

# get connected

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



## The time is here – Welcome Pastor John Pethtel and Family!

*by Pastor Liz Green*



We've been waiting and the time is here!

Pastor John Pethtel joins us July 1 as our Operations Pastor. Pastor John is familiar to us because he is Director of Church Development and Pastoral Services for our denomination and is often in town to do business at the Center in Janesville. Pastor John comes to us from Colorado along with his wife Tabatha, and daughter Addison. Their son Xavier is in college, but will be joining our Camp Wakonda staff this summer. We look forward to getting to know all of them better. John will be serving in his role as Operations Pastor part-time, 15 hours per week, primarily on Tuesdays.

His duties will include Camp, budget and finances, facilities and IT and other duties as he works into this new role. Please welcome him and his family as they move to Milton and get acquainted with us and our community.

Welcome Pethtels!!!!

*(See page 2 for how you can welcome them  
with a gift card or meal.)*

## July/ August 2023

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# Whatever is between you and prayer, move it out of the way!

*by Pastor Nate Crandall*

My Family in Christ,

Just in case you've been living under a rock and haven't heard, Pastor John Pethtel is our new Operations Pastor! He officially starts July 1<sup>st</sup>. We have already begun the transition into his new role and are so excited for his family to be a part of our family! Welcome Pethtels!!

So far this year I have been highlighting prayer in response to the Lord's direction to me personally for 2023. After a message at the beginning of the year on prayer, I have written an article each month for the church newsletter on prayer, I led a weekly prayer meeting on Friday nights during March at my house leading up to our Good Friday service and our celebration of the Resurrection, and I have been highlighting one step of the Seven

Steps Daily prayer format during the fourth Sabbath of each month. For a few, this emphasis has been a catalyst for their own personal renewal. For myself, it has brought a greater consistency in my spiritual habits which in turn has been a catalyst for renewal. At this mid-point of the year, let me give a call to clear away the clutter in your life which has crept in to your prayer habits, both personally and communally. Allow me to put a fine point on it.

## **Whatever is between you and prayer, move it out of the way!**

We all need reminders to do those things we want to do and we know we should do, so let this be your reminder, your nudge, your gentle kick in the pants. I do not want you to miss out on what the Lord is doing this year as he is moving

in us in prayer. It may take some soul searching, but I guarantee that whatever it takes will be worth it. If you would like me to pray for you to have a more consistent and full prayer life, I would be happy to do that. Just ask!

On other fronts, I have been doing stuff as your pastor this year... lots of stuff. If you'd like to have an in-depth picture of my work in serving the church family, I would love to share it with you in person. I could list my tasks and accomplishments so far this year in this report, but those never seem to do much for people.

May we live always as worshippers of God who know, love, serve, and share Jesus! He loves you, and I love you too!

Pastor Nate

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welcome to your  
new  
HOME  
Gift Card Shower  
And  
Meal Train

As we await the arrival of our new Operations Pastor, John Pethtel and his family, we would like to invite you to welcome them to our area with a gift card shower. If you have a favorite place in our area to eat, shop or play, we invite you to purchase a gift card from that place and drop it in a card of welcome!

You can bring the card/gift card to the church office or hand deliver it to the Pethtels when they arrive.

We have also set up a Meal Train for their week of moving in: June 29-July 7  
The link for the Meal Train is: <https://mealtrain.com/g67vw1>

Let's shower them with hospitality and welcome our new pastor and his family.

## Ministry Spotlight for the Summer: Christmas in July for Operation Christmas Child

There's more to Operation Christmas Child boxes than filling them with wonderful gifts. There's also the "small" matter of postage. It costs \$10.00 to send a box. We are starting a Christmas in July fundraiser to help cover these postage costs. We hope to raise \$2,500. And here's the great news: We have a special donor who will match the first \$1,250 raised! Check out the Christmas tree in the Parlor, choose an ornament and watch the thermometer grow!

After we cover postage costs, we'll use any remaining funds to fill gaps in the donations for supplies and gifts to pack. We want to make our boxes the best they can be.

And don't forget – we do need those supplies. This is the time of year to take advantage of back-to-school sales. We need crayons, pens, pencil sharpeners.

Your time, your prayers and

your funds are so appreciated – by your OCC coordinators and by the children who get to open the boxes. Thank you!



