

get connected

We connect people to Jesus and help God change their lives.



***You are Invited!
Bring a Friend –***

**Christmas
Music Celebration**

Dec. 18th, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24th, 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

December 25th, 10:30 a.m.

No in-person Service

Connect online at

**[http://TheConnecting.Church/
WorshipOnline](http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline)**

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December

Joy To The World! *by Pastor Nate Crandall*

Luke 2:10-11, **“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”**

When you’ve been waiting for the Messiah for hundreds of years, and in your mind his appearance will lift you from the oppressive occupation of the Romans, this is good news which brings great joy! Even if that “Savior” is a baby, you are overwhelmed. Good news like this has never happened before in your lifetime, and it will never happen again. This is good news for all of your people. For almost the entire history of your people, the Jews, there have been other people who have attempted to literally wipe you off the face of the earth. Now a Savior has appeared. You believe that things will be like they were during the time of David and Solomon when the nation of Israel was able to defeat their enemies and have peace.

Only, that’s not the kind of joy that came to the world that night. Jesus did not subdue the Roman Empire or the other nations that surrounded Israel. He did not become the reigning king of Israel. He was already the King of the universe. His eternal Kingdom was not just for the Jews but for all the people groups of

the world. This joy was not temporal; it was a joy that would last into eternity.

Isn’t it true that the joy that the Lord brings to us is hard for us to grasp because our eyes are so focused on temporary things rather than his eternal and glorious being? The good news is that by his coming to earth we can know, love, serve and share him. This is truly what brings us the greatest joy.

So how can we practically take a step toward experiencing more fully the joy of Christ? I think that we can follow the example of the shepherds. They went looking for Jesus to see for themselves. They didn’t just want

to hear about it. They wanted to experience the Savior. They also told others about Jesus. They shared their Jesus story because it was just too good to keep to themselves. Their joy was to tell people about Jesus.

As you think through your gift shopping this season, why don’t you put something new on your list? It doesn’t cost anything except a little time and effort. Take some time to ask your Savior to give you something to tell someone else that will bring them the eternal joy of Jesus. We ask for gifts from one another. Try asking your heavenly Father for the gift of bringing the joy of Jesus to someone who really needs him. That’s good news that brings great joy!



Prayer Focus – The Glory of God

By Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

God calls us to glorify him in all we do – He leaves no doubt! 1 Corinthians 10:31 - *Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* The Vision of Our Church Family says “We Seek to Live for the Glory of God.”

So what does living for the glory of God mean? There are volumes and volumes written on this – and I suspect a sermon series on it in due time – but for now let’s simply say: Glorifying God means **believing He is who He says He is, has done what He says He has done, and deserves all the credit and praise for it throughout all of creation!**

How can we glorify God?

Among other things:

- By our faith and trust
- By our praise and worship
- By our love and service to Him and others
- By stewarding His creation
- By obeying His commandments
- By a humble life of continual repentance and dependence on Him
- By the joy and hope we have for all eternity

In our prayers this month, let’s reflect on God’s glory. Seek out scripture that speaks of His glory. And speak aloud to him and to each other the wonder of who He is, what He has done, and all the praise due him.

Here are a few verses to get us started:

Who He is – Isaiah 42:8 – *I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.*

What He has done – Revelation 4:11 – *Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.*”

What He has done – John 1:14 – *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

What He has done – Luke 2:13-14 – *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

What He has done – John 17:1 – [Jesus] *lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now,*

Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

What He is doing – Ephesians 3:20-21 – *Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

What He will do – Matthew 24:30 – *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

What our obedience displays – John 15:8 – *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

The Praise He deserves – Psalm 115:1 – *Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!*

The praise He deserves – 1 Timothy 1:17 – *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.*

to
GOD
be the Glory!

1st Corinthians 13 (a Christmas version)

Author unknown

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozen of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted

snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

...In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is

thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure.



Track our OCC boxes

To see where God is sending them this year, go to "Track Labels" at the bottom of this web page: https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/label-options/?utm_source=FYB-Redirect-Labels&utm_medium=direct&utm_content=FYB-Redirect-Labels

Enter our church's Label Code #: FYBF41F74CCF458
Generally, before the end of December, the location of



Operation Christmas Child – Successful Packing Party

by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator

With God leading us, we have completed another successful Operation Christmas Child Packing Party! It takes a crew to pull this off - packers and volunteers - and you, church are faithful!! We packed 281 boxes last year and this year... drum roll... 295! An increase of 14 boxes!! Thank you to all

who put work in before and during the event. Thanks for your faithfulness.

