

"EVER GROWING IN GRACE"



MILTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



"LET'S GET ACQUAINTED"



THE VIXIE FAMILY

Here's a little about our family!

There are six of us: Bill & Rachel, Clara (16), Thaddeus (14), Ezra (11), and Levi (9).

Bill is a civil engineer at a local civil engineering company. Rachel has been a music teacher in western Washington and at MSAS. She owns a children's consignment shop in Walla Walla.

The kids are students in our local Adventist schools, Clara is at Walla Walla Valley Academy, and the boys are at MSAS and Rogers.

In the summertime, we enjoy outdoor

activities such as camping and backpacking, especially near the beautiful rivers in NE Oregon. In winter, you can find Bill snowmobiling with the kids, while Rachel prefers her quiet cross-country skis.

We make our home on a small farm near the Whitman Mission, where Bill trains his horse Red and the kids enjoy our dog Wildflower and a couple of new black-and-white kittens from the Johnson farm.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We look forward to getting to know you as we worship together.

Rachel Vixie

COMING EVENTS

CHURCH FAMILY RIVER DAY

AUGUST 2, 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 at (509) 520-2897 or eljoychinn@gmail.com.

The featured speaker for this special weekend will be **Brant Berglin** from the Walla Walla University Theology Department. He is recognized as a distinguished theologian in Bible prophecy. Professor Berglin plans to camp with our church group and will speak Friday evening, Sabbath morning, and Sabbath evening.

NPUC CONVOCAION AND CONSTITUENCY SESSION

AUGUST 19 - 23, 2026

The North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is hosting its 30th regular constituency session. This session will be held on **Sunday, August 23**, at the Walla Walla University Church. This is an open meeting and will be live-streamed. *To help maintain balanced representation from across the union, participation in the business session and voting are reserved for official delegates.*

The constituency session will be preceded by a union-wide ministerial convocation from August 19 - 22, 2026, at the Walla Walla University Church.

1244 N. ELIZABETH ST., MILTON-FREEWATER, OREGON 97862

Note: Some articles in this newsletter are partially edited utilizing MS Copilot AI assistance.

The Pastor's Tellogram

"Finding Grace in Dry Places"

Hot summer nights! Yeah, how about blazing hot summer torture! It's hot. Luckily in our valley we usually have somewhat cooler nights. I had a friend that lived in a modest home in upstate Washington. Since his home didn't have air conditioning, he would sleep outside in the summer.

I'll be honest; I'd move! I'd find a home with air conditioning. I'm not a camping type of person, nor do I like bugs. But he would tell me how beautiful it was to just be outside and see the night sky gleaming over his bed. I honestly tried to wrap my mind on his description of beautiful, but alas, I couldn't.

All I could think about was the amount of mosquitoes I would be fighting all night long. No thanks! But I learned something from my friend. Happiness is based on perspective. One's perspective or even perception of happiness is what determines what one enjoys. While one might enjoy ABC, another would rather experience XYZ.

That's what makes us uniquely human. Your uniqueness adds color the landscape of human interactions. Your uniqueness makes life more enjoyable. Never forget that God uses your uniqueness every time you let Him. In fact, I would prepare to be used by God today. You might be the answer to someone's prayer!

Until next time, this is Pastor Tello reminding you that

Thoughts Do Change Lives!



ABC Christian Bookstore

505 S. College Avenue
College Place, WA 99324

(509) 529-0723

Storytime for KIDS!
Every Wednesday
10:15—11:00 a.m.



