



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As we enter into March this year we also enter into the season of Lent. That's right, Wednesday, March 2 is Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent) and it couldn't come soon enough! The beginning of Lent means 46 days until Easter—40 to fast and prepare, probe our hearts, and consider the new human possibilities that are made available in Christ; 6 Sundays to break the fast, to feast and celebrate, and remember that Easter's coming is always already today. Lent brings renewal with its own perfect kind of balance—the balance of the bitter and the sweet, the austere with much longed-for simplicity, an acknowledgement of the grim side of our human condition alongside the glorious, redemption with the things that need redeeming. Lent is a time to be washed and renewed in the honesty and transformative power of the spiritual disciplines and so, in the words of the Ash Wednesday liturgy, "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." (*The United Methodist Book of Worship*, p. 322).

I'd like to invite you to come along with me on two separate but related journeys this Lent: for the first, I am going to be preaching a sermon series on the meaning of the Cross the I'm calling "The Foolishness of the Cross" (to borrow a phrase from the apostle Paul). Have you ever noticed that, somehow, the cross manages to be a symbol of oppression and yet also freedom? ...cruelty and injustice and yet also mercy? ...sin and yet also forgiveness?...anger and divisiveness and yet also peace?...powerlessness and yet also of the grace that empowers the redeemed life?...human fear but also brave obedience? The cross embodies all of these different polarities—what we might call the broken, human side together with what the cross ushers us forward to be. It is a transformative symbol and, therefore, a very Lenten symbol in many ways. In addition to that, though, I would like to invite you to join with me in reading a new Lenten devotional called *Bitter & Sweet: A Journey Into Easter*—a devotional

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that brings together to two poles of Lenten focus into a similar transformative tension. The full information on that title can be found in my 'Pastor's Book Pile' column below and we will be taking orders through the church office if you would like to join in that study. I would like to gather with you for hybrid (in-person & zoom) meetings to be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10a.m. and 5p.m., and also during the Sunday School hour—9:30a.m. on Sunday mornings. Perhaps you will find other occasions to join with each other to go through this devotional as well. I invite you into a holy Lent! May God's transformative power stretch and pull, refine and fill!

The Best of all is God with Us!

Pastor John

From the Pastor's Book Pile

This month's book from the Bishop's recommended reading list for 2021-22. We are reading this book on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. I hope to see you there!

Tsh Oxenreider, *Bitter & Sweet: A Journey Into Easter.*



In March Share is collecting:

Canned Fruit, Flour, Sugar, Boxed Cake Mixes & Baking Supplies, Coffee & Tea, Juice, Granola
Share is taking donations at Columbus Ave.
To be sure, call ahead for times, 603-673-9898, and they will direct you.

SHARE
Collection

Crafting Workshop

From Pat Rafter

Can you believe it is already March? Where does time go? Seems like just yesterday we were setting up for our first ever Outdoor Christmas Market. I for one think it was amazingly successful, though a tremendous amount of work. Last I heard we made a little over \$6500. Praying we can be inside for 2022, but hoping some aspects of the outdoor market can be continued. We have not had many crafting workshops since 2020, for obvious reasons, and our inventory is low. Hoping we can get a group together this month to create and discuss plans for our 2022 Christmas Fair. So....Thursday March 17 is open on my calendar and also the church calendar. I've checked with a few other key crafters and this date works for them as well. We will start at 10 and work until 2ish. I'll bring a soup and bread for those that would like to come and create. Bring scissors and if you are a sewer bring your machine. If you have ideas for future craft workshop bring those ideas with you. Hope to see you 3/17!



Can Goods Drive for Share

Continuing through March there will be a plastic container outside the doors of the church for the collection of can goods and non-perishables for Share. Please leave your donations there and we will get them to Share as soon as possible.



Youth Mission News

From Tom Knapp

The youth mission team will be holding a fundraising breakfast at the Mason 's Lodge, 30 Mont Vernon St, Milford, March 19,2022, form 8:30-11:30. These are very yummy breakfasts and our team has a great reputation with the folks there as being great workers. We hope you can support them.

As another facet of their fundraising ,keep in mind that these great workers can be available to help you with your spring clean up starting in March (weather permitting) through May.

There will be a Mission trip meeting on March13, 7 p.m. Discussions will be around fundraising and required forms will be handed out.



