



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

Co-travelers in Christ,

September is here and, I don't know about you, but this time of year with school starting, apples ripening, and the summer rhythm interrupted by a new sort of bustle somehow strikes a chime deep in my soul that lets me know it's time for movement. It's time to begin something, to regroup around something, get going and move forward around the next thing. Thinking about that reminds me of my first day of high school—new school, all new people for me (I didn't know a soul), tons of nervous energy telling me to get going and do something but accompanied by a paralysis of not really knowing what to do. I remember my mother dropping me off for school that day (NOT cool! ...but my school was an hour-long bus ride away and my mother's work was nearby so, as much as I appreciated the ride, my feelings wouldn't have been hurt if she'd have dropped me off down the street). I was there early—almost the first one—and I walked the halls and explored the terrain as the bussers came in pretending like I had somewhere to be. In fact, though, I had nowhere to be, but I must have been an amusing sight to the upper-classmen who saw me walk the same halls over and over again with that expression of concerned urgency on my face. Where is that kid going and why can't he find it!?

Knowing that it's time to begin and knowing where to begin are different things, it turns out. If you are entering this Fall season like me sensing that urgency to begin, let me offer some on-ramps as to how. We're going to kick-start our Fall beginnings at MUMC with Homecoming Sunday on September 10 at a combined 10:30 service with refreshments and time to gather afterwards. Along with that, on Wednesday evenings beginning that week (9/13) we'll be bringing back our Wednesday Potluck and Study series—this Fall, reading Ann Garrido's book *Redeeming Conflict*—a truly amazing little book and I look forward to sharing it with you. We'll be jumping into missions again with the CROP Walk, SHARE Suppers, and new initiatives like taking part in the Green Church Movement. There are ways to get involved with our music program through choir, bells, and the praise band and, if you're only available for select seasons of the year, you can look out for announcements about the Christmas concert later in

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Pastor's Corner</i>	1
<i>Pastor's Book Pile</i>	2
<i>Something to think</i>	
<i>Choir</i>	3
<i>Green Church</i>	
<i>Yard Sale</i>	4
<i>Back to School</i>	
<i>MUMC Family</i>	5
<i>Share Supper</i>	
<i>Rally Sunday</i>	6
<i>Trustees</i>	7
<i>Finance</i>	8
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	9
<i>Committees</i>	10
<i>Calendar</i>	11

the Fall. The Pastor's Bible Study (hybrid) will continue to meet weekly on Thursdays at 12:30 pm to study the daily lectionary readings and much more as well with the Lamplighters, White Tops, and the Sunday evening United Methodist Men's Group, and the Children's Program! Come find a place to begin!

In Christ!

Pastor John

From the Pastor's Book Pile

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

Flannery O'Connor, *Wise Blood*.

One of the few (only) novels by this important Christian short-story author, who writes with a powerful and provocative style on themes of perennial importance.

Andrew Davidson, ed., *Imaginative Apologetics: Theology, Philosophy, and the Catholic Tradition*.

A collection of essays by an interdenominational cast of currently-influential theologians on what it might be today to offer and defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ within our contemporary global context. It includes fascinating surveys of where we've been on this, mistakes we've made, and different approaches taken as well as the role of awakening imagination within this task.

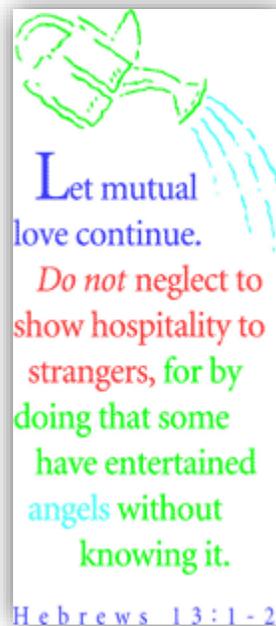
Charles R. Wilson, *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1865-1920*.

An historical exposé about Christianity and Racism in the South during the Reconstruction and its legacy today.



Something to think about. VOICE

The United Methodist Church sends out a newsletter called 'United Methodist Now' which had an article I found thought provoking. It was about the 'radical act of hospitality' which is offering hospitality in a fundamentally different way. It highlighted what different churches are doing to shift from offering welcome, to an 'outward movement to stand with others'— especially those folks at the margins of society. They are widening their circle so all people know God's welcome. One Church was offering service in the afternoon for the homeless, another was doing home/retirement home/assisted living visits to the elderly and a third was working with those released from prison to help with their basic needs. What can you do, what can we as a Church do...to put into action our own radical hospitality?





