



The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church
December 2022, Milford, NH, Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

Pastor's Corner

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Siblings in Christ,

Welcome to Advent everyone! I hope by now that you've seen flyers, heard announcements, and gotten the word about all of the different things that will be happening around the church this month. It's a month full of concerts and fairs, candle lightings, Blue Christmases, and true Christmases and it will be wonderful to see your faces around the church in this season when so much is going on. As with most years, I suspect that the problem many of us will have this month is less in the way of not having enough to do, but in having so much to do that we have to make some choices—not only between competing events on the calendar, but also between our business and our sanity. In Advent we often feel caught 'in between', though maybe not in good, healthy ways.

Did you know that that feeling of being caught 'in between' is, on a very basic level, what Advent is supposed to be about? Not in between stress and sanity, family and work, or which things to attend, though, but in between Christ's first coming and his second. Advent is meant to help us to see where we all stand in time and to remind us what to do with time. As we'll be reminded this year as I preach through Charles Dicken's, *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge also needed a re-acquaintance with time. As the story goes, he gets visited by the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present, and 'Yet to Come' and, amidst all of that journeying and peeking through windows, Scrooge receives a lifetime's worth of education on the virtues and pay-offs of time well spent. Being reminded that we stand between the times positions us all to ask ourselves a similar set of questions: Am I making the best use of time given where I stand? Am I preparing the way? Have I been a good student of life and of its truest and deepest gifts? Do I spend my time aware of what a valuable and precious currency it is? When Scrooge is forced to take stock of the way he has spent his time it wakes him up and it changes him. It converts him, you might say, from being the accountant of money, who conserves and squeezes every nickel for all its worth, to being the accountant of time, who can now see that each of us is only granted so much so that we all must do the very best, make the very most, appreciate the rich blessing

Pastor Con't

of every moment we have. May this year's Advent season be such a time for us all as we find our place once more between the Christ that came to us and the Christ that is coming again.

God's richest blessings!

Pastor John

From the Pastor's Book Pile

The book that we'll be diving into together as part of the Wednesday night study is as follows:

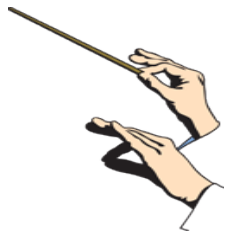
L. Gregory Jones, *Embodying Forgiveness: A Theological Analysis*.



MUMC Christmas Band

MUMC Christmas Band will be rehearsing for our Christmas Concert on Sunday's from 11:45a.m. - 1p.m., starting November 27.

Contact Nancy Tong with Questions.



In December Share Is Collecting:

Toothbrushes & paste, Deodorants, Shampoo & Conditioner, Bar Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products, Diapers, Wipes

Share is taking donations at Columbus Ave. To be sure, call ahead for times, 603-673-9898, and they will direct you.

SHARE
Collection

CROP Walk Wrap up

From Pat Rafter

Sunday Oct 30 was a perfect day for a walk and with the purpose to help those with needs in our world, both near and far. It was a hugely successful event and MUMC was definitely a large part of that success.

MUMC walkers included our top fundraiser, Heidi Rocha, Steve Rafter, Deb Santinelli, Rich Rudolf, Nancy Tong, Kerri-Lyn Kimner, Steve Kimner, Cindy Geiger, Carolan Robinson, Marley Gale, The Eves Family, The Harvey Olson Family, Maureen Lockwood, Rodney Lockwood, Andrew Murphy, The Whitley Family, The Lambert Family, Deb Leonard and Pat Rafter. There were about 300 total walkers. MUMC raised over \$5900 and the total raised so far for the walk is nearly \$63,000. 25% will come back to 5 local food pantries including SHARE here in Milford. Praise God for many happy feet! Next year's event will be Sunday Oct 22, 2023.

Blessings to all,

HELP WANTED

MUMC IS looking for someone to shovel / snow blow the walks at the church. This job requires some early days to get the church cleaned up for services and staff. Contact Callie at the office (603-673-2669) if you are interested.



If you are feeling less than joyful this Christmas, you are not alone .

Join us at MUMC on Wednesday December 21, 6:30 for a special service for those of us who are feeling blue or even without hope this year.

Christmas Poinsettias' & Mission Shares

Again this year you will be able to honor or memorialize someone you love by buying one of 12 poinsettia we have ordered for the altar for Advent season or, if you don't want the poinsettia, by giving a donation of at least \$17 to MUMC's Mission shares.

