



# Milan Christian Church

Where Faith, Friends, and Family Meet

NEWSLETTER

July 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](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.*

## CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA AND REMEMBERING THE FAITH THAT SHAPED OUR NATION

*By Ryan Helfanbein, from [www.liberty.edu](http://www.liberty.edu)*



In the summer of 1776, 56 men signed their names to a revolutionary parchment that had virtually no chance of survival. They were outgunned, outnumbered, and outmatched by the most powerful empire in the world.

Yet they mutually pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor on that audacious conviction that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." As

America crosses the historic threshold of her 250th birthday, it is worth pausing in honest amazement and gratitude to Almighty God. We are still here, and that is nothing short of a miracle.

The U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1789, remains to this day the oldest working written national constitution in the world. No other republic or democracy can claim 250 years of uninterrupted constitutional governance. France is on its fifth republic. Russia's new constitution is barely 30 years old. Canada and Mexico, America's neighbors, are new by comparison. This singular improbability was not by accident.

The roots of American liberty run deeper than Valley Forge, Yorktown, or Independence Hall. They run through the Great Awakening of the 1730s and '40s to the 1760s, when preachers like Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, and John Wesley filled pulpits, traveled road circuits, called men to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, and ignited a spiritual fire in the colonies. That awakening brought souls to Christ and created the spiritual condition upon which a shared faith, virtue, and liberty produced the Declaration of Independence in just one generation. It was the pulpit that shaped the heart of a republic and set it on a trajectory to become one of the most exceptional nations in the world.

Yet from the beginning, America has never been a perfect nation. It has been fraught with failures that did not live up to the very promises of freedom it sought to establish. Throughout her history, the injustices of slavery and segregation were pursued by Christian citizens seeking to remedy and redeem what was morally bankrupt and spiritually broken. And after World War II, a secular consensus sought to rewrite America's story, stripping its Christian founding and replacing it with secular-humanism and cultural revolutions that sought the ideological deconstruction of family, faith, and freedom. Americans forgot their heritage and history, civic illiteracy took hold, and pulpits lost their prophetic voice to rally the nation.

During the Bicentennial celebration of America in 1976, Liberty University founder Dr. Jerry Falwell launched his "I Love America" tour, standing on the steps of the state capitols from coast to coast, rallying a sleeping church to love and defend the nation God had entrusted to our care. He once said, "The idea that religion and politics don't mix was invented by the devil to keep Christians from running their own country." That is hardly an extreme statement today. Francis Schaeffer similarly warned that when a civilization cuts itself loose from its Christian foundations, it does not float free, it sinks: "There is no other base than the Christian one. Either a man begins from God and His revelation, or he begins from himself." Those warnings have echoed across the decades with urgent clarity.

Recent polling shows a reverse trend. Bible sales are up 40% since 2022. Christian app downloads are up 80% in the past year. Pew's latest research shows faith's long decline is reversing as church attendance, Bible reading, and baptism are all on the rise. For the first time in a decade, Christianity is seen as the answer and not the problem in America.

This is one of the greatest impacts Charlie Kirk made in his generation not only for American freedom and traditional values but for faith in Jesus Christ. More than anything, he wanted to be remembered for his courageous faith. His life was taken by the very lost boy he was desperately trying to reach.

Christ is not finished with America, and America is not finished after 250 years. This year is already a year of celebration. It is also a year of remembrance to refocus not only on our founding but our Christian faith that made America's founding possible. It is also a time of recommitment where Christians must recognize the responsibility they bear as citizens of this great republic and strive to preserve and keep the freedoms we've been given. On this 250-year anniversary, may the church of the Lord Jesus Christ stand as witness to all that God has done and vow to never quit on America.

# JULY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 – Karson Johnson
- 3 – Rebecca Kline
- 4 – Lindsay Kelley
- 5 – Dr. Brian Anseeuw & Matthew Kelley
- 8 – Mary Jo Oliver
- 9 – Linda Thomas
- 10 – Russell Murray
- 13 – Levi Rexroat
- 17 – Tammy Booker & Kris Slavish
- 19 – Sue Wriedt
- 21 – Kali Lee
- 30 – Michael Hofer
- 31 – Linda Tipton

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

<p><b>Anne Bosold</b></p> <p>Tuesdays @ 10am In the church basement Anne: 309-749-9776</p>	<p><b>Jim &amp; Amy Mitchell's Home</b></p> <p>Wednesdays @ 5:30pm Jim: 563-570-7047 Amy: 563-650-8110</p>
<p><b>Jay &amp; Mary Jo Oliver's Home</b></p> <p>Summer break till Sep Jay: 309-738-0890 Mary Jo - 309-738-1237</p>	<p><b>Britton &amp; Gretchen Rexroat's Home</b></p> <p>Summer break till Fall Britton: 309-912-8767</p>

