

get connected

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



Heritage Sabbath

By Pastor Nate Crandall

In keeping with our annual tradition of celebrating the Lord's goodness to us as a church, Heritage Sabbath will be held the weekend of October 25-26th. Heritage Sabbath is wonderful time to gather for fellowship and worship, and to be renewed together in our walk with the Lord. This year we will have a special time of renewing our covenant together. Our theme this year is *Building a Spiritual House*. The theme verse is taken from 1 Peter 2:4-5, "**As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**"

Friday will feature an evening of worship and healing. Pastor John will be speaking about *Overcoming Barriers to Discipleship*, and we will pray for everyone who desires healing. On Sabbath morning, for Sabbath School John Emmart will be teaching the Helping Hand Bible Study, and Pastor Nate will be facilitating a video series by Chip Ingram called *The High Impact Church*. The class for grade school children will be continuing their study using the Inductive Bible Study method. We encourage you to take advantage of these discipleship opportunities.

Once again after Sabbath morning worship we will gather around the table for the Turkey Dinner. Joining us both for worship and fellowship will be emerging SDB leaders from around the country, so this will be an excellent opportunity to engage with those outside the church family as well! To round out the events of the weekend, in the afternoon and evening we will have Fun and Fellowship at Camp Wakonda. More details about Sabbath afternoon will be coming soon, so watch for them and plan to be here for a great time with your church family!

Friday Night:

6:00 pm – Pizza Dinner with gluten free/healthy options

7:00 pm – Worship and Healing Service, Speaker – Pastor John

Sabbath Day:

9:00 am – Sabbath School
Helping Hand Bible Study –

John Emmart
High Impact Church – Pastor Nate

10:30 am – Worship Service
Covenant Renewal and
Communion Speaker – Pastor Nate

12:00 pm – Turkey Dinner

Afternoon/Evening – Fun and Fellowship @ Camp Wakonda

October 2024

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Covenant Renewal Letter

Dear Church Member(s):

Our church family has been striving to live together by the leading of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of our church covenant since the first settlers of Milton established our congregation.

With our renewed attention on discipleship and our upcoming Heritage Sabbath weekend on October 27-28, 2024, we are inviting the members of the church to renew their covenant with God and the other members of our congregation. We are also inviting regular attenders and those who consider The Connecting Church - Milton SDB as their church home to indicate their desire to join our covenant community. We will have a special portion of our Heritage Sabbath service dedicated to the renewal of our church covenant.

Please complete the card you received in the letter mailed to you (or pick one up in the Welcome Center) indicating your desire to remain or become a covenant member of The Connecting Church - Milton SDB. Please either drop the card off at the welcome center during one of our worship services in October, mail it to the church office, or complete it digitally at theconnecting.church/covenant-renewal.

We hope to see you on October 27-28 for our Heritage Sabbath weekend and covenant renewal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

In Covenant with
God and You,

The Elders of The Connecting
Church-Milton SDB
(Nathan Crandall, Liz Green,
John Pethtel, Nicholas
Kersten)

Our Church Covenant

Having received salvation by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, we covenant:

- 1. To pursue a relationship with God which grows to know Him and His grace more;*
- 2. To obey the commandments of God because of our deep and abiding love for Him;*
- 3. To meet for worship on the Sabbath and to support the program of the church;*
- 4. To give in service to God a fair proportion of our time, abilities, and material possessions in the belief that these are given to us as a trust from God; To watch over each other for good and to pray for each other to the intent that we may grow in wisdom and spiritual understanding.*



Thank you
Pastor Nate,
Pastor Liz
and Pastor John
for all you do for
our church family.
We love
and appreciate
YOU all!

Operation Christmas Child 2024

By Renee Sanford, Outreach Team

What is Operation Christmas

Child: Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. The project provides local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Boxes are sent to churches ministering to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

What are we doing this year?

Our church has participated in Operation Christmas Child for over a decade! Many years we've packed our boxes together at packing parties with supplies that have been donated and sorted. Other years, we've packed boxes at home with our families. This year we're doing a hybrid! We've got some materials collected – and you'll add others on your own. Then we'll take all the boxes to the collection point.

When will we pack boxes?

Beginning October 5, you can pick up an Operation Christmas Child Box along with a bag of standard gift items. The box will include instructions for completing, labeling, praying, and returning the box by November 2. Additional copies of the instructions will be available at the Welcome Center or by contacting the church office. If you have



questions, contact the church office and one of our OCC coordinators will get back to you.

Are there extra supplies from donations the church has received?