Please pray for where God wants our boxes and for the specific children who will receive them, that the light of Christ will shine in their hearts through receiving this sweet

simple gift, that you personally packed for them.

The OCC committee planning was phenomenal. Thank you for their intense planning of this event: Ellie Greene, Jill Groelle, Linda Lyke, Lynnette Millard, Joel Osborn, Becky Snyder and Tara Rotzoll.



Good News Packing Party Results:

- Approx. 60 people (volunteers and packers) participated
- 295 boxes packed (281 last year, 14 more than 2020)
- Awana collected well over 100 toy items and over \$246 in postage
- Participants came from our church body, our sponsored Boy Scout troop, our Awana and youth groups and from seeing the press release
- Many youth took leadership in the prayer and other stations
- Many, many, many people in our church, individuals from the community and businesses contributed items, money towards purchasing items and postage, and made kits/crafts

One example: Our youth group made amazing fishing kits for the boxes.

Stocking Stuffers make great Operation Christmas Child gifts. Just before and right after Christmas, there are great deals on small items that fill up shoeboxes. Please buy these discounted gifts and place in the trunk on the back stairs.

Christmas Tree: Decorate Your Heart at Awana this December

by Angie Mullen, Director of Children's Ministries

Awana will meet for 3 weeks in December. During that time, we will continue to work hard to understand, memorize, and apply the scripture from our handbooks in our small groups. This time with our leaders is such a sweet part of the Awana club experience as our children get to know each other and their leaders better and have more in-depth conversations about basic Christian principles.

We will also join in with joy and wonder of the Christmas season in our short, 3 week Large Group Unit titled *Christmas Tree: Decorate Your Heart*. Each week we will use the objects we decorate our

Christmas trees with as reminders of why Jesus came, who He came for and what our response to His miraculous birth should be.

Lights, ornaments and the star at the top remind us that we are all sinners. Like a burned out bulb on a string of lights, we are broken in our sin. But God sent Jesus to earth for a purpose; to restore us and give us new life.

Ornaments can be fancy, elegant, simple, goofy, homemade or expensive. Like the vast array of ornaments that decorate our trees, all of us are welcome at the manger.

The star led the wisemen to Jesus and it can remind us that we are called to seek Jesus, too.

As we always do, we will hold our annual Birthday Party for Jesus on Dec. 15. This is what Christmas is all about – the birthday of our King and Savior. It is such a joy to celebrate with a church full of children! Please join us in praying that all who join us have their hearts open to receive the gift of their Savior and seek hard after him.



2021
CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS
CHOIR

Performance Saturday, Dec. 18
10:30 Musical Worship Service

Rehearsals Wed., Dec. 1, 8, & 15
@ 6:00 pm
Sat., Dec. 4, 11, & 18
@ 10:00 am

ATTEND AS MANY REHEARSALS AS POSSIBLE
AND SING WITH US ON DEC. 18TH!

Contact Angie with questions - awanaclubs@milton.sdb.org

December Awana	
1	Club
8	Club
15	Club – Birthday Party for Jesus
22	No Club – Merry Christmas
29	No Club – Happy New Year

December Collision	
1	Collision
8	Collision
15	Collision – Pizza, Invite-a-friend Night, White Elephant
22	No Collision – Merry Christmas Staff Dinner
29	No Collision – Happy New Year
31	New Year's Eve Party

Bless Every Home *by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator*

The Great Commission of making disciples of all nations can sometimes seem daunting. How about praying for those who God placed around us as neighbors? That is a simple way to advance God's plan for everyone to have the opportunity to hear about Jesus. And you will be amazed that in praying for your neighbors, how God changes your heart. When you sign up at blesseveryhome.com, you can use the tool to become a Light for Christ in your neighborhood, and also designate

Milton SDB as your church. If you choose to be a "Light for Christ", then you will see if others in your neighborhood (other lights) are also joining you in prayer.

There are also options for how often you receive the prayer email and how wide to make your neighborhood map.

Then an email is sent to you with a rotation of neighbors. It is free and confidential. The email even includes a different prayer every day, making it easy to pray for those God has placed around you!



