

APRIL 2024



Milan Christian Church

Where Faith, Friends, and Family Meet



*** WELCOME HOME ***

Our Vision: *The Vision of Milan Christian Church is to strive every day to take the Gospel of Christ to those who need to hear it, to bring them into relationship with Christ through the waters of Christian Baptism, to teach them to become disciples of Christ, and equip and encourage all Christians to live their lives as Christ would live.*

OUR LEADERSHIP

Britton Rexroat (Pastor) – 309-912-8767

Jay Oliver (Elder) – [Please contact Jay regarding any MCC problem issues.](#) 309-738-0890

Jim Mitchell (Elder) – 309-737-0383



Baptism



RILEY FRANKS baptised by Amy Mitchell
03/10/2024



JON WEAKLEY baptised by Andy Werner
03/17/2024

The Light We Need to See How Christ Dispels Spiritual Darkness

By Jon Bloom, via desiringgod.org



One recent early morning, I was reading **Psalm 36** and savoring one of the sweetest doxologies in the Bible:

*How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light. (**Psalm 36:7-9**)*

I love the way David stacks wonder upon wonder: the protection of God's wings, the abundant feast in God's house, the refreshing river of God's delights, the fountain of God's life.

But that last phrase stopped me in my tracks: "in your light do we see light." It's not as if I hadn't noticed it before. I've loved the phrase for years. It's as poetically beautiful as it is insightful. But that morning the profundity of it gripped me.

Just think about it for a moment: *in your light do we see light*. Do you know what David means? That's what I asked myself. What is this "light"? And what is the corresponding darkness? And what light do we see in God's light?

More than Meets the Eye - We know David is using natural sunlight as a metaphor for divine or spiritual light, an image used numerous times in Scripture — though it is also true to say that natural light is a kind of metaphorical representation of God, since he is the "true light" (**John 1:9**). Either way, when we ask what light is, natural or divine, we soon discover that it is not simple.

We think we know what light is until we're forced to define it. If asked, we might be able to manage something like, "Natural light on earth is the electromagnetic radiance of the sun." But beyond that, most of us would start stumbling about. The deeper science has delved into the nature of light, the more complexity we've discovered. There's far more to light than meets the eye.

The same is true of divine light. The Bible describes it as the very radiance of God's glory (see **Revelation 21:23**). If we're asked to define this divine light, we might be able to manage something like, "The light of God's glory is the radiance of 'the infinite beauty and greatness of God's manifold perfections.'" But again,

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beyond that, most of us would be hard pressed to give an articulate answer. There's far more to God's light than meets the spiritual "eye." But we know what light essentially does for us, both natural and divine.

Light and Life - In the natural realm, we depend on the sun's light for illumination. Our physical bodies have eyes and therefore we need light to show us where we are and where we need to go. We also need it to help us see and avoid or evade the myriad dangers around us. We have good reason to have a natural fear of the dark, because it conceals those dangers. Darkness veils creatures, inanimate objects, and environments that can seriously injure or kill us. And in the dark, we don't know the way to go.

But the sun also literally gives our bodies life. In order to survive, we eat plants that eat light, or we eat animals that eat plants that eat light. Our bodies also absorb vital nutrients directly from sunlight and would not be able to survive without the heating effect that this electromagnetic radiance produces. So, natural light shows us the way we should go, reveals what's true about our surroundings, and literally gives and sustains our bodily lives.

The same is true of the divine spiritual light David refers to in *Psalm 36:9*, the light that *God is (1 John 1:5)* and the light that *God gives (Revelation 21:23-25)* frequently described in Scripture: *Divine light shows us the way to go. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).*

Divine light reveals what's true about our spiritual surroundings. "The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned" (*Matthew 4:16*).

Divine light literally gives us spiritual life: "God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (*2 Corinthians 4:6*).

It is no accident that David paired "life" and "light" together in *Psalm 36:9*. For spiritual light and life, like natural light and life, are woven inextricably together.

Light that Is Darkness - David doesn't explicitly mention "darkness" in *Psalm 36*, the spiritual counter to God's light. But he opens the psalm with a description of it:

*Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes.
For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.
The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good.
He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good;
he does not reject evil. (Psalm 36:1-4)*

The darkness that concerns David is the "darkened foolish heart" (*Romans 1:21*) of "the wicked" whose mind "the god of this world has blinded" to keep him from seeing God's light (*2 Corinthians 4:3*). And it is a terrible darkness. Here's how Jesus describes it:

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! (*Matthew 6:22-23*)

Part of what makes this darkness terrible is that it masquerades as light. You think you know where you are and where you're going, but you don't. You think you see what's true about your spiritual surroundings, but you don't. You think you are fully alive, but you aren't. The light in you is darkness, and in this "light," you don't see light. That is a great darkness.

