

get connected

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



Join Us This Christmas Season

December 7, 2:00 p.m.

Ladies Christmas Gathering

(details on page 5)

December 21, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Music Service

December 21, 7:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

December 24, 4:30 p.m.

Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

December 21 is the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. A Blue Christmas or Longest Night service is a contemplative expression of worship remembering those who are hurting or struggling during the holiday season. All are invited to attend this quiet worship where we gather in our hurt and struggle to remember that God is good. God is near. We are not alone and we have every reason to hold on to hope. 7 p.m. on December 21 at The Connecting Church-Milton SDB
If you have any questions, please contact Pastor John.

December 2024

Inside this issue:

Embracing Advent	2
Christmas Choir and Band Rehearsal Schedule	2
Operation Christmas Child	3
Campfire Carols – Awana Christmas	3
GIFTS Update	4
Kwik Trip	4
Food Pantry News	4
Support Opportunity	4
Christmas Prayers	5
Bulletin Board	6
Calendar	7



Advent is a Stewardship of Christmas *by Pastor John Pethtel*

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (2 Peter 3:13-14 ESV)

With war and other discouraging things going on around the globe, 2024 might be ending on a low note for you.

This means it's a good reason to embrace Advent this year. Lost amid the nonstop commercialism of Christmas, Advent is the church's traditional season of careful preparation and waiting – two things our instant, “have-it-now” culture abhors.

If we don't prepare our hearts and minds for the miracle of Jesus – Emmanuel, God with us – how will Christmas be anything more

than just another secular shopping season? How can we expect the arrival of Christ to give us strength, courage, insight and wisdom to deal with these troubled times?

Embracing Advent helps us to be good stewards of the Christmas season by reminding us that it's not about gifts or shopping or parties, but by the miracle of God arriving in human form to save us from ourselves.

Here are some ways to embrace Advent:

- Find – and follow – an Advent devotional.
- Increase your disciplines of prayer, scripture reading, and worship.
- As much as possible, hold off celebrating Christmas until December.
- Remember we need Christ so that we may live fully as God intended.

Advent prepares us to receive Jesus with a full and joyful heart, to live in the abundance Jesus promises.

In your abundance this year, please don't forget your gifts to our church and its ministries (AWANA, Collision, Camp Wakonda, missions locally and globally) as well as the stewardship of our material assets (building, camp, staff, etc.). Your gifts will help share the gospel with many new people throughout 2025.

God bless you and your loved ones this holiday season!



You are all invited to join our Christmas choir and band!

We'll be singing/playing for our annual Christmas Music celebration on Sabbath, Dec. 21st. Rehearsals are:



Extra Choir Rehearsals

Band (all instruments welcome)

Sundays, December 8th, 5:00 p.m. and Dec. 15th, 4:45 p.m.

Choir (all voices welcome)

Sundays, December 8th, 6:00 p.m. and Dec. 15th, 5:45 p.m.

And Friday, Dec. 20th, 6:00 p.m.

Men's Chorus (contact Brandon with questions)

Sabbath, December 21st, 8:00 a.m.

Attend when you can.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please contact Jayne at rubatojayne@gmail.com, or 608-751-0631.

Operation Christmas Child 2024

Way to go! Good job Church Family!

We packed 51 complete boxes and another 55 boxes filled with "essentials" that were completed by Roxbury Church of Christ in Janesville.

In addition, we donated a van full of "essentials" and \$2,023.49 to Samaritan's Purse. Children, families and churches around the world will be blessed by your generosity.



Two of our Awana kids helped deliver the boxes to the regional collection center.

Campfire Carols - Sing the Songs of Christmas at Awana this Season

by Angie Mullen, Director of Children's Ministry

Gather round the Christmas Campfire! Winter may not be the best time for a camping trip, but if you're going to do it, you might as well sing some Christmas carols! This fun camping-themed unit will use classic Christmas carols to teach kids the Christmas story. Away in the Manger, Angels we Have Heard on High, Joy to the World: as we sing these carols, we'll discover what God has to say about the place Jesus was born (just as God promised), The Good News that God shared to the world when He born, and the joy that we have, just like Simeon and Anna, when we know Jesus and the salvation he brings. What child do you know who would enjoy trying out Awana during this very special time of the year!

In order to cap off our unit with a BIG CAMPING-THEMED

BIRTHDAY PARTY for JESUS, we could use some help.

1. Please keep saving your paper towel and wrapping paper tubes for us (toilet paper tubes are too short). They will be used for our Dec. 18th Camping-themed Birthday Party fun! There is a box at the church for them. We need 60+!



2. Could you help transform the Fellowship Hall for our birthday party on Sunday, Dec. 15? Angie will have everything needed. Some extra hands will make it happen quickly. The plan is to begin at 9:00. Coffee/juice/donuts provided! Please contact Angie at 608-295-6484 or asmullen92@gmail.com if you would be willing to help. Youth (Collision age and older) are very welcome, too.