The church has routinely collected donations of supplies for Operation Christmas Child. We have kept and sorted the supplies and used them to fill the bags ready for you to pick up. We had some extra donations from 2023 and have taken them to Roxbury Church of Christ in Janesville, which has a church packing event and handles local collections for this area of the state. Everything donated for OCC will be used for this ministry.

Is a cash donation needed for each box?

Samaritan's Purse asks for a \$10 donation per box to cover collection, quality control and delivery costs. We've been blessed with generous donations (particularly from 2023) and have sufficient funds already to cover the 100 boxes we are hoping to pack at home. There

is no immediate need for cash donations for Operation Christmas Child boxes from our church. Of course, if God's is nudging you to give, our Outreach Ministry or Samaritan's Purse itself can always put your funds to good use in advancing God's Kingdom!

Where will our boxes go? The labels we attached to the boxes include a scan-code. Before we send the boxes to the collection point, we'll scan the codes and this will tell us where our boxes go. As soon as we know, we'll share this information with you.

Every box is important! It provides an opportunity to tell a child (and their family) about God's love, about how Jesus came to demonstrate that love. Pray as you select items and pack your box – pray that it will bear fruit in God's Kingdom – drawing people to Jesus and changing their lives forever.



You Will Leave It All

by Pastor John Pethtel

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” -- Job:1:21

There’s the joke about the nosy neighbor attending a rich woman’s funeral. Peering into the coffin with a friend, he asked, “How much money did she leave?” The friend smiled and replied, “All of it, of course!”

As Job laments, we come into the world naked and leave the same way. We may be dressed in our best clothing on our way out, but we take it to the grave, not the afterlife.

The joke and Job reveal a basic concept of stewardship:

We don’t really own anything. We may take possession of it for a period of time, but we eventually leave it for others.

Yet we spend so much of our energy and life accumulating more and more – as if we were going to have it forever, as we were going to live forever. The danger is that absorbed with accumulating wealth, we shortchange the most valuable treasures – loving the Lord our God with all our being and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

That’s why the Bible consistently warns us about wealth. Jesus repeatedly points out the pitfalls. Money and possessions can turn us inward, stunting our growth and preventing us from being the peo-

ple God created us to be.

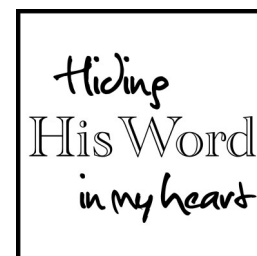
Generosity is the preventative cure for this malady. The Bible counsels that tithing – giving away 10 percent of our income – is a good benchmark for faithful giving (although on several occasions Jesus told his disciples to give away ALL their possessions).

Giving any amount substantial enough to be sacrificial is a declaration that you are free from the power that money might have over you. Because however much money you can accumulate in life, you will be like the rich woman in the joke: You will leave it all.

Scripture Memory Program! *By Pastor Nick Kersten*

Are you looking for help in your attempts to memorize the Scriptures? We may have just the thing! Each year, the SDB General Conference elects a new president. That president as part of their duties chooses a theme the coming year, including a list of Scriptures which fit with their theme!

This year’s Conference President, Tom Davis from Marlboro, NJ, has selected “Shouldn’t It Be Obvious” as his theme for our sessions in 2025, and printed materials for this year’s program are available in the Welcome Center. The program gives the option of 9 isolated verses per month, or a longer passage for completion. Jumpstart your Scripture Memory with this program!



Month 1

... as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:20-21 ESV

MILTON SUMMER LUNCH BUNCH PROGRAM

Summer 2024 - Executive Summary

Prepared by Brenda Rust O'Beirne, September 1, 2024

The Milton Summer Lunch Bunch Program has provided lunches to the school children of Milton since 2018. Each year, there has been a different approach, different funding methods, and different numbers of menus and meals served. As we prepared for the 2024 program, it was important to us that we work collaboratively. A team was formed in February of 2024 and the group met monthly to discuss tasks that needed to be completed to have a successful program. The team included members from four Milton churches and the school district. The involvement of persons from the schools was especially important to the marketing and implementation of the program. **Support from the Milton Community - in the form of financial contributions and volunteers - created a successful program.**

Listed below are some highlights of the program this summer:

We fed children - nutritious and kid-friendly lunches!! And we expressed our care for the families of our community!

There was tremendous collaboration between and among the schools, churches, businesses, and all volunteers. The community embraced the program and its goals.

Our volunteers were amaz-

ing! Approximately 200 volunteers were involved with various parts of the program!

Product donations by Frito Lay, Seneca, Kwik Trip, and the Milton Food Pantry eased the need for more cash resources

Advance planning facilitated good communication between the schools, the planning team, and families. There was excellent marketing.