Support your church as you purchase Christmas Gifts – no extra cost to you

AMAZON SMILE

If you make purchases on Amazon, did you know you can designate a charity to support? You can designate Milton SDB Church to receive 0.5% of eligible purchases – no fees, no extra cost.

To do this, instead of going to the Amazon website, place your orders through smile.amazon.com.

Join Amazon Smile: If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, simply sign up at smile.amazon.com and select Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church to start generating donations.

KWIK TRIP CARDS make Great Christmas Gifts

Purchase Kwik Trip cards for Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers by contacting our church office. Janet has \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards on hand. If you would like a specific amount, give her a call at 608-868-2741.



In both cases, proceeds will go toward outreach and missions efforts, such as helping our long and short term field workers, missions education, refugee support, among many other efforts.

Jan Teat's Q Place Update

I love presenting the picture of what the *9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations* are and why they are important, so that pastors, church leaders, and congregations grow in relating to others like Jesus did.

In November, our team presented a NEW live 9 Arts Webinar for Church Leaders. Q Place recorded it so that pastors and church leaders can watch the webinar when it is convenient for them.

We recently developed another new workshop called *How to Lead a Thriving Small Group Bible Study*. In this workshop we train Christians to lead small groups using our inductive approach and materials, getting everyone involved in discussing and applying Scripture.

Our team has been watching research that reveals biblical illiteracy is rising among evangelical Christians, and many pastors are recognizing the need in their congregations for growth in small groups and in Scripture. As small group leaders are equipped through the workshop and get comfortable facilitating, this could become another pathway for Christians to start Q Place groups outside the church.



From Coaching . . .

to New Q Place Groups!

My passion to coach Christians to learn how to start Q Place groups grows out of what I've seen God do through

these groups over the years. Here is what God is doing in the Christians I've recently coached:

Rich, a pastor in Illinois, started a group for men shortly after he finished coaching in May.

Becky from Kansas started a group with her pastor and his wife in June. Initially only one lady came but they didn't give up. Now they have five seekers/skeptics coming!

Mike, Anna, and George from Maine started their group in June. Four people came to the first meeting. One gentleman's wife is dying of cancer, and he has many questions for God. Mike is reaching out and spending time with him outside the group, showing Christ's love.

Gordon and Nancy, from Ontario, finished coaching in March. After they went through the 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations with Christian friends, three from that group now

invited ten unchurched people to their new Q Place group that will start on November 21.

Bob and his wife started a Q Place group in the Chicago area in April. Only one woman came but over time she trusted Jesus as her Savior! It is worth it if even just one person comes!

Kim and Wendy, from Chicago area, finished coaching in late July. They are using *David*, a Q Place Bible discussion guide, with 100 women in eight groups that started in September.

Jochen, a dentist, and Andreas, a teacher, finished coaching in July. In September they started a group for men in their small village in Germany and are very excited about this! They meet outdoors around a campfire and use reindeer skins to keep warm!

I enjoyed watching the triad from your church present the 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations at your conference this summer. I was also pleased to see Pastor Nate in October when he stopped by one of our sponsor tables at the Amplify Outreach Conference. I am grateful for your church's partnership in advancing God's kingdom!

With gratitude, *Jan Teat*
Q Place National Field Leader

The Gospel Shared, *by Larry Schultz*

Dear Friends in Christ,

'Gospel'- 'Good News'!

*For I am not
ashamed of the
gospel, for it is the
power of God for
salvation to
everyone who
believes....*

Romans 1:16



condemned the world to destruction and man could not bring himself back from that sin. But because of God's great love, he sent Jesus to be the payment for sin and bring man back to peace with God so we could be resurrected with Jesus to glorious eternal life.

hearing these things from the young Christians who boldly stand out for Jesus because His Gospel has touched their hearts.

I pray these testimonies of God's Gospel working in the lives of young people will warm your hearts with this good news, and most importantly turn our hearts and minds to preaching the Gospel to ourselves every day so we may have hope.

Your support to see this ministry continue is good news to help the Gospel go forward in the lives of youth.

In the month of ThanksgivingThank you.....and especially Thank the Lord for His Gospel!

Lord Bless,
Larry

We live in a time when every day brings another day of bad news; and it's a refreshing thing to hear 'Good News' in these times.

