

"EVER GROWING IN GRACE"

MILTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



NEW ROOFING COMING SOON!

On Thursday evening, April 2, 2026, the Milton Seventh-day Adventist Church held its annual business meeting. In addition to approving a 2026 combined budget, members and attendants reviewed the board-recommended contract by Ewert Roofing LLC of Spokane, Washington to reroof the sanctuary and all the parapets around our main building.

Not only was this bid approved, but everyone also took time to examine the different color options for the Owens-Corning Duration Flex composition shingles. Several votes of elimination settled the choice on the color labeled "Driftwood."

Kara Hoel, our church treasurer, noted that over 50% of the price had already been donated to the RENEW Roofing Fund. However, the next question became obvious: where could the remainder of the needed funds be found so that the project could begin?

That question didn't find an answer until April 14, when our local Adventist Community Services (ACS) thrift store board identified some unallocated, discretionary funds which could be accessed. The ACS board

voted to donate \$30,000 from this source as a one-time gift, followed by an offer to provide a \$50,000 no-interest loan to complete the project. Combined with previous donations, pledges yet to be fulfilled, and promises of continued giving to repay the ACS loan, we had the means to move forward.

On Friday, April 17, 2026, a check attached to a signed contract was sent to Ewert Roofing. Owner Thomas Ewert believes work on our project will likely begin by late May or early June, and—weather permitting—will be finished in one month.

With God's help, each of our households can continue giving to the RENEW roofing fund so that the ACS loan can quickly be repaid.

A big thank you to all those who have already given, including the givers of the matching funds.



COMING EVENTS

CAMP MEETING CON- VOCATION AT WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

CHURCH

MAY 1-3, 2026

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER—COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST

M-F COMMUNITY BUILDING

MAY 7, 2026

MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 10, 2026

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 25, 2026

FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 21, 2026

MILTON VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-26, 2026

INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 4, 2026

CHURCH CAMPOUT AUGUST 14-15, 2026

Make reservations for Harris Park at <https://co.umatilla.or.us/departments/parks>. Questions may be directed to Joyce Chinn.

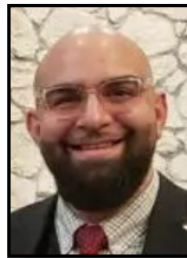
(509) 520-2897

eljoychinn@gmail.com.

The Pastor's Tellogram

"We Have This Hope!"

I find the best thing about May is that it's getting lighter in the mornings! The sun is coming up earlier, and we are not starting out the day in the dark. During the winter, we all started our day when it was still dark outside. But now, change is on the way!



I wake up every day at 4:00 a.m. to spend time with God. After an hour or so, I make my way to Walla Walla to train in Jiu Jitsu at the 100 Kilos gym. Over the winter months, it has been still dark as I sit in my car waiting for someone to unlock the door. I usually read a book during this time, but in recent weeks I've been greeted by the dawn of each new day as well as by the author's writing.

It's a transformative time for me. It's a time when the darkness of the night has ended and the light of a new day begins to shine. I cannot escape from the spiritual application of that experience. There will be times in life when we are surrounded by the darkness of our circumstances. But darkness lasts only for a night. Joy comes in the morning!

The light of God in the life of a Christian makes all the difference in the world. Never is that light more appreciated by a Christian than when he or she faces a valley of deep spiritual darkness that feels almost like death itself.

But be encouraged, Beloved! God has never left you, nor will He ever. Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*

Let's remember that—especially when deep shadows fall across our way!

**Until next time, this is Pastor Tello reminding you that
Thoughts Do Change Lives!**

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Appointments are available through the church office on
Monday — Thursday
(541) 938-3066 or (509) 386-6071
office@miltonsda.org

Pulpit Schedule

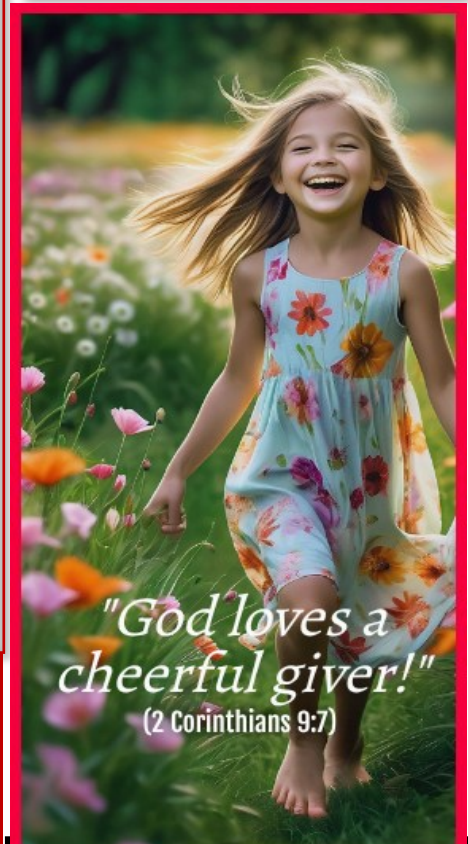
May 02 UCC Convocation at WWU Church
May 09 Ashley Davila
May 16 Pastor Howard Tello
May 23 WWU Theology Student TBA
May 30 Pastor Lloyd Perrin