The program was highlighted by local news media, including the Milton Courier and Channel 3. This coverage helped to enhance awareness.

There was an opportunity to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones through the shared experience of making and distributing meals!

As we look to 2025, we will build on all we learned this year!

The table below summarizes the numbers of lunches served each week at the two distribution locations:

Week #/Count	Goodrich	Northside	Total lunches
1 = week of June 10	640	401	1041
2 = week of June 17	639	475	1114
3 = week of June 24	707	413	1133
4 = week of July 1	331	266	597
5 = week of July 8	437	255	692
6 = week of July 15	363	211	574
7 = week of July 22	428	165	593
8 = week of July 29	417	174	591
9 = week of August 5	292	194	486
10 = week of August 12	334	157	491
11 = week of August 19	314	155	469
12 = week of August 26	227	168	395
TOTAL			8157

This table represents the funding sources/donations that provided significant support to the program:

Beginning balance	\$5164 (donations from previous years)
Milton Fund	\$3000 grant
Kwik Trip	\$2000 gift cards (Kwik Trip Kares)
Frito Lay	7500 bags of chips (\$2850)
Seneca	4000 veggie cups (\$2000)
Piggly Wiggly	One week (~\$1000)
Milton Food Pantry	Assorted products (\$1200)
Thrivent (Hope) donations	\$2000 (cash and product)
Scoopie Night	\$478
Individual/business donations	\$2600
Church donations	\$3696
Total cash spent this year	\$7080



- 1 Ernie Fisher
- 4 Shelly Perry
- 4 Caedmon Kersten
- 6 Luke Greene
- 9 *Brandon & Kathy Crandall*
- 12 Henry Lubke
- 19 Ellie Greene
- 21 Sam Greene
- 23 Patricia Thorngate
- 22 *Jeremy & Melissa Lade*
- 25 Mary Ellen Steinke
- 26 Rick Mullen
- 26 Sydnee Bush
- 26 *Warren & Grace Nickel*
- 26 *Collin & Shelly Perry*
- 28 Lynnette Millard
- 30 Kathy Crandall
- 31 *Leroy & Janette Loofboro*
- 31 Renee Sanford
- 31 Natalie Kersten

Men's Chorus

October 19 & 26
 Rehearsal at 8:00 a.m.
 Singing at 10:30 a.m.

October Bulletin Board

Shout out to these 3rd graders who received their new Bibles with a "Choose Your Own Adventure" reading plan at our Bible Breakfast in August. They are the first 3rd graders who have ever turned their completed reading plan in. If you see them, please give them some encouragement! Let's pray all of our kids have this kind of excitement over reading God's Word. Lillian and Sydney with their completed plans!



GIFTS Shelter

Thank you to all who helped with our week at the GIFTS Men's Homeless Shelter ministry in September. It took many of you to make this happen - donating the food, cooking, and serving the meals. Thank you for supporting such a worthwhile ministry!

Kindergarteners and 3rd graders who received Bibles at the Bible Breakfast.



October

2	Club – Bring a friend
9	Club
16	Club
23	Club
30	Club – Costume Night



October Children's Church

October 5

Unit 23: Session 3

Jesus Taught About God's Love: Luke 15

October 19

Unit 23: Session 4

Jesus Taught About God's Kingdom: Matthew 13

October Collision



2	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision – Camp Wakonda
4-6	Youth Retreat @ Freedom Community Church, New Auburn WI
7	Roller Skating w/ Koinonia Youth Ministries
9	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision – Camp Wakonda
16	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision – Pizza Night
23	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision – Camp Wakonda
30	Fun Event???

Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday,
 Oct. 8,
 9:00 a.m. at
 Sharla's

Focus on Funds

as of August 31, 2024

General Fund Balance	\$26,519.79
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$27,122.08
August Undesignated Inc.	\$17,288.77
August Total Income	\$26,578.51
August Expenses	\$28,295.78
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 3,201.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 6,524.38

