



Milan Christian Church

Where Faith, Friends, and Family Meet

NEWSLETTER
February 2026



OUR LEADERSHIP

Britton Rexroat (Minister) – 309-912-8767
Jim Mitchell (Elder) – 563-570-7047
Andy Werner (Elder/Treas) – 309-314-3932
Jim Roggenbauer (Elder/Worship Ldr) – 309-206-3032
Jay Oliver (Elder) – 309-738-0890
Ray Litton (Grounds) – 309-236-9414

Newsletter – Jan Pugh, Email: transamram@msn.com

*** 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.



NATHAN WARD – 12/28/25
(By his Dad, Nathan)



JOSHUA WERNER – 1/4/26
(By his Dad, Andy)

VALENTINE'S DAY: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON LOVE AND CELEBRATION

From vcinglobalfamily.org



Understanding Valentine's Day Through a Christian Lens -- Valentine's Day, celebrated globally on February 14th, often centers around romantic love. However, from a Christian perspective, this day offers an opportunity to reflect on a broader understanding of love that encompasses not just romantic relationships but also friendship, family, and community. The Bible provides numerous insights into the nature of love, reminding us that love is a fundamental aspect of our faith and daily lives.

The Origins of Valentine's Day -- The history of Valentine's Day is rooted in Christian tradition. It is widely believed to have originated with St. Valentine, a third-century Roman saint. Although much of his life remains shrouded in mystery, St. Valentine is associated with acts of love and compassion. According to legend, he performed weddings for soldiers forbidden to marry and was martyred for his faith. This historical context provides a meaningful backdrop for Christians to celebrate love in all its forms.

Reflecting on these origins, Valentine's Day can serve as a reminder of the selfless and sacrificial nature of true love. By looking to the example of St. Valentine, Christians can find inspiration to live out their faith through acts of kindness and love toward others.

Embracing Love Beyond Romance -- While Valentine's Day is often synonymous with romantic gestures, the Christian perspective encourages us to embrace a more expansive view of love. In the New Testament, **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** describes love as patient, kind, and enduring. This passage highlights that love is not limited to romantic relationships but should be practiced in all aspects of our lives.

Ways to Celebrate Love as a Christian -- Here are some ways Christians can celebrate Valentine's Day by focusing on love in its many forms:

- **Spiritual Reflection:** Spend time in prayer or meditation, reflecting on God's love and how you can embody it in your daily interactions.
- **Acts of Service:** Volunteer your time or resources to help those in need, demonstrating love through action.
- **Quality Time:** Strengthen relationships with family and friends by spending meaningful time together.

The Role of Love in Christian Teachings -- Love is a central theme in Christianity, emphasized throughout the teachings of Jesus Christ. In **John 13:34-35**, Jesus commands his followers to "love one another" as a distinguishing mark of discipleship. This directive underscores the importance of expressing love not just on Valentine's Day but every day.

Fostering a Spirit of Love and Unity -- Valentine's Day provides an opportunity for Christians to foster unity and understanding within their communities. By focusing on the principles of love taught by Christ, believers can work towards building more compassionate and supportive environments. This includes promoting forgiveness, empathy, and open communication among individuals.

In conclusion, Valentine's Day from a Christian perspective is about more than just exchanging cards or gifts with loved ones. It's an opportunity to deepen our understanding of love as described in the Bible and to put that understanding into practice through our actions and relationships. By embracing this broader view, we honor not only the spirit of St. Valentine but also the teachings of Christ himself.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday
Brothers & Sisters in Christ!*

For it is God who works in
you both to will and to do
for His good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:13

- 1 – Duce Fender**
- 4 – Josh Bushman &
Jody Marquis**
- 7 – Cassidy Kline**
- 8 – Kaden Dutton, Ayden &
Mikaylin Hofer**
- 10 – Penny Powell**
- 19 – Addison Johnson**
- 21 – Andrianna Franks**
- 24 – Onofrio Leone**
- 25 – Andy Dutton, Lilly Kline &
Cole Powell**

Milan Christian Church Presents

Come As You Are!

THURSDAY NIGHT

WORSHIP SERVICE

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT

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.