### Prayer Focus – Operation Christmas Child

Please pray for:

**Millions of Boys and Girls Worldwide** – let the boxes bring great joy and the good news of the LORD Jesus Christ to these children, their families, and their communities.

**The Greatest Journey** – Pray for boys and girls as they participate in this 22-lesson follow-up discipleship program for shoebox recipients. May each child learn to follow Jesus and share His love with others.

**Local and International Volunteers** – Thousands of volunteers collect, inspect and distribute shoebox gifts and teach The Greatest Journey. Pray for their faithfulness, spiritual health, and fruitful service.

**Our OCC Ministry** – Pray for the leaders and participants to be blessed as they bless others. May the entire process run smoothly and give God glory. Bless those who receive our gifts of love in Jesus name.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD THANK YOU

Yes! Our OCC boxes go to real people, who really appreciate them! Here's a note we received from Lusaka, Zambia:

*Dear brethren, I wish to acknowledge receipt of the gift box that was sent to my daughter who was so happy and excited to receive it, thank you so much for putting a smile on our children, may God richly bless you.*

*Yours faithful, Beatrice Muma, Centre Church of God, Lusaka, Zambia, Africa*

How encouraging to receive this note. Our boxes show children (and their families) the love of Jesus in a tangible way. Many have never received gifts, so this is very special.

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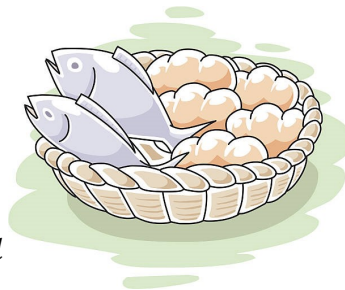
# Summer Lunch Program – So much more than a free Lunch

By Angie Mullen, Children's Ministry Director

For several years we have partnered with the United Methodist Church to help feed children of Milton over the summer when the school lunch program that many families rely on is not available. Each year the program has changed a bit based on needs and program coordinator.

In recent years, questions have been raised about whether or not this program is reaching those who really need it. Pastor Jonathan Kim of the United Methodist Church speaks eloquently to this concern.

*“For this year, I believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to truly show Christ and the miracle of five loaves and two fish to us and the Milton Community. What we can offer is so limited in terms of nourishment and our hearts. There is only so much we can pack in a school lunch prepared for children and I would be the first to confess that it hurts a little when someone pulls up in a car that costs twice as much as the car I own to receive a free lunch. I am humbled as I realize my own human limitations and I feel as if we can only offer a few loaves of bread to our community both in my heart and in substance.*



*However, the story is the power of Jesus that is unfathomable when we let Jesus take what little we have and make it into something so plentiful.*

*Our goal and purpose for the program is not about how many lunches we serve or who we serve it to. Rather, let our goal be to show the love of Christ in a way that only Christ can multiply. The bread and the fish were only a means of showing the marvelous grace of God.”*

Pastor Kim's framing of the purpose of this ministry touched my heart and I hope it touches yours, too. I'm excited to partner in this ministry again this summer. In addition to food, lunches this year will include prayer request cards, encouraging notes, and/or information about our church and our Awana ministry.

Our church family will provide, prepare and distribute

lunches **Monday through Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> – Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>. ALL LUNCHESES WILL BE PREPARED HERE AT OUR CHURCH BY OUR VOLUNTEERS.** So, we need your help! Here is what we need:

- **3-4 people each day at 10:00 to prepare and pack the lunches**
- **4 people to distribute**

**lunches at 2 Milton locations from 11:15-11:45** each day (2 people at each location for Safety in Ministry purposes).

If you are not able to help during the day, we welcome **financial support to purchase the food items** needed to pack lunches.

Sign up sheets will be located in the Welcome Center in early July or you can contact Angie Mullen to sign up to help. (call/text: 608-295-6484 or email [asmullen92@gmail.com](mailto:asmullen92@gmail.com)).

Let's see what God's going to do with the "fishes and loaves" we have to offer to the families of the Milton area this summer. Pray that he will use this opportunity to change eternity for even just 1 person! We know He can do even more than we ask or imagine.