Offering Schedule

May 02 Local Church Budget
May 09 Disaster & Famine Relief
May 16 Local Church Budget
May 23 UCC Bible Workers
May 30 Local Church Budget

Contacts

Office Phone: (541) 938-3066
Pastor Howard Tello: (209) 283-4322
Prayer Hotline: (509) 520-5442
ACS Thrift Store: (541) 938-9188
Email: office@miltonsda.org
Website: <https://www.miltonadventist.org>
Facebook: facebook.com/miltonadventist
Newsletter: LLFenton45@outlook.com



Consider This

"Before ascending to heaven, Christ gave His disciples their commission. He told them that they were to be the executors of the will in which He bequeathed to the world the treasures of eternal life" (Acts of the Apostles, p. 27).

PLEASE PRAY FOR

1. Blue Mountain Broadcasting
2. Gospel Outreach
3. College Place ABC
4. Blue Mountain Therapeutic Riding
5. Our church roofing project
6. Our small group ministries



OUR NEW WELCOME CENTER



Jessica Dougherty-Burt
Welcome Center
Hostess

We live in a busy world with multiple things thrown at us. Some we celebrate, while others we grieve. We don't know what individuals/families have gone through during the week as they arrive at church.

My inspiration for the welcoming center comes from a statement Ellen White wrote in *The Mount of Blessings*: "There are many to whom life is a painful struggle; they feel their deficiencies and are miserable and unbelieving; they think they have nothing for which to be grateful. Kind words, looks of sympathy, expressions of appreciation, would be to many a struggling and lonely one as the cup of cold water to a thirsty soul. A word of sympathy, an act of kindness, would lift the burdens that rest heavily upon weary shoulders" (p.23).

My prayer is that the welcoming center lifts individuals up and they feel God's love shining on them. I hope it sends the message: "Welcome home! I'm so glad you are here. You are loved. Sit, grab a warm drink, and let's catch up."

Since our church began the welcome center, I have been blessed with many encounters: catching up with members I know, learning more about members I don't know as well, and connecting with visitors. I've learned fruit smoothies, Cheez-its, and mini Pop-Tarts are a hit.

I'd like to leave you with a poem from the book *Alone With God* by Matilda Andross in hopes that you remember you are never alone:

"Jesus whispers, 'I am with you in the sunshine, in the cloud, When the spirit is exalted, When the stricken head is bowed.'

"Jesus whispers, 'I am with you in the battle every day; Standing by you in the conflict, Going with you all the way.'

"Jesus whispers, 'I am with you in the deepest need; When the way is dark and lonesome, I am with you, I will lead.'

"Jesus whispers, 'I am with you- With you still, whate'er betide; In the sunlight or the shadow, I am ever at thy side.'"



Milton Seventh-day Adventist Church
1244 N. Elizabeth Street
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862-9736

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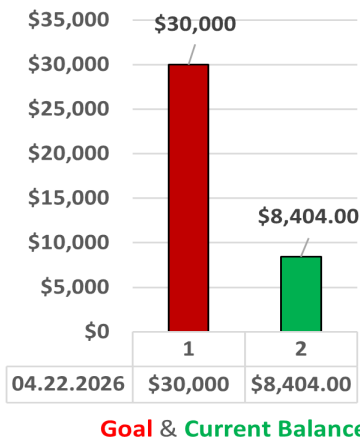
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Stewardship Corner

Roof RENEW



Maintenance Reserve Fund



A PARTING THOUGHT

Growing in Grace and Truth

Hey friends! May's theme is all about growing in grace and truth—two sides of the same coin that shape our walk with Christ. John tells us that Jesus "became flesh and dwelt among us," full of grace and truth. It's a beautiful picture of how God meets us right where we are, with love and honesty.

Growing in grace means embracing God's kindness and forgiveness, even when we stumble. It's about letting His love soften our hearts and shape our actions. But grace isn't the whole story—truth matters too. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Truth grounds us, helps us see clearly, and guides our steps.

So how do we grow in both? It's a daily dance of leaning into God's grace while seeking His truth through prayer, Scripture, and community. Sometimes grace feels like a warm hug, and truth feels like a gentle correction. Both are gifts that help us become more like Jesus.

This May, let's open our hearts to grow deeper in grace and firmer in truth. It's not always easy, but it's always worth it. Remember, we're on this journey together, learning, growing, and becoming more like Christ every day.

Keep growing, keep trusting, and keep walking in grace and truth!

Loren Fenton, DMin
Newsletter Editor