

PLEASE TYPE

LEADERSHIP REFERRAL SERVICES

Cumberland Presbyterian Church
8207 Traditional Place
Cordova, Tennessee 38016



CHURCH INFORMATION FORM

Date Form Completed: September 2022

Form Completed by: B. Niven

PART I—CHURCH/COMMUNITY PROFILE

SNAPSHOT OF THE CHURCH

Name and Address of Church:
Milan Cumberland Presbyterian Church
6083 S 1st street
Milan TN 38358

Church Number: 9121

Mission: Reach the Lost, Strengthen the Saved Glorify God Come Experience the Love

Website: N/A Facebook Account

Phone Number: 731-686-1851

Presbytery: As of Oct 2nd, Cornerstone/Synod of Great Rivers
Year Organized: 1876

Current Active Membership: 212

Active Membership 5 years ago:224

Contact Information

Search Committee Chairperson: Michael Odom
Phone Number:731-225-2887
Email Address: Mtsumro@yahoo.com

Attendance/Services

Average weekly attendance for Morning Worship: 75 Evening Worship: N/A
Mid-Week Service: N/A
Other regular services (list/describe): Wednesday night Family night 65

Church School (number in attendance)

Nursery: 3 Curriculum:
K-6: 4 Curriculum:
Youth: 5 Curriculum: Selected by Assoc Pastor
Adults: 25 Curriculum: Present Word and Encounter

Total Enrolment:45

Organizations/Meetings in the church (Bible Study, CPWM, Youth, Men's Fellowship, etc.)

A weekly radio ministry of our Sunday morning Worship service, CPWM, Gladys Bryson Circle, Men's Fellowship, Youth, College age bible study in summer, Session, Deacon's, Choir, Milan Cemetery Board, Milan Endowment for Growth in Academics (MEGA) board, Fellowship Hall used as a polling station for Gibson County precinct

Financial Statement for the last complete fiscal year (*give year*):

Income from:

Pledges:
Offerings/Gifts: 409,977
Other: 9,696

Total Income: 419,673

Expenses:

Operating Expenses: 230,938
Debt Payment: 173,729
Benevolences 1,550
(OUO, Presbytery, Synod, 0
Second Mile, Stott-Wallace): 0
Other: 5,200
Total Expenses: 411,717

Approved Budget for the Current Fiscal Year: 261,533

SNAPSHOT OF THE COMMUNITY

Total population of the city, town, or rural area in which the church is located:9000

This church serves a community or neighborhood that encompasses an area within how many miles of the church?

Indicate the kind of service area by checking any of the following that apply.

- Inner City Urban (Downtown) Urban (Residential) Suburban Town
- Rural College Retirement Recreational/Resort
- Agricultural

The city/town/rural area in which the church is located is (*check one*):

- Growing Declining Static

The immediate community/neighborhood/parish served by the church is (*check one*):

- Growing Declining Static

PART II—POSITION DESCRIPTION

- Title of Position:** Senior Pastor Pastor Associate Pastor
- Youth Minister Children’s Minister Music Minister Other:

Synopsis of Job Description and Expectations:

To lead and guide the spiritual development and growth of the congregation with the assistance and support of the Session, Deacons, and the Associate Pastor. The Pastor works directly with these folks in the administration of the building and grounds and the stewardship of the congregation.

List all other full or part-time staff: (Name, title, full-time [FT] or part-time [PT])

William Arnold Associate Pastor (now Interim Pastor) FT		
May Yarbrough	Financial secretary	PT
Faye Harrison	secretary	PT
Reese McCoy	Organist	PT
Ashley Niven	Nursery	PT
Louise Brown	Nursery	PT

Date position became, or will become, vacant: September 26th, 2022

By whom was the position last filled? Dr Doy L Daniels
Current address and telephone: 901-734-2365

May they be contacted? YES

Expectations of Work Week:

- Full-time (30 hours or more) Part-Time (Less than 30 hours)
- Tent-Maker (Another job/ministry is expected and acceptable) Other (please explain):

Compensation

Salary:

- a. Minimum annual cash salary: \$35,000
- b. Manse?
If no, housing allowance: \$ 20,000
- c. Utility allowance:
- d. Other benefits (explain):

Benefits:

- a. Church’s contribution to retirement fund:
- b. Health Insurance (family) \$12,000
- c. Other benefits (explain)

Total compensation: \$67,000

Professional Expense Reimbursements and Allowances

- 1. Automobile Expense: Mileage 2000 annually
- 2. Expenses to General Assembly/Conferences: individual basis
- 3. Continuing Education: Individual basis-
- 4. Other expenses (explain):

Total Professional Expense Reimbursement or Allowances:

Other Benefits:

Length of vacation: Minimum 2 weeks
Amount of time allowed for preaching missions/revivals/continuing education/conferences, etc.: appropriate time as required

PART III—SKILLS, INTERESTS, AND EXPERIENCE INVENTORY

A. PASTORAL SKILLS. It is assumed all skills listed below are used by every pastor. However, each person has certain special gifts and particular interests. The ministry of this position in our congregation would be most satisfying if pastoral activities are emphasized as follows: *(When your selections are completed, you should have **ONLY EIGHT** items circled "1" (highest emphasis) with remaining activities circled either 2, 3, or 4).* Please use black ink.

		HIGH		LOW
Evangelism (Relating the gospel to people outside the church and enabling the laity to bear personal witness.)		1	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Personal and Spiritual Development (Providing resources and guidance for individuals in his or her devotional life and for prayer groups, retreats, and other small group experiences.)		1	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Leading Worship (Planning and conducting worship services.)	1		— 2 — 3 — 4	
Preaching (Communicating the gospel through sermons and relating it to life.)		1	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Administration (Managing the affairs of the congregation and its organizations)		1	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Program Development (Establishing goals and organizing to create and implement programs in church and community.)		1	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Stewardship (Leading in the development and use of individual and congregational resources.)		1	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Counseling (In a formal setting, assisting people who face problems or decisions.)		1	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Visiting Homes (Calling in homes on a regular basis)	1		— 2 — 3 — 4	
Crisis Visiting (Serving people in the midst of crises, e.g., illness, death, trauma...)		4	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Community Leadership (Organizing to meet needs such as drug problems, schools, fair housing, etc.)	4		2 — 3 — 4	
Inter-Church Cooperation (Working in interdenominational programs or activities.)		1	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Denominational Service (Serving in the work and on the committees of the church outside the local congregation.)		4	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Christian Education (Leading the congregation in its ministry of Christian education.)		4	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Youth Ministry (Developing and leading a program of education with youth.)		4	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Music and the Arts (Using the arts as a resource in worship and ministry.)		4	— 2 — 3 — 4	
Recreation (Leading the congregation in a creative use of leisure time.)		4	— 2 — 3 — 4	

PART IV—NARRATIVE INFORMATION (SEE ATTACHED PART IV)

(Attach your narrative information, using the outline below. If your church or committee has recently done a Mission Study and/or written a Mission Design with goals and objectives, you may use information from that in place of sections B and C below. Do not use more than five (5) pages of narrative information. The statements/questions in the outline below are only suggestive of the kinds of information you might wish to include in this narrative section.)

A. THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

1. The Church

Write a brief statement describing the way your members view your church, including any special “flavor” or hallmarks you can identify that would help a stranger to understand the kind of congregation you have. It would be helpful to state something about the membership of your church in terms of occupations, educational levels, racial mix, etc. Note any plans for extensive remodeling of the church’s facilities or any plans for future construction on either the church facilities or the manse. Describe the church’s property—not only in terms of buildings but also in terms of the total church site, indicating any special use of the property by the church or community, e.g., recreational uses.

2. The Community

Describe the community in which the church is located in such a way that a stranger could visualize the kind of community it is. What educational, cultural, and medical facilities are available, either in the community or nearby? What other churches serve the same community? Are there special, or major, issues confronting the community and, if so, how is the church responding to them?

B. PROGRAM AREAS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Comment on such program areas as worship, fellowship, Christian education, evangelism, stewardship, missions (both local and beyond the congregation). Describe some programs or involvements by the church that have been most meaningful in your church’s life and ministry. What kind of structure is used to plan and implement programs in your church, e.g., committee structure, what committees are functioning, how often do they meet, etc.?

C. WORSHIP PREFERENCES

Please describe the worship style of your church as it is now.

