



# The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church  
June 2023, Milford, NH, Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

## Pastor's Corner

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Co-travellers in Christ,

It's June, which in the United Methodist world means that it's Annual Conference season, and in light of all that I have been preaching about lately and all that we've been celebrating with Ascension and Pentecost and (coming up) Trinity Sunday, I'd like to take some time in my pastor's corner to say a few words on what that means (or is supposed to mean). In the Methodist world, the word "conference" is both a noun and a verb: it is the gathering together to discern God's leading in our collective life and it is also *the way in which we enter into that discernment*. The latter is the more distinctively Methodist idea and practice and another way of saying it is what we call "holy conferencing."

Let's think about that together. What might make a conference a holy thing, a sacred experience? I've been to a lot of conferences that were not so holy (and I imagine you have too). People vying for the floor, often just to hear themselves speak; grand-standing more for personal posturing than to meaningfully contribute to a conversation; an undercurrent of hyper-competitivism contributing to a climate in which you're likely to be attacked for saying something just because you dared to say it. Unfortunately, those sorts of things can be all too typical of professional conferences, especially in competitive fields, and one seldom leaves with the sense that the conference has drawn us closer together, brought out the best in all of us as a group, brought us into a shared encounter with the holy, moved us forward together in a shared understanding of God's directions for our life and mission. One can leave a conference feeling more isolated and alone in the work than when you arrived.

"Holy Conferencing", though, is a different attitude and a different approach to coming together as the people of God. It's rooted in the Pentecost conviction that we really do need one another's input and participation and invested, prayerful hearts deeply involved in all that is before us when we gather in this way. Often, those prayers are going to be prayers that God would remind us and call us back into the spirit of this work; sometimes, they're going to be for clarity of heart

## Pastor's Corner cont'd

and mind; sometimes that God would help us get out of our own way. John Wesley once famously said that "there is no holiness but social holiness" and what he meant by that is that there's no becoming more holy alone—it's something we can only do together "in society" (as he would have put it in 18<sup>th</sup> century speak). Imagine emerging from a conference where this sort of practice was the main item on the agenda—how energizing and refreshing and encouraging it would be. It would send us forth ready and clear and hopeful, wouldn't it? As we approach conference season this year, that's what I hope for. As we look ahead to what our church will become in the future, this experience, this disciplined style of gathering is what I pray for.

May our conferencing together always leave us filled and energized for God's work!

*Pastor John*



## 2023 Graduates

### High School

Fallon Clegg, Addie, Camie, & Jack Hopkins, Gage Tlapa

### College

Shawanna Frost, Thomas Moore College, Joe Guzman, The New School,  
Samantha Randlett, U VT, Caroline Steenhoek, Mount Holyoke

## From the Pastor's Book Pile

Here are a few books that I've been reading (or listening to) lately. If the subject interests you, let's talk!

James K. Drew, Jr. and Mark W. Foreman, *How Do We Know: An Introduction to Epistemology*.

Have you ever asked yourself questions like "How do we know what we think we know? How can we be certain? What is knowledge anyway?" Those are central questions in the field of epistemology and Drew and Foreman do a good job in their introductory book in laying out the basics for Christians in an accessible way and paving the way toward deeper study.



Daniel Okrent, *The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics, and the Law that Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and Other European Immigrants Out of America*.

This book tells a shocking story about a chapter in our country's history that has a continuing legacy in our contemporary life. Well-documented, compelling, and current in surprising ways, Okrent's telling of the story of American immigration policy debates at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century will get you asking questions about the role of the Church in our society today.



## UMCOR Hygiene Kits A Big Success

Although I did not get a picture of the kit making process, I do know that 101 kits were made by our MUMC family and friends on the 28th and will be sent out to UMCOR this week!

Congratulations Church!! Special thanks to Diane Miller and Sue Kostuk for organizing this effort!

Here's to the hands and feet of our God!

### Wednesday's at 6:00



A study starts about 6:30 and is also virtual. Need a link? Let us know.

