



# Milan Christian Church

Where Faith, Friends, and Family Meet

**NEWSLETTER**  
**March 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.*

## **BAPTISM**

**BRADON KRAHL – 2/22/26 (By Luke Werner)**



## **PALM SUNDAY – MEANING, TRADITIONS, AND ITS IMPORTANCE FOR CHRISTIANS**

*From readymessages.com*



### **What Is Palm Sunday?**

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday before Easter and the beginning of Holy Week in the Christian liturgical calendar. The day commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, a pivotal moment in the New Testament narratives. Riding on a donkey, Jesus was greeted by crowds who laid down palm branches and cloaks in front of Him, shouting "Hosanna!" This event is recorded in all four Gospels (**Matthew 21:1–11**, **Mark 11:1–11**, **Luke 19:28–44**, and **John 12:12–19**).

**Biblical Significance of Palm Sunday** - The story of Palm Sunday has several layers of meaning:

Fulfillment of Prophecy: Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey fulfills the prophecy from **Zechariah 9:9**, which speaks of a king arriving "humble and riding on a donkey."

Symbol of Peace: In contrast to kings or generals who would ride horses into cities they conquered, Jesus' choice of a donkey symbolizes peace, humility, and His mission to bring salvation.

Recognition of Messiahship: The people of Jerusalem recognized Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah, chanting "Hosanna," which translates to "save us." However, many misunderstood His mission, expecting political liberation rather than spiritual salvation.

### **Palm Sunday in America:**

Traditions and In the United States, Palm Sunday is observed by millions of Christians across various denominations, including Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox communities. While customs may differ slightly, most congregations celebrate with a combination of worship services, the blessing and distribution of palm branches, and readings from the Gospel.

**Palm Branches: A Symbol of Victory** - Palm branches are a key symbol of Palm Sunday. In ancient times, palms represented victory and triumph. In Christian tradition, the waving and laying down of palms during Palm Sunday services symbolize both the joy of Jesus' arrival and the anticipation of His ultimate victory over death.

In many American churches, palm branches are blessed by the clergy and distributed to the congregation. These palms are often folded into crosses and displayed in homes throughout the year as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice. Some churches collect these palm crosses after the year ends to burn them for use in the following Ash Wednesday services, which marks the start of Lent.

**Worship Services and Processions** - Palm Sunday services in American churches are often marked by special readings from the Gospels, hymn singing, and processions. Many congregations organize a procession where worshipers walk through the church or surrounding area, waving palm branches to reenact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. These services set a tone of reverence, focusing on both the celebratory aspects of Jesus' Kingship and the sobering events leading up to Good Friday.

In Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the Palm Sunday liturgy is rich in ceremonial acts. The service may include the blessing of palms, the singing of Psalms, and a reading of the Passion of Christ, which reflects on the suffering Jesus would endure later in the week.

### **Palm Sunday in American Christian Culture**

Palm Sunday holds a unique place in the hearts of American Christians. While it is a religious observance, its celebration also emphasizes the community, family, and the importance of faith in daily life. For many families, Palm Sunday is a time to come together, reflect on their faith, and prepare for the solemnity of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday.

**Palm Sunday and Family Traditions** - Many American families integrate Palm Sunday traditions into their spiritual and home life. Some families attend church together and participate in processions, while others use palm branches to decorate their homes. Children often take part in Palm Sunday activities, learning to make palm crosses or engaging in craft projects that teach them the meaning of the day.

For many, Palm Sunday marks the start of Easter preparations. Some families use this time to reflect on the season of Lent, fasting, and prayer, while others begin decorating for Easter. This day serves as a bridge between the solemn reflection of Lent and the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

**Community Involvement** - In many American towns and cities, churches organize Palm Sunday processions that extend beyond the church walls. These public processions can involve members of multiple denominations coming together to walk through the streets, waving palms and singing hymns. Such events not only foster a sense of community but also provide a public witness to the Christian faith.