 **709 HILLCREST RD.
MILAN, IL 61264**

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

3 WAYS TO GIVE

 <p>PO Box 425 Milan, IL 61264</p>	 <p>If you would like to give online, please see Andy Werner or Britton Rexroat.</p>	 <p>In Person at Worship Service</p>
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Prayer Requests

Phyllis Boley – Health issue
Tammy Booker – Personal issue
Anne Bosold (Passing of her sister-in-law Doris) - Comfort
Anne Bosold – Health Issue
Wayne & Helen Howell – Health issues
Susan Huber – Health issue
Doug Kalkwarf – Health issue
Betty Kisner – Health issue & bank hacking issue
Paul & Barb Lane – Health issues
David & Diana Lee – Health issues
Norma Leone – Comfort (post-surgery)
Dennis & Phyllis Martens – Health issues
Kathie McAdams – Job issue
Brent McCrae – Health issue
Amy Mitchell – Comfort (post-surgery)
Scott Powell – Health issue
Sherry Powell – Comfort (post-surgery)
Britton Rexroat – Health issue
Gretchen Rexroat – Job issue
The Slavish Family – Recovery illness
Linda Tipton – Health issue
Chris Uribe - Cancer
Sue Wriedt – Health issue
Julie (Johnny Oeth's mother) – Cancer
Di (Linda Tipton's sister) – Health issue & Recovery from ankle fracture
Lacey (Sherry Powell's granddaughter) – Health issue
Alyse (Don & Cathy Jo Merritt's daughter-in-law) – Cancer
DiAaron (Kathie McAdams' son) – Personal issue
Wendy (Pete & Norma Leone's niece) – Health issue
Sue (Angela Northcutt's sister) – Cancer
Dwight & Lucy (Anne Bosold's friends) – Cancer
Cheryl (Anne Bosold's friend) – Recovery from heart surgery
Gary (George Smith's son) – Recovery from numerous surgeries
Michelle (Kirsten Litton's sister) – Recovery from serious injury
Art (Linda Tipton's cousin's husband) – Health issue
Mike (Brad Webster's brother) – Personal issue
Angie & Shawn (David & Diana Lee's daughters) – Health issue & Personal issue
John (David Lee's friend) – Health issue
Bill, John & Pat (Phyllis Boley's brothers) – Cancer, Cancer, & Health issue
Jahnell (Phyllis Boley's friend) – Health issue
Darcy & Marlin (Friends of Jay & Mary Jo Oliver & Jan Pugh) – Hlth issues
Nate (Grandson of Jan Pugh's friend) – Cancer
Ben (Jan Pugh's gr. grandson) – Recovery from Type A flu & pneumonia
Jason (Chris & Linda Tipton's nephew) - Comfort
Dave (Chris & Linda Tipton's neighbor) – Health issue
Antonio (Norma Leone's 1-yr-old gr. grandson) – Recovery from heart surg.
Killian (Linda Hocker's son) – Serious hand injury
Donald (Kathie McAdams' brother-in-law) – Recovery from surgery
James (Friend of Marquis Family) – Recovery from heart surgery
All our children dealing w/school or personal issues.
All who don't know Jesus or need to come back to Him.
When We Pray Together, We're Working Together



Elderberries Luncheon

FEBRUARY 10th, 2026
11:30am

Please bring a dish or dessert that is the color red.
(Example: Spaghetti, Lasagna, Chili, Red Velvet Cake, Etc.)

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Questions, Please see:
Anne Bosold or Sherry Powell.

You're Invited To Our

Valentine Dinner

& Couples Newlywed Game

Grab your sweetheart and join us for a fun date night.

<p>DATE: February 21, 2026</p> <p>TIME: 6:00pm</p> <p>COST: Donations for Students Africa Mission Trip</p>
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Students will provide child care and they will prepare and serve the meal.

Questions: Please see Amy Mitchell

 Milan Christian Church

Marriage RETREAT

Come invest in something worthwhile, your marriage.

February 27, 28 & March 1

\$150 PER COUPLE

Location: Geneseo, IL
Payment reserves your spot and address will be given at time of registration.
Couples come Friday evening and stay over till Sunday at noon.

Questions, please contact: Jim Mitchell 563-570-7047
or Amy Mitchell 563-650-8110



Keep Rock River Cool Project

One of the missions we support is Rock River Christian Camp. They have a project they are working on called Keep Rock River Cool Project (KRRCP).

The details of the project:

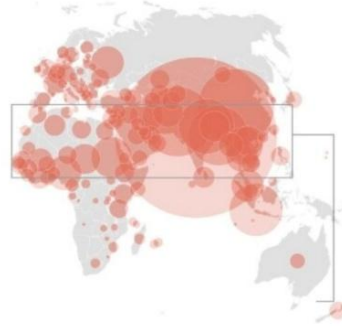
- Pool patch and plaster recoat
- New electrical run to cabins
- AC/Heat window/wall units (2 per cabin)
- Old Chapel with insulation upgrades, including AC.
- Install new main electrical supply lines underground

Rock River Christian Camp hopes to have it all completed by Summer of 2026.

For more information visit:

<http://www.rockrivercc.com/involement/keep-rock-river-cool/>

If you would like to donate, scan this QR code.



Hello Friends and Family!

This summer I've been given the opportunity to work with Muslim Immigrants and Refugees in Europe this summer with Cafe 1040 where I have a goal of raising \$9,500 and I need your help. I would love to partner with you in prayer and/or financial support.

