



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

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Siblings in Christ,

As we enter into March and dip our toes ever-deeper into this year's Lenten season, you may have picked up by now that I've set this season apart this year to really think and pray hard on the subject of forgiveness. Lent, of course, is the season we set aside to spiritually prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter—traditionally, the season when those who had been in a longer (usually 3-year) stretch of pre-baptismal education and preparation were nearing the end and making final decisions about whether taking on the life of a Christian was really something they were prepared to commit themselves to. It was a daunting proposition for them, because after that three-year intensive, they were beginning to understand its high calling—the call to practice radical forgiveness being one of the more formidable challenges involved. As I sit and write this today, I am trying to put myself in their position. Having gotten past the basics and having gotten a better appreciation of what this life asks of me and why, they must have taken one last sobering look at it and themselves in that final Lenten season before their baptisms and asked: can I really do this? Can I really live like that? Am I really ready to be baptized into that?

Looking through Lent toward Easter morning, which one of these seems more impossible to you—that the crucified could have been raised or that the crucified one could have forgiven the ones who crucified him? That may not be such a simple question, because forgiveness can be every bit as hard as raising the dead. And yet, Easter is both, isn't it? Both a day of resurrection and a day in which forgiveness is proclaimed because the harm has been radically undone! What if, in that same Easter even, the harm done to you was also radically undone, radically relativized in light of the newness of life that's freshly on offer at Easter? What if all of the sting of that harm was suddenly revealed to be meaningless in comparison to what God has done, in comparison to what the future now holds—would you still hang onto the sting of the past? I think those early-church catechumens must have asked that very question of themselves, as do we all. And so I leave that question with you to ponder as we begin our journey. May this be a holy Lenten season for you.

Pastor's Corner Cont'd

God's richest blessings!

Pastor John

How Jesus says your name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply. —Heidi Hyland Mann

Milford United Methodist Children's Church



Spring Yard Sale

From Pat Rafter

Spring Yard Sale to benefit youth missions will be held May 13, 8 a.m. -1 p.m. with rain p.m. date/leftovers Sale on May 20 , 9 a.m..-12 if need be.

We will start accepting drop offs on April 22 and May 6, 9-11 a.m. Please respect these times, to allow volunteers to be able to stow things away after 11.

Items we do not take are car seats, exercise equipment, furniture, musty books, encyclopedia sets, magazines or old stuffed animals.



Clothing will be accepted. Items should be clean and in working order.

If you are unable to make drop off date please contact Pat Rafter (603-582-0333) for alternate time or pick up. If you are available to help with pricing and sorting or day of the yard sale. We will gladly accept your help.

Happy Spring cleaning!

Wednesday's at 6:00



Study starts about 6:30 and is also virtual. Watch your email for a link.

MUMC Mission **From Callie, Janet, & Claire**

The pandemic stopped many of our activities – including curtailing much of MUMC’s mission work. It is Pastor John’s vision to now re-engage and ramp up our Mission work as we strive to become a beloved community. To this end, a Mission meeting was held February 19th at the Church to generate ideas.

You may wonder – what does MUMC’s mission work consist of? Over the years we have been involved in many varied activities to include: Crop Walk, Salvation Army Bell ringing, Share’s Christmas family, the school supply campaign, UMCOR relief (Ukraine & Turkey), the quilting Ukraine mission, Youth mission trips, the Care team, and mental health events sponsored by our VOICE committee.

Efforts are underway to restart activities like the Share suppers, adult missions and community projects and we would like to provide more places for involvement on various levels. Whether you can write letters, make phone calls, drive a hammer, bake cookies or chop vegetables, we want to give each MUMC member and friend the opportunity to continue the legacy of John Wesley. He spent much of his life responding to the hard conditions the poor, the imprisoned and the marginalized faced in their lives. Our social principles call us to do the same.