Informal:

Traditional:

Blended:

Contemporary:

If your church does not include a blended or contemporary style of worship, please state whether your church would be open to changing the present style of worship. If so, how? (Include a current Worship Bulletin).

If your church worship style does not include blended or contemporary elements of worship would you be open to changes within worship, or to the addition of worship services to include these kinds of worship?

D. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, VIEWPOINTS

What goals/objectives have been established by your church for its life and ministry? Comment on your understanding of some major issues that your church will be facing in the coming few years (five to ten years).

E. BENEVOLENCE SUPPORT

What percentage of your church’s annual total offerings is given to benevolent causes? Use the last complete fiscal year to figure the percentage and note if there are plans to increase or decrease the benevolent support in the current fiscal year. In figuring the total benevolent support, include such items as Our United Outreach (OUO), presbyterial and synodical causes, Second Mile Giving that is directed to programs outside your local congregation, and local benevolences outside your congregation but in the community, e.g., aid for the needy, etc.

List the non-denominational causes, if any, to which benevolence/mission support is given, along with an approximate annual amount, e.g., World Vision (other than what is channeled through the denominational program that is linked with World Vision).

Part IV-Narrative Information

The Church and Community

The Congregation

Our church's Mission Statement is: To Reach the Lost, Strengthen the Saved, Glorify God, Come! Experience the Love of Christ.

The Milan CP church has a large percentage of retirees and senior citizens, balanced with a core group of younger and middle-aged members. Most members seem to desire guidance and direction from strong, active leadership to revitalize the church. Membership growth with younger adults and families with children is desired.

The membership is composed of people representing a variety of professions including Accountant, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, Lawyer, Banker, Teachers, Engineer, Clerical, Factory Workers, State Employees, Industrial managers, Homemakers, Insurance, Media, and Mayors of both cities of Milan and Gibson County.

Members are actively involved in the following, local and civic organizations, Chamber of Commerce, youth sports, Community Theater, parent-teacher organizations, major charity organizations, and also the support of the Milan Ministerial Association.

The church contributes to a local interdenominational organization to provide food, clothing, and medicine to the needy of Milan. The church has always opened its facilities for use by many local organizations including the Cemetery Board, the Milan Endowment for Growth in Academic Board meetings, to the city and county for use as a polling station for the community, and to the area council on drug and alcohol abuse to name a few.

The Church Property and Physical Resources

The church building consists of a sanctuary, which seats 350 people, a Pastor's office, a general office, an attached education wing, a gathering room, and a fellowship hall complete with a fully functional commercial kitchen. There are 10 classrooms, a nursery, a prayer room, and a choir room. The facility was constructed in 1977 and the kitchen, gathering room, and fellowship hall was completely renovated in 2009. There is also a detached brick outbuilding that houses our 15-passenger van, lawn-mowing equipment, and general storage. **The great news is we are debt free on the facilities.**

The Community

Visitors generally consider Milan to be a friendly city that readily accepts new People. Milan's population per the last census is around 9000 people. Pride, Passion, and, Purpose is what Milan lives by today. The Milan Special School District is highly acclaimed and has 3 buildings to house the Elementary, Middle, and High schools plus a central office housed on Main Street downtown. There are several well-known businesses in Milan providing a wide range of employment opportunities. Milan is well known for the size and quality of the City Park and all it has to offer the community from baseball fields to tennis to pickleball horse riding ring and even some campgrounds.

They also have a farmers market downtown and hold several festivals throughout the year to attract people to the city Milan is located approximately 18 miles north from of the City of Jackson TN a community of 65000 that provides entertainment, dining, shopping, and a regional airport and additional employment opportunities.

A. Program Areas in the Life of the Church

Worship Life

A formal Sunday morning worship service begins at 10:50 with announcements for the week. Organ and piano are normally used to compliment the choir that is just starting back after Covid with special Christmas music. We are currently in need of a choir director. Prior to worship our Sunday school meets beginning at 9:45 AM following a tie of fellowship and coffee in the gathering room. On the final Sunday of every month, there is a time of devotion and prayer held in the gathering room for all members of the congregation to attend and has been a wonderful experience since it started this year.

Communion has been observed once per month on the first Sunday. Special services we have held in the past include; Holy Week (for the community), Maundy Thursday Communion, Easter Sunrise service, and a Christmas Eve Service.