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## Celebrate with Us: The Bible Breakfast

by Angie Mullen, Children's Ministry Director

We celebrate all kinds of milestones in our lives: birthdays, graduations, weddings, retirements, etc. For our children, it's important that we celebrate spiritual milestones as well. Becoming the age to receive your own Bible is one of these important milestones. As a spiritual family, one of our responsibilities to our children is to be encouragers. So come to celebrate and encourage our children. Enjoy some wonderful fellowship and good

food, too! Plan to be here on **Sabbath, Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00** as we present Bibles to our children entering kindergarten or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We will be presenting them their age-appropriate Bibles as well as sharing information about our upcoming fall Sabbath School classes for *everyone*.

We hope you will join us! Please let us know you are coming either by contacting the church office (608-868-

2741, [churchoffice@miltonsdb.org](mailto:churchoffice@miltonsdb.org)) or signing up in the Welcome Center by **Wed., Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>**.



### SAVE THE DATES for Awana:

Milton Community Market Booth -  
Aug. 4 and Sept. 1

Awana Registration Night - Sept. 6

Awana Staff Meeting - Sept. 10 - 6:30 pm

Awana Begins Sept. 13

### Camp Wakonda 2023

Camp Collision July 9-16

Intermediate Camp July 16-21



### ***Do you believe in Jesus? Have you been baptized?***

If you would like to be baptized this summer, please talk to Pastor Nate to find out why the Lord wants each of his followers to take this important step of faith.

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## Serving the god of Utility *by Pastor Carl Greene , Elder*

Our microwave died. This appliance was not exactly an old family pet that was deeply loved. We simply inherited this preparer of instant foods when we purchased our home. But we came to need it. Because it served us.

As soon as the appliance stopped working, we unloaded it. We shed no tears, though we did impart a few harsh words about the timing of its demise. We are ready to move on. The microwave is easy enough to replace.

Notice the value of the microwave. When it served a purpose it had value, when it was no longer useful it became disposable. We often use the same measuring stick for ourselves. Our identity ends up being forged by the success of what we do or by how much we do.

### **The god of Utility**

The god of Utility is a counterfeit god that we use to hold ourselves accountable to an unending standard of productivity. If we are not producing, we assume that our status is dropping. We use verses such as Colossians 3:23-24 as a proof text of earning our value *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”*

We miss the fact that we are serving the Lord Christ and not a god of Utility that wants us doing stuff all the time.

Serving the god of Utility leads us to think that everything relies on us. We end up assuming that our performance will make or break everything that we are involved in. The worship service. The children’s ministry. A family gathering. The profitability of our place of work.

While God invites us to partner with Him in His work in ways that we can shape and impact that work, the outcome does not ultimately rely on us. The god of Utility is the one who tells us the lie that the success or failure of everything is dependent on our performance. Not only that, but this ‘little g’ god also convinces us that success or failure is solely measured by metrics of achievement and accolades.

*“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*  
—Philippians 4:13

Philippians 4:13 is often used as the commando call to perform in ways that prove how tough we are. Maybe even justifying our out-of-balance life. In reality though, this passage reminds us that everything in life does not depend on our performance.

There are two subtleties worth noticing. First, we rely on Jesus Christ while doing all things (verse 13). We are not going it alone and resolutely demonstrating our personal resolve. We are joining Jesus in His work.

Second, Philippians 4:13 has context. Right after talking about doing all things, Paul states “Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble” (verse 14). Paul makes it clear that he was not going it alone, that God had placed people in his life to share or maybe more specifically, to fellowship in his trouble. We do not go it alone.

### **Remembering**

We can get so wrapped up in the demands of life that we listen to the siren song of the god of Utility. We try to forge our identity based on how successfully we do too much. We convince ourselves that our calling in life is meant to be stretched thin and in isolation from others because we are so busy.

Thankfully, God offers us a weekly reminder to move us away from the god of Utility. God invites us into a weekly rhythm of rest in which we recognize our limits. God invites us to Sabbath where we need to trust Him. A full day where we are not measured by utility.

So, I am not a microwave. My value is not determined by being on call to work at all times. I have been given a value that is far greater than I can futilely try to earn. I am reminded of my value by resting in community because together, we multiply rest.



## Milton Seventh Day Baptist Golf Outing

**Sunday, August 27, 2023**

9:00 a.m. check-in, prompt 9:30 a.m. start  
Riverside Golf Course, Janesville

\$35.00, 4 person scramble

Price includes 9 holes of golf with cart and lunch  
(bratwurst or hot dog, chips and drink).