We hope to become re-known as the “church that does things”. Join us at our next meeting – or send us your ideas. All our welcome.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 7th at 5pm here at the Church – we look forward to seeing you!



Choir News **From Jenn Erdody**

Chancel Choir is preparing this year's Good Friday cantata, "Candles of Grace". We're happy to be combining with the choir of First Congregational Church of Milford to present this beautiful piece for our Good Friday Service. Pastor John and Pastor Al Hoyt will present the readings, along with Rev. Sheila Rubdi, former pastor of Milford UCC.

Thanks to Sally Landis for assisting with choir rehearsals and for playing on Sunday, Feb. 26th. It's always a treat to have Sally back behind the console!

We were thrilled to feature the music of Rev. Junius Rowlette on Feb. 12, with his grandson, Cecil, joining us to sing! Cecil, thank you so much for sharing your grandfather's gift of music with us!



We welcome new choir members at any time. Choir rehearsals are Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30. See Jenn Erdody or any Chancel Choir member for more info!



Super Bowl sub making with the youth mission group!

Our MUMC Family Out in the World

February 2023, even with its bitter cold days, was a very busy and joy filled month for our MUMC Family. Besides the images displayed below, we also held the official opening of Children's church and kicked off our confirmation class!



L.Patrick Harvey-Olson enjoys the family's new kitten!
C..Bruce Houston snapped this gear picture of a red-tailed hawk.

R. Kristi O'Shaughnessy holds two gray jays in here hands atop one of the 4K footers she climbs.



Above Nancy Tong, Sylvia Emberger, Roger Hurd, Rich Rudolf & Jenn Erdody with Cecil Rowlette who shared a hymn written by his grandfather during our celebration of Black History month., & just when you thought all the choir does is sing, there are Jenn, Nancy, Ben Erdody & Roger on the slopes at



R&C. Steve Rafter did an electric guitar workshop for the Beginning Guitar students at Milford HS.

L. This is how the Muller's family dog watches TV!

Have you got pics of you & 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.

Handbells From Heidi Rocha

Have you ever thought about ringing a handbell? Have you ever wondered how on earth do they do it? Have you watched the ringers smile and love what they are doing? Well, what are you waiting for??? COME ON IN and join the fun. We have room for you in the bell choir.

If you are interested, please email or call me. Heidirocha@comcast.net or 603-493-4908 We would really love to welcome new members. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 5:45-6:45. Stress free fun for all.



*It's still winter ... but
spring is near. It's
Lent ... but we're
pointed toward
Easter. Keep us
hopeful, Lord.*



In March Share Is Collecting:

Pancake Mix & Syrup, Condiments, Cooking Sauces & Seasonings, Cooking Oil, Jelly, Cold Cereal

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

VOICE

Something you can do!

What the world saw happen to Tyre Nichols was a travesty. Tyre's memory will forever be a reminder that our policing system must be transformed without delay.

It is no secret that our justice system is in need of deep repair. For far too long it has functioned outside of the biblical mandate of doing justice and seeking mercy. Time and time again we have witnessed innocent Black people murdered—Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Michael Brown, Walter Scott, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Atatiana Jefferson and Botham Jean, just to name a few—at the hands of police.

As United Methodists, our Social Principles, state that when it comes to criminal justice, "we reject all careless, callous, or discriminatory enforcement of law." Furthermore, "we urge the creation of a genuinely new system for care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole." (Social Principles ¶164.H)

As United Methodists we support policies that keep our communities safe and reflect our understanding of true justice for all. Today, we call on the 118th Congress to support the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act - meaningful police reform that will hold officers accountable to the communities they serve, and justice for victims

Tyre Nichols along with countless others should be alive today. Let us be empowered by the Holy Spirit to take action and bring about the necessary change for a better criminal justice system, better humanity and a better world.