For many Americans, Palm Sunday represents a time to renew their commitment to service, charity, and helping others. Local church groups may organize community outreach programs, collecting donations for the needy or hosting special meals for the less fortunate.

### **Theological Reflections on Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday provides an opportunity for deeper theological reflection. It is a day that balances celebration and sorrow, as it leads directly to the events of Holy Week.

**The Duality of Celebration and Suffering** - While Palm Sunday is joyful, with the people of Jerusalem hailing Jesus as their king, it is also bittersweet. Many Christians reflect on the fact that the same crowds who praised Jesus on Palm Sunday would later turn against Him, calling for His crucifixion. This stark contrast reminds believers of the frailty of human loyalty and the deep cost of Jesus' sacrifice.

For American Christians, this duality can inspire reflection on their own lives. How do we remain faithful to our commitments and beliefs in times of joy and in times of trial? Palm Sunday challenges believers to hold fast to their faith, even when the path ahead is uncertain.

**Jesus' Mission of Peace** - Another key theme of Palm Sunday is Jesus' mission of peace. His choice of a donkey, a symbol of peace, as His mode of transportation highlights the kind of kingdom He came to establish—one built on humility, service, and love, rather than power and domination.

In a world often marked by division and conflict, the message of Palm Sunday serves as a reminder of the Christian call to be peacemakers. For many American Christians, this message is particularly resonant as they seek to navigate a society filled with political, social, and economic challenges. Palm Sunday encourages believers to live out their faith through acts of kindness, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

### **The Importance of Palm Sunday in Today's World**

In a rapidly changing and often chaotic world, Palm Sunday remains an anchor for Christians. The day's emphasis on peace, humility, and faith serves as a powerful reminder of Jesus' teachings and the hope found in His resurrection.

**Reflection in Modern American Society** - For American Christians, Palm Sunday is not just a historical event but a call to action. It encourages believers to reflect on how they can live out their faith in practical ways—through acts of charity, standing up for justice, and offering forgiveness. At the same time, it invites them to embrace the hope of Easter, knowing that no matter the challenges they face, victory through Christ is assured.

**Balancing Tradition and Modern Life** - As with many religious observances, Palm Sunday traditions must be balanced with the demands of modern life. In the United States, where schedules are often packed and attention divided between numerous activities, Palm Sunday offers a chance to slow down, focus on faith, and engage in meaningful worship. For many, this observance offers a spiritual reset, helping them reconnect with the core values of their faith.

### **Ways to Celebrate Palm Sunday at Home**

While Palm Sunday is traditionally celebrated in church, there are many ways that American families can bring the spirit of the day into their homes:

Create Palm Crosses: After attending church, many families engage in the practice of making palm crosses from the blessed branches. This simple act serves as a daily reminder of Christ's sacrifice and love.

Read the Gospel Accounts: Reflecting on the Bible passages that describe Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is a meaningful way to engage with the story. Families can take turns reading the passages and discussing their significance.

Reflect on Peace and Humility: Palm Sunday is a time to reflect on the values of peace and humility. Families can discuss ways to practice these virtues in their daily lives and communities.

Participate in Charitable Acts: Many churches and faith-based organizations encourage acts of charity during Holy Week. Families can find ways to give back to their communities, whether through volunteering, donating, or offering assistance to those in need.

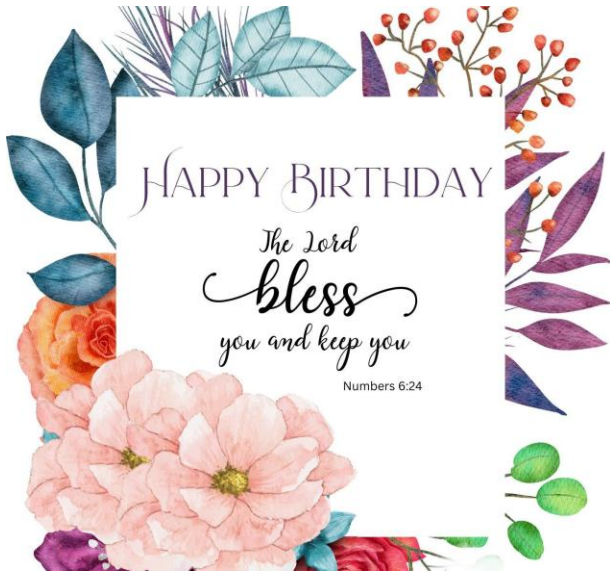
### **Conclusion: The Lasting Impact of Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday remains a deeply significant day for Christians, both in the United States and around the world. It serves as a reminder of Jesus' mission and His ultimate victory over death. For American Christians, Palm Sunday is a day of joy, reflection, and preparation as they enter into Holy Week and look forward to the celebration of Easter.