Green Church
From Annika Weis
for VOICE



Hi Church,

We know change is hard, but when we strive to make a difference in our world it's worth it to go through. We are working together in small ways to make that difference.

Chancel Choir is happy to be singing once again!

Please join us for choir on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30.



New singers are always welcome!

One way is using reusable bags. Some very crafty people have spent many hours making bags that we can use when we need to bring things into the church. These bags will be in the kitchen area, please take one when you know are bringing, or will be bringing, something into the church. This will help us eliminate the plastic grocery store bags.

Another thing we will be doing is using washable cups and mugs for coffee hour and other meal times. This will take some team effort in making sure the dishwasher gets loaded, run, and unloaded. Please volunteer to help with this effort as you can.

We will also be increasing our recycling efforts. If you feel a passion or pull to help in any of these endeavors let one of the VOICE committee members or the Pastor know and we will help direct you.



**Fall Yard Sale
From Pat Rafter**

Hope you have had a good summer and have had plenty of time to clean out closets/attics and basements during our rainy days!

We will be taking your donations off your hands beginning Sept 2, 9-11 and again Sept 9. Yard Sale is planned for Sept 16, 8 to1.

Clothing can also be dropped off in the church during these times. If these times do not work with your schedules please contact Pat Rafter 603-582-0333 or Tom Knapp 603-809-5413. Happy purging!



Back to School



The Erdodys Jacob left at WCSU. Chris, Jenn & Ben, Milford High



Grace St. Jean, senior MHS, Lincoln 8th (MMS) & Libby returns to teach.



Haylee & Emma Lambert. Grades 4 & 8. Milford Schools



**Milford United Methodist
Children's Church**



**In September
SHARE Is Collecting**

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



Our MUMC Family Out in the World



Naomi Cohen is teaching K-5 General Music and 3-5 choir Center School in Stow, MA Yay Naomi!



Grace St. Jean is doing college tours?? Say what?



Aspen & Gage Tlapa with their parents at Clarkson University. Gage?



Best wished to Martin & Zoe on their beautiful wedding, Mattie was the "Ring Bear"! Yeah Harvey-Olson's! A new family member!



Cora, Avery, & Emmie Herlihy went flower picking!



Cora & Avery again, first day of school!

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.

The value of solid relationships.



"Most of life's great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people," writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. "Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others."

Maxwell then poses this challenge: "Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life's greatest joys, you realize that life's best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships."

Share Supper

Tuesday September 19

Look for signup sheets in the Narthex

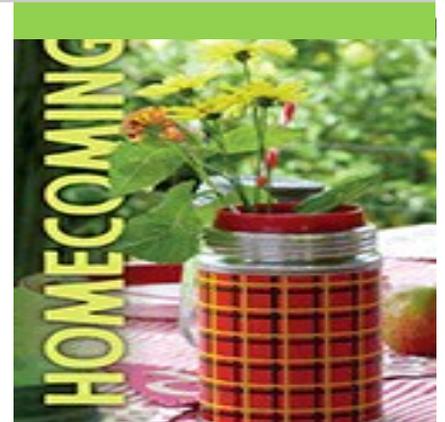


Whether you call it Home Coming Sunday, or Rally Sunday, it's September 10, at a combined service at 10:30 a.m.



We hope we see you!

We've missed you!



Have you seen the **"Pray Ground?"** It sits right in the sanctuary and it's great for those who focus differently.



Have you been into the **Family Worship room**? Whether your little one comes alone, or will only stay if you are with him, join Devin in a place that is light on "sshing". Audio of the service is available in this space. Devin and Mattie (below) are serving up something.



Above left, LeeAnne, Steenhoek, the Youth and Family Ministry Director, reads a story to the kids at **Children's Church**. Right. Leila and Sybil Whitley color the children's bulletin.

Below left, the children's church make palm crosses on Palm Sunday. Right, Cora, Avery, & Emmie Herlihy check out the Christ Candle.