Children's Christmas Choir

Calling ALL Kids to join us as we present our musical offering to Jesus - "Good News - Go Tell It on the Mountain" during the Christmas music worship service on Dec. 21st. Practice at home with this link <https://youtu.be/1OpEG49wPQA> or scan this QR Code



Rehearsals will be on Wed nights from 6:00-6:25, Dec. 4, 11 and 18th and Sat. mornings from 10:00-10:25 on Dec. 7 and 11th. Come to as many rehearsals as you can! We hope ALL kids can join us!

UPDATE from GIFTS Men's Homeless Shelter



MaryAnn Raash (GIFTS Executive Director) shared recently that GIFTS has seen an increase in the number of people seeking services over the past 18 months. GIFTS has been at capacity for well over a year without the expected decline of services during the warmer months.

This has impacted the GIFTS budget and team as we work to serve more people who need shelter, food, and resources. With the growing need, GIFTS has added an outreach for those not staying at the shelter (Soap & Hope) to help address their needs.

GIFTS is dedicated to working with all in our community to fill gaps and identify pathways out of homelessness.

KWIK TRIP

KWIK TRIP CARDS make Great Christmas Gifts

Proceeds from the purchase of Kwik Trip cards supports our Outreach Ministry.

Plan ahead and purchase Kwik Trip cards for Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers by purchasing them on the fourth Sabbath of the month after church or by contacting our church office.

Milton Food Pantry Requests

The pantry is getting ready for the holiday season. This year we are asking for purchased (not homemade, sorry) Christmas cookies and candy to distribute during the months of December and January.

The pantry is continuing to be super busy. The pantry could not do what it does without the generosity of the Milton community.

Have a blessed and peaceful holiday with family and friends.



Support Opportunity: Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate Crandall is going to Tanzania and Madagascar in January. Part of the purpose of his trip is to seek God's will on a possible global partnership with the Missionary Society and SDB churches in Africa.

The Outreach Team provides scholarships for short term field work but there are plenty of expenses left for Pastor Nate's trip.

Please consider supporting his trip with prayer and monetary donations to help with transportation costs. Contact the church office to make a donation.

Christmas Prayers

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.



Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world.

Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory.

LORD Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:

Accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Savior and our eternal God.

Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels.

Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts. Be with all who are lonely, and with all who feel distant from celebrations.

Savior Jesus, son of Mary, born of the Spirit, born to set us free from sin.

May we receive from you each day the grace to do the works you have prepared for us to do.

King Jesus, the earthly brought myrrh, frankincense, and gold.

Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring; we bring you only what you have given: our lives for your life.

Jesus, our Messiah, the Christ, Son of God, born for us, given for us, God with us

Help us to know you, to worship and to serve you. Glory to you forever. And on earth peace, good will toward me. Amen.

Attention Ladies! Christmas Fellowship

All Collision age and older ladies are invited to Teresa Kersten's home, 1127 Thornecrest, Janesville on **December 7th from 2-5 p.m.** to enjoy Christmas fellowship.

This year those who are interested should bring a wrapped pair of mittens to exchange.

RSVP (608) 774-5298
or marcy.kersten@gmail.com

Collision News

The youth group will be a part of the Children's World Impact meal packing event on Wednesday, Dec 11th. We will leave at 5:00 p.m. from the church and be back by 8:00 p.m. that Wednesday.

The End Year Retreat for Collision will take place December 29th through January 1st at Camp Wakonda.

December Bulletin Board



- 1 Phil Lawton
- 3 Carol Blomgren
- 6 Cheyane Merz
- 9 Robert & Sondra Muench
- 12 Randy Osborn
- 13 Roper Uhlich
- 14 Brandon Crandall
- 15 Benny & Sarah Uhlich
- 15 Lincoln Lee
- 16 Claudia Lee
- 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

Scripture Memory Program

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.

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:6-8



Men's Chorus

December 21
Rehearsal at 8:00 a.m.
Singing at 10:30 a.m.

Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday, Dec. 10,
9:00 a.m. at Sharla's

December Children's Church

December 7
Unit 24: Session 2
Jesus Raised Lazarus:
John 11-12

No Children's Church – Dec. 21st



December



4	Club – Christmas song rehearsal at 6
11	Club – Christmas song rehearsal at 6
18	Club – Birthday Party for Jesus – song rehearsal at 6
21	Christmas Music Worship (Awana sings)
25	No Club – Merry Christmas

December

2	Roller Skating w/ Koinonia Youth Ministries
4	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision – Camp Wakonda
11	5:00 Meet at church for CWI meal packing, back by 8:00
18	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision – Pizza Night
25	No Meetings – Merry Christmas
29-1	Year End Retreat – Camp Wakonda





Focus on Funds

as of October 31, 2024

General Fund Balance	\$25,806.20
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$27,325.50
Oct. Undesignated Inc.	\$17,880.24
Oct. Total Income	\$22,854.71
Oct. Expenses	\$23,780.65
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 4,165.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 6,524.38