If you'd like to be involved, please check out cafe1040.com/give

- Select the drop down box
- Then scroll down to **25-38 Werner**

Thank you! – Jacob

JOIN ONE OF OUR SMALL GROUPS



LET'S GROW TOGETHER

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

Milan Christian Church
709 Hillcrest Rd.
Milan IL, 61264
PHONE: (309)787-6879
www.MilanChristianChurch.com

SMALL GROUPS & GROUP LEADERS

Anne Bosold

Tuesdays @ 10am
In the church basement
Anne: 309-749-9776

Jim & Amy Mitchell's Home

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm
Jlm: 563-570-7047
Amy: 563-650-8110

Jay & Mary Jo Oliver's Home

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm
Jay: 309-738-0890
Mary Jo - 309-738-1237

Britton & Gretchen Rexroat's Home

Wednesdays Dinner @ 5:30pm
Bible Study at 6:00pm
Britton: 309-912-8767

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



God's Box of Chocolates--A Valentine's Day Devotional

By LaruaLee Shaw, from articles.faithwriters.com



Everywhere I look near Valentine's Day, there's chocolate: boxes of chocolate in all the stores, chocolate on TV promising to be the only love you need, chocolate girl scout cookies--CHOCOLATE! I even saw chocolate Altoid breath mints in the grocery checkout aisle the other day! I think that's what led me to remember the famous quote from Forrest Gump: "Life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're gonna get." (I even remembered it with his accent.)

In reality, that phrase can be true in many ways. We wake up every morning completely unsure of what the day may hold for us. We've made our plans. Sometimes they even happen the way we make them. But we never know for sure, do we?

The days that come with caramel in the middle are my favorite. The ones with the strawberry goo are just so so--but the ones with coconut--YUCK! I'd rather go back to bed. Then there's the days where tragedy or difficult times come out of nowhere, and the chocolate sits in the pantry untouched...there's no sweetness to be had in those moments, it seems.

God knows that life as it pertains to circumstances is uncertain for us. That's why He comforts us and reminds us so many times that He is our constant companion, our steadfast friend, our consistently loving God and Savior. He doesn't keep promises the way we do:

"When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they'll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee His promises, He gave His word, a rock-solid guarantee--God can't break His word. And because His word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable." (**Heb. 6:16-18**)

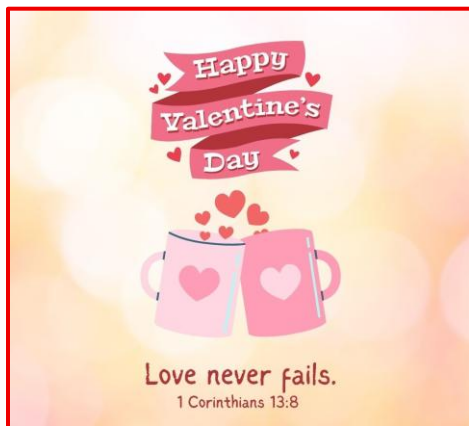
You see, no matter what chocolate we are "in the middle of" right now, He is there--with the certainty of His promise today as well as His hope of heaven in the future. Listen to how the verse above continues to encourage us (**vs.19-20**). We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up His permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek.

I love the visual picture of grabbing on to Him with both hands as He runs ahead of me to the Father. That makes me able to get up today and praise Him for whatever comes my way. This faith, this confidence, this hope is our unbreakable spiritual lifeline--HIS love for us no matter what, when, how or why. Let's binge on His priceless box of chocolates today...the sweetest and most satisfying of them all.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." (**Psalm 34:8**)



MILAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
709 Hillcrest Rd., Milan, IL 61264
Office: 309-787-6879
www.milanchristianchurch.com
Facebook.com/milanchristianchurch



WEEKLY CALENDAR:

TUESDAY (Not on Elderberries Tues.)—Small Group, MCC basement, 10 AM

WEDNESDAY—Small Group, Oliver home – Will resume Sep. 3rd, 5:30 PM
—Small Group, Rexroat home – Will resume Sep 3rd; Dinner – 5:30 PM, Bible Study – 6 PM
—Small Group, Mitchell home, 5:30 PM
—Worship Rehearsal, MCC, 6 PM

THURSDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE—Dinner 5:30 PM, Service 6:00 PM (Downstairs)

SUNDAY—**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)

FEBRUARY

10 – Elderberries Luncheon, MCC basement, 11:30 AM
10 – Elder's Meeting (closed), 5:30 PM
14 – **VALENTINE'S DAY**
16 – **PRESIDENTS' DAY**
21 – Men's Breakfast, Adventure Christian Church, Davenport, 7:30-9:30 AM
21 – Ladies Brunch, MCC basement, 10 – 11:30 AM
21 – **VALENTINE DINNER, MCC basement, 6 PM**
27-Mar. 1 – **MARRIAGE RETREAT, Geneseo, IL**