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																
 PASTOR APPRECIATION		1 7:00 Scouts	2 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	3 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	4 FALL RETREAT Youth Retreat in New Auburn WI	5 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship and Children's Church																
6	7 8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations	8 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's 7:00 Scouts	9 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	10 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	11	12 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship - Communion																
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20	21 8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations	22 7:00 Scouts	23 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	24 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	25 Heritage Sabbath 6:00 Pizza Dinner 7:00 Worship	26 8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Turkey Dinner Afternoon/Evening Fun @ Camp Wakonda																
27	28 8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations	29 7:00 Scouts	30 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	31 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <table> <tr> <td>Oct. 4</td> <td>6:32 p.m.</td> <td>Oct. 5</td> <td>6:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct. 11</td> <td>6:20 p.m.</td> <td>Oct. 12</td> <td>6:19 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct. 18</td> <td>6:09 p.m.</td> <td>Oct. 19</td> <td>6:07 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct. 25</td> <td>5:58 p.m.</td> <td>Oct. 26</td> <td>5:57 p.m.</td> </tr> </table> </div>		Oct. 4	6:32 p.m.	Oct. 5	6:30 p.m.	Oct. 11	6:20 p.m.	Oct. 12	6:19 p.m.	Oct. 18	6:09 p.m.	Oct. 19	6:07 p.m.	Oct. 25	5:58 p.m.	Oct. 26	5:57 p.m.
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**October
2024**

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Church Phone: 608-868-2741

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

Pastor Liz Green
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pastorliz@miltonsdb.org

Pastor John Pethtel
Cell Phone: 608-352-0655
pastorjohn@miltonsdb.org

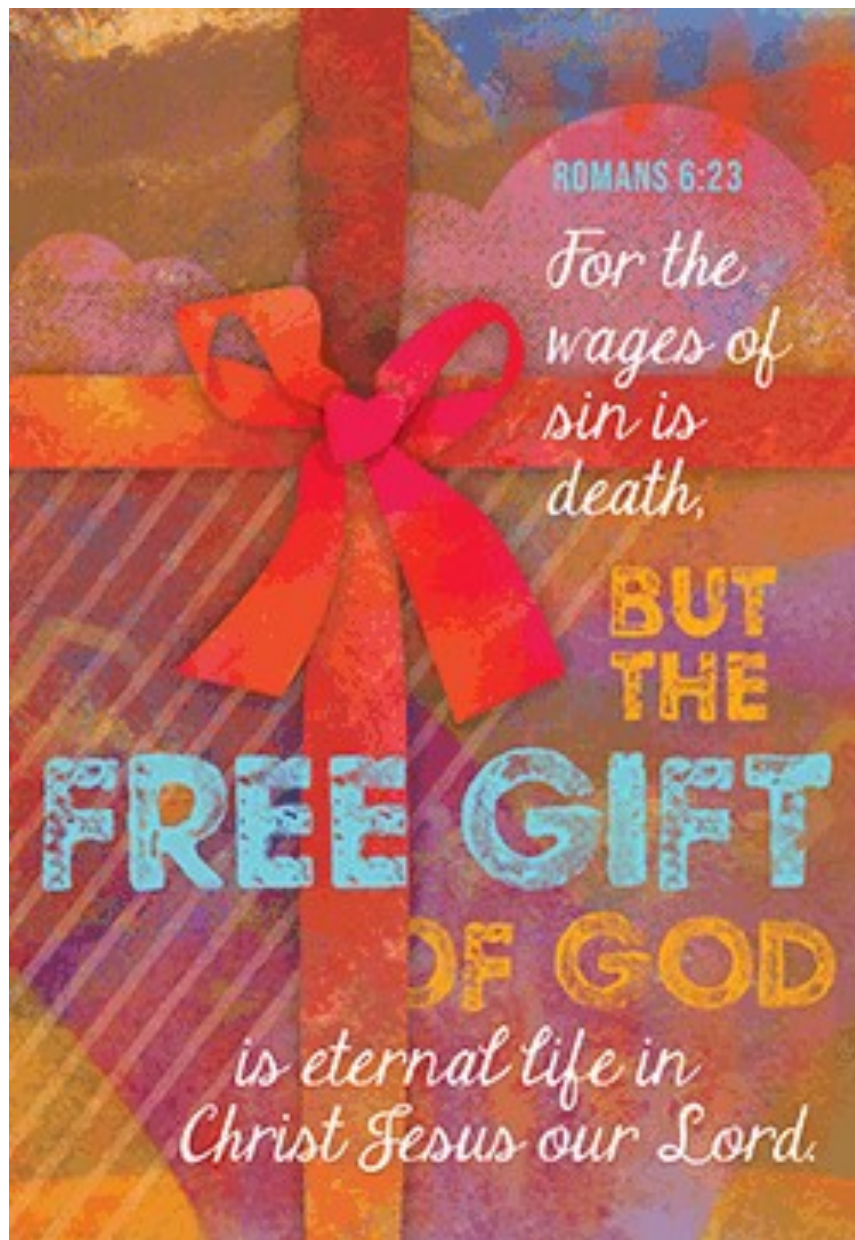
Administrator: Janet Butler
churchoffice@miltonsdb.org

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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.