jesus went to the people. He talked to them about what they needed. He offered help with their illness, fear, sorrow, and doubt. Jesus drew people to Him, not some great program, not some great speech, not some great... anything, but to Jesus! Plain and simple.

We are called to go to the people. If you are waiting for the fish to jump out of the water and land in your boat, you're going to be waiting for a long time. We are meant to draw people to Jesus. Not our church. Not our building. Not to some well word-smithed Mission Statement. We are meant to draw them in, cut through the ice, get past the barriers, and help them see Jesus and His love.

Pastor Jan





Church Secretary

We are excited to announce and introduce our new church secretary! A big welcome to Pat Woods. Pat comes to us from Greeley and is excited to join our ministry team! She will be learning the ropes and processes, so let's make her feel welcome and give her time to learn the job position. As always, if you need anything from the office, email the office at office@millikenpres.org or contact Pastor Jan at 316.253.3367 or pastor@millikenpres.org.

Session

The Session is currently meeting regularly on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

January meeting highlights:

- Membership rolls have been reviewed and updated where needed. Membership - 99.
- Session members are encouraged to contact individuals in their concern circle to get updated birthdates for each member. Membership age (birthdates including the year) is required information for membership rolls and age ranges are reported annually in the statistical report to General Assembly.
- A church secretary candidate is scheduled for an interview.
- Janitorial services for the church facilities is being contracted.
- Mission Study Team continues to meet and is working on the Mission Study report.
- Church phone and Internet provider is being changed. Phone number will be the same.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting is January 24 (via Zoom), following worship.

Reports are due in the church office by January 10.

Meeting packet will be made available online and mailed on request.

- Boards and committees will be working on updating and reviewing policies and procedures for the Church Manual of Operations.
- All officer/board member training meeting will be held February 27 (tentative).
- Elders reported on their contact with members of their Concern Circles.
- Prayer concerns were shared.

For
GOD
DIDN'T give us a
Spirit
of **FEAR**
but of
POWER
LOVE
and Self-Control
2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Weekly Update newsletter

The Communication Team is working on making up-to-date communication with the congregation even better! One the ways is by using the Weekly Update to share current information faster. By combining the monthly newsletter and the info from the bulletin, we can more quickly share what is happening at MPC. A paper version is available on request to the church office!

Mission Study Team - update

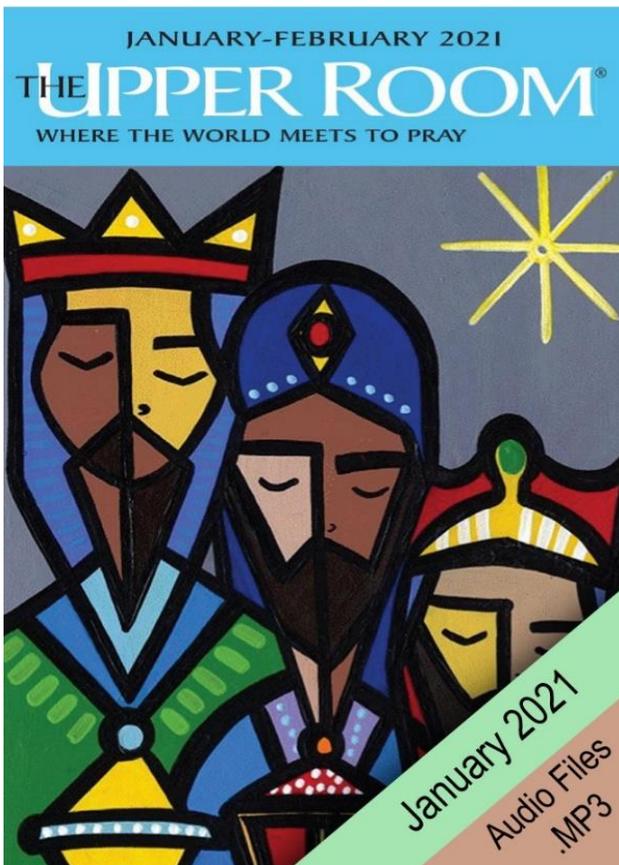
The team continues to meet and is working on evaluating the information provided by the survey. They have begun putting the narrative of the study together. Be in prayer for them as they continue to discern the information that will be used in the final written Mission Study.

Trustees

The Trustees are currently meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

January meeting highlights:

- Discussed options for fencing around HVAC unit
- Review Trustee budget records
- Discussed the Building and Property safety report
 - Limited building access
 - Sunday morning worship team limited to seven people, usually
 - Max checks building at least weekly
 - Discussion of need for additional security camera



- Approved email vote regarding snow removal services contract with Korey
- Problems with sanctuary HVAC system
- Discussed manse plumbing repairs dates
- Mower repair needs and prices
- Recognized end of service for John Scarlett as Memorial Funds Trustee, as his term of service ends. *Thank you to John for his faithful service on the Trustees. We will Miss You! :-)*

Upper Room Devotional

The latest edition of the Upper Room is now available. We still have lots of copies available! Contact the church office to get your copy! Past editions are also available upon request!

Pastoral Care and Needs

Do you have Pastoral concerns or needs in general? Please reach out to Pastor Jan, your Deacon, or Elder.

