



# 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.*

## Why Motherhood Matters More Than Ever

*By Cathe Laurie, from [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com)*



Discover why motherhood is far more than “just” a role—it’s a sacred, soul-shaping calling that echoes God’s redemptive plan and leaves an eternal legacy.

“Just” a Mother? It’s been said that “Motherhood is the toughest job you’ll ever love.”

I might add “**...and occasionally lament**” while crying for fear that you might be failing. And yet the truth remains that motherhood—in spite of its messy glory—is the most important job in the world.

**Genesis 3:16** tells us that, as a result of the fall, women bring forth children “in pain and sorrow.” If that isn’t the most honest description of motherhood, I don’t know what is. There most certainly is pain from that first contraction until the last teenage eye roll. But this I know for certain: It is pain with a purpose.

God was doing more than doling out punishment in the garden—He was setting the stage for redemption. He decreed that the offspring of the woman would crush the serpent’s head. Not only in the ultimate promise of Jesus Christ defeating sin and death (that is the GREAT purpose), but in a secondary sense, motherhood itself transforms us. Think of it. Growing a tiny human inside your body for nine months, giving up your waistline, sleep, and any sense of normal control over your bladder. Then comes the indescribable physical ordeal of labor, which I can only assume is God’s way of proving that women are as tough as any guy out there. But wait—there’s more!

After childbirth comes breastfeeding, sleep deprivation, diaper blowouts, and the unceasing demands of being on call 24/7. Does it get easier over time? Reality check: It doesn’t. The challenges just change and the stages of growth are different. There will be temper tantrums, scraped knees, fears and tears, homework battles, and teenage rebellion. Through it all, you’ll be pouring out your heart, soul, and unceasing prayers for the stamina and wisdom it takes to raise a respectful, kind, God-fearing, productive human being.

So please, I never want to hear another woman say, “I’m just a stay-at-home mom.” We’ve let the world convince us that being a mom is somehow “**less than.**” Motherhood isn’t “just” anything. It’s a divine calling. You are partnering with God in helping to shape the next generation. You are the CEO of a small, highly influential company called FAMILY. You are truthfully molding the very future of humanity.

While motherhood doesn’t come with a paycheck or a 401(k), it comes with dividends that pay out for eternity. You’re not simply raising kids; you’re raising image-bearers of God, future world-changers, and (even quite possibly) the person who will discover a cure for cancer or write the next great American novel. Every sleepless night, every tearful prayer over your children—it all matters. The Bible tells us that women, “will be saved through childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control” (**1 Timothy 2:15**). This verse isn’t saying that women earn salvation by having babies (thank goodness)! It means that the process of motherhood sanctifies us.

It shapes us into people who are more patient, more selfless, and more reliant on God. And one day, someday, we can redeem the beautiful image of Eve in all her pre-fall splendor. One more thing. Please, I insist. Don’t forget the joy. Yes, there is joy! It may be hidden in a pile of laundry or submerged in the chaos of a toddler meltdown, but it is there in the sound of your baby’s first laugh. In the way your child reaches for you when they are scared. It’s in the pleasure you feel when they stand up for what’s right or accomplish what they’ve worked so hard for.

Motherhood is a bittersweet symphony of pain and joy. Sacrifice and redemption. When all is said and done, you’re not “just” raising children—you are fulfilling a sacred calling that echoes the story of redemption itself. So, mothers, the next time someone asks what you do? Just give them a knowing smile and say, “I’m in the business of shaping the future.”



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**

-  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

## Sherrard High School



*Congratulations 2026 Graduate*

Kaden is involved in the MCC Youth Group, Soccer, Wrestling, and FCA

At this time Kaden is undecided on his future plans.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9*



**Kaden Dutton**

Parents:  
Heidi & Andy Dutton

## University of Minnesota Duluth



*Congratulations 2026 Graduate*

Ryder attends CRU (Campus Ministry Club), is a General Officer of the Earth and Environmental Science Club, and UMD Ski and Board Club.

He is graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree, double majoring in Geology and Hydrology. He will complete fieldwork in Utah this summer before beginning work as a research assistant at Boise State University in July. He will begin his graduate studies there in August, serving in the Geophysics Department.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9*



**Ryder Roelf**

Parents:  
Carrie & Chad Roelf

## Sherrard High School



*Congratulations 2026 Graduate*

Sierra has been a part of the MCC Youth Group, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Spanish Club, Robotics, and Class Senate.