Donating to our Mission Shares adds another opportunity to participate without the church having too many flowers, which although appreciated and beautiful on the altar, do not have the lasting effect that a Mission Share donation will have and it will not end up being tossed out.

Please consider participating!



Looking for Salvation Bell

Ringing Coordinator

From Pat Rafter

An opportunity to Serve!

This mission will have already begun by the time this article has been printed. There is a sign up board in the Narthex or you can call Pat Rafter (603-582-0333) or the church office to sign up for an hour of ringing.

Saturdays are at Market Basket 10-2 and Sundays are at Shaw's 12-4. Final ringing day will be at both stores on Sat Dec 24 10-2. This hour may turn out to be the best hour of your holiday experience!

Peace and Grace to all, Pat Rafter



Christmas at MUMC

Christmas Fair December 3, 9-1

December 18: Christmas Concert at 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve:

5 p.m. Contemporary Service

7 p.m. Traditional Service

11 p.m. Lessons & Carols with Communion

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols, Combined Service

Hope to see you there!

Our MUMC Family Out in the World

November was a busy and cool month. We even saw some snow. Here are some of the church family spreading the joy!



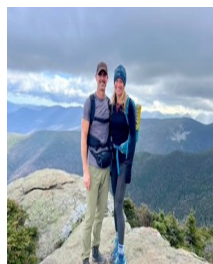
Riley Weis in yet another acting role!



Patrick & Ivy Rose off to the Homeschool prom



Kim, Lily & Jameson Eves Santa's Village



Kristi & Christian O'Shaughnessy atop climb 26&27 North & South win



Andrea & Andy Libby & Grace Baver took time at cheer camp to vote.



Paula, Madison & Josh Muller after a 5K



Have you got pics of you and yours sharing the joy? Let's share here. Send to me; at office@milfordumc.org, or friend me on Facebook and share what you're up to.

At Home in Our Hearts

"All hearts come home for Christmas," according to popular sentiment. But what if your heart (and/or home) is hurting or troubled? Does this season have room for people who are struggling? Does the holiday still have meaning?

Yes, God's word tells us. In fact, that's why God sent Jesus, the Word, from his heavenly home to make "his dwelling among us" (John 1:14, NIV). As fully human, Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal, loss and physical pain. He was rejected by loved ones, angered by corruption, and abandoned to die. But as fully God, Jesus provides answers, healing and hope. Through his resurrection (which first required an earthly birth), Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in him.

As we await the heavenly home that God's Son is now preparing, we can welcome him and his comforting promises, even into our hurting hearts.



Choir Notes: Christmas Concert

From Jenn Erdody

The MUMC Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 18, at 4:00. We're excited to return to our full offering of music, including Church Band, Bell Choir, Praise Band, Concert Choir, and small ensembles. Please invite your family and friends to join us!



Lamplighters

From Carol Rowlette

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope." Romans 15:13 (CEB)

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!



Share Christmas

From Pat Rafter



As promised your Outreach Committee has adopted 2 SHARE families for the Congregation to support this Christmas season.

1 family has 3 children and the other family has 4. A "giving tree" with tags will be in the Narthex on Nov 27. Please take a tag or 2 and return your UNWRAPPED gifts to the church by Tuesday Dec 14 at noon. Please tape the tag to the gift. Thank you in advance for your support. SHARE does such a wonderful job reaching the families in need in our community. It's wonderful to be part of sharing some joy!

Christmas Fair

From Callie McMahon

The Fair team has been busy with crafting and organizing for the fair on Dec 3, 9-1. If you have not signed up to help with something,, I hope you will at least visit us on the day of the fair. Maybe you will feel like helping with tear down and sanctuary set up after 1p.m. that day!

We wish all of you a wonderful and blessed Christmas and thank you for supporting this team with this project.