On Wednesday evenings we hold a LOGOS family night that is for all ages starting off with a meal followed by bible study for every age group.

Programs

We have several programs operating within our church including the following; a daily phone tree ministry, a weekly radio ministry of our worship service on 93.7 FM, a Deacons ministry (to coordinate our mission work outside of our church), Men's Fellowship, CPWM, Gladys Bryson Circle, A ladies home bible study, a college-age bible study during the summer months, youth bible study on Sunday nights, a Christian Education Committee, A Vacation Bible School, a Truck or Treat activity, we support the Camp Clark Williamson church camps and provide 50% of the cost of attending and there is an active property team with an overall coordinator of their activity.

Revitalization of our Christian education activities is an area of concern for the session and many of our members.

Community Involvement

The church is a member of the Milan Ministerial Association which offers aid to transients and also hosts a community Thanksgiving service and community Holy week services. The church also supports a benevolent fund, managed by the Pastor, Associate Pastor, and a session member to assist those in the community in need.

The church also hosts a preschool on site and has for 40-plus years. It is currently supporting an enrollment of 50 children which is the capacity. It is managed by a Director reporting to the session and is operated as a nonprofit organization of the church.

C. Goals and Objectives, Viewpoints

Our goals are to return the church, and its session is to return the church to some of its earlier glory. That would include increasing the active participation in worship and in our programs offered, which has significantly declined since our experience with Covid in our community. Targets would be 1) increasing the roll of our active members, 2) locating and hiring a new Director of Music to re-establish the children's, youth, and adult choir to perform on a regular basis 3) encouraging nonactive members to recommit and return to active status 4) expand our evangelical opportunities for the church to attract new people to Christ 5) to establish the role of the Milan Cumberland Church in the Cornerstone Presbytery, both financial and volunteer support, to be stood up officially October 1st, 2022 in Jackson TM 6) to continue to support our youth and children's ministries to possibly include the adding of a children's ministry director.

D. Benevolence and Support

Our church moved away from supporting the OUO and Presbytery due to the issues we had with how the monies were being managed and our concern about how the Memphis Theological Seminary was teaching and turning out preachers. We went from one of the highest annual supporters to not supporting at all. We need to reevaluate in light of the spitting of the WT TN Presbytery going forward.

The church as a whole has supported the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry for several years now dedicating the shoe boxes in November.

Our CPWM support several ministries from their fundraising activities each year with the 2022 list as follows;

Disaster relief \$1000, Paul's Kitchen \$500, Family Meals \$400, Benevolence Fund \$1500, Children's Home \$500, Glenda's Kids \$500, Stott Wallace Missions \$1000, Graduation Gifts for our seniors \$100 and Carl Perkins Centers for the Prevention of Child Abuse \$250. We always encourage our members to support local charities such as the Mustard Seed and Paul's Kitchen as well as Bethel College and the Children's home.

FINANCIAL REPORT
Month of December 2021

Church Revenues December = 100.00%

<u>General Revenues</u>	Annual Budget	MTD Actual	YTD Actual	% of Annual Budget
Regular Offerings	261,533.00	19,502.00	226,736.94	86.70%
Milan Preschool Ctr	0.00	1,708.86	9,543.16	n/a
Interest on Undesignated Savings	0.00	13.14	153.30	n/a
Total	\$ 261,533.00	\$ 21,224.00	\$ 236,433.40	90.40%
Designated Revenues				
Youth/Childrens Fund	0.00	0.00	40.00	n/a
Deacons Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a
Expansion/Family Life Ctr	0.00	0.00	113,234.37	n/a
Existing Building Fund	0.00	1,500.00	1,800.00	n/a
Roof Replacement Fund	0.00	0.00	60,405.00	n/a
Capital Improvements	0.00	1,490.00	3,610.00	n/a
Music Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a
Other - Loaves & Fishes	0.00	0.00	1,225.00	n/a
Other - Mustard Seed Soup Kitchen (Souper Bowl)	0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a
Other - Mustard Seed Moments for Missions	0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a
Other - Missions - Drop in the Bucket	0.00	0.00	0.00	n/a
Other - Bread Mission	0.00	0.00	200.00	n/a
Other - Operation Christmas Child	0.00	0.00	145.00	n/a
Other - CPWM mission offering	0.00	2,580.00	2,580.00	n/a
Total	\$ -	\$ 5,570.00	\$ 183,239.37	n/a
Total Revenues	\$ 261,533.00	\$ 26,794.00	\$ 419,672.77	160.47%