Church Website

The church website continues to be updated! We are trying some different formats and adding more information! On the home page, you can find the Sunday worship bulletin, the new Weekly Update, Children's Worship bulletin on the website, link to the live worship service - and more! Check it out [here](http://www.millikenpres.org) at www.millikenpres.org

Annual Reports

If you haven't submitted your annual report from your committee/team/board, please do so ASAP! The Annual Report booklet will be posted later this week. Look for it on the website. Please email your completed report to: office@millikenpres.org. Or you can drop off your written report in the dropbox. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jan.



COVID-19 Task Force

Please continue to take care of your health. Be mindful of social distancing protocols. The building continues to remain closed until further notice. If you need building access, contact Todd Selby at 720-289-2340.

Sunday Worship Service

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for our live-streamed worship service from the sanctuary via [Facebook Live](#) and now also through YouTube. You can see past services, as well. Be sure to "follow" us on Facebook and "subscribe" to us on [YouTube](#).

Weekly Fellowship

Our Zoom fellowship continues to be a wonderful opportunity to come together and enjoy conversation and laughter with one another. *Come join us and encourage others to do the same!*

Day	Time	Meeting Description	Meeting ID	Password	Link
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship	411-170-545	80543	Fellowship Zoom link

Mark 1: 16-20, "As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him."



Prayers And Praises



Let us
pray for
each other



Prayers for Church Missions and Ministries

Prayers for our congregation. As we look to the future of this congregation, may we find new ways to encourage one another and share the gospel message. Let us show one another love, compassion, and a Christ-like attitude toward those whose views of this time differ from our own.

Praises!

For all those whose Covid tests came back negative!
For those whose procedures and surgeries have gone well!
For those healed from their illnesses!

Prayers for Health, Healing, and those Grieving

Barb S. - Brother-in-law (husband's twin) diagnosed with leukemia, less than a year to live. His wife has Alzheimer's. Ongoing prayers.
Viola F - prayers for her family at the death of Sammy.
For those having upcoming surgeries and procedures!



Prayers for Our Community

Prayer for all those serving as first responders, health care, and other at-risk positions! And for the overcrowded hospitals, their staff and patients.
For our schools, teachers, staff, students, administrators, and Board members! For business owners and their employees as they face unemployment and struggling or loss of businesses!

Prayers for Officials, Military, and Other Needs

Prayer for our nation during this time of unrest and mistrust. May justice, peace, reconciliation, compassion, and fairness be the goal of all our national and state leaders.
For our government leaders at all levels, striving to lead during a time of unrest, frustration, and changes. May they be given wisdom and insight.

To place requests on the Prayer Chain or church prayer list call or text Becky Selby at (970) 587-2574 or send an email to MPCprayer@aol.com or pastor@millikenpres.org

Need some pastoral care or someone to talk to? Call your Pastor Jan, or your Elder or Deacon!

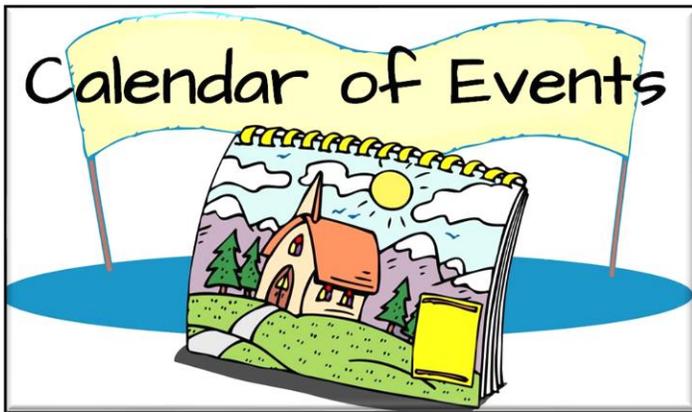


Milliken Presbyterian Church

We are a growing, inviting, spirit-filled church centered in Christ's love!

Mission Statement

Our mission is to reach out and actively engage with others by sharing our Christian faith, worshiping, studying the Bible, praying, and serving God in our families, our communities, and our world!



- January 13 6:00 p.m. Christian Ed Committee
 January 16 10:00 a.m. Communication Team
 January 17 10:30 p.m. Worship Service
 Online on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
 Bulletin is on the website!
 January 18 12 - 2 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution
 4:15-6:15 p.m. Donations Drop-off
 West door airlock
 January 19 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee
 January 20 3:30 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution
 January 24 10:30 p.m. Worship Service
 Online on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
 Bulletin is on the website!
Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom
 January 25 4:15-6:15 p.m. Donations Drop-off
 West door airlock
 January 31 10:30 p.m. Worship Service
 Online on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
 Bulletin is on the website!
 February 1 12-2 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution
 4:15-6:15 p.m. Donations Drop-off
 West door airlock
 February 2 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting
 February 3 3:30 p.m. Food Pantry Distribution
 February 4 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
 February 7 10:30 p.m. Worship Service
 Online on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
 Bulletin is on the website!
 February 10 6:00 p.m. Christian Ed Committee
 February 12 11:30 a.m. Women's Luncheon
 February 17 Ash Wednesday

Julia Betts	15
Ben Smith	15
Scott Hall	16
Abel Ramirez	16



Milliken Community Food Pantry Needs

Canned Goods

- Soups – all varieties
- Tomatoes – diced, whole, sauce, etc.
- Meats – tuna, Spam, canned pasta
- Beans – especially pinto, refried
- Vegetables – all kinds
- Fruit – mandarin oranges, mixed fruit

Shelf Stable and Other Items

- Cereal Dry Pasta
- Lard Peanut Butter Jelly/Jam
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Hamburger Helper Type Meals

The food pantry is always in need of food items for distribution to families in need!