After graduation, she plans to attend Blackhawk College and is currently undecided on her major.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9*



**Sierra Slavish**

Parents:  
Kris & Paul Slavish

## Sherrard High School



*Congratulations 2026 Graduate*

Cooper has been a part of the MCC Youth Group, Baseball, Football, Wrestling, Track & Field, & FFA.

After graduation he plans to attend Kentucky Horseshoeing School in September.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9*



**Cooper Thomas**

Parents:  
Tina & Dave Thomas

## Sherrard High School



*Congratulations 2026 Graduate*

Jonathan has been a part of the MCC Youth Group, Football, Wrestling & Track

After graduation he plans to join the Military.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9*



**Jonathan Weakley**

Parents:  
Desyree & Jim Weakley

## Sherrard High School



*Congratulations 2026 Graduate*

Luke has been a part of MCC Youth Group, the MCC Praise Team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Golf, Wrestling, and FFA.

After graduation, he plans to attend Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Missouri, where he will major in Preaching Ministry.

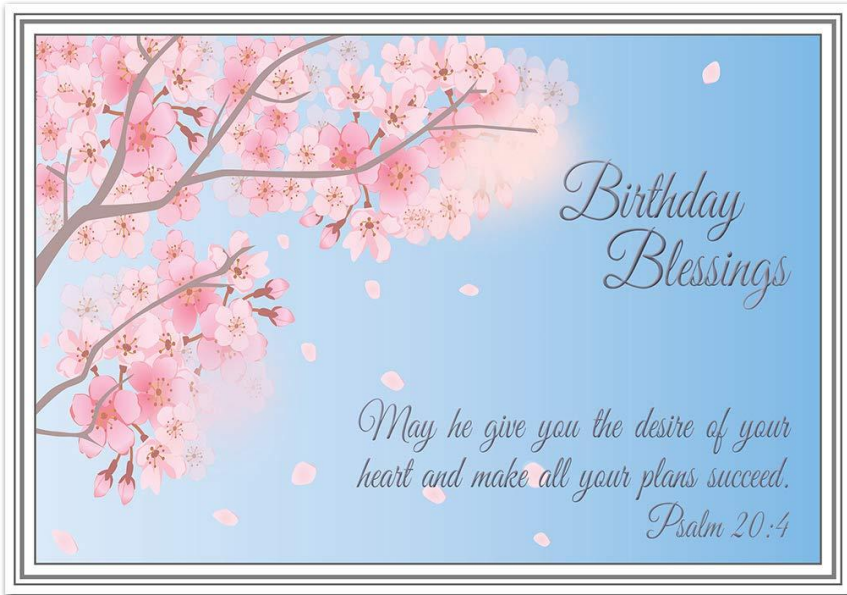
*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9*



**Luke Werner**

Parents:  
Tawnya & Andy Werner

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



- 4 – Morgan Hofer
- 5 – Brook Upton
- 7 – Tawnya Werner
- 10 – Kristy Johnson
- 16 – Riley Franks
- 17 – Anne Bosold
- 24 – Dave Leingang & Missy Maynard
- 25 – Jessica Oeth, Lennon Powell & Curtis Waterman
- 28 – Sherry Caston
- 30 – Diana Lee
- 31 – Norma Leone

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday May 7, 2026  
At 12pm  
At the Milan Municipal Building

IN HIS NAME THE NATIONS WILL PUT THEIR HOPE  
MATTHEW 12:21

**GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU SERVE**

★ **ARMED** ★  
**FORCES DAY**  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

REMEMBER  
THOSE WHO HAVE  
SACRIFICED THIS

# Memorial Day

GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS,  
THAN TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. JOHN 15:13 NKJV

## Prayer Requests

Phyllis Boley – Health issue  
Tammy Booker – Personal issue  
Anne Bosold – Recovery from surgery  
Susan Huber – 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 – 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 – Job issue  
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  
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  
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 brothers) – 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  
Bob (Linda Thomas' nephew) – Cancer

**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***

## Spring Cleaning for the Soul: Decluttering Our Hearts Before God

*From 20thecountdown.com*



As the flowers bloom and the days grow longer, the arrival of spring signals a season of renewal and rejuvenation. Many of us take this time to engage in physical spring cleaning, clearing out clutter, and refreshing our homes. But, amidst the dusting and organizing, it's also essential to consider the state of our hearts and minds. Just as our homes can become cluttered with unnecessary belongings, our souls can become cluttered with sin, bitterness, and distractions that hinder our relationship with God.