Revenue/Expense Comparison - Excluding Expansion

Total Regular Revenues	261,533.00	21,224.00	236,433.40	90.40%
Total Regular Expenses	261,533.00	19,544.65	230,937.76	88.30%
Difference		1,679.35	5,495.64	
Total Other Designated Revenue	0.00	5,570.00	70,005.00	
Total Other Designated Expenses	0.00	0.00	67,105.19	
Difference	0.00	5,570.00	2,899.81	
Grand Total Revenue	0.00	26,794.00	306,438.40	
Grand Total Expenses	0.00	19,544.65	298,042.95	
Difference	0.00	7,249.35	8,395.45	

Church Fund Balances

<u>Bank Fund Balances</u>	Balance 12/31/2020	Balance 12/31/21	\$ Change	% Change
Checking - The Bank of Milan	94,027.01	24,609.35	(69,417.66)	
Money Market - The Bank of Milan	48,892.14	123,045.44	74,153.30	
Capital Improvement Acct - Bank of Milar	20.55	3,680.36	3,659.81	
Total	\$ 142,939.70	151,335.15	\$ 8,395.45	5.87%
Less: Designated Funds		\$ 26,917.75		
Net Undesignated Funds		124,417.40		

<u>Designated Fund Balances</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2020</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>YTD Disbursed</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/21</u>
Special Youth/Children Fund	3,081.02	40.00	0.00 (1)	3,121.02
Deacon's Ministries	961.96	0.00	0.00 (1)	961.96
Music Program	478.71	0.00	0.00 (1)	478.71
Existing Building Fund	19,703.78	1,800.00	5,200.00 (1)	16,303.78
Christian Education Fund	1,420.00	0.00	0.00 (1)	1,420.00
Other (see list below)	2,032.28	4,150.00	1,550.00 (1)	4,632.28
Total	\$ 27,677.75	\$ 5,990.00	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 26,917.75

YTD Actual Expenses include disbursements from these designated accounts totaling \$ 6,750.00

(1) The total of \$ 151,335.15 in Bank balances includes designated funds of \$26,917.75
 Undesignated Fund Balances total \$ 124,417.40

(2)

Distribution of "Other" Designated Fund Balances

	<u>Balance 12/31/2020</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>YTD Disbursed</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>
Children's Music	32.60	0.00	0.00	32.60
Mission Trips (includes Drop in the Bucket)	938.12	0.00	0.00	938.12
Children's Church	575.40	0.00	0.00	575.40
Souper Bowl - Paul's Soup Kitchen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Fund - for remodeling youth room	361.16	0.00	0.00	361.16
Loaves & Fishes - Benevolence	0.00	1,225.00	1,225.00	0.00
Bread Mission	125.00	200.00	325.00	0.00
Operation Christmas Child	0.00	145.00	0.00	145.00
CPWM Missions	0.00	2,580.00	0.00	2,580.00
Total	\$ 2,032.28	\$ 4,150.00	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 4,632.28

	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total Expansion Revenue - 2021	\$51,901.37	\$113,234.37
Total Expansion Revenue - 2008 - 2021		\$750,256.97
Total Expansion Expenses - 2008 - 2021		\$992,197.51
Total Expansion Loan Advances - 2009 - 2021		\$631,988.84
Total Principal Payments Made - 2021	\$51,901.37	\$113,234.37
Total Principal Payments Made - 2009 - 2021		\$631,988.84
Total Loan Principal Amount Due as of 6/30/21		\$0.00

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Roof Replacement Invoice (J M Roofing)	\$60,495.00
Paid June 30 - loan amount secured from The Bank of Milan	\$60,270.00
Paid June 30 - from Repairs & Maintenance (decking replacement)	\$225.00
Balance due	\$0.00