Kid's Programming on Blue Mt. TV & Bluestream

Weekdays, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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

August 01 Pastor Howard Tello
August 08 Pastor Howard Tello
August 15 Brant Berglin (Church
Campout)
August 22 Lydia Mitchell
August 29 Pastor Lloyd Perrin

Offering Schedule

August 01 Local Church Budget
August 08 World Budget
August 15 Local Church Budget
August 22 UCC Advance
August 29 Local Church Budget

Contacts

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Pastor Howard Tello: (209) 283-4322
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ACS Thrift Store: (541) 938-9188
Email: office@miltonsda.org
Website: <https://www.miltonadventist.org>

Facebook: facebook.com/miltonadventist



Consider This

The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the divine influence of His Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. From the Day of Pentecost to the present time, the Comforter has been sent to all who have yielded themselves fully to the Lord and to His service. To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Savior, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness. The more closely believers have walked with God, the more clearly and powerfully they have testified of their Redeemer's love and of His saving grace (Acts of the Apostles, p. 49).



Milton-Stateline Adventist School

First Day of School
August 24, 2026

2026-2027
www.miltonstateline.org

Registration
(541) 938-7131

Milton-Stateline Adventist School (MSAS) is a hidden gem in the Walla Walla Valley, offering Christ-centered education for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Located on 10 acres of beautiful farmland with a breathtaking view of the Blue Mountains, MSAS provides a unique and inspiring setting where students grow academically, spiritually, and socially.

At the heart of MSAS is a clear mission: to influence connection with Jesus, curiosity for learning, compassion for others, and commitment to service. These values are lived out daily through worship, prayer, and meaningful classroom experiences. Teachers are committed to nurturing each child individually and to supporting strong academics while guiding students into a personal relationship with Jesus. God is clearly at work as the school continues to invest in young lives.

A defining strength of MSAS is its small class sizes. This allows teachers to give personalized attention, to meet students where they are, and to help them succeed. Students are known, valued, and encouraged, creating a supportive environment that builds confidence, leadership, and a love of learning.

MSAS is also committed to accessibility for families.

Financial assistance is available for those who qualify, ensuring that tuition does not become a barrier. Families can contact the school office to begin a simple and confidential application process and work with the administration to determine eligibility.

Enrollment is now open, and new families are warmly welcomed. MSAS offers a strong academic foundation in a nurturing Christian environment where students truly belong.

Community members have many practical ways to get involved: volunteer in classrooms, assist with events, share skills like music or gardening, contribute to the tuition assistance fund, sponsor a student, invite families to visit, or partner through local churches and businesses. Every act of support helps strengthen the mission.

Milton-Stateline Adventist School is more than a school. It is a Christ-centered community dedicated to raising young people who love Jesus. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Crystal Oltman, Teacher
Grades 3-4



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

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Church Leadership Directory

The new Church Leadership Directory for July, 2026 - June, 2028 is now available from the church office.

Call (541) 938-3066 for your copy.

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Stewardship Corner

Roof RENEW



Maintenance Reserve Fund



A PARTING THOUGHT

"Practicing His Presence"

One of the quiet miracles of the Christian life is that God is never far from us. We don't step in and out of His presence like a room with a door. We live in it—always, continually, graciously. Practicing His presence is simply learning to notice the God who is already near.

The psalmist gives us a promise to anchor this truth: "The Lord is near to all who call on Him, yes, to all who call on Him in truth" (Psalm 145:18 NLT). Near—not occasionally, not when we feel spiritual, but as a steady reality. Our calling is to awaken to that nearness.

Awareness grows through small, simple habits. A whispered prayer before beginning a task. A moment of gratitude while washing dishes. A quiet breath when worry rises, reminding ourselves, "You are with me, Lord." These are not grand spiritual exercises; they are gentle shifts of attention that turn our hearts toward Him.

Practicing His presence also means trusting that Christ abides with us in every moment—not just the peaceful ones. He is present in our frustrations, our errands, our conversations, our uncertainties. When we pause and acknowledge Him, even briefly, the ordinary becomes a place of communion.

And as we learn to abide in Him, something beautiful happens: peace settles more easily, prayer flows more naturally, and our hearts become more responsive to His gentle leading. Awareness becomes worship. Worship becomes rest. Rest becomes strength.

May this August be a month of noticing—of quiet prayers, steady trust, and a growing confidence that Christ is with you, moment by moment.

Loren Fenton, DMin
Newsletter Editor