

## *Welcome Newcomers!*

We hope you sense God's presence and enjoy your time of worship with us today. We have a staffed nursery, Children's Church for ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, which will be dismissed during the worship service, and Sunday school for all ages. If you need assistance in finding any of these areas, an usher or greeter will gladly help you. Please take time to sign in on the red attendance register in your row.

## *Contact Us*

### **Community Mennonite Fellowship**

2985 Broadway Road, Milton, PA 17847  
570-742-7315

[www.cmfmilton.org](http://www.cmfmilton.org)



Sunday worship service: 9:15 AM    Sunday school: 10:45 AM

Our church office is open  
M-F, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Timothy Darling  
(Lead Pastor)  
[tim@cmfmilton.org](mailto:tim@cmfmilton.org)

Jim Hostetter  
(Pastor of Youth and Young Adults)  
[jim@cmfmilton.org](mailto:jim@cmfmilton.org)

Amy Goodwin  
(Children's Ministry)  
[amy@cmfmilton.org](mailto:amy@cmfmilton.org)

Nigel Fulmore-Smith  
(Spiritual Family & Discipleship Pastor)  
[nigel@cmfmilton.org](mailto:nigel@cmfmilton.org)

Erv Blank  
(Finance)  
[finance@cmfmilton.org](mailto:finance@cmfmilton.org)

Tammy Trate  
(Administrative Assistant)  
[office@cmfmilton.org](mailto:office@cmfmilton.org)

## *Looking Ahead*

December 5	Men's Wing Night
December 8	Christmas Caroling
December 24	Morning Christmas Worship Service
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25-26	Office Closed
January 1-2	Office Closed



## **"Hope in the Middle of Suffering"**

Lamentations 3:16-24

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Realistically speaking, to what degree do gifts and commercial pursuits contribute to your emotional engagement in the celebration of Christmas?

What elements of pain are imposing themselves into your Christmas season this year?

What elements of Sacred Hope (Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming? God's bigger plan for your life? etc...) might you access to combat the quagmire that can be caused by pain and sadness?



An electronic version of Pastor Tim's Advent devotional is available. Scan for an online version. Hard copies are on the lobby table along the wall by the bulletin board.



**December 3, 2023**



*Together,  
pressing in toward Christ;  
reaching out to the world.*





**Today is the first Sunday of Advent.** Adult Advent devotionals, written by Pastor Tim, are available in the lobby. Please help yourself. Children are encouraged to use the *good-kind* Advent blocks they received last year. However, for an additional activity for your children, extra "old" children's devotionals are also on the Advent table in the lobby.

**Would you like to be prayed for today?** Every Sunday after the sermon, an Elder is available at the front of the auditorium to anoint you with oil and pray for your needs. We encourage you to partake of this special time of prayer.

**Three winter adult Sunday school classes start today.** Please join us for the class of your choice, listed in the box below. Grow and fellowship with others as you study God's Word in Sunday school.



**The Giving Tree is here! Grab a child's tag today** and help a family in need give gifts to their children. Pick a tag (or several) from the display in the lobby, read the child's wants and needs, and buy a gift. Then, return the UNWRAPPED items in a gift bag to the tree in the lobby with the tag attached **by Sunday, December 17.** Contact Amy Goodwin for any questions or to learn more.

**All 2024 leadership positions were overwhelmingly affirmed** last week. "Thank you!" to everyone who submitted their ballots!

**Ballots for the 2024 CMF Budget** will be distributed to all members through their church mailboxes next Sunday, **December 10.** Ballots will be due no later than December 31. See Josh Blank or Ervin Blank with any questions. (No large outdoor play structure for children is being pursued for 2024.)

**Men's Wing Night is back!** Men, join us at 6:30 PM **this Tuesday, December 5,** at the Watson Inn. For more information, contact Nigel Fulmore-Smith at [nigel@cmfmilton.org](mailto:nigel@cmfmilton.org).