Jesus has gone there first

Whether we gaze with longing into the garden or with fear and trembling into the desert, of this we can be sure — God walked there first! And when we who have sinned and despoiled the garden are challenged now to face the desert, we do not face it alone; Jesus has gone there before us to struggle with every demon that has ever plagued a human heart. Face the desert we must if we would reach the garden, but Jesus has gone there before us.

James Healy



Salvation Army Update

From Pat Rafter

We changed things up a little again this year.

Beginning the Saturday after Thanksgiving we began ringing at Market Basket on Saturdays, 10-2, and Shaw's on Sundays, 12-4. All shifts were easily covered by MUMC and a few long time volunteers and friends of Tami Betelak!

Thanks to all. We were able to raise \$8082 (\$550 more than 2020). We had 67 volunteer hours (69 volunteer hours). Many thanks to Tom Knapp who filled 26 of those hours! Tom also counted and deposited all the donations each week and I reported the totals to the Salvation Army office.

The Salvation Army thanked us for our continued support during these trying times. A percentage if monies raised stays locally and Pastor John has the authority to distribute these funds to those in need. Thanks also to the folks that helped lighten my load and covered coordinating weekends when I was either working or covering the Christmas Fair. Those coordinators were Tom Knapp, Doris and Bruce Houston, Steve Rafter and Elizabeth Whitley. Looking for folks to pray for this mission over the year and perhaps think about assisting with coordinating a weekend, ring for an hour or simply support the effort with a monetary donation. Many hands makes light work.



Our MUMC Family Out in the World

February was a pretty quiet and cold month to be out and about but here are some pictures that prove that MUMC folks still spread the joy!



3 of the 4 Lamberts, Haylee, Jason, & Lindsay moved up a belt level



Patrick & Neva Harvey-Olson preformed as Simba and a Buzzard in Lion King at the Amato Ctr.



Just a little Valentine Love
L: Cora, Avery & Emelaine Herlihy
R. Jameson & Lily Eves



L. Josh Muller with a Legoman!
R Jim Lawler & his catch of the day.



Have you got pics of you and yours sharing the joy?
Let's share here. Send to me; office@milfordumc.org

Lamplighters

From Carol Rowlette

It has been interesting studying women recorded in the bible. Several are well known such as Mary (mother of Jesus), sisters Martha and Mary, Mary Magdalene, Miriam, and Ruth. Others not so well known proved to be important in the history of the Old and New Testament sections of the bible. We continue to identify other women and study the importance of their lives, actions, and relationships.

Our meetings have been filled with conversations for reflection, caring, comfort and laughter. We have a good time! We are a sisterhood for Christ.

Proverbs 4:18 The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

Looking forward to March 20. The first day of Spring!

Peace and love.





A Prayer for Lent

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."



Pastor John will be offering the imposition of ashes on March 2, at 6:30.p.m. He is also planning a time around noon that day but an exact time has not yet been given. Check your email for more information,

United Methodist Beliefs: Missions

Here is the transcript from a video found at UMC.org. Rev Mike Sluder talks about what being in mission means to United Methodists. Sluder is the Director of Connectional Ministries and Conference Secretary of Global Missions with the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church.

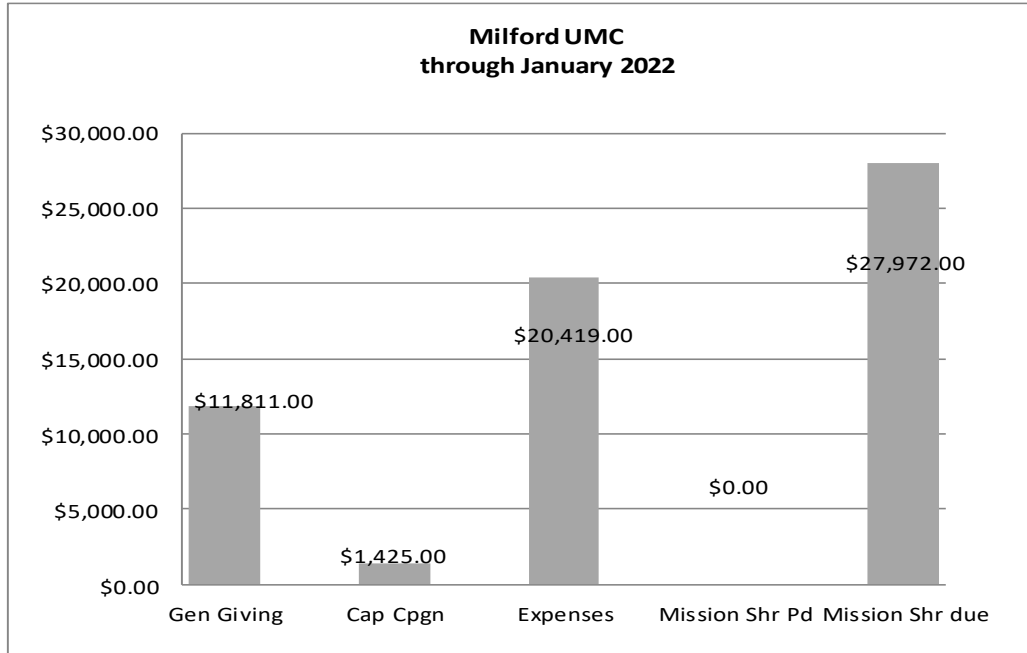
"Why are we in mission as a church? Why do we reach out and meet needs around us?"

