

# get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



## Celebrate Christmas with the Connecting Church

by Pastor Nate

*“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.” (John 1:14)*

Among the many mind-bending aspects to the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ is the reality that in becoming a human being, he lost none of his qualities of being God. The infinite God, creator of the universe, full of glory beyond the ability of humans to comprehend, came to live in the body of a flesh and blood human being. Jesus is truly fully God and fully man.

As we turn our attention to the remembrance and celebration of the Lord’s birth, let us look with new eyes of wonder to all that it means. On the day before Christmas, we will worship at our usual Sabbath morning time of 10:30 a.m. Then, in the afternoon we will return for our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service. This will allow us to re-discover these powerful truths:

Jesus is the Son of God and the son of man.

As a warm up, so to speak, to these meaningful times of worship, we will have our annual Christmas Music celebration the week before on Sabbath, December 17<sup>th</sup>. **Please consider how you may be able to make this day special through the sharing of a song, a reading, or by participating in one of the**

**choirs or music ensembles.** It is always better when we share together!

In addition, please consider bringing a friend

to one or more of our Christmas worship celebrations. Perhaps this may be the opportunity that someone is waiting for to draw close to Jesus! You could be the one to help them take a life-changing step!! The Lord Jesus came close to us, so that we could see how glorious he is. May this Christmas season full of eyes being opened to the glory of Jesus Christ!

**Celebrate Christmas With Us**

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC SABBATH**  
Saturday, December 17, 10:30 AM

**SABBATH MORNING WORSHIP**  
Saturday, December 24, 10:30 AM

**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Saturday, December 24, 4:30 PM

the connecting church  
Milton Seventh Day Baptist

## December 2022

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*Our Christmas Eve offering will be for Larry Schultz’s work with Koinonia.*



## Operation Christmas Child – Thank YOU!

Here's a snapshot of God's great work:  
301 boxes packed - goal was 300!

60 volunteers participated at the event

Awana collected 114 toys and \$138 collected for postage  
\$1,068 collected from church members and \$554 collected from community/business contributions  
\$200 came from the church budget and \$80 collected at packing party for postage

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

### 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.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/label-options/#fyb>

Enter our church's Label Code #: FYBF41F74CCF458

Generally, before the end of December, the location of our boxes has been posted.

*"Every shoebox gift is an opportunity to reach a child with the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's about telling children around the world and their families that God loves them. He hasn't forgotten them. We're taking the good news to the ends of the earth through a shoebox."* -- Franklin Graham

Success! On November 5, because of our church's efforts, 301 boxes were packed as part of our 19<sup>th</sup> annual OCC packing party. That means 301 opportunities for kids in impoverished areas to hear the gospel!





# Packing Party Fun





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# Knowing God's Heart

by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator

## **What is our purpose, our mission, as a Christ-follower?**

Renee Sanford and I were discussing this recently and decided that in Christ, we have two purposes:

Our earthly purpose: To make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20)

Our eternal purpose: To glorify God and worship him forever. The Westminster catechism says, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever."

The first is a temporal purpose that will end when we leave this earth or when all people have had the opportunity to know Jesus (whichever comes first) – then the end will come (Matthew 24:14). The second is an eternal purpose. Revelation 7:9 says that in the end times, we will be worshiping with "every nation, tribe, people and language." What a beautiful picture that brings to mind!

## **How did God give me a missional heart? This is my journey...**

Before I came to church at Milton SDB, I knew nothing about God's love for the nations. In 2012, our Prayer Coordinator, Renee Sanford, started bringing people groups who are unreached with the gospel before our congregation – a different group each month. I remember praying for these groups of people – the nations – in our church service. This was

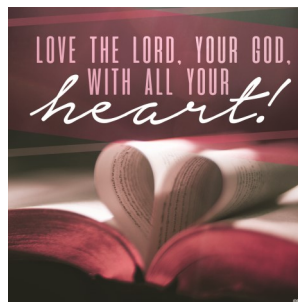
a new concept for me – that it is our responsibility as a Christ follower to have an active part in these people's lives who have never heard of Jesus.

In prayer, we can do this from afar, never having met them.

