



# The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church  
December, 2021 Milford, NH, Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Now that we're in the season of Advent, my thoughts turn toward home. This season of lights almost lights the way there as homes all around us start to shine with multi-colored bushes and trees, white icicle lights, and lights that mimic the gum drops on gingerbread houses. I'm preaching a sermon series through this season called "Come Home for Christmas", which I began last week, and one of the things that's forefront on my mind as I have been preparing it is just how complicated and multi-dimensional the journey toward home can be. Advent, as I said this past week, points us toward a homeland that is forward in time—a homeland that the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 are highly praised and held up to us as models for having walked. That praise alone suggests to me that the trip toward home may be more tortuous than the Hallmark cards let on. And yet we journey and, in this season, we get our bearings again and are equipped with fresh reminders of the hope, love, joy, and peace that we'll need to carry us along. I hope you'll join us in this journey of the spirit, especially in this day when our journeys home are revealing a lot of their hidden complexities.

One very practical item on