



# The Outreach

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

## Pastor's Corner

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### Siblings in Christ,

As we head into October, the ministry of Jeremiah is still very much on my mind. I am about midway through my sermon series on Jeremiah now, and I cannot help but be struck by how much things change through history only to stay the same. Sure, there are no Babylonians on our doorstep, no national temples about to fall, or dynastic covenants about to be restructured (as it was with David's lineage), but we do sit at a very messy, very consequential place in history. The decisions we make in our life as a church today matter.

Jeremiah's loudest and most urgent call to his people was to put their lives back into good order. In their time that meant to stop worshipping Baal and other idols and to turn to God with love and devotion. I wonder what it means in ours. Could it also mean putting the first things first again? How about prioritizing the "main stuff" over the other stuff? How about, as Jesus said, "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matt. 6:33). "All these things..."—all of that other stuff—will be added later; seek first the Kingdom. Jesus and Jeremiah are saying the same thing.

Today, as far as I can see, the main things haven't changed all that much. It is still Jesus' word to us to "seek first the Kingdom." Churches can find new life and a new footing when they seek first the Kingdom. How are you going to "seek first the Kingdom" this month? We have just began a new Wednesday study on forgiveness and just this past week we were reminded in 2 Cor 5:16ff. just how the pursuit of reconciliation is serious Kingdom-building work (see the Pastor's Book Pile for the book). We will be having our second mission team meeting this month (Sunday, 10/16 @ 4pm)—certainly there is a venue to put Kingdom-building work first. We have begun to gather for song, fellowship and to share stories of where God is working in our lives on the first Wednesdays of every month (10/5—Potluck at 6, Love Feast at 6:45)—what a place to find inspiration and encouragement! We have Bible Studies at different times throughout the week—Lamplighters on Wednesday at 1pm; the Pastor's

## Pastor Con't

Bible Study on Thursday mornings at 10am; Adult Sunday School meets between the Sunday services; and a New United Methodist Men's chapter has begun to meet on Friday evenings at 6pm. In your life of prayer, study, sharing, and service where will you put seeking the Kingdom first? It matters—for you, for our church, for our world.

God's richest blessings are still to come!

*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*. (only \$15 if you order through the church!)



Contrary to popular opinion, faith and doubt aren't opposites. Instead, "doubt is a way station en route to faith," writes J. Ellsworth Kalas. "I can't imagine getting to faith at a grand level that raises the hair on your arms without passing through doubt to get there."

Switching metaphors, Kalas explains, "Faith is an edifice in which some of the grandest parts are the various stones and mortar of doubt." Christians need not worry about doubt, which is "the stuff that goes into the building of faith."

The *real* enemy of faith is unbelief, but it's not a fair fight, says Kalas. Because humans "are made for faith ... unbelief is always an intruder, always working against what is magnificently native to us."

## World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!



### Save the dates

Need some help on how to improve your strength, balance, agility and coordination to reduce the risk of injury?

Save the dates! November 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, and 28. Voice will host a \$5 course to help with exactly that. Watch the bulletin boards!

## *Crop Walk Sunday 11/30*

*From Pat Rafter*

MUMC is once again participating in the Crop Hunger Walk for CWS (Church World Services). We have been part of this mission for many years. First joining with the Souhegan Valley group and now with the Greater Nashua group after Souhegan disbanded. It is an extremely well organized walk and is hosted by Temple Beth Abraham on Raymond Street in Nashua. 25% of all funds raised comes back and is divided between 5 area food pantries including SHARE. Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk is New England's most successful walk and has raised over \$50,000 each year for the last several years. It feels so wonderful to be part of this mission helping those near and far in the fight against hunger. Please consider joining our Team, Team MUMC or finding a walker to support. If you want to walk please sign up on the Crop Walk board in the Narthex and then register online. Go to Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk 2022. We are Team MUMC. Use social media to help you with your fund raising efforts. Online giving is encouraged, checks will be accepted by your team member as well. Checks should be made out to CWS and in memo Team MUMC/walker's name. As of the writing of this article we have 10 walkers. In years past we had over 100 walkers from MUMC alone. If you have any questions please feel to reach out to me.