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Expansion Fund opening bal. (after Expansion paid in full)	\$20.55
Roof Replacement Fund continued in Expansion Acct.	
Received 7/4 & paid on roof loan	\$320.00
Received 7/11	\$85.00
Received 7/14	\$60,000.00
Roof Loan paid in full 7/15	\$60,035.19
Received YTD	\$3,610.00
By action of Session, this account changed to Capital Improvement Fund	\$3,680.36*

* Capital Improvements account balance

Acct 6001 Other Expenses reflects expenditures from other special giving that was designated for specific items. 2021 designated expenses are:

\$ 325.00	Bread Mission
5,200.00	Jason Cantrell -- filling cracks in pavement
1,225.00	Loaves & Fishes

OCTOBER

Birthdays:

- 1 Robert Condron, Johnny Tucker
- 2 Donna Yates
- 3 Michelle Miller
- 5 Nan Dautermann, Cary Allen Burke
- 6 Owen Wheeler
- 10 Mary Jenkins
- 11 Madison Hughes
- 13 JoAnne Wood, Hayley Ring
- 15 Pam Franklin
- 17 Bruce Laird
- 21 Dewana Latimer
- 22 Hal Jones
- 23 Chelsea Shaw
- 25 Anthony Jenkins
- 28 Karlee Parish, Joselynn Parish
- 29 Emma Shoaf

Anniversaries:

- 3 Victor & Carol Parkins
- 8 Anthony & Mary Jenkins
- 21 Mike & Cassie Smith
- 29 Mike & Star Tucker

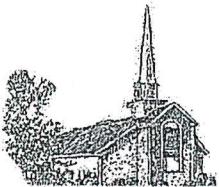
OFFICE HOURS: Monday—8 to 4;
Tuesday—Thursday—8 to 3:30; Friday—8 to 12:00

SERVING ELDERS

Ray Goehring—731.415.0300
Michael Odom—731.225.2887
George Threadgill—731.686.3244
Sid Crocker—731.431.8855
Nan Dautermann—731.414.3085
Amy Blake Hearn—731.420.7270
Luke Little—731.602.2781
Bruce Niven—731.697.7463

Cumberland Presbyterian Church
6083 S. First Street
Milan, Tennessee 38358
Return Service Requested

Come! Experience the Love of Christ



OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Reach the Lost
Strengthen the Saved
Glorify the Lord

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Milan, Tennessee 38358
PERMIT NO. 76

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Niven
8 Seavers Road
Milan, TN 38358

OUR DAILY LIVES bring us into contact with those who are not able to attend a church service. Let's encourage those persons to worship with us each Sunday, from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m., when our service is broadcast on Victory FM 93.7.

THE BEACON

MILAN CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MILAN, TENNESSEE

Come! Experience the Love of Christ

731.686.1851
October 2022

milancumberland@gmail.com

Volume XXXVII

From the Pastor's Heart

Matthew 22:34-40 – ³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: ³⁸"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

This is often referred to and called "the greatest commandment." If you were to look it up in your Bibles, you would likely find that heading just above the beginning of this passage. This is obviously a profound passage as it's been reproduced in a number of different ways: coffee mugs, t-shirts, wrist bands, posters, wall décor, etc...

The excruciatingly difficult thing about Jesus' response to this Pharisee is not its importance; that's obvious. We can see that everything in the law of God hinges on love for Him and love for our neighbors. Think of the 10 Commandments – the first four Commandments are about love for God; the next six Commandments are about love for others. All of the other laws are built on the fact that if you truly love God with every part of your being and truly love your neighbor as yourself, the rest of the law will take care of itself.

No, the excruciatingly difficult part of the command that Jesus gives is that it is absolutely, unequivocally impossible. You can force yourself to submit to someone. But you can't force yourself to love someone. Even as you tried to obey the commandment, there would be an element of resentment in your heart. You would obey because you had to – out of fear, obligation, or guilt – that's not love. This is where the gospel goes deeper because Christ knows in our brokenness we don't have to capacity to love God. In order to carry out Jesus' command, we don't just need help; we need to be made new.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 speaks to the significance of the redeemed being made new creations. This time we aren't born with a sinful, twisted spirit. We are born of the Spirit. Born to love God. Born to give our whole selves to Him and find in Him the fullness of joy. As new creations, we are wide awake to wonders of God in the gospel.