Then in early 2017, the people group Renee "randomly" asked us to pray for was the Rohingya (Roh). She then felt led to pray not just one month for the Roh, but again. Then something incredible happened. In August of 2017, the Roh left Myanmar in mass numbers to go to Bangladesh due to atrocities committed against them in their home country.

When we were praying for the Roh in Myanmar, we had no idea that the largest population of the Roh outside their homeland, was in Milwaukee, a little over an hour from us. As we have developed a relationship with them, they are now our friends and adopted unreached people group. Having a front row seat, this was a powerful testimony to Jesus's great love for a people who don't even know He loves them and wants them as part of His family.

In January 2017, I had become Outreach Coordinator of our church. In the summer of 2017, Melissa Lade, Shanny Snyder and I started a Q Place group for spiritual seekers. I discovered that when you use



evangelism skills, then God grows more of that. In January of 2019 a group of young adults, Renee and myself traveled to Louisville Kentucky for Cross Conference, a missions focused conference for 18 to 25 year olds.

Taking the Perspective on the World Christian Movement early in 2020 had a powerful effect on my understanding God's heart. This in-depth study impressed on me God's overarching mission for all people groups to have the opportunity to know Jesus and our job in sharing this Good News!

## **So how does God grow our heart for the lost?**

Jesus does this of course! But for me personally, it's been a progression, a building of layers, a combination of awareness, being immersed in a church culture that impresses this, gospel preaching, praying for the lost, reading God's word, and education. It takes intentionality to understand God in a deeper way. This is the path of how he's brought me to this point.

**Do you want to develop a greater understanding of God's love for those who don't know him? I do too!**  
**Join me for the Sabbath School class - Step In, through Global Frontier Missions,** explained on the next page.



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## Operations Pastor *by Jon Cruzan*

Earlier this year, on recommendation of the Trustees, the church, at our Mid-Year Business meeting, voted to create a new part-time, paid position of Operations Pastor. A committee of the Trustees, composed of Neil Lubke, Randy Kersten, Rick Mullen, Pastor Liz, and Jon Cruzan have been actively involved in recruiting efforts.

In our recruiting process, Pastor John Pethtel has emerged as a strong candidate for this new position. To help you become acquainted with him, we welcome Pastor John to our pulpit. He will bring our morning message on Sabbath Day, January 14, 2023. Please mark your calendars now for this important event. We encourage you to attend in person or online. We are planning additional, more informal events for that day also so that you will have the opportunity to meet and interact with Pastor John.

To refresh your memories, here is the rationale for this new position:

*Effective church operations are critical for the overall im-*

*pact of ministry. Operations include a broad array of responsibilities including development and guidance of volunteers, facilities management, information technology, finance & budget, security, and management of supplies.*

*As is typical of a church our size, we have employed a variety of approaches to church operations from volunteers, to assigning tasks to paid staff members. Most recently, most of our operations functions have been assumed by or assigned to paid staff members. This approach has been successful to a degree but also has created challenges which we believe would be better met by a more consolidated approach. Additionally, as we look to the near future, we realize we will experience natural attrition in more than one of our paid positions as incumbents transition to new stages of their lives. Thus, we believe that the best stewardship of our ministry is to be proactive in implementing changes as we approach these anticipated normal transitions. The approach we are recommending is developmental rather than remedial and, thus, will allow us to stay ahead of a changing curve. A change in*

*staffing in any organization means some degree of change for each current staff member. It is important to state that this proposed change is not intended to change or eliminate any current position. Rather, it is to prepare and position our church for changes of which we have been informed and which we know are inevitable.*

A more complete list of job duties is available as is Pastor John's resume. You may request a copy of either of those by contacting Jon Cruzan at: [jcruzan@charter.net](mailto:jcruzan@charter.net) OR by phone/text at 608-290-6465.

Please add this initiative to your prayer life. It is a strategic and significant initiative for our congregation.



# An Invitation for You! (YES ,YOU.)

## Join Us for the 2023 SDB Winter Virtual Delegate Forum

by John Pethtel, SDB Conference Coordinator

If you are a member or participant in the Milton SDB Church, you are invited to participate in the 2023 Winter Virtual Delegate Forum (WVDF).