The Fair Team



From Trashed to Treasured

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

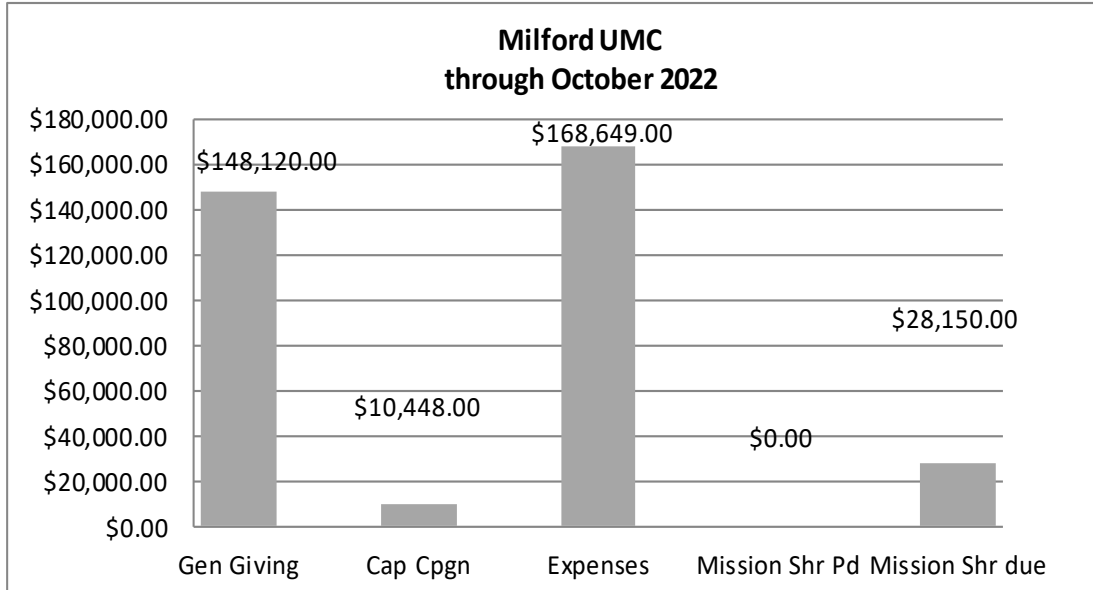
After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing "this had happened for a reason," he "took a leap of faith." Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure," he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we've been transformed and are treasured.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



YTD Financials Thru July 2022

General Giving	\$148,120 .00
Capital Campaign	\$10, 448.00
Expenses	\$168, 649.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$0.00
Mission Shares Due	\$28,150.00



- The miracle of giving is that giving makes miracles.
—Bishop Robert E. Goodrich



Birthdays & Anniversaries

If you see any of these folks around town, be sure to wish them a happy day!

Birthdays:

- December 2:** Terri Henderson
- December 4:** Marilyn Edmondson
- December 8:** Jason Lambert
- December 11:** Wendy Ayotte
- December 11:** Lily Eves
- December 11:** Bruce Houston
- December 12:** Ryan Seale
- December 18:** Rich Rudolf
- December 23:** Amy Holland
- December 23:** Becky McMahon
- December 24:** Steve Rafter
- December 25:** Carol Rowlette
- December 30:** Elaine Driscoll
- December 30:** Diane Bellerose
- December 31:** David Mallows

Anniversaries

Sorry if we missed your anniversary, Hope it was special!

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary, if we missed yours! When we know yours, we'd love to mention you! It's always



nice to be remembered, please e-mail the office your special dates at office@milfordumc.org.

This Month's Lectionary

December 4: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

December 11: Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11, Luke 1:46b-55

December 18: Isaiah 7:10-16,, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

December 25: Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12), John 1:1-14



Driving Ministry

If you are in need of a ride and have no place to turn, call the office and we will notify the driving ministry to help you out.

This program is primarily directed to our handi-capped and seniors, but anybody who needs a ride and can't find one is eligible. There is no charge for this service. Office 603-673-2669 Steve Takacs 603-672-5118 office@milfordumc.org trumpetchoo@msn.com



Committees, Groups and Ministries

If you are interested in becoming involved with, or learning more about, a committee or group on the calendar, here's who to talk to.

Administrative (Ad) Council: Callie McMahon

Reviews monthly committee meetings, discusses pending issues and votes on church-wide decisions.

Adult Mission Trip Steve & Pat Rafter

Bell Choir: TBD

For adults and older kids interested in hand bell ringing.

Christian Aftercare Ministry: Callie McMahon

Serving primarily men leaving prison, helping them settle in new homes and productive, positive lives.

Chancel Choir: Jennifer Erdody

Open to adults and teens interested in singing in the Chancel Choir at the second service.

Community Supper: Kerri-Lynn Kimner

*A supper we host at SHARE in Milford every 6-8 weeks. Volunteer to help bake or prep ahead of time, or to work at the supper itself. **Restart Coming Soon***

Driving Ministry– Steve Takacs

Provides transportation for those in need of help.

Finance: Andy Baver

Oversees church financial commitments

Home Groups: Steve Rafter (Thursday) or Callie McMahon (Friday) *hold due to covid*

Expands spiritual experience in a social context, meeting at a host's homes.

Lamplighters: Elaine Driscoll & Carol Rowlette

A Bible-study group for women.