## Milford United Methodist Children's Church



## Choir Notes

From Jenn Erdody

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." - Colossians 3:16*

The Chancel Choir hopes that you have been uplifted, edified, and inspired by our musical offerings this season! We're so grateful to be able to contribute to our church services through music, and we thank you for your support and words of encouragement after the services. As usual, we welcome new singers at any time! We look forward to singing together again in the fall. Thanks to all our singers and instrumentalists for sharing their talents to bless our church and praise God!



### In June SHARE Is Collecting

Canned Fruit, Flour, Sugar, Boxed cake Mixes & Baking Supplies, Coffee & Tea, Juice, Granola



## Our MUMC Family Out in the World

Can you believe it's June already? Here are some of our family spreading joy in May.



### Prom Day

L. Addie & Camie Hopkins with mom Megan

R. Grace St. Jean



### Graduation

L. Shawna Frost Thomas College



R. Joe Guzman (with Colleen & Ray) The New School



### Theater

Ivy Rose (L.) & Patrick (R.) Harvey-Olson were Dingo Dog and Pau Amma at the Amato Center



### Travel

L. Debbie & Steve Santinelli flying Concorde on their Seattle trip?  
R. A visitor to the spring yard sale. Weeeee! All the way home.



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

## Sometimes it's just about showing up.

From VOICE

A number of us attended the unveiling of the historic marker honoring Harriet Wilson on May 20th at the Town Hall. The marker is near the statue of Harriet and her son George, which was dedicated in 2006 on South Street. Harriet was the first Black woman to publish a novel in the United States - titled "Our Nig; Sketches from the Life of a Free Black, In a Two-Story White House, North" published in 1859. It lays out the hardship and abuse she endured. The historic marker project was spearheaded by JerriAnne Boggis, director of the Black Heritage Trail of NH (BHTNH) and the Milford Historical Society - who both spoke at the event.

There was a play (co-written by Gloria Henry and JerriAnne Boggis from the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire and produced by Najee Brown of Theatre for the People) depicting Harriet at various ages. Also incredibly interesting and unbeknownst to me were exhibits depicting Milford's involvement in slavery and the houses that were involved in the underground railroad.

Claire Holston read the marker to the crowd who walked down to Bicentennial Park from the Town Hall to witness the unveiling where several people spoke, including Melanie Levesque - first black senator in NH. The 'Mapping Untold Stories' project by BHTNH has established other markers in different parts of the state (6 so far including Portsmouth, Windham and Hancock - with Nashua being added May 30th) to visibly honor and share a truer and more complete history of NH and to testify to the NH's rich Black history.

So sometimes it's not about leading a march or getting involved in big events (although that's great!) - sometimes it's just about showing up in your own town to support folks that are doing the work and let them know that we see them and they matter.



## Summer Solace

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.



—Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*



**July 10-15**  
*Stay tuned for more  
information!*

GREEN CHURCH



Rev Bimshik Min, who serves the Suncook UMC has introduced the Green Church Movement to the churches in the Granite District and we here at MUMC will be rolling out some initiatives to make MUMC a part of the movement.

"The Green Church movement will be an active and practical way to respond to the climate crisis on the congregational level."

Check messaging at this symbol over the next several months as we lay out the process of becoming a part of this movement.  
MUMC VOICE Team

## The church hive.



Bees live in a cooperative way described as "eusociality," or good relations. Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony, synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church's health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. Descriptions of hive life mirror Paul's words about the body of Christ, with members having different gifts "but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4).

According to R.S. Beal Jr., who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect "living illustration of how to walk in unity." He wrote, "Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we 'may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ'" (Ephesians 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church "hive"?

## Divine Dance

Using the fancy word *perichoresis* (from Greek for "around" and "contain") may win you admiring — or strange! — looks. But since the 7<sup>th</sup> century, people have used it as a beautiful image of the Persons of the Holy Trinity containing and permeating one another. A more familiar word, *choreography*, has led to recent understandings of perichoresis as the divine and eternal dance of love.

Picture three dancers' synchronized yet independent movements. Weaving gracefully in and out, each seems to know what the others will do next. They may touch lightly but don't constrain or impede one another. Though distinct individuals, they move so fluidly together that they are, in a sense, one entity.