Quite frankly, that's who we're called to be. John Wesley guided us along this path as he emphasized many, many times about love of God and love of neighbor being hand-in-hand. They must go together. He was simply living out what he believed Jesus was teaching us. Throughout the Scriptures, particularly throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus teaching us time and time again that to love God is to love neighbor. And it doesn't matter who that neighbor is. Jesus was very explicit when he said, 'Here's what love of neighbor looks like: You saw me hungry and you fed me. You saw me thirsty and you gave me drink. You saw me sick and you took care of me.' That's what love of neighbor looks like. And those neighbors, they start right next to you right in your own hometown, but it doesn't stop there. It goes all the way to the ends of the earth. Wherever you see a need, as the church, as United Methodists, we reach out to meet that need. It's who we are. And it all goes back I believe to a covenant made with Abraham centuries ago when God said, I'm gonna bless you so that through you I can bless all the families of the earth. We're heirs of that promise. We're heirs of that covenant. We are blessed and we are to be a blessing. That's why we're in mission, to bless those around us, to love God by loving our neighbors."



Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



General Giving	\$11,811.00
Capital Campaign	\$1425.00
Expenses	\$20,419.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$0.00
Mission Shares Due	\$29,972.00





Birthdays & Anniversaries

2022

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

March Birthdays:

March 1:	Tami Betelak
March 4:	Andrew Houston
March 8:	Kristi O'Shaughnessy
March 10:	Cynthia Geiger
March 11:	William Tobbe
March 13:	Sylvia Emberger
March 14:	Pat Rafter
March 14:	Bronwyn Tyler-Wall
March 15:	Nicole Masters
March 16:	Trevor Frost
March 18:	Maureen Yergeau
March 19:	Riley O' Shaughnessy
March 22:	Kim Antonetti
March 23:	Janet Johnson
March 25:	Dawn Mallows

Anniversaries

No March Anniversaries

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

March 2, Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 6: Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

March 13: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

March 20: Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

March 27: Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



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 handicapped 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: Mary Tyler-Wall
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. **hold due to covid***

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: Doris Houston
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: Cyndi Geiger & 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: Vacancy
Plans and hosts VBS, which runs one week during the summer.

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



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 7 Praise Band	2 8 Whitetops 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 1 Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	3 6 p.m. Hand bells 7:00-Chancel Choir	4 7	5
6 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	7 6—SPR	8 7 Praise Band	6:8 Whitetops 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 1 Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	10 6 p.m. Hand bells 7:00 Chancel Choir	11	12
13 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	14 7—Trustee's Committee	15 7 Praise Band	8 Whitetops 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 1 Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	17 10 a.m. Craft- ing 6 p.m. Hand bells 7:00-Chancel Choir	18	19 8:30-11:30 Youth Break- fast Mason's
20 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	21 6— VOICE 7—Finance Committee	22 7 Praise Band	2 38 Whitetops 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 1 Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	24 6 p.m. Hand bells 7:00-Chancel Choir	25	26
27 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	28 7 Outreach	29 7 Praise Band	30 8 Whitetops 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 1 Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	31 6 p.m. Hand bells 7:00-Chancel Choir		



Milford United Methodist Church

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

March, 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.