Light of All Worlds - However, for all those dwelling in such darkness, there is incredibly good news. For Jesus, "the true light, which gives light to everyone, [came] into the world" precisely to dispel this great darkness (*John 1:9*). And he says, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (*John 8:12*)

Read that again carefully. Now read this: "In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (*John 1:4*). What do you see? What you're looking at when you look at Jesus is the incarnation of *Psalm 36:9*: "in your light do we see light."

Jesus is the *light of life* (*John 8:12*) and the *life of light* (*John 1:4*). He embodies all that we know spiritual light is and does. He is "the way" and shows us the way to go; he is "the truth" and reveals the truth of our spiritual surroundings; and he is "the life" and gives us life — he's the light from which we derive our very life (*John 14:6*). And in His light, we not only see light, we become "light in the Lord" (*Ephesians 5:8*) and therefore become ourselves "the light of the world" (*Matthew 5:14*).

Jesus is the personified, incarnated "radiance of the glory of God" (*Hebrews 1:3*). He is the "true light" of this world, and He will be the true light of the world to come (*Revelation 21:23*). Which means Jesus is the true light of *all* worlds.

David would not have known all this when he wrote *Psalm 36:9*. But he knew God. He knew God was "the true light, which gives light to everyone" who believes in Him (*John 1:9*). He knew that the darkness was great, but that God's "light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (*John 1:5*). He knew God was the life-giving light of the world. And so out of his faith-filled, worshipping heart flowed this beautiful, profound, poetic doxology: *For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.*



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Let this day be a day of celebration. And may God richly bless you and give you the desires of your heart.

- 1 – Ryder Roelf**
- 7 – Aaron Johnson**
- 8 – Dennis Martens**
- 12 – Betty Kisner**
- 20 – Alina Johnson**
- 21 – Everly Hauman**
- 22 – Pete Leone**
- 23 – Wayne Howell**
- 26 – Andrea Bobb**
- 28 – Jan Pugh**
- 30 – Maverick Mitchell**



2024 GRADUATE RECOGNITION

If you have a High School or College graduate that you would like to have recognized in the monthly newsletter, MCC Connections, Facebook and the Sunday slide show during worship service, please contact Heather Versluys at:
HeatherVersluys@outlook.com

Deadline for graduate info is: April 10, 2024



Milan Christian Church
Presents

Marriage Retreat

April 12-14, 2024
\$165.00 Per Couple

At: West Lake Park, Davenport IA

Deadline to sign up: Sunday March 31st

- Bring bedding, toiletries and towels, etc.
- Each couple will have their own room and will be responsible for one meal to feed 12 People.
- Arrival time is 5:30pm to 6pm on Friday.
- Finish & clean up by 11am on Sunday.

Questions, please contact:
Jim Mitchell 309-737-0383 or
Amy Mitchell 563-650-8110



Milan Christian Church Presents

Come As You Are!

THURSDAY NIGHT

WORSHIP SERVICE

WELCOME HOME!

5:30pm: Let us cook for you. Join us for a hot home cooked meal.

6:00pm: Relax with God. Come to a laid back, comfortable worship service.

 3215 W. 4TH STREET
MILAN, IL 61264

Phone: 309-787-6879
MilanChristianChurch.com
Facebook.com/MilanChristianChurch

BEGINNING
APRIL
18TH



MCC Men's Breakfast &


Saturday
April 20th

8:00am to 12:00pm

WORK DAY

Breakfast will be provided.

See Jay Oliver for details.




Community Spring Cleaning

Milan Christian Church
April 20, 2024

We will have dumpsters available in our parking lot.

Everyone in the neighborhood is invited to use the dumpsters for your Spring Cleaning.

Questions: Please call the church office at:
309-787-6879



Prayer Requests

PRAYER IS NOT OUR LAST RESORT.
IT'S OUR FIRST AND GREATEST ONE.

"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING."

I THESS. 5:17

Please notify me regarding any requests to be added or removed from the list.

Thank you---Jan Pugh,
transamram@msn.com.