### **In October Share Is Collecting:**

Canned Ham, Canned Meats, Side Dishes  
(seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.),  
Ravioli & Beefaroni

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

**SHARE**  
*Collection*

## *Looking for Salvation Bell Ringing Coordinator*

*From Pat Rafter*

Looking for someone to step up to fill the Salvation Army Bell Ringer Coordinator role for this year. I will be having my right knee replaced on 11/1 and do not want to risk jeopardizing this mission if I can't do all that is needed. I will coordinate with both stores ahead of time (Market Basket Saturdays, Shaw's Sundays). Just need someone to fill the ringing slots, send reminders the night before, collect money and get the money to Tom Knapp the end of each ringing day. Bell ringing starts the Saturday following Thanksgiving and runs every Saturday and Sunday thru Christmas Eve. I do have some non MUMC regulars that ring each year that I can send a message to ahead of time. I usually try to get them on the schedule first. Then post a schedule in the Narthex for MUMC members/visitors to fill in. The last 2 years has been pretty streamlined ringing 4-6 hours each ringing day, with no shows! You do need to keep track of volunteer hours to be submitted to the Salvation Army office and I am happy to collect that info from you and send to them.

Please let me know if you have interest and I will give you some helpful hints passed on by Tami Betelak and Liane Wright.

## *Wednesday's at 6:00*



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

# Our MUMC Family Out in the World

September was a celebration!



Josh Müller Soccer!



Nancy MacKay Farm life



Our Hat Lady A Citizen after fifty years!!



Our Beautiful Home Coming Cake!



Ever wonder how the organist plays all those pedals properly?



Aspen Tlapa and Kristi O'Shaughnessy celebrate strong bodies. Kristi is on Mt Madison!



The Herlihy's celebrate family with a trip to the drive-in!



Ryder & Riley Weis and Emma Lambert on the first day of the new school year!



Lincoln St. Jean with Titan's Game ball!

Have you got pics of you and 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.

## Lamplighters

From Carol Rowlette

A Parable about the Kingdom of God  
Matthew 13:44 Parable of the Hidden Treasure

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought the field"*

The Lamplighters have studied, hashed over, diagnosed and discussed 18 of the 32 teaching Parables of Jesus. We believe we have a good knowledge and understanding of his love for his disciples and others (including us) shared in his teaching words.

We have studied the Parables about the Kingdom of God, about humility, about wealth, about neighbors, about God's love, and about God's values.

The remaining parables should take us through the end of 2022.

We meet every Wednesday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

For more information call: Elaine Driscoll @ 603-673-4270 or Carol Rowlette @ 603-673-5403.



## Fall Yard Sale

From Callie McMahon

The last drop off day is October 1 from 9-11. The sale is October 8, 8-1. Proceeds will go toward missions.

The same requests apply as always. We take most items as long as they are clean and working. Things we do not accept are electronics, furniture, exercise equipment, stuffed animals unless with original tags, musty books, encyclopedia sets, or magazines.

We would love your donations as written above and your help with pricing on drop off days or set-up and tear down help the day of the sale.



Thank YOU!

Thank you one and all for your support in the loss of Steve's mother, Shirley Rafter. We appreciate all you many outreaches of sympathy. Shirley was a great basketball player in her day and Steve and his sister, Debbie, have decided to make a basketball court in the back corner of the parking lot, in her memory. We pray that you or your family or perhaps a neighbor can come enjoy this space.

The Rafter Family

## Christmas Fair

From Callie McMahon

Christmas Fair team met September 8 and will be taking on the fair with a TEAM filling the shoes of our more experienced and tireless mentors from the past. By the time you read this, we will have had our second meeting. If you have not received an invitation to the meeting or if you just want to be on a list to see what you might be called to help with, let the office know.

The fair will be Dec. 3. Our goal will be simplicity. We will sell cookies and fudge by packed quantities instead of serve yourself or serving on demand.

We have done an inventory and feel we have a good stock of items but we do have a few things to complete. Some crafting session will be scheduled for October. We will look to keep the rustic charm of our past Fairs but increase space throughout the area by putting more items into baskets than on to trees that usually tend to cause people to congregate in close quarters.

The Frosts (thank you!) will be taking care of the Café.

As we progress, we may utilize signup Genius again this year as well a paper sign up sheets in the Narthex. Please stay tuned.