On January 8, 2023, at 1 p.m. (Central Time), the SDB General Council will be hosting the WVDF to allow people from SDB churches to gather together virtually (via Zoom) so that information and feedback may be shared. Infor-

mation will be shared by the SDB General Council and Conference Directors and feedback will be collected from you. Yes, you. In the absence of our annual Conference Week and its sessions, an opportunity to get together just seemed like the right thing to do.

An invitation letter is on the church bulletin board in the Welcome Center inviting participation.

Registration is required to attend. You will receive a link after registering for the event. For the registration link and more information, please visit [seventhdaybaptist.org/wvdf](http://seventhdaybaptist.org/wvdf).

Please contact me, the Conferences Coordinator ([jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org](mailto:jpethtel@seventhdaybaptist.org); 608-752-5055 ext. 702) if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there. Yes, you.

### Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal Information

All children are welcome to join us. Come to as many rehearsals as you can (please try to make at least 3).

6:00 p.m. in the back of the sanctuary on Weds.: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14

10:00-10:20 a.m. in Large Group Room on Sat.: Dec. 3, 10

Sing for Worship on Sat., Dec. 17th.

Plan to be at church by 9:45 so we can rehearse before the worship service at 10:30.

Here's the QR code to learn the song at home



## KWIK TRIP™

### CARDS make Great Christmas Gifts

Proceeds from the purchase of Kwik Trip cards supports our Outreach Ministry, helping our long and short term missionaries, among many other outreach efforts.

Plan ahead and purchase Kwik Trip cards for Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers by contacting our church office (608-868-2741 or [churchoffice@miltonsdb.org](mailto:churchoffice@miltonsdb.org)).



Don't forget to use Amazon Smile for your Christmas gift purchases. A small portion of most purchases will be sent to the church if you designate it as your charity to support.





# Bulletin Board

- 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

**Ladies Sit 'n Sip**  
**Tuesday, December 13th**  
**9:00 a.m. at Sharla's**

**Men's Chorus**  
 will rehearse at 8:00  
 a.m. on Sabbath,  
 Dec. 17 and sing  
 during worship that  
 day at 10:30 a.m.

**Ladies Sock Exchange**  
**December 10, 2-4 p.m.**

The ladies of the church (youth group and older) are invited to a "Sock Exchange" at Marcy Kersten's home on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 2-4 p.m.

Purchase a fun pair of socks and fill them with a sweet treat or a little knick knack to exchange. If you would like to bring a light snack to share, that would be great. Please RSVP to Marcy at (608) 774-5298 or [marcy.kersten@gmail.com](mailto:marcy.kersten@gmail.com).



**Poinsettia**  
 ORDERS

Call the church office if you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the altar.

**No Nursery** will be available on **Dec. 24th** at the 10:30 a.m. or the Christmas Eve service.



**December Children's Church**

**Dec. 3**  
 Unit 13: Big Truth Session –  
**We Are to Worship God Alone**  
 Isaiah 44  
 Teacher: Marcy Kersten  
 Assistant: Natalie Kersten

**Dec. 31**  
 Unit 14: Session 1  
**Joash Wanted to Obey God**  
 2 Kings 12, 2 Chronicles 24  
 Teacher: Tara Rotzoll  
 Assistant: Mackynzie Rotzoll

| December  |   |
|-----------|---|
| 7         | Club – Christmas song rehearsal @ 6:00                          |
| 14        | Club – Christmas Celebration<br>Christmas song rehearsal @ 6:00 |
| 17 (Sat.) | Christmas Music Worship (Awana sings)                           |
| 21        | No Club – Merry Christmas                                       |
| 28        | No Club – Happy New Year  |



| December |   |
|----------|---|
| 5 (Mon.) | Roller Skating with Koinonia                |
| 7        | Collision                                   |
| 14       | Collision ( <b>Christmas Food and Fun</b> ) |
| 21       | No Collision – Merry Christmas              |
| 28       | No Collision – Happy New Year               |
| 31 (Sat) | New Year's Eve Party @ Camp Wakonda         |

