



the
Journey

On the Road to
Discipleship

Milford United Methodist Church

The Journey: On the Road to Discipleship

Someone has defined discipleship as “a life-long journey into the heart of God’s love.” Since the Milford United Methodist Church exists to help people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ, it is our deepest hope that all of our members and friends will be on that journey! In fact, we can think of nothing more important than helping you (and others!) get started and continue , on this life-long journey.

Need Directions? We’re Here to Help!

But where does one start? What happens if we get distracted or lost along the way, or feel like we’ve reached a dead end? In any journey, there are times when we need directions. That’s why we’ve put together this set of navigational tools.

As you look over these materials, you’ll find suggestions for first steps, for stops along the way, and for keeping on keeping on. And if you need more specific directions, please feel free to be in touch with Pastor Tom or education coordinator Kara Ammon.

So, let the journey begin!

First Steps

It's important to get off to a good start. If you are new to following Jesus, or if you took a break on the journey and feel like you need a refresher or a jump start, here are some suggestions of how to get off on the right foot.

Newcomer's Gathering

Held twice yearly, this gathering is designed for folks who are new to our church. You'll get a chance to meet other newcomers, as well as learn about our church's beliefs, our Methodist heritage, the meaning of church membership, and how you can fit in.

The next Newcomer's Gathering is scheduled for November 17 from 1:00-4:00. To register or for more information, contact Pastor Tom.

Beginnings

Beginnings is a small-group spiritual journey that is especially helpful for folks who are just beginning to their faith journey and want to explore the basics of Christianity in a relaxed, nurturing atmosphere. Participants can bring questions, gain knowledge, and form or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. *Beginnings* meets for 12 weekly sessions, and each session begins with a shared meal.

New *Beginnings* groups are formed shortly after new members are received, which typically happens twice a year. **The next *Beginnings* group will start in January 2012.** Please contact Pastor Tom

Next Steps

For those who have already begun the journey, here are some next steps to keep up the momentum.

Disciple Bible Studies (Short-term)

A great way to get started on the next phase of your spiritual journey is by participating in one of these eight-to-eleven week in-depth, high commitment Bible studies, which are modeled after the basic design of the longer *Disciple* Bible study (see below), while making the *Disciple* experience more available for those who are unable to commit to longer studies. Weekly meetings last 60-90 minutes.

We will be offering two short-term *Disciple* Bible Studies in the spring of 2013. *Invitation to the New Testament* will be offered starting in mid-January, and *Invitation to the Old Testament* will be offered starting in the beginning of April. Watch for more information as these dates get closer!

Disciple Bible Study (34 Weeks)

Want to take a giant step forward in your spiritual journey? Consider participating in a *Disciple Bible Study* group! *Disciple* is an intensive small-group experience of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. During the 34 weeks that *Disciple* groups meet, they will read through virtually the entire Bible, meeting weekly to learn from one another. *Disciple* involves a weekly meeting, as well as about 30 minutes a day of study and preparation for the coming meeting. The goal of *Disciple* is not simply information, but *transformation*. *Disciple* has enriched the lives of over 1 million people, including a good number of MUMC members over the years.

We are planning to offer at least one *Disciple* Bible Study group in the fall of 2013. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information, and prayerfully consider participating in this transformational experience.

Home Groups

What is a home group? It's a group of 8-12 people who share their lives together, meeting regularly for fellowship, study, prayer, and service. We have several groups meeting at different times and places with different emphases and purposes, and new groups are forming regularly, so please speak with Pastor Tom or Kara Ammon for more information about getting involved in a home group today!

Adult Sunday School

You're already at church on Sunday anyway, right? So why not join the weekly gathering of fellow adults who want to continue to grow in their faith! Join us each Sunday from September through June at 9:30 for a lively time of learning and discussion.

Lamplighters Bible Study

This lively group of ladies gathers each Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for Bible study, fun, and fellowship. The group is self-directed and utilizes a variety of resources as they study the scriptures together. For more information, contact Carol Rowlette at Carolleero@aol.com or 673-5403 or Elaine Driscoll at Geldris@comcast.net or 673-4270.

Occasional Classes

From time to time, MUMC offers occasional short-term classes. These classes tend to be generated from the grass roots of our congregation because an individual or group expresses an interest in a particular topic or resource and/or a willingness to provide leadership. Some of the short term classes we have offered in the past include: *Simply Christian*, *Confronting the Controversies*, *Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why*, and the *Good \$ense Budget Course*. Keep your eyes and ears open for future offerings. In addition, if you have an interest or need, and/or a willingness to lead a class on a particular topic, let us know—we may be able to help get a class arranged.