Growing in love and maturity in Christ is an expression of who you are: choosing godliness, choosing righteousness, choosing holiness, choosing love – embracing the good news of change that has occurred in your life. That's what the gospel does; it makes us new creations. Who are you going to be? - *Pastor Will*

PRAYER REQUESTS

September 4—September 25

William Adams • Frank Arnold • Trent Arnold • Debbie Yates Barnes • Julie Boswell • Carter Bradford • Diane Brown • Lela Renee Carter • Cheri Childress • Jessica and Donna Condon • Marilyn Cook • Mark Crum • Nanci Daniels • Lynette Daulton • LaDonna Dugger • Barbara Ervin • Tommy Fitzgerald • Randy Good • Ethan Green • Taylor Hill • Lynn Hardin • Amy Harper • Charles Heiner • Jeff Hensley • Betty Hutstar • Mary Jenkins • Billy Jones • Hal Jones • Bobbie Kelley • Haley Boswell King • Starla Ladd • Bruce Laird • Darlene Langley • Ken Leger • Dean Lifsey • Ricky Long • Jackie Maynard • Leo Miller • Joyce Morris • Judy Murphy • Zac Nash • Terry Norman • Glenda Payne • Pat Pennington • Mark Pitts • Jane Powers • Marilyn Putman • Judy Truex Reed • Charlie Reid • Calvin Sikes • Patty Smith • Bobby Stepps • Martha Stoltz • Kevin Sytar • James Henry Trimm • Darla Tucker • Nancy Tucker • Patrick West • Braxton Wicker • Celia Williford • Brett Wyatt • Brylee Yates • caregivers • persecuted Christians • our community & country • first responders • shut ins • our troops and their families • the unemployed & underemployed • the families of: Mary Isbell, Jo Adams, Mechel Camp, Don Farmer

SPECIAL GIVING

IN MEMORY OF BUFORD ROBINSON & IN HONOR OF KAY FLIPPO—by Wick & Amy Blake Hearn .. Liz Ownby .. Karen & Bobby Cotham
IN MEMORY OF SUSAN MANN WARREN & IN HONOR OF BETH MINTON—by Annette Hopper .. Liz Ownby
IN MEMORY OF MARY ISBELL & IN HONOR OF ROBERT & NANCY OLIVER—by Peggy Haney .. Bill & Sue Pittman .. Bruce & Dorothy Niven .. Wick & Amy Blake Hearn

IN MEMORY OF JO ADAMS & IN HONOR OF BILL & SUE PITTMAN—by Liz Ownby .. Bruce & Dorothy Niven .. Peggy Haney
IN MEMORY OF CHARLES MAYO & IN HONOR OF ANN & FAMILY—by Liz Ownby

BENEVOLENCE FUND—Thanks to all who are giving to the Benevolence Fund during the COVID19 crisis, we are able to help more people. The Benevolence Fund helps our church members, and others in the community, who find themselves in temporary dire need, often in the form of utility bills, food for the family, or gas for doctor visits. This should be beyond our regular giving to the church budget or building fund. Because of your generosity, you have made life a little better for those who could not help themselves and had nowhere else to turn. Thank you, *The Benevolence Team*

RECYCLING PROGRAM—Please flatten boxes before adding them to the bin so it will hold as many paper goods as possible. More weight produces more benefit for the youth. The bin is used for the recycling of paper and cardboard only. Neighbors and friends may add to the bin, and all such contributions are greatly appreciated!

PRAYER COVERING 2022 is a ministry sponsored by the Milian Ministerial Association in which participating congregations in this area are asked to pray on a specific day of each month for the peace and safety of our community. Our congregation will pray on the 15th of each month. If you would like to join in this ministry of prayer, please add your name to the sign up sheet in

the narthex, indicating the time of day when you will pray.

PLEASE REMEMBER that the last Sunday of each month is Fellowship Sunday. Come and join us in the Gathering Room at 9:45 a.m. for fellowship, coffee, donuts, a brief devotional, and prayer. Whether you attend Sunday School class or not, all adults, youth, and visitors are invited to this joyful, inter-generational, time of fellowship and prayer. Children's Sunday School classes and nursery will be provided.