**This event is for everyone, 12 and older.**

Please contact Rich Gallegos at  
608-449-5640 with any questions.

Pick up a registration form and turn it in to the church office  
with your payment (payable to Milton SDB Church, write  
“Golf Outing” in the memo section of your check). Please turn  
in your registration and payment by **August 19, 2023**

# KWIK TRIP™

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

Two types are available, grocery only  
cards and gift cards that can be used for  
gas or purchases inside the store.

Purchase Kwik Trip cards for by contact-  
ing our church office (608-868-2741 or  
[churchoffice@miltonsdb.org](mailto:churchoffice@miltonsdb.org)).



**Dylan Dodd** will be home from his  
mission trip to Africa at the end of June.  
You can read all about the trip in his  
updates on the bulletin board in the  
Welcome Center.

But be sure to catch him in person at  
church to find out how God moved in  
and through him!

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## **The Rummage Sale is Back!** **August 20th, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

We are excited to be able to have the rummage sale this year! After Covid and lack of leadership, we are making a few changes.

In order to avoid the chaos of emptying the classrooms, we will have delivery of items **ONLY during certain times the week prior to the sale or by appointment. Scheduled times are:**

- **Sunday, August 13 from 2-4:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday and Thursday, August 15 & 17, from 9-2:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, August 16 from 9-6:30 p.m.**
- **Friday, August 18 from 9-5:00 p.m.**

Tables will be set up and labeled with types of items for you to place your items on. Please separate them at home to make this easier when you arrive.

Assistance will be needed on the day of the sale, both to take payments and to clean up. We will also need help setting up the tables on Sunday, August 13th at 2:00 p.m. Please sign up in the Welcome Center or contact Janet Butler 608-774-7710 if you are willing to help.

Items will be sold by weight from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for \$1/pound. From 1:00 –

2:00 p.m. all items will be \$1/paper bag full. Heavy items may be priced separately.

Get going on cleaning your closets and storage areas of items you no longer need!



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### **Church Property Maintenance Opportunities**

We're looking for volunteers to commit to certain jobs that need to be done this summer at the church. Instead of a Work Day, you can choose the day and time. Check with Janet in the church office to be sure nothing else is happening. Our Sunday church rental will end on July 9th so Sundays will be available for projects.

- ◆ Prepare and paint rear metal door that has rusted and add weather-stripping
- ◆ Paint floor by new water fountain in basement
- ◆ Clean and paint Large Group Area wall
- ◆ Wash windows
- ◆ Vacuum pew cushions
- ◆ Polish wood in Sanctuary including backs of pews
- ◆ Replace fabric on Parlor benches
- ◆ Assist in removing dead tree at parsonage
- ◆ Assist in removing old AV equipment
- ◆ Deep clean kitchen
- ◆ Wash lower walls in Fellowship Hall
- ◆ Clean out window wells, rake, spray driveway and rocks





# July/August Bulletin Board



## July/August Children's Church

### July 8

Unit 17: Session 2 -  
Zechariah Gave Hope  
(Zechariah 13-14)

Lead Teacher: Marcy Kersten

### July 22

Unit 17: Session 3 -  
The People Rebuilt the Temple  
Lead Teacher: Kathy Crandall

### August 12

Unit 17: Session 4 -  
God Can Always Be Trusted  
(Jeremiah 31)

Lead Teacher: Angie Mullen

### August 26

Unit 18: Session 1 - Esther  
Saved Her People (Esther)  
Lead Teacher: TBD

6 Ken Johnson  
6 Jackie Geske  
7 Janet Butler  
9 Samuel Skaggs  
10 Frank Green  
13 Linda Gilmore  
15 Stephen Thorngate  
16 Ellie Lubke  
21 Scott Buchanan  
22 Nick & Brittany Kersten  
22 Nate & Michelle Crandall  
24 Silas Geske  
25 Jon & Sue Cruzan  
30 Frank Perrino  
30 Leif & Amanda Sykora

1 Deirdre Camenga  
3 Frank & Deb Perrino  
6 Connie Fisher  
9 Chris Gallegos  
13 Teresa Kersten  
13 Joe & Karissa Bornemann  
19 Evelyn Sonntag  
19 Neil & Katie Lubke  
20 Hayden Rotzoll  
20 Robin & Brian Bliese  
23 Lance Call  
28 Carl Greene  
29 Eric & Deirdre Camenga

## Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesdays, July 11th  
and August 8th,  
9:00 a.m. at Sharla's  
Come relax with some  
church friends!