Occasional Seminars

Like our occasional short-term classes, several times a year MUMC offers one or two day seminars on various topics. These are often, but not always, led by the pastor. Some past offerings include: *Biblical Foundations*, *Origins of the Bible*, *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*, *Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief*, and a two-day version of the *Good \$ense Budget Course*. **We will be offering a 3-hour seminar on *Homosexuality and the Bible* on Saturday, November 17 at 9:00 a.m.**

For Younger Travelers

Sunday School

September through June, MUMC offers children of all ages an opportunity to learn and grow in their faith journey in a fun, supportive, and safe environment. Age appropriate lessons and activities are planned each week under the guidance of our loving and committed teachers and helpers. Sunday School meets each week at 9:30.

Vacation Bible School

At MUMC, we do Vacation Bible School right! During one week each summer, kids from all over the Souhegan Valley gather for an exciting time of singing, crafts, games, lessons, and just plain old fun. VBS is open to children up to 5th grade. Youth from middle through high school have the opportunity to help out. Sessions run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday night. **The dates for VBS 2013 have not been set yet.**

Confirmation

Confirmation is an important part of our young people's faith journey. It is a time to take all that they have learned so far and put it all together in order to make an informed decision to follow Jesus as disciples. MUMC's confirmation program begins each fall and runs until the following June. All youth age 12 and up are eligible to participate in confirmation.

Youth Group

All youth from 6th through 12th grade are warmly invited to be a part of MUMC's awesome youth group. We typically meet every Sunday during the school year from 5:00-6:30, although sometimes we schedule events at other times on a weekend. The emphasis is on fun, learning, and service, and just having a good time with fellow Christian youth. You can find out more about MUMC's youth program by clicking on the youth link at our website at www.milfordumc.org or by contacting our youth leaders, Kathy Moaratty (kathymoaratty@aol.com) or Tom Knapp (tknapptime@comcast.net).

Youth Mission Trip

Looking for an opportunity to put your faith into action and grow spiritually by serving others? This is your chance! For the past five summers, MUMC has sent a team of our youth to Group Work Camps. Group Work Camps are week-long Christian mission camps where youth from all over the country serve people in need through challenging home repair projects. The folks at Group organize everything so that our youth can focus on working hard, having fun, and growing closer to each other and God. All youth entering 9th grade and up are welcome to participate. **This year's trip is scheduled for June 23-29 and will take place in Norristown, PA.** Space is extremely limited and we cannot guarantee a spot in this year's trip. For more information contact Tom Knapp at tknapptime@comcast.net.

Helping Others Along the Way

One of the best ways to make headway on your journey is to help others along the way. Here are some opportunities to equip you to answer the call to serve others.

Short-Term Mission Trips

Put your faith into action through hands-on service to the poor! Each year MUMC offers its members and friends an opportunity to participate in a short-term mission trip. In the past, MUMC teams have traveled to New Orleans to assist with post-Hurricane Katrina rebuilding, and to Washington County, Maine, working on home repair projects with the Downeast Maine Mission. Plans are still forming for the 2013 trip. For more information contact Patty Rafter at luc2per@aol.com. In addition, there are many opportunities for local, national, and international short-term mission trips through the New England Conference and the national United Methodist Church.

Home Group Leaders Training

We offer this training on an as-needed basis for those who are answering a call to lead one of our home groups.

Stephen Ministry Training

MUMC is privileged to be able to offer distinctively Christian caring to our members and to people in our communities through the one-on-one ministry provided by our trained and commissioned Stephen Ministers. If you are attracted to the opportunity to walk with people through the challenging and difficult times in their lives, and are open to developing your ability to compassionately care and listen, perhaps God is calling you to participate in our next Stephen Ministry Training. For more information, contact Michele Bossie at mbossiesings@gmail.com, Steve Kimner at skimner@plato.com, or Callie McMahon at cmcmahon28@comcast.net.

Need more guidance?

We'd love to answer your questions or meet with you to talk over your options for going further in your journey towards discipleship. Call or email us:

Pastor Tom Getchell-Lacey pastor@milfordumc.org office phone: 673-2669

Education Coordinator Kara Ammon galleyslaveka@gmail.com home phone: 547-3208