Today, we'll explore the parallels between physical spring cleaning and spiritual decluttering, offering practical tips and Biblical insights on how to make room for God's presence and renewal in our lives.

**Clearing Out Sin:** Just as we discard old belongings that no longer serve a purpose, we must identify and let go of sin in our lives. Scripture reminds us that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (**1 John 1:9, ESV**). Take time to reflect on areas of your life where sin has taken root. Confess these sins to God, and ask for His forgiveness, allowing His grace to cleanse and renew your heart.

**Letting Go of Bitterness:** Bitterness can weigh heavily on our hearts, poisoning our relationships and hindering our spiritual growth. Just as clutter accumulates over time, bitterness can build up through unresolved conflicts and past hurts. The Bible warns us against harboring bitterness, instructing us to "get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice" (**Ephesians 4:31, NIV**). Choose to forgive those who have wronged you, releasing the burden of bitterness and allowing God's love to heal and restore your relationships.

**Eliminating Distractions:** In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to become overwhelmed by distractions that pull us away from God's presence. Whether it's excessive screen time, busyness, or worldly pursuits, these distractions can clutter our minds and hearts, making it difficult to hear God's voice. Jesus reminds us to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (**Matthew 6:33, ESV**), prioritizing our relationship with Him above all else. Evaluate your daily habits and routines, identifying any distractions that hinder your spiritual growth. Make intentional choices to create space for God in your life, whether through prayer, meditation, or time spent in His Word.

**Inviting God's Presence and Renewal:** As we declutter our hearts before God, we create space for His presence and renewal to dwell within us. Just as a clean and organized home brings a sense of peace and tranquility, a heart surrendered to God experiences His peace that surpasses all understanding (**Philippians 4:7, ESV**). Invite God to fill the empty spaces in your heart, allowing His Spirit to bring forth the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (**Galatians 5:22-23, ESV**). Embrace this season of spiritual renewal, trusting that God is faithful to complete the good work He has begun in you (**Philippians 1:6, ESV**).

As we journey through spiritual decluttering this spring, may we be reminded of the transformative power of God's grace and love. Just as physical spring cleaning revitalizes our homes, decluttering our hearts before God brings new life and renewal to our souls. Let us embrace this season of spiritual renewal, letting go of sin, bitterness, and distractions. As we surrender our hearts to Him, may we experience His peace, joy, and abundant life in the days ahead.

**ELDERBERRIES**  
Luncheon  
Tuesday May 12, 2026 at 11:30am  
Bring your favorite Mexican dish to share.  
*EVERYONE IS INVITED!*  
Questions: Please see Sherry Powell or Anne Bosold

Join us for  
**Camping at the Anseeuw's**  
Friday May 22nd  
Contact Britton for details: (309) 912-8767

**Kayaking Trip**

Looking for a great way to enjoy the outdoors, connect with others, and slow down for a few hours? Come kayak with us!

**DATE:** May 30, 2026  
**MEET UP:** MCC @ 8:30 AM OR Adventure @ 9:00am  
**PUT IN:** Allen's Grove Boat Ramp  
Co Rd. Y52, Donahue IA  
**TAKE OUT:** Wapsi Willies  
**FLOAT TIME:** 3-4 Hours  
We'll stop & eat lunch right on the river.

No kayak? No problem. We have plenty of extras available—just let Jim or Amy know you're coming, and we'll make sure you're set up.  
 Bring a friend, pack a lunch, and come ready for a relaxing time on the water.  
 Let Jim or Amy know if you're in!

**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**

<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

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

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)

### **MAY**

**3** – MISSION TRIP TEAM MEETING, 11 AM-12 PM

**7** – NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, Milan Municipal Bldg., 12 PM

**10** – MOTHER'S DAY

**12** – Elderberries, Luncheon, MCC basement, 11:30 AM

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

**15 & 16** – MCC GARAGE SALE--Supporting the Mission Trip, 8 AM-2 PM (Donated items accepted by May 12, place in back of office bldg.)

**16** – ARMED FORCES DAY

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

**16** – Ladies Brunch, MCC basement, 10 – 11:30 AM

**17** – DARTS WITH DAD, 11:30 AM

**22** – CAMPING AT ANSEEUW'S

**25** – MEMORIAL DAY

**30** – KAYAKING TRIP, Allen's Grove Boat Ramp, Co. Rd. Y52, Donahue, IA (Meet at MCC, 8:30 AM OR Adventure Christian Church, Davenport, 9 AM)