CALLING ALL ACOLYTES!! Anyone interested in serving as an acolyte during Sunday morning services, please contact Karen Laird by calling or texting 731-414-7507. Acolytes are a beautiful addition to our service as they bring the light of Christ into the church at the beginning of the service and as they take the light of Christ out into the world at the end of the service. When we get a good listing of kids who would like to participate, we can get together for a pizza party! Training will be provided for those new to acolyting; many of our kids have experience already. All are welcome! As a reminder to the congregation, as the acolytes take the light out of the church at the end of the service, please remain in the pews until they have gone up the aisle with the flame -- safety first.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

- Robert Oliver and family upon the passing of his sister, Mary Isbell
- Sue Pittman and family upon the passing of her sister-in-law, Jo Adams.

Let us remember these families in our prayers.

SEPTEMBER birthdays and anniversaries omitted from the previous Beacon were:

- 1 Bryant Filippo
 - 2 Deborah Martin, Billy Jones, Phyllis Beasley
 - 4 Stan Wood, John Fisher, Saul Little
 - 7 Anita Allen Bell, Stacy Fouch
 - 8 Jacob Lowery
 - 10 Cate Cannon Cunningham
 - 11 Wick Hearn
 - 15 Bobby & Vera Jones
 - 18 Jeff & Angie Degner
 - 20 Adam Haney
 - 21 Nicole Ownby
 - 22 Lindsay Crocker, Angie Degner, Michael Odom
 - 24 Sam Threagill
 - 25 Beth Cooper, Philip Nelson
 - 26 Angel Farrell
 - 27 JoAnne Fowler Weems, Jeanne Taylor
 - 29 Will Ownby, Crystal Vinyard
- Thank you to those who called this to our attention.

NANCI AND I cannot adequately express our gratitude for the generous gift you made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in honor of Fitz and us. It was the perfect gift! The reception line after the service is, and will remain, one of our best and favorite moments and memories of our time in ministry with you. We are so grateful for your prayers over the years—through Fitz's bout with leukemia, Nanci's cancer, the death of my father, and other challenging seasons—and for your prayers now, as we enter this new season. We shall continue to pray for you. The bond between us will never be broken. We love you!

PLEASE PRAY for the success of our pastoral search committee: Michael Odom, Lindsay Crocker, Mary Reel, Carol Parkins, and Nelson Cunningham.



Welcome

TO

MILAN CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Our Mission: Reach the Lost, Strengthen the Saved, Glorify God

Come! Experience the Love of Christ

October 9, 2022

ENTER TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Niven

CHILDREN IN THE CHANCEL

Mary Reel

PRELUDE

Reese McCoy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Let us be glad this day for life, breath, and freedom to worship!

Blessed are you, who come in the name of the Lord.

We offer our praise and gratitude to the King of Creation.

*INVOCATION

*HYMN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Change My Heart, O God

Pg. 654

CALL TO CONFESSION

The God to whom we make our confession is the God who loved us so much that he chose to send us his Son. Trusting in that love, let us make our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, we open our hearts to you, trusting that your love and goodness is stronger than our shortcomings. We have been afraid to trust you, and we have forgotten the assurance of your unending presence. We have sacrificed our convictions, quieted our voices, given in to distractions, and looked out for ourselves above all else. We have thought about giving up when the task before us seemed too great. Forgive us for all these things and help us to be guided by your Spirit, and to be filled with the one who gives us life.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's purpose is not to tear us down, but to build us up – forgiven, refreshed, and renewed! Be at peace. In Christ, your sins are forgiven.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debtors)

Pastor Will

*HYMN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Redeemed

Pg. 516

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Will

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 3: 1-11

Pew Bible Pg. 831

MESSAGE

Response: **Thanks be to God**

*CLOSING HYMN

I'd Rather Have Jesus

Pg. 506

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*All who are able are asked to stand.

Serving Elders: Ray Goehring-731.415.0300; Michael Odom-731.225.2887; George Threadgill-731.414.8061; Sid Crocker-731.431.8855; Nan Dautermann-731.414.3085; Amy Blake Hearn-731.420.7270; Luke Little-731.602.2781; Bruce Niven-731.697.7463

Please pray for the success of our pastoral search committee: Michael Odom, Lindsay Crocker, Mary Reel, Carol Parkins, and Nelson Cunningham.