Even more profound: Jesus invites us into the dance! "If you love me," he says, "you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth. ... I will come to you. ... I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you" (John 14:15-20, ESV). As the actions of Jesus, the Father and the Spirit interweave in Scripture and in the world, may our lives too be drawn into the loving dance.



## Lamplighters From Carol Rowlette

Psalm 31:24 *Be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord!*

As our study of the miracles of Jesus comes to an end in June, we will start a new study on the "Minor Prophets", beginning with Hosea and finishing with Malachi. Each of the minor prophets had major messages to share with their people. As in our previous studies the questions we ask are what does the bible say and what does it mean. Commentaries in the different versions of our bibles help us to understand the passages and encourage deep thoughtful discussions.

God is good!

Happy summer everyone!



"See what love the Father has given us,  
  
that we should be called children of God."  
1 John 3:1

# Family Life at Milford United Methodist Church

**By LeeAnne Steenhoek, Youth and  
Family Ministry Director**

## **Being a Mountain Goat**

By LeeAnne Steenhoek

I was three years old the first time I climbed Mount Monadnock. Really. Majestic, the "mountain that stands alone" is 3,166' and I was expected to climb. I set out with Mom, Dad and my teenage neighbors, baby brother on Dad's back. I hiked, I walked, I lost steam. I grew weary. Finally, I plopped to the earth, laying in the middle of the path proclaiming, "my little legs will not carry me anymore!"

Mom and Dad coaxed, cajoled, and encouraged me. I didn't budge. The teens swooped in to help. They were my babysitters and I loved them.

My teen friends said, "Baby Mountain goats jump and play. Baby goats run up the mountain. Baby goats run down the mountain- all the livelong day! Let's play make-believe. Pretend that you are a baby mountain goat. Take one step at a time. Jump! Jump up! Jump down! Baby Mountain goats always land on their feet-even the newborn kids. Baby Mountain goats are called kids. Play all the way!"

***I became a mountain goat.*** I jumped! I jumped up! I jumped down! I stepped along the smooth stones and craggy boulders. I made a game of the path, and nothing was too tall or too hard, too deep or too wide for this little mountain goat.

I laughed and played all the way to the top of the mountain with my teen encouragers. *Teens do make a difference!*

As you hike up life's path:  
May you take time to be in joy for the Buenas Vistas (good views)

May you breathe deeply the sweet mountain laurel  
May you taste the wild blueberries  
May your heart brim with love for Christ and all of Creation

And, when your little legs will not carry you any more  
May you know that it is then that Christ carries you,  
Even if it's through the angelic whispers of a couple of teenagers.

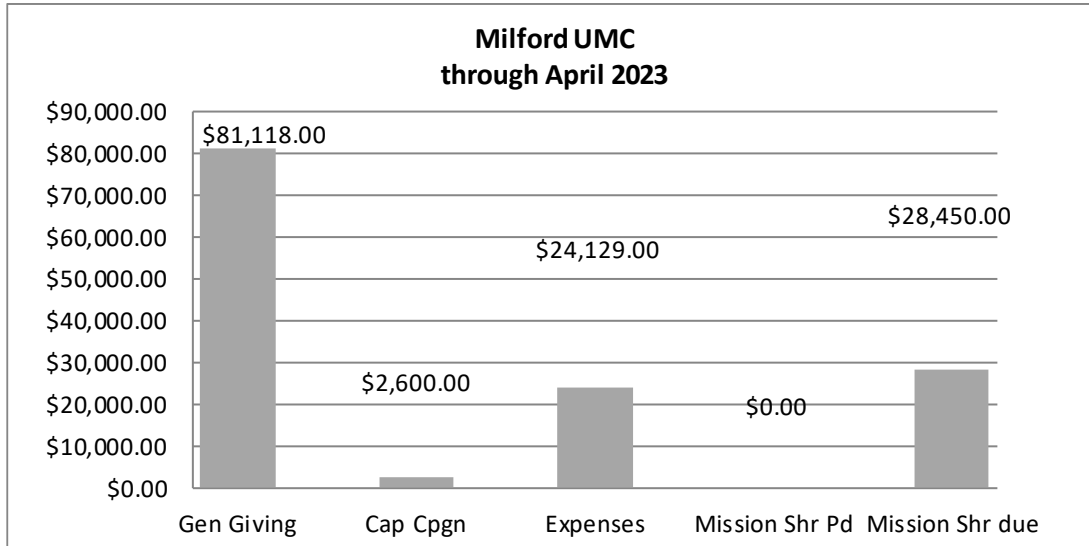
"And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." Roald Dahl