## Focus on Funds

as of May 31, 2023

General Fund Balance	\$ 327.28
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$45,783.57
May Undesignated Inc.	\$15,991.06
May Total Income	\$20,481.97
May Expenses	\$22,444.96
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 2,450.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 9,724.38

## Milton Food Pantry Report for Spring 2023

- Numbers of families using the pantry are continuing at the higher levels.
- The Postal Drive brought in an enormous amount of food. The volunteers did a great job.
- Pantry continues to need personal care items such as men's and women's deodorant, laundry pods, dish soap, tampons, etc.
- School supply registration and yearly registration begin June 5.
- The pantry is currently receiving cheese, sausage and snack items from a cheese store in Oregon WI.

# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat										
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p><b>Sabbath Sunset Times</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>June 30 8:39 p.m.</td> <td>July 1 8:39 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 7 8:38 p.m.</td> <td>July 8 8:37 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 14 8:34 p.m.</td> <td>July 15 8:34 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 21 8:29 p.m.</td> <td>July 22 8:28 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 28 8:22 p.m.</td> <td>July 29 8:21 p.m.</td> </tr> </table> </div>						June 30 8:39 p.m.	July 1 8:39 p.m.	July 7 8:38 p.m.	July 8 8:37 p.m.	July 14 8:34 p.m.	July 15 8:34 p.m.	July 21 8:29 p.m.	July 22 8:28 p.m.	July 28 8:22 p.m.	July 29 8:21 p.m.	1 10:30 Worship at Camp Wakonda
June 30 8:39 p.m.	July 1 8:39 p.m.															
July 7 8:38 p.m.	July 8 8:37 p.m.															
July 14 8:34 p.m.	July 15 8:34 p.m.															
July 21 8:29 p.m.	July 22 8:28 p.m.															
July 28 8:22 p.m.	July 29 8:21 p.m.															
2 9:00 Redeeming Grace Church	3 8:00 TOPS	4  7:00 Scouts	5 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's  9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	6	7	8 10:30 Worship										
9 9:00 Redeeming Grace Church	10 8:00 TOPS	11 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's	12 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's  9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	13	14	15 10:30 Worship										
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Collision Camp - Sunday, July 9, 4:00 p.m. to Sunday, July 16, 9:00 a.m.</b></p> </div>																
16	17 8:00 TOPS	18	19 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's  9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	20	21	22 10:30 Worship										
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Intermediate Camp - Sunday, July 16, 4:00 p.m. to Friday, July 21, 9:00 a.m.</b></p> </div>																
23	24 8:00 TOPS	25	26 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	27	28	29 10:30 Worship										
30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>SDB General Conference - Sunday, July 23 to Sunday, July 30</b></p> </div>															
	31 8:00 TOPS	7:00 Scouts														

# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's  9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	3	4	5 9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Lunch Bunch - Monday, July 31 to Thursday, August 3</b> </div>						
		7:00 Scouts				
6	7 8:00 TOPS	8	9 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's  9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	10	11	12 9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship
		7:00 Scouts				
13  2-4:00 Rummage Sale Table Set-up and Item Drop off	14 8:00 TOPS	15 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's <b>9-2:00 Rummage Sale Items Drop off</b>	16 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's  9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom  <b>9-6:30 Rummage Sale Items Drop off</b>	17  <b>9-2:00 Rummage Sale Items Drop off</b>	18  <b>9-5:00 Rummage Sale Items Drop off</b>	19 9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship
		7:00 Scouts				
20  8:00-2:00 Rummage Sale	21 8:00 TOPS	22	23 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's  9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	24	25	26 9:00 Bible Breakfast 10:30 Worship
		7:00 Scouts				
27 9:00 Golf Outing	28 8:00 TOPS	29	30 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's  9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	31	<b>Sabbath Sunset Times</b> August 4 8:14 p.m. August 5 8:13 p.m. August 11 8:05 p.m. August 12 8:04 p.m. August 18 7:55 p.m. August 19 7:53 p.m. August 25 7:44 p.m. August 26 7:42 p.m.	
		7:00 Scouts				



**July / August  
2023**

**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.