

NEWSLETTER  
January 2026



# Milan Christian Church

*Where Faith, Friends, and Family Meet*



## 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](mailto: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.*

## PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

*From the Bay Ridge Christian Church, Annapolos, MD; [brcc.church](http://brcc.church)*



As we embark on a new year, many of us find ourselves caught up in the flurry of predictions and resolutions. Experts and analysts across various fields confidently forecast what the coming months will bring, despite their track record of being consistently wrong. Even in Christian circles, there's often a temptation to try and pinpoint when Jesus will return, with some boldly claiming it will happen "soon."

But what if we're missing the point entirely?

In the Gospel of **Mark, chapter 13, verses 32-37**, we find a profound teaching that challenges our human tendency to predict and control. Jesus, speaking to His disciples about His return, makes a startling statement:

*"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come."*

This passage serves as a wake-up call, urging us to shift our focus from trying to predict the unpredictable to staying spiritually alert and prepared. Jesus emphasizes this point repeatedly, using words like "watch," "be on guard," and "be alert" multiple times in just a few verses. The message is clear: our job is not to figure out when Christ will return, but to be ready when He does.

So how do we stay alert in a world that constantly tries to lull us to sleep spiritually?

**Devote Yourself to Prayer** - In **Colossians 4:2**, we're instructed to *"devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."* Prayer is not about fulfilling a religious duty or alleviating guilt. It's about maintaining a close, vibrant relationship with our Heavenly Father. When we cultivate a consistent prayer life, we remain spiritually awake and attuned to God's presence and guidance.

**Immerse Yourself in Scripture** - The Apostle Paul, in his farewell to the Ephesian elders, commits them to *"God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up"* (**Acts 20:32**). In a world saturated with information and misinformation, the Word of God serves as our anchor of truth. By regularly reading, studying, and meditating on Scripture, we equip ourselves to discern truth from error and resist the deceptive influences around us.

**Pursue Holiness Through Obedience** - In **Revelation 3:4**, Jesus commends those in Sardis who *"have not soiled their clothes."* This imagery speaks to the importance of maintaining spiritual purity through obedience to God's commands. Sin has a way of dulling our spiritual senses and luring us into a state of complacency. By actively pursuing holiness and resisting temptation, we keep our spiritual alertness sharp.

**Stay United with the Church** - The Apostle Peter warns us that our *"enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour"* (**1 Peter 5:8**). He then encourages believers to *"resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings"* (**1 Peter 5:9**). This reminder of our shared struggle emphasizes the importance of staying connected to the body of Christ. Just as a lion targets isolated prey, Satan seeks to attack believers who have disconnected from the church community.

As we reflect on these four areas – **prayer, Scripture, obedience, and church unity** – it's crucial to move beyond vague intentions and develop practical steps for growth. Instead of simply resolving to *"pray more,"* consider committing to 10 minutes of focused prayer each morning. Rather than a general goal to *"read the Bible more,"* why not set out to study a specific book, like Thessalonians, over the course of the year?

It's also important to remember that our alertness is not rooted in fear or anxiety about the future. Instead, it springs from the hope and assurance we have in Christ's completed work on the cross. As we come to the Lord's table and partake in communion, we're reminded of the dual nature of our faith: we look back to what Jesus has already accomplished, freeing us from guilt and shame, while also looking forward to His return and the fulfillment of all His promises.

The Apostle Paul beautifully captures this tension in **1 Corinthians 15**, where he outlines the core of the gospel:

*"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve... Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

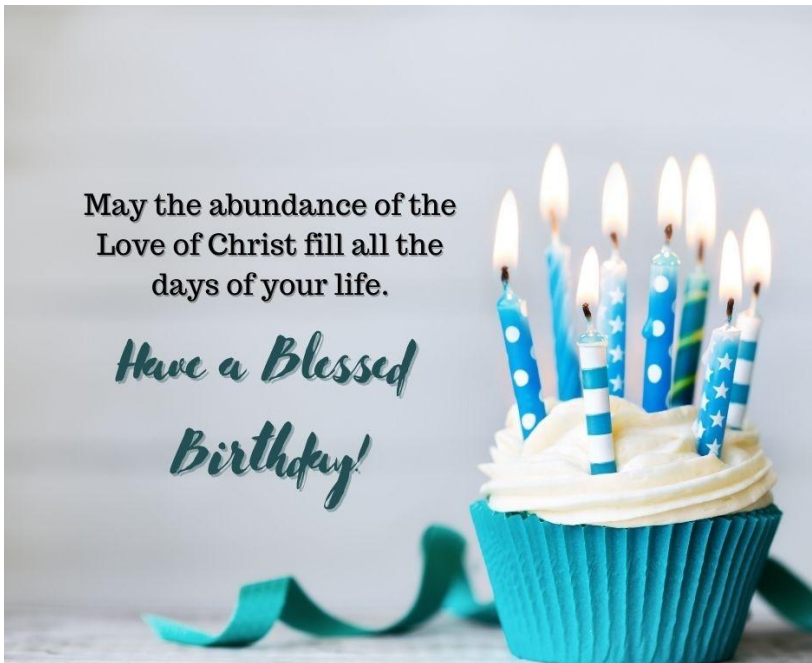
This resurrection hope fuels our alertness. We don't stay watchful out of fear, but out of eager anticipation for the day when all things will be made new, when death will be swallowed up in victory, and when we will see our Savior face to face.