**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



## Prayer Requests

Phyllis Boley – Health issue  
Tammy Booker – Personal issue  
Anne Bosold – Recovery from surgery  
Sue Huber – Cancer  
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 – Job issue  
Brent McCrae – Health issue  
Amy Mitchell – Comfort (post-surgery)  
Russ Murray – Recovery from knee surgery  
Scott Powell – Health issue  
Sherry Powell – Comfort (post-surgery)  
Britton Rexroat – Health issue  
Gretchen Rexroat (Passing of her friend/coworker Karen) - Comfort  
Gretchen Rexroat – Job issue  
Linda Thomas Family (Passing of Linda's daughter-in-law's sister) -  
Comfort  
Linda Thomas – Health issue  
Linda Tipton – Health issue  
Chris Uribe – Cancer  
Sue Wriedt – Awaiting hip replacement surgery  
Julie (Johnny Oeth's mother) – Cancer  
Di (Linda Tipton's sister) – Health issue  
Tommy (Chris Tipton's brother) – Cancer  
Kim (Linda Tipton's brother-in-law who cares for her handicapped  
sister) – Cancer  
Jason (Chris & Linda Tipton's nephew) – Comfort  
Art (Linda Tipton's cousin's husband) – Health issue  
Dave (Chris & Linda Tipton's neighbor) – Health issue  
Heather (Sherry Powell's granddaughter/Scott Powell's daughter) - Cancer  
Lacey (Sherry Powell's granddaughter) – Health issue  
Alyse (Don & Cathy Jo Merritt's daughter-in-law) – Cancer  
DiAaron (Kathie McAdams' son) – Personal issue  
Ethan (Kathie McAdams' daughter's boyfriend) – Job issue  
Francis (Kathie McAdams' sister) – Spiritual issue  
Donald (Kathie McAdams' brother-in-law) – Recovery from surgery  
Wendy (Pete & Norma Leone's niece) – Health issue  
Sue (Angela Northcutt's sister) – Cancer  
Dwight & Lucy (Anne Bosold's friends) – Cancer  
Gary (George Smith's son) – Recovery from numerous surgeries  
Michelle (Kirsten Litton's sister) – Recovery from serious injury  
Mike (Brad Webster's brother) – Personal issue  
Angie & Shawn (David & Diana Lee's daughters) – Health issue &  
Personal issue  
Curtis (David & Diana Lee's daughter Patty's husband) - Cancer  
John (David Lee's friend) – Health issue  
John (Phyllis Boley's brother) – Health issue  
Nate (Grandson of Jan Pugh's friend) – Cancer  
Antonio (Norma Leone's 1-yr-old gr. grandson) – Recovery from heart surg.  
Killian (Linda Hocker's son) – Recovery from hand surgery  
Kathy (Dennis & Phyllis Martens' daughter) – Health issue  
Brian (Kristy Johnson's brother's father-in-law) – Health issue  
**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***

## Greetings from Europe – From Jacob Werner!



Dear Friends and Family,

Over the past four weeks, I have had the opportunity to live in a neighborhood made up largely of North African, and Middle Eastern immigrant and refugee communities. It has been a unique and eye-opening experience to spend time among people from many different backgrounds, cultures, and languages. Every day has brought new conversations, new perspectives, and reminders of the Father's love for all nations.

### **Life Lately**

One of my favorite parts of life here has been exploring the local markets. There are open areas that are often filled with small shops, fresh produce stands, bakeries, and vendors selling spices and traditional foods from across North Africa and the Middle East. Walking through the markets provides countless opportunities to observe daily life and interact with people from many cultures.

Another enjoyable part of my time here has been getting around by bicycle. Riding through the city and surrounding neighborhoods has allowed me to see places I might otherwise miss. It has been a great way to experience the local community, enjoy the beautiful weather, and appreciate the rhythm of everyday life in Europe.



## **The Father Working**

One particularly memorable experience was attending a dunking service conducted in Arabic. Although I did not understand every word, it was powerful to witness 3 new believers publicly professing their faith in