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																
1 10:00 Christmas Decorating – Sanctuary	2 8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations	3 7:00 Scouts	4 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	5 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	6	7 9:00 Sabbath School 10:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship and Children's Church 2-5 Ladies Gathering – T. Kersten's 2:30 Nelson Piano Recital																
8 9:00 Trustee Meeting 2:30 Nelson Piano Recital 5:00 Christmas Band Rehearsal 6:00 Christmas Choir Rehearsal	9 8:00 TOPS	10 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – Sharla's 7:00 Scouts	11 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Collision meet at church for CWI event 6:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:25 Awana	12 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	13	14 9:00 Sabbath School 10:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship – Communion																
15 4:45 Christmas Band Rehearsal 5:45 Christmas Choir Rehearsal	16 8:00 TOPS	17 7:00 Scouts	18 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:25 Awana Christmas Party for Jesus 6:30 Collision	19 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	20 6:00 Christmas Choir Rehearsal	21   8:00 Choirs/Band Rehearsals 9:00 No Sabbath School 10:30 Christmas Music Service 7:00 Blue Christmas Service																
22	23 8:00 TOPS	24  4:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	27	28 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship																
29 Collision Year End Retreat – Camp Wakonda	30 8:00 TOPS	31 7:00 Scouts	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p>Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <table> <tr> <td>Dec. 6</td> <td>4:23 p.m.</td> <td>Dec. 7</td> <td>4:23 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec. 13</td> <td>4:23 p.m.</td> <td>Dec. 14</td> <td>4:24 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec. 20</td> <td>4:26 p.m.</td> <td>Dec. 21</td> <td>4:26 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec. 27</td> <td>4:30 p.m.</td> <td>Dec. 28</td> <td>4:31 p.m.</td> </tr> </table> </div>			Dec. 6	4:23 p.m.	Dec. 7	4:23 p.m.	Dec. 13	4:23 p.m.	Dec. 14	4:24 p.m.	Dec. 20	4:26 p.m.	Dec. 21	4:26 p.m.	Dec. 27	4:30 p.m.	Dec. 28	4:31 p.m.	
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**December
2024**

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Pastor Liz Green
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Pastor John Pethtel
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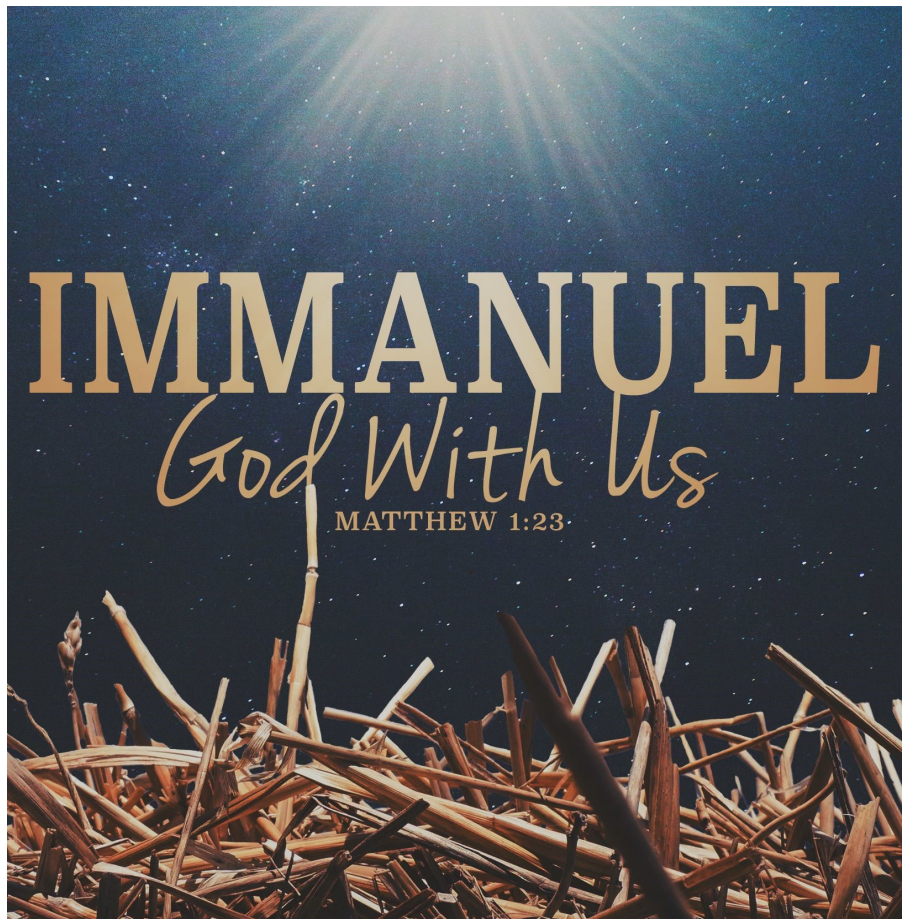
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asmullen92@gmail.com

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renee@miltonsdb.org

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lykelinda@miltonsdb.org

Communications Coordinator:
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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.