Click here to use your Voice for justice. [GBCS \(umcjustice.org\)](https://umcjustice.org)

Youth Mission Update

The youth are hosting a breakfast at the Mason's lodge on March 18, starting at 8 a.m.. Proceeds go to the mission trip to WV in June.

Mission Trip

The next mission trip meeting is March 19, 7 p.m. at the church.



First Friday is changed to March 10th this

The great Persian poet Hafez wrote, "Start seeing everything as God, but keep it a secret."¹⁵ I still have no idea what I mean when I say God, but I see it everywhere. I mean it intensely. I write poems and, yes, books about it. I read about it constantly, which seems, counterintuitively, to only deepen its secret. Close your eyes. Imagine in your head a bladeless knife with no handle. Do you see how the image recedes from view the more language I add to it? A bladeless knife. With no handle.



Quote submitted by Devin Holland. Devin provides childcare in the Family Worship room starting at 8:15a.m. Sundays.

A little extra bit of Happiness for March!



Lamplighters From Carol Rowlette

Psalm 18:30 *As for God, His way is perfect; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*
 Psalm 62:8 *Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.*

Miracle - an awesome word! We are presently studying Jesus' miracles. We have covered six of the thirty-five miracles found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Six of the miracles are found only in John's Gospel. Each writer tells the miracle in much the same way, some with more detail than others.



On April 12 we will hold our Christmas Yankee Swap.

Blessings to all.

Shrove Tuesday Pics



Thanks Tom & Youth! It was a fun time and yummy meal!

Family Life With LeeAnne Steenhoek

Good things are springing up in our classrooms. Children's church has begun! We meet from 9:40-10:20 in our classroom. Join us to share stories, activities and grow in God together ages 5-12.

God loves us and Jesus shows us the way to be loving, kind, compassionate children of God.

We're exploring all the ways God loves us and all the ways we love God and find God in our lives and in our world.

So far, we've drawn pictures of how God sees us as God's beloved child; we've helped prepare the Ashes for Ash Wednesday with last year's dried Palm Fronds. We've also created signs to remember "I am a child of God".

We are getting to know one another by sharing what's on our hearts and praying as we light candles and invite in the Holy Spirit.

We have many places to love and worship God at MUMC. In addition to Children's church we have our Family Worship Room with Devin, where families can listen to our worship service and share creative activities together. Parents are welcome to stay or leave children for care.

Families are always welcome for both our Contemporary and Traditional Services in the sanctuary. Music, The Word and a Message for all Ages is for everyone. There are also Children's bulletins, mandala designs and scripture pictures for the young and the young at heart.

PRAYground coming soon to our sanctuary. This is a space to do puzzles, designs, books and quiet activities as we worship God.



Peace and Grace,
LeeAnne

Sybil & Leila Whitley, Cora, Avery & Emmy Herilhy at Children's Church!

Children's Church

Family Life

Family Life is a Christian community focused on nurturing faith for children, youth families and parents.

Come learn, share, and grow in God's love together. We learn the stories of our faith and share the stories of our lives. We journey together on the Christian path as a community of faith. Groups gather to grow our experiential relationship with the Living God both personally and with each other.

Family Worship Room:

A family worship room open each Sunday at 8:15 a.m., for families who wish to worship together with their young children in a child-centered space listening to the service on a live audio feed.

Childcare is provided for families who wish to drop off toddlers with our nurturing caregivers during both services.

Children's Church:

Our classes are a space of love, life, learning, questions, and laughter as we learn and grow in God's love. With interactive lessons targeting all the senses and grounded in the Word of God we learn our faith stories, do activities and how to be in community with each other and the world we live in.

Children ages 5-12 are welcome to join us for **Children's Church** Sunday Mornings from 9:40-10:20 in our Family Classroom.

Teens are welcome to see LeeAnne if they feel called to serve in Youth and Family Ministries.

Family Worship:

Children are **welcome to remain in worship with their parents.** A message for all

ages is offered during all worship services for the young and the young at heart. All are welcome to do activities provided including Children's Worship Bulletins.