PLEASE! We would love your help.

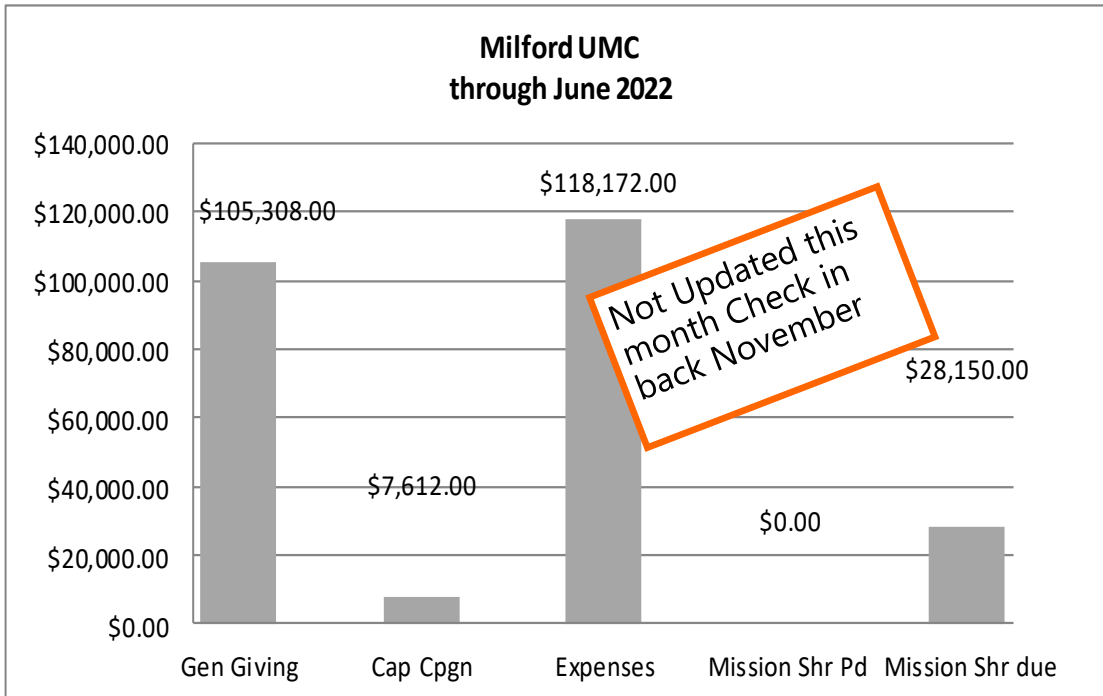
The Fair Team



## Christmas Craft Fair

# Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



## YTD Financials Thru July 2022

General Giving	\$105,308.00
Capital Campaign	\$7,612.00
Expenses	\$118,172.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$0.00
Mission Shares Due	\$28,150.00

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



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

**Birthdays:**

- October 1:** Shirley Nielsen
- October 1:** Jason St Jean
- October 2:** Jim Frost
- October 4:** Jim Lawler
- October 4:** Dave Stackpole
- October 5:** Samantha Randlett
- October 7:** Nat Parker
- October 10:** Steve Takacs
- October 14:** Kathryn Cox
- October 16:** Colleen Guzman
- October 20:** Carolan Robinson
- October 27:** Dylan Pfeil

**Anniversaries**

- October 6:** George & Elaine Driscoll
- October 27:** Jason & Lindsay Lambert

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**

- October 2:** Lamentations 1:1-16, Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1:1-14. Luke 17:5-10
- October 9:** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Psalm 66:1-12 , Luke 17:11-19
- October 16:** Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104, or Psalm 19, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8
- October 23:** Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14
- October 30:** Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10



**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 Yard Sale Drop Off 9-11
2 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	3 6 SPRC	4 7 Praise Band	5 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	6 7:Chancel Choir	7	8 Yard Sale 8-1
9 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	10 7 Trustees	11 7 Praise Band	12 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	13 7:-Chancel Choir	14	15 .
16 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	17 6 Voice 7 Finance	18 7 Praise Band	19 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	20 7:-Chancel Choir 7= Ad Council / Mission	21	22
23 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	24	25 7 Praise Band	26 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	27 7:-Chancel Choir	28	29
30 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	31				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

*October, 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.