CURRENT:

Anne Bosold – Recovery from surgery
Carey Eberhart – Health issue
Betty Kisner – Recovery from surgery
George Kisner – Health issue
Kathie McAdams - Comfort
Jim Mitchell – Recovery from surgery
Britton Rexroat – Recovery from surgery
George Smith – Passing of his brother Ray
Nathan Ward – Recovery from surgery
Logan (Betty Kisner's 2-mo.-old great granddaughter) – Health issue
Bailey (Betty Kisner's granddaughter) – Personal issue
Julie (Family member of Anne Bosold) – Health issue
Mark & Doris (Anne Bosold's friends) – Injury/Comfort
Mike (Anne Bosold's brother) – Health issue
Connie (Anne Bosold's cousin) – Health issue
Alice (Chris Tipton's mother) – Health issue
Steve & Kirsten (Linda Tipton's friends) – Health issues
Michelle (Friend of MCC) – Health issue
Ahrian (Ray & Kirsten Litton's daughter) – Health issue
Berta (Bryan Shreeves' friend) – Health issue

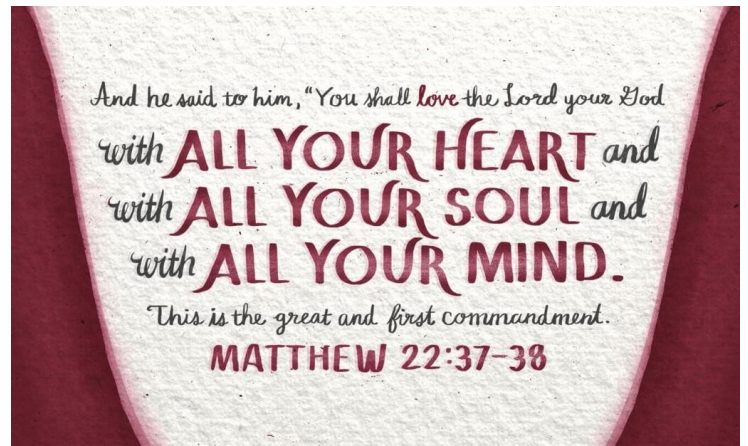
LONG TERM:

Tammy Booker – Comfort
Jessica Dahlen – Health issue
Paul & Barb Lane – Health issues
Scott Powell – Health issue
Wayne & Helen Howell – Health issues
Susan Huber – Health issue
Morgan LaBelle – Continuing recovery from cancer
David & Diana Lee – Health issues
Dennis & Phyllis Martens – Health issues
Bryan Shreeves – Health issue
Linda Tipton – Health issue
Bridget (Phyllis Boley's sister) – Cancer
Donna & Harold (Andrea Bobb's step mom & her dad) – Cancer
Julie (Johnny Oeth's mother) – Cancer
Randy (Chris & Linda Tipton's son & the Tiptons) – Pers. issue/comfort
Di (Linda Tipton's sister) – Health issue
Autumn (Chris & Linda Tipton's niece) – Personal issue
Susan (Anne Bosold's niece) – Cancer
Kitty (Betty Kisner's daughter) – Health issue
Simon (Betty Kisner's grandson) – Health issue
Carolyn (Betty Kisner's cousin) – Health issue
Shirley & Pat (Betty Kisner's sisters) – Health issues
Lacey (Sherry Powell's granddaughter) – Health issue
Sue (Randy Lawver's aunt) – Health issue
Ray (Sue LaCaille's friend) – Health issue
Kathy, Janet, Sue, Alan, & Paula (Jan Pugh's friends) – Cancer
Angie (Anne Bosold's friend) – Recovery from surgery
Alyse (Don & Cathy Jo Merritt's daughter-in-law) – Cancer
DiAaron (Kathie McAdams' son) – Personal issue
Laura, Bret & Jake (Brad Webster's friends) – Health issues
John, Gail & Suzy (Jan Pugh's friends) – Health issues
Wendy (Pete & Norma Leone's niece) – Health issue
Antonio (Pete & Norma Leone's infant gr. grandson) – Health issues
Michael (Brad Webster's brother) – Personal issues

All our teens dealing w/school or personal issues

When We Pray Together, We're Working Together





JOIN US FOR THE

Elderberries

Spring Luncheon

TUESDAY APRIL 9TH, 2024
At: 11:30AM

Ham will be provided
**Please bring your favorite
salad or dessert to share**

Questions: Please see Anne Bosold

EASTER EGGS

Children's Ministry

Join us for our 4-Week Easter Lesson
9:30am in the church basement.

Description:
Plastic eggs are pretty eye catching. They hold the promise of something sweet inside. But as sweet as their insides are, they are not real, they are phony, just like the faith of the Pharisees. The Pharisees trusted in laws and rules more than God, and the gospel they preached was as phony as a plastic egg. That's why they missed the Messiah when he came.