Prayground

Please stay tuned for our Prayground, a child-centered sanctuary space for children to interact with puzzles and books as well as mindful practices for children to use while listening to worship.



Come be energized!

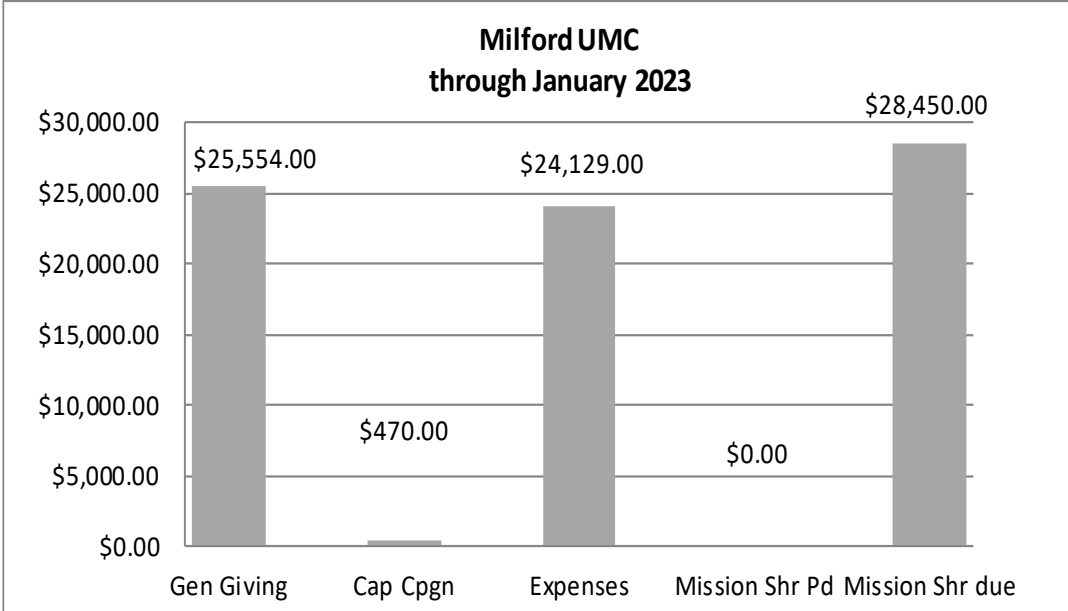
After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold. He writes: "One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?"

Miller concludes: "There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities."



Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



YTD Financials

General Giving	\$25,554 .00
Capital Campaign	\$470.00
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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Birthdays:

- March 2:** Tami Davis-Betelak
- March 4:** Andrew Houston
- March 8:** Kristi O'Shaughnessy
- March 10:** Cyndi 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 Eves
- March 23:** Janet Johnson

Anniversaries

- March 26:** Kevin & Susan Drew

We had no anniversaries to list this month, if we missed your anniversary, we hope it was special!

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



This Month's Lectionary

March 5: Genesis 12:1-4, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

March 12: Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

March 19: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

March 26: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45



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: 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

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.



March 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

			1 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Study zoom	2 5:45-6:45 Bell Choir 7:- Chancel Choir	3	4
5 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Traditional Service	6 SPRC	7 7 Praise Band	8 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Study zoom	9 5:45-6:45 Bell Choir 7:- Chancel Choir	10	11
12 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Traditional Service	13 7—Trustee's Committee	14 7 Praise Band	15 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Study zoom	16 5:45-6:45 Bell Choir 7:- Chancel Choir	17	18
19 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Traditional Service 7p Youth Mission	20 6— VOICE 7—Finance Committee	21 7 Praise Band	22 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 /Study Zoom	23 5:45-6:45 Bell Choir 7:- Chancel Choir	24	25
26 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Traditional Service	27	28 7 Praise Band				

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



Milford United Methodist Church

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

March 2023

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.