Nominations: Pastor John. Matches people with the committees they might be interested in serving on.

Outreach:

Focuses on ways our church can reach out to the local, regional and international community.

Praise Band: Steve Rafter, Lisa Payne, Rudy Rumohr

Contemporary Christian music that plays at the first service on Sunday.

Staff Parish Relations (SPR): Steve Kimner

This committee acts as liaison between our staff and the congregation.

Stephen Ministry: Callie McMahon

Provides confidential one-on-one Christian care with trained lay ministers.

Sunday School/ Education Team: Elizabeth Whitley

Chooses curriculum, helps prepare teachers, runs the Sunday School from September-June.

Trustees: Steve Rafter

Oversees and facilitates the care and keeping of the church building and parsonage.

White Tops: Everett Gale

A social group for retired men of all denominations.

Worship Committee: Carol Rowlette

Plans and facilitates Sunday service needs and organizes special Sundays

Worship Design: Steve Rafter

Plans music and worship for the contemporary Sunday service.

Vacation Bible School: TBD

VOICE Giving voice to the marginalized in our

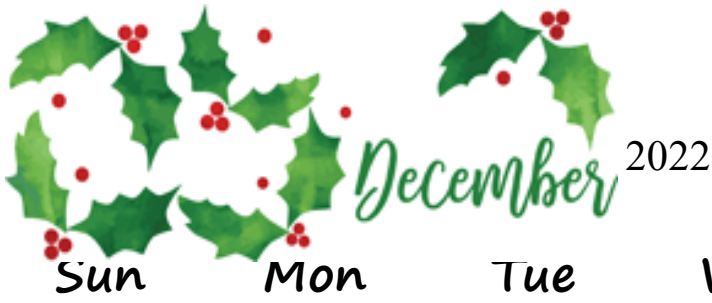
community. Janet Hromjak, Claire Holston, Callie McMahon. Esther Thayer, Kerri-Lynn Kimner

Youth Group: Tom Knapp

Organizes and hosts Youth Group for middle and high school kids in our congregation. Runs September-May.

Youth Mission Trip Tom Knapp

Works with the youth and organizes mission work near and far.



For Virtual Services starting at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, join Us On-Line from our Facebook page Milford United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation or YouTube milfordumc or from the Website milfordumc.org Masks required in the building.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:30 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir	2	3 9-1 Craft Fair
4 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	5	6 7 Praise Band	7 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	8 5:30Bells 7:- Chancel Choir	9	10
11 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	12 7—Trustee's Committee	13 7– Praise Band	14 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	15 5:30Bells 7:- Chancel Choir 7 Mission	16	17
18 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 4 Christmas Concert	19 4 Worship Committee 7—Finance Committee	20 7 Praise Band	21 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6:30 Blue Christmas	22 5:30 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 5 p.m. Contemporary 7 p.m. Traditional 11 p.m. With communion
25 10:30 Combined Worship Service	26	27 7 Praise Band	28 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	29 5:30 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir	30	31

Outreach

SPRC, Trustees, VOICE, Finance, Ad Council are virtual unless communicated otherwise by the



Milford United Methodist Church

327 No. River Rd
PO Box 476
Milford, NH 03055
(603) 673-2669
www.milfordumc.org

December, 2022

Sunday Worship Times:

8:30 Spirit Celebration, 10:30 Traditional Service
or Watch Us Online Facebook & YouTube @10:30
Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

Milford United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Church

Discover the Joy!

Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

Our Mission:

The Milford United Methodist Church exists to help **all** people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

We will help all people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ by:

- Providing joyful and meaningful worship experiences.
- Establishing and encouraging small groups for study, support, prayer, fellowship and service.
- Empowering people to discover, develop, and deploy their gifts for ministry.
- Reaching out beyond our congregation in Christian love and service.

Our Values:

We commit ourselves to:

- Know scripture and live it.
- Act with integrity.
- Be faithful to Jesus Christ, our families, and our church family.

- Strive for excellence in all we do for the Lord.
- Celebrate the ministry of all Christians, lay and ordained.
- Treat all people with respect and sensitivity.
- Encourage people to grow in Christ.
- Care for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of all people.

Welcoming & Inclusion Statement:

Milford United Methodist Church is a welcoming and inclusive church which celebrates that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth. We welcome and serve persons without regard to age, race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, religious background, economic status, or developmental and physical abilities. Milford United Methodist Church recognizes the diversity of the Body of Christ and gives thanks to God for this divine gift. We invite ALL to discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.