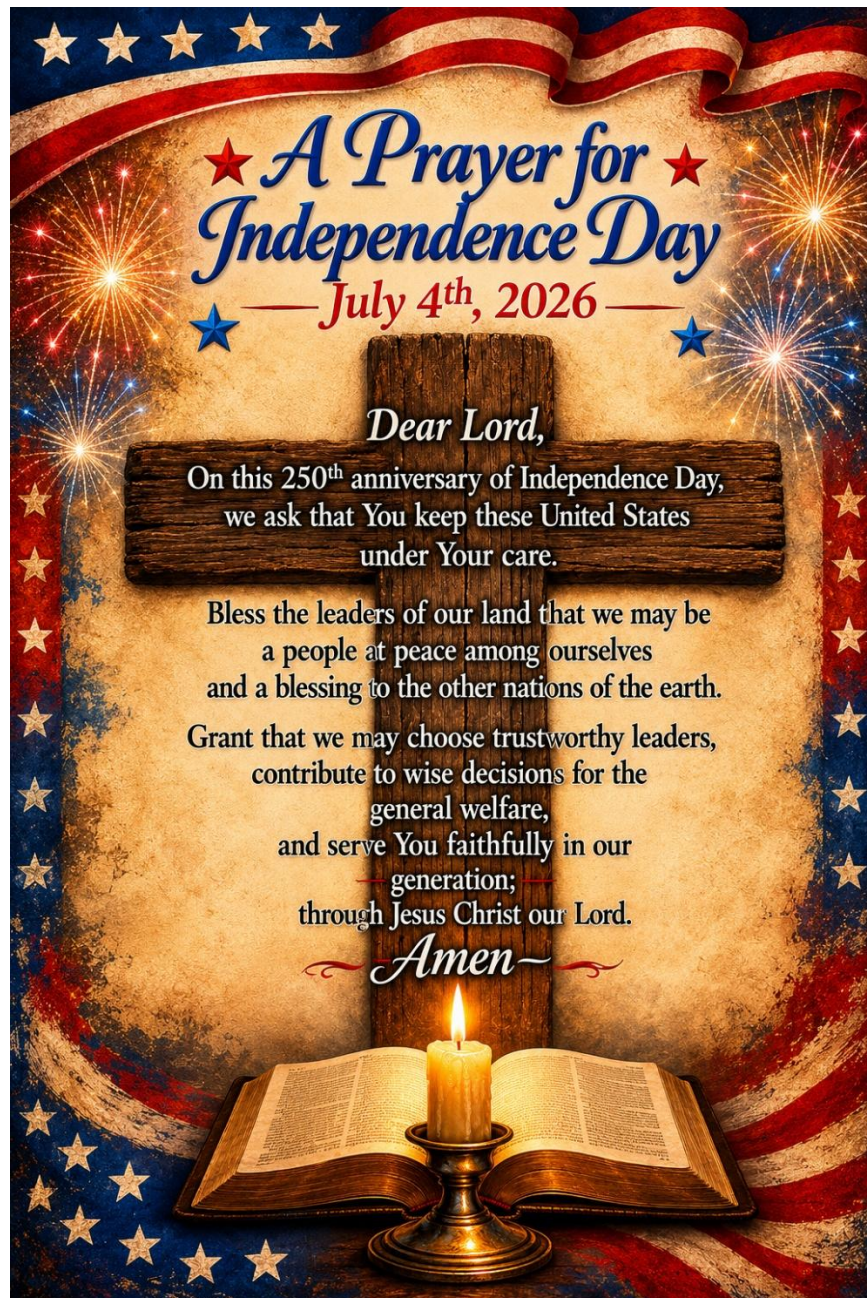
the Father. Seeing people sing, lift, and celebrate the dunkings in another language was a beautiful reminder that the Family is truly global. It encouraged me to remember that the Father is at work among people of every nation, tribe, and tongue.

Throughout these weeks, my faith has been strengthened as I have seen firsthand the diversity of the Father's creation and His heart for people from every background. Living among immigrant and refugee communities has challenged me to grow in compassion, hospitality, and dependence on the Father. I am thankful for the opportunities to learn from others and to share the Father's love through everyday interactions.

## **Lift Requests**

- Lift for the immigrant and refugee families living throughout this community as they navigate new cultures, languages, and challenges.
- Lift for local Orgs and Family members who are faithfully serving people from many different backgrounds.
- Lift that the Father would continue drawing people to Himself and that many would come to know the Son personally.
- Lift for wisdom, humility, and opportunities for my team so that we could have meaningful conversations during the remainder of our time in Europe.
- Lift that I would continue growing in faith and reflecting The Sons love to those around me.





★ *A Prayer for* ★  
*Independence Day*  
— July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 —

*Dear Lord,*

On this 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence Day,  
we ask that You keep these United States  
under Your care.

Bless the leaders of our land that we may be  
a people at peace among ourselves  
and a blessing to the other nations of the earth.

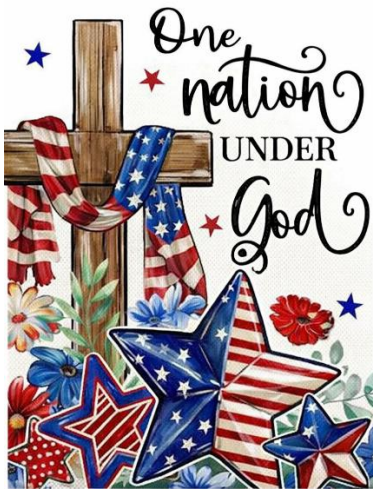
Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders,  
contribute to wise decisions for the  
general welfare,  
and serve You faithfully in our  
generation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

**3 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** – On summer break; will resume Sep. 9th  
—**Small Group, Rexroat home** – 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).

—**Nursery**: 9:30 AM (Main floor)

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

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

#### **JULY**

- 4 – **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 13-17 – **CHRIST IN YOUTH (CIY) CAMP**, Wheaton College, IL; See Andy or Tawnya Werner
- 14 – **ELDERBERRIES, LUNCHEON**, MCC basement, 11:30 AM; See Anne Bosold or Sherry Powell
- 14 – **ELDER'S MEETING** (closed), 5:30 PM
- 18 – **MEN'S BREAKFAST**, Adventure Christian Church, Davenport, 7:30-9:30 AM
- 19 – **DARTS WITH DAD**, 11:00 AM, See Britton Rexroat