**Join us today for an adult Sunday school class:**

Room #	Name of Class	Teachers
Rooms 201/202	<i>Ruth: Faithfulness in Famine</i>	Norman & Dorothy Hoy
Room 203	<i>Letting Go and Letting God Lead</i>	Nancy Magargle
Room 305	<i>Redemptive Compassion</i>	Julie Tyson



**DATE CHANGE for Christmas Caroling:** We invite you to a church-wide session of Christmas caroling **this Friday, December 8,** at 6:00 PM (arrive by 5:30 PM for costumes). Hats, capes, and scarves will be provided by Joy Mertz. Bundle up and bring your best singing voice and Christmas spirit! Please sign up in the lobby to ensure we will have a costume for everyone.

**Zesty Zeniors Christmas Caroling:** If you or your spouse are 55 or over, join us at the church at 1:30 PM on **December 21,** from where we will leave to carol at two area nursing homes. After caroling, we will return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies. Please sign up in the lobby, to let us know you will be coming.

**Join us at 9:15 AM, Sunday, December 24,** to celebrate the birth of our Savior. There will be no Sunday school that day, to allow more time for families to visit during the Christmas holiday.



**Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be held on Sunday, **December 24,** at 6:30 PM. Please join us for this special time of worship to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Note: Childcare will not be provided, but the nursery will be open for parents to use.

**A fishing rod building class will begin in the New Year.** If interested, contact Larry Seibert, at 570-850-8946, **by December 31,** so supplies and components can be ordered in time to start in early February.

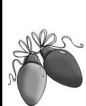


**Thank you:** I want to thank all of my CMF family for the flowers. They are beautiful! ~ Ken and Julie Knarr

**Need Reminders?** To keep up-to-date with announcements throughout the week, connect with *Remind* by texting "@cmfremind" to 81010.

*Young Adults*

**Wednesday Group-Time:** Connect with others on Wednesdays, at 6:45 PM, in Room 305. See Max Kennel, Mike Yoder, or Jim Hostetter to learn more.



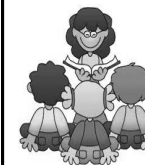
**Christmas Party - Grad Reunion:** Catch up with all your friends and meet new ones at this year's big Christmas Break get-together held in the Refuge at CMF, on Thursday, **December 21,** at 7:00 PM, until whenever.



**Grad Panel:** Last year's Grads are invited to share on the "Youth Grad Panel Event," on **December 20.** Share what you've learned about college, work, and pursuing God after High School. See Jim if interested.

**New opportunity:** All Young Adults are welcomed to come hang out to watch the Grad Panel and afterwards to hang out with C4 for "Late-night Youth."

*Children's Ministry*



**Today is Library Sunday!** Kids in Preschool through second grade will listen to a story and have the opportunity to check out a book and/or DVD during Sunday school. Older kids are invited to visit the library before or after Sunday school, too. If you have books or videos checked out they can be returned to the cart inside the Library door anytime, not just on Library Sunday.



**Christmas ConNect Workshops:** This Christmas season, we hope to have workshops led by adults and/or teens from our church to help our kids make homemade gifts for their families. Keep an eye on *Remind* for more information, and please let Amy Goodwin know, at 570-490-6217, if you have any ideas!

*Youth Ministry*

**"Embrace and Pursue Christ"**

**Ignite\*** (Grades 6-8) and **C4\*** (Grades 9-12):

**Wednesday Youth:** Special "Testimony Night" this Wednesday. Hear about God's powerful work in the life of personal trainer and "Wrk Inside Out" business owner Jess Fester of Bloomsburg.



**It's a month of special Holiday Programming!** Testimony Night, Christmas parties and gift exchange, Grad Panel, and overnight Lock-In. Check out all the December fun by going Online.

Our online newsletter has more information about events or contact Jim Hostetter at 570-238-2250 or [jim@cmfmilton.org](mailto:jim@cmfmilton.org) for questions.

**See youth event details at:**  
<https://newsletter.dymapps.com/featured/2142>

**Parents:** Not getting REMIND messages?  
Text @cmfparents to the number 81010.



**Last Week's Offering:** \$6,049  
**Last Week's Attendance:** CMF Worship: 234 (191 in person, 43 online)  
Sunday school: 105