**Focus on Funds**  
 as of October 31, 2022

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund Balance    | \$ 9,331.07 |
| Cash at Mem. Fund       | \$55,142.98 |
| Oct. Undesignated Inc.  | \$16,914.03 |
| Oct. Total Income       | \$22,948.35 |
| Oct. Expenses           | \$18,895.67 |
| Denomination Giving YTD | \$ 7,125.00 |
| Capital Campaign Fund   | \$ 9,340.14 |



# December 2022

| Sun  | Mon       | Tue  | Wed  | Thu                               | Fri                               | Sat  |   |
|--|-----------|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
|                                  |           |  |  |                                   |                                   |  |   |
|                                   |           | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sabbath Sunset Times</b></p> <p>Dec. 2 4:24 p.m. Dec. 3 4:24 p.m.<br/>           Dec. 9 4:23 p.m. Dec. 10 4:23 p.m.<br/>           Dec. 16 4:24 p.m. Dec. 17 4:24 p.m.<br/>           Dec. 23 4:27 p.m. Dec. 24 4:28 p.m.<br/>           Dec. 30 4:32 p.m. Dec. 31 4:33 p.m.</p> |  |                                   | 1                                 | 2  | 3 |
| 4  | 5         | 6  | 7  | 8                                 | 9                                 | 10   |   |
| 9:00 Redeeming Grace Church<br>9:00 Trustees – LOFT<br><br>2:00 – 7:00 MACC Christmas Walk                         | 8:00 TOPS | 7:00 Scouts  | 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's<br><br>9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and on zoom<br><br>6:25 Awana<br>6:30 Collision – Camp Wakonda | 4:30 – 8:00 Opala's Piano Recital | 4:30 – 8:00 Opala's Piano Recital | 8:00 Mixed Choir Rehearsal<br>9:00 Sabbath School – Library & zoom<br>9:00 Kids Fellowship<br>10:00 Kids Choir<br>10:30 Worship (CC)<br>2-4 Sock Exchange<br>3:30 – 5:00 Clara's Piano Recital |   |
| 11   | 12        | 13   | 14   | 15                                | 16                                | 17   |   |
| 9:00 Redeeming Grace Church<br><br>3:30 – 5:00 Clara's Piano Recital   | 8:00 TOPS | 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – Sharla's<br><br>7:00 Scouts   | 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's<br><br>9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and on zoom<br><br>6:25 Awana<br>6:30 Collision – Camp Wakonda |                                   |                                   | 8:00 Mixed Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00 Kids Choir<br>10:30 Christmas Music Sabbath  |   |
| 18   | 19        | 20   | 21   | 22                                | 23                                | 24   |   |
| 9:00 Redeeming Grace Church  | 8:00 TOPS | 7:00 Scouts  | 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's<br><br>9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and on zoom  |                                   |                                   | 10:30 Worship<br><br>4:30 Christmas Eve Service   |   |
| 25   | 26        | 27   | 28   | 29                                | 30                                | 31   |   |
| 9:00 Redeeming Grace Church<br> | 8:00 TOPS | 7:00 Scouts  | 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's<br><br>9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and on zoom  |                                   |                                   | 10:30 Worship (Children's Church)<br><br>7:00–Midnight Collision New Year's Eve Party – Camp Wakonda   |   |



**December  
2022**

**Milton SDB Church**  
**720 E. Madison Ave.**  
**Milton, WI 53563**  
**Church Phone: 608-868-2741**

**Pastor Nate Crandall**  
Cell Phone: 608-322-8824  
pastornate@miltonsdb.org

**Pastor Liz Green**  
Cell Phone: 608-289-3029  
pastorliz@miltonsdb.org

**Administrator:** Janet Butler  
churchoffice@miltonsdb.org

**Director of Children's Ministry:**  
Angie Mullen  
asmullen92@gmail.com

**Prayer Coordinator:**  
Renee Sanford  
renee@miltonsdb.org

**Outreach Coordinator:**  
Linda Lyke  
lykelinda@miltonsdb.org

**Communications Coordinator:**  
Joel Osborn  
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.