Objective:
Kids will see that faith in Jesus Christ must be authentic and that if it isn't we will become like whitesand tombs as the Pharisees did.

Questions: Please see Aaron or Kristy Johnson

Join Us Sunday's at 9:30am
In the BOB (Building Out Back)
6th-12th Grade

STUDENT MINISTRY

Questions please call the church office at: 309-787-6879




Christ in Youth Move Camp

For High School Students
June 23-28
Cleveland Tennessee
Contact: Tawnya Werner for more info.

Pastor Britton's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
Dinner at 5:30pm
Bible Study at 6:00pm
Meet at Britton's Home
3408 7th Street West
Milan, IL 61264



"We Belong To God"
1 Corinthians
Christians Gone Wild



JOIN ONE OF OUR
Small GROUPS



LET'S GROW TOGETHER

- > LEARNING
- > WITNESSING
- > HELPING
- > FELLOWSHIPING
- > PRAYING
- > ENCOURAGING

Small Groups & Group Leaders

<p>Anne Bosold</p> <p>Tuesdays @ 10am In the church basement Anne: 309-749-9776</p>	<p>Jim & Amy Mitchell's Home</p> <p>Wednesdays @ 6pm No Child Care Jim: 309-737-0383 Amy: 563-6508110</p>
<p>Jay & Mary Jo Oliver's Home</p> <p>Wednesdays @ 5:30pm Jay: 309-738-0890 Mary Jo: 309-738-1237</p>	<p>Britton & Gretchen Rexroat's Home</p> <p>Wednesdays Dinner @ 5:30pm Bible Study @ 6:00pm Britton: 309-912-8767</p>

Milan Christian Church
3215 W. 4th St.
Milan IL, 61264
PHONE: (309)787-6879
www.MilanChristianChurch.com

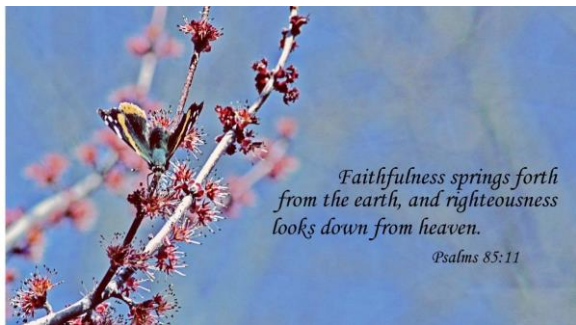
If you would like help finding a group that works best for you please call the church at: 309-787-6879



3 WAYS TO GIVE

 <p>PO Box 425 Milan, IL 61264</p>	 <p>MilanChristianChurch.com Click on the Online Giving link.</p>	 <p>In Person at Worship Service</p>
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MILAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3215 W 4th St.—Milan, IL 61264
Office: 309-787-6879
www.milanchristianchurch.com
Facebook.com/milanchristianchurch



CALENDAR:

Tues Mornings—Small Group, MCC basement, 10 AM
Wed Nights—Small Group, Oliver home, 5:30 PM
—Small Group, Rexroat home; Dinner 5:30 PM, Bible Study 6 PM
—Small Group, Mitchell home (No Childcare), 6 PM
—Worship Rehearsal, MCC, 6 PM
Sat Mornings—Worship Rehearsal, MCC, 8 AM

CALENDAR (Cont.):

Apr 9—Elderberries, MCC basement, 11:30 AM
9—Elder's Meeting (closed), 5:30 PM
12-14—**MARRIAGE RETREAT**; West Lake Park, Davenport
20—**MCC MEN'S BREAKFAST & WORK DAY**, 8 AM – Noon
20—**MCC COMMUNITY SPRING CLEANING**
20—MCC Ladies Brunch - Cancelled

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

In-Building Worship: 9:30 to 10:30 AM (**Gluten Free Communion** is available in the Coffee/Coat room or ask a server for assistance. Also, **if anyone is in need of prayer & would like to pray w/someone, there will be individuals available at the front of the sanctuary after service.**) Church services are available to view on our website at www.MilanChristianChurch.com.

Kids Church (Preschool-5th Grade) & Nursery: 9:30 AM (Downstairs)

Student Ministry (6th-12th Grade): 9:30 AM, In the BOB (Building Out Back)

THURSDAY WORSHIP: Focus Worship Service – Dinner 5:30 PM, Service 6:00 PM