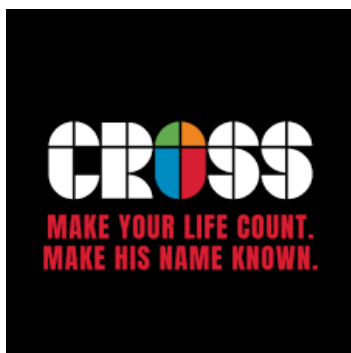
I think that is why I've been hearing so many preachers lately saying: 'You need to preach the Gospel to yourself every day'. Good news can be any good thing we hear about at any given time that may give joy, peace or hope, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ gives an eternal joy, peace and hope unlike any other good news.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ in a nutshell is that God created everything to show off his glory, but man chose other things as greater treasure rather than God. That was the sin that

It's a special blessing to see a young person come to an understanding of the Gospel and respond by committing their hearts to the Lord and then hear their testimony of salvation.

A Friday night in mid-November was one of those times to see and hear the testimony of God working in young people's lives. Club 180, the bible club in Milton sponsored a worship night open to any youth from any school. We worshiped through song and heard testimonies of the Lord bringing youth to salvation.....and the whole experience was initiated and planned by the youth themselves. What good news of hope seeing and

Our Christmas Eve offering will support this ministry. Please designate Koinonia on your check or cash envelope.



Cross Conference:

for young adults

December 29, 2021 - January 1, 2022.

The Cross Conference will be offered in two ways this year: in person in Louisville, Kentucky and virtual.

We are looking for young adults to lead the local effort.

For more information, contact: Linda Lyke lykelinda@miltonsdb.org

Bulletin Board



Christmas Choir Rehearsals

Mixed Choir

Saturday, December 4th, 8:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 11th, 8:00 a.m.

Men's Chorus

Saturday, December 11th, 8:45 a.m.
Saturday, December 18th, 8:00 a.m.

Awana Kids Choir

Wednesdays, December 1, 8 & 15, 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays, December 4, 11 & 18, 10:00 a.m.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Carol Blomgren
- 9 Robert & Sondra Muench
- 12 Randy Osborn
- 14 Brandon Crandall
- 20 Eva Harris
- 22 Denise Green
- 25 William Holbrook
- 25 Seth Greene
- 27 Tacy Camenga
- 28 Neil Aiken
- 30 Donna McCorriston
- 31 Winifred Hoffman
- 31 Joel & Doneta Osborn

Capital Campaign Challenge

An anonymous challenge has been made of a gift of \$10,000 if the additional \$8,169.65 of the \$18,169.65 needed to reach the \$100,000 goal is raised by December 31st!

If you feel led to make a donation to the Capital Campaign or take one of the envelopes still on the money wall, just mail your check to the Church.

Envelopes available are: \$69, \$71, \$74, \$75, \$76, \$83, \$84, \$86, \$89, \$91, \$92, \$93, \$94, \$108, \$112, \$114, \$119, \$120, \$121, \$122, \$123, \$124, \$127, \$128, \$129, \$131, \$133, \$138, \$139, \$141, \$142, \$143, \$144, \$145, \$146 = **\$3,926.**

Plus \$4,243.65 additional gifts to reach the Challenge and the Goal!

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

Capital Campaign Update

As of October 31, 2021

Starting Balance	\$ 2,505.00
Total Income	\$81,455.35
Transfer from Memorial Fund Cash Fund	\$8,250
Total Expenses	\$87,243.81
Fund Balance	\$ 4,966.54

Focus on Funds

as of October 31, 2021

General Fund Balance	\$21,638.20
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$52,425.48
Oct. Undesignated Income	\$22,932.48
Oct. Total Income	\$27,593.13
Oct. Expenses	\$16,734.52
Denomination Giving YTD	\$10,370.30

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <p>Dec. 3 4:23 p.m. Dec. 4 4:23 p.m. Dec. 10 4:23 p.m. Dec. 11 4:23 p.m. Dec. 17 4:24 p.m. Dec. 18 4:25 p.m. Dec. 24 4:28 p.m. Dec. 25 4:28 p.m. Dec. 31 4:33 p.m. Jan. 1 4:34 p.m.</p> </div>			<p>1</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person 6:00 Kids Choir Rehearsal 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00 Ladies Bible Study - Library</p>	<p>3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  JOY TO THE WORLD </p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00 Mixed Choir Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School - Library & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:00 Kids Choir 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary and YouTube</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Trustee Meeting - Library</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 TOPS - Library</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person</p> <p>6:00 Kids Choir Rehearsal 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00 Ladies Bible Study - Library</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 Mixed Choir Rehearsal 8:45 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School - Library & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:00 Kids Choir 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary and YouTube</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 TOPS - Library</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person</p> <p>6:00 Kids Choir Rehearsal 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00 Ladies Bible Study - Library</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  <i>Christmas Music Service</i> </p> <p>8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School - Library & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship - 10:00 Kids Choir 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary and YouTube 2:30 Piano Recital (Rental)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>2:30 Piano Recital (Rental)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 TOPS - Library</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person</p> <p>No Awana No Collision</p> <p>Collision Staff Dinner</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship </p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Merry Christmas</i> 10:30 a.m. Christmas Service online only </p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 TOPS - Library</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person</p> <p>No Awana No Collision</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Collision New Year's Eve Party - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  </p>