***Perhaps this is the moment for which you were created.*** Esther 4:14



# Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



## YTD Financials

General Giving	\$81,118.00
Mortgage Fund	\$2,600.00
Expenses	\$24,129.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$0.00
Mission Shares Due	\$28,450.00



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



# JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

## Birthdays:

<b>June 2:</b>	Dan Roby
<b>June 2:</b>	Andrea Baver
<b>June 4:</b>	Dan Muller
<b>June 7:</b>	Janine Rumohr
<b>June 8:</b>	Elizabeth Whitley
<b>June 9:</b>	Marion Diorio
<b>June 10:</b>	Theo Rafter
<b>June 11:</b>	Shirley Stackpole
<b>June 12:</b>	Doris Houston
<b>June 20:</b>	Everett Gale
<b>June 26:</b>	Emma Lambert
<b>June 26:</b>	Shawna Frost
<b>June 26:</b>	Dottie Dishong
<b>June 30:</b>	Madison Muller
<b>June 30:</b>	Kim Pfeil

## Anniversaries

<b>June 9:</b>	Dave & Shirley Strackpole
<b>June 13:</b>	Dan & Wendy Ayotte
<b>June 30:</b>	Dan & Paula Muller

We would love to include you on the birthday and anniversary list. Won't you share your special dates at [office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org).



## This Month's Lectionary

**June 4:** Genesis 1:1-2:4. Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

**June 11:** Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 33:1-12 Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**June 18:** Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

**June 25:** Genesis 21:8-21, Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Romans 6:1-11, Matthew 10:24-39



## 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](mailto:office@milfordumc.org) [trumpetchoo@msn.com](mailto: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

**Administrative (Ad) Council: Janet Hromjak**  
*Reviews monthly committee meetings, discusses pending issues and votes on church-wide decisions.*

**Adult Mission Trip Steve & Pat Rafter**

**Bell Choir: Heidi Rocha**  
*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.*

**Children & Family : LeeAnne Steenhoek**  
*Focuses on involving Children and Families in church events and spiritual growth..*

**Praise Band: Steve Rafter, Lisa Payne, Rudy Rumohr**  
*Contemporary Christian music that plays at the first service on Sunday.*

**Staff Parish Relations (SPR): Sue Rudolf**  
*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, Kathy Wood, Anika Weis*

**Men's Group: Jim Lawler**  
*For men interested in fellowship and service.  
Meet Sunday Evenings*

**Youth Mission Trip Tom Knapp**  
*Works with the youth and organizes mission work near and far.*



2023

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

**Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat**

				<b>1</b> 5:45 Bells 75:- Chancel Choir	<b>2</b> First Friday Union Grill 6:30 a Youth	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Traditional Service	<b>5</b> 6 SPRC	<b>6</b> 7 Praise Band	<b>7</b> 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	<b>8</b> 7:- Chancel Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30 Adult Sunday School  Combined Service 10:30	<b>12</b> 5- VOICE  7p—Trustee's Committee	<b>13</b> 7 Praise Band	<b>14</b> 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	<b>15</b> 7:- Chancel Choir Mission	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Traditional Service 7 Men's Group	<b>19</b> 7p- Finance	<b>20</b> 7 Praise Band	<b>21</b> 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	<b>22</b> 7:- Chancel Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Traditional Service 7 Men's Group	<b>26</b> 5—VOICE	<b>27</b> 7 Praise Band			<b>30</b>	

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



## Milford United Methodist Church

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

*June 2023*

### **Sunday Worship Times:**

8:30 Spirit Celebration, 10:30 Traditional Service,  
Children's church 9:40  
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.