As we navigate the challenges and uncertainties of 2026, let's commit to staying spiritually alert. Let's resist the temptation to be lulled to sleep by the cares of this world or distracted by fruitless attempts to predict the future. Instead, let's fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, cultivating a deep, abiding relationship with Him through prayer, Scripture, obedience, and community.

Remember, the goal is not to predict Christ's return, but to be found faithful when He does. As Jesus Himself said, "What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" (**Mark 13:37**).

May this year be one of spiritual awakening and renewed commitment to living in light of Christ's certain return. Let us encourage one another to stay alert, standing firm in the faith, knowing that our labor in the Lord is never in vain.

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



- 1 – Kathy Denton**
- 2 – Mary Parker**
- 4 – Katie Hauman**
- 6 – Isaiah Rexroat**
- 9 – Angela Northcutt**
- 16 – Gabby Lee**
- 17 – Darin Maynard**
- 18 – Cody Dutton & Frank Leone**
- 19 – Alyssa Werner**
- 21 – Noah McMeekan & Isla Mitchell**
- 22 – Dylan Mitchell & Donna Wittstruck**
- 23 – Kade Werner**
- 27 – Jim Uribe**
- 30 – Tracy Waterman**



## Prayer Requests

Phyllis Boley – Health issue  
Tammy Booker – Personal issue  
Anne Bosold – Health Issue  
Wayne & Helen Howell – Health issues  
Susan Huber – Health issue  
Doug Kalkwarf – Health issue  
Betty Kisner – Health issue  
Paul & Barb Lane – Health issues  
David & Diana Lee – Health issues  
Norma Leone – Comfort (post-surgery)  
Dennis & Phyllis Martens – Health issues  
Kathie McAdams – Comfort  
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  
Paul Slavish – Recovery from knee surgery  
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  
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  
Dave (Chris & Linda Tipton's neighbor) – Health issue  
John (David Lee's friend) – Health issue  
Antonio (Norma Leone's 1-yr-old gr. grandson) – Recovery from heart surg.  
Killian (Linda Hocker's son) – Serious hand injury

***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***



## A Year of Time

*Steven B. Cloud, from appleseeds.org*

Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomforting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2026, we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

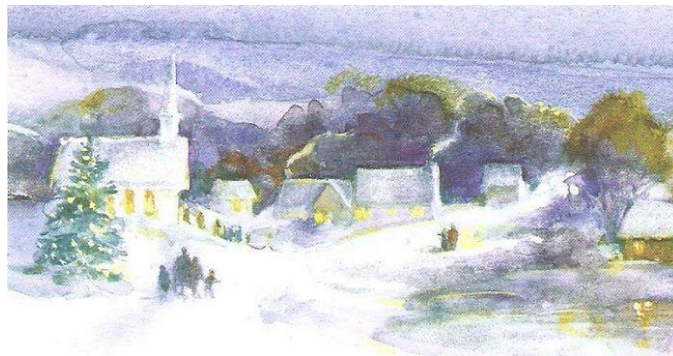
The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?



### *Prayer for the New Year*

Give us the kindness to hear with compassion,  
to offer support,  
loving comfort, and care.

Give us the courage to do what is needed,  
the wisdom to choose  
what is right and most fair.

Give us the vision to see what is possible.

Give us the faith  
that will help pave the way  
for a present that's hopeful,

a future that's peaceful--  
give us the heart to bring joy to each day.



# Marriage RETREAT

**JANUARY 9, 10 & 11**

**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.  
 Spots are limited but a second retreat will be Feb 27, 28 & March 1.

**\$150**  
PER COUPLE



Come invest in something worthwhile.  
Your marriage.



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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# Elderberries

## January Luncheon

**Meal Theme: Baha California Fiesta**

**January 13th at 11:30am**

Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

Questions: Please See Anne Bosold or Sherry Powell




## 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.



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



## JOIN ONE OF OUR Small GROUPS



## Small Groups & Group Leaders

### Anne Bosold

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

### Jim & Amy Mitchell's Home

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

### Jay & Mary Jo Oliver's Home

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

### Britton & Gretchen Rexroat's Home

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

### 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

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



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## WAYS TO GIVE



PO Box 425  
Milan, IL 61264



If you would like to give online,  
please see Andy Werner or  
Britton Rexroat.



In Person  
at Worship Service

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. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 PM

—Small Group, Rexroat home – Will resume Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>; 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](http://www.MilanChristianChurch.com).

—**Kids Church (Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) & Nursery**: 9:30 AM (Downstairs)

—**Student Ministry (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)**: 9:30 AM, In the BOB (Building Out Back)

#### **JANUARY**

1 – **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

9-11 – **MARRIAGE RETREAT, Geneseo, IL**

13 – Elderberries Luncheon, MCC basement, 11:30 AM

13 – Elder's Meeting (closed), 5:30 PM

17 – Men's Breakfast, Adventure Christian Church, Davenport, 7:30-9:30 AM

17 – Ladies Brunch, MCC basement, 10 – 11:30 AM

19 – **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

30-31 – **CIY SuperStart**