**December
2021**

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pastornate@miltonsdb.org

Pastor Liz Green
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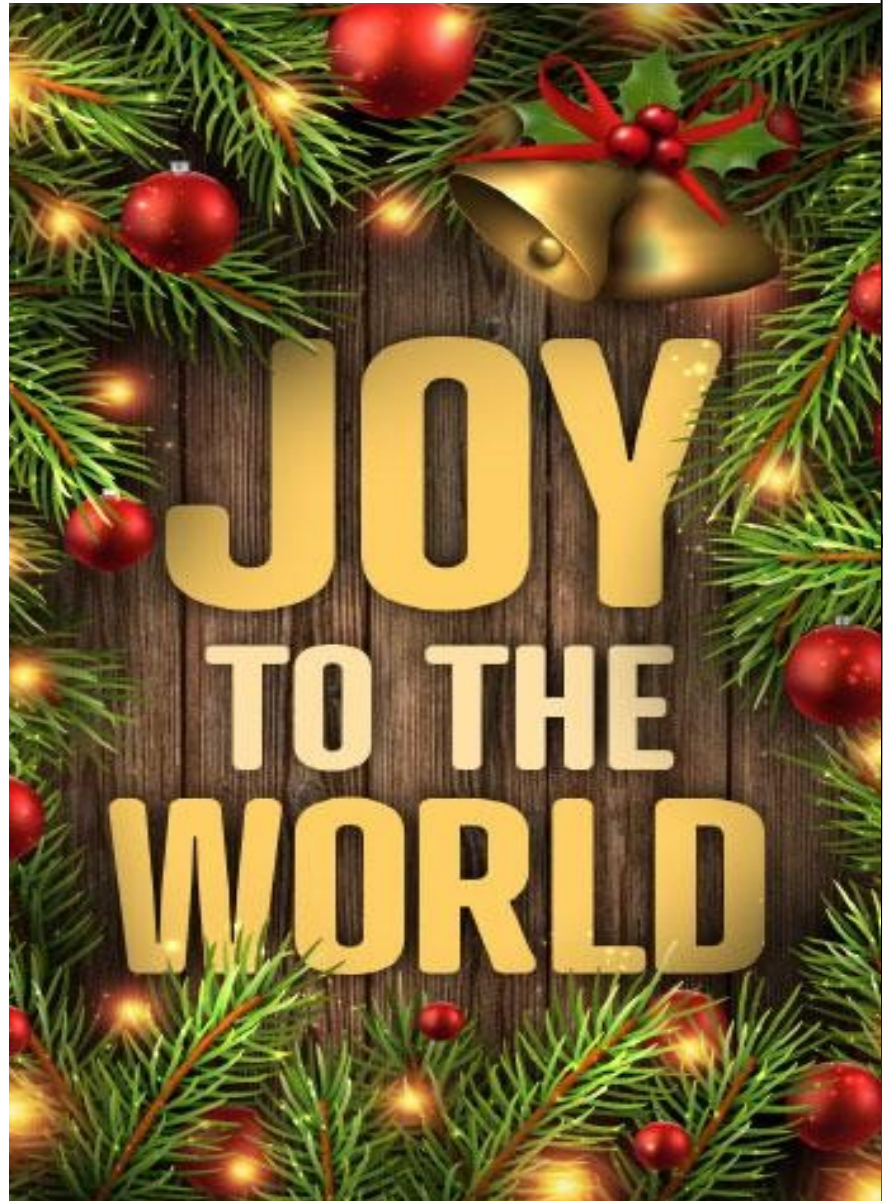
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joel@miltonsdb.org



Online Worship

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel.
Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link.
We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.