As we wave our palms and shout "Hosanna," we remember that Palm Sunday is not just about looking back at a historical event but about recognizing Jesus as King in our own lives today. Whether through church services, community involvement, or family traditions, Palm Sunday offers an opportunity to deepen our faith and draw closer to the heart of Christ.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 4 – Bill Marquis & Laramie Powell
- 6 – Addison Slavish
- 9 – Debbie Headley
- 12 – Keeton Johnson
- 15 – Troy McMeekan
- 19 – Alex Ruska
- 21 – Brad Webster
- 22 – Deanne Leingang
- 24 – Olivia Marquis
- 29 – Cadence Bushman

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

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



## Prayer Requests

Phyllis Boley & Family (Passing of her brother Bill – Comfort  
Tammy Booker – Personal issue  
Anne Bosold – Cancer  
Helen Howell (Passing of her husband Wayne) – Comfort  
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)  
Marquis Family (Passing of “JJ”, infant gr. nephew) – Comfort  
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  
Linda Tipton – Health issue  
Chris Uribe – Cancer  
Steve Vacek – Comfort (Recovery from procedure)  
Sue Wriedt – Awaiting hip replacement surgery  
Julie (Johnny Oeth’s mother) – Cancer  
Di (Linda Tipton’s sister) – Health issue & Recovery from ankle fracture  
Jason (Chris & Linda Tipton’s nephew) - Comfort  
Dave (Chris & Linda Tipton’s neighbor) – Health issue  
Lacey (Sherry Powell’s granddaughter) – Health issue  
Alyse (Don & Cathy Jo Merritt’s daughter-in-law) – Cancer  
DiAaron (Kathie McAdams’ son) – Personal 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  
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  
John & Pat (Phyllis Boley’s brothers) – 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  
Antonio (Norma Leone’s 1-yr-old gr. grandson) – Recovery from heart surg.  
Killian (Linda Hocker’s son) – Serious hand injury  
Shirley (Betty Kisner’s sister) – Health issue  
Kathy (Dennis & Phyllis Martens’ daughter) – 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***



**Elderberries**  
**LUNCHEON**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 AT 11:30AM**

Bring your favorite Irish dish or dessert to share.  
Corned beef and cabbage will be provided.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

*If you have any questions, please see: Sherry Powell or Anne Bosold*

*St. Patrick's Day*  
**BLESSING**

**May God give you...**  
For every storm a rainbow,  
For every tear a smile,  
For every care a promise and  
a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
a faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh a  
sweet song and an  
answer for each  
*prayer.*

**MCC WOMEN'S MINISTRY**  
**Ladies Brunch**

**SATURDAY MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**10:00AM TO 11:30AM**

We will be doing a craft, we encourage you to thrift shop for any spring items like old wreaths or spring flowers, any items that can be taken apart and used for a new wreath that we will be making.

We will have foam circle wreaths and other items you can use.  
If anyone has glue guns or anything that we could use please bring it with you to share.

There is no cost, just come and enjoy some food, fellowship & crafting.

For questions: Please see Amy Mitchell

**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](http://cafe1040.com/give)

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

Thank you! – Jacob

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)

### **MARCH**

8 – **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**

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

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

17 – **ST. PATRICK'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

28 – **MCC EASTER EGG HUNT**

29 – **PALM SUNDAY**