Trustee Message ***From Steve Rafter***

The Board of Trustees is organizing and cleaning another room; the room next to Pastor John's office has long been a mix of items. We are asking all groups to take a look to see if there are items you want and tag them with your group name. There's a lot of educational resources and past VBS items that might be worth keeping. There's also some a/v equipment, tables and much more. Please check it out before September 12 so items not claimed can be added to the yard sale. Thank you!



Noise Offering for ***Wanakee***

The Noise offerings in support of the Wanakee Scholarship fund will resume on September 10, 2023.

This collection will happen the 2nd Sunday of the month.



Quiet Money is always welcome too!

Instruments of connection

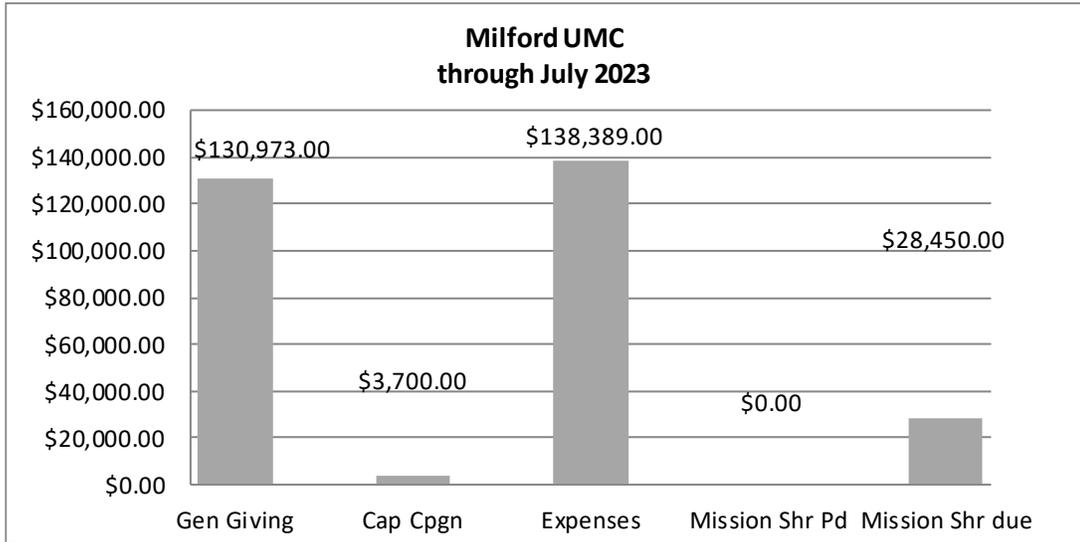
Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."



Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



YTD Financials

General Giving	\$130,937.00
Mortgage Fund	\$3,700.00
Expenses	\$138,389.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$0.00
Mission Shares Due	\$28,450.00



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



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

Birthdays:

- September 2:** Marcia Redden
- September 4:** Karin Harvey-Olson
- September 5:** Caroline Steenhoek
- September 16:** Gage Tlapa
- September 18:** Tom Knapp
- September 18:** Scott Masters
- September 21:** Jaclyn Herlihy
- September 23:** Tim Herlihy

Anniversaries

- September 8:** Martin & Tami Betelak
- September 10:** Kirk & Suzanne Randlett
- September 15:** Everett & Marley Gale
- September 19:** Ray & Colleen Guzman

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



**Celebrating You
on Your
Special Day**

This Month's Lectionary

September 3: Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

September 10: Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

September 17: Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

September 24: Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16



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

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. Call the church office for contact information.

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.. Family Worship room available during service

Children's Church: LeeAnne Steenhoek
10:40 Sunday morning year round.

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.

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.



September 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	2 Yard Sale Drop off 9-11
3 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40: Children's Church Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 7 Men's Group	4 6 SPR	5 7 Praise Band	6 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	7 7:-Chancel Choir	8	9 Yard Sale Drop off 9-11
10 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Rally Sunday Combined Service 7 Men's group	11 7— Trustee's Committee	12 7 Praise Band	13 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	14 7: Chancel Choir	15	16 Yard Sale 8-1
17 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40: Children's Church Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 7 Men's Group	18 6— VOICE 7—Finance Committee	19 7 Praise Band	20 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	21 7:— Chancel Choir 7-Ad Council/	22	23
24 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40: Children's Church Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 7 Men's Group	25	26 7 Praise Band	27 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	28 7:Chancel Choir	29	30



Milford United Methodist Church

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

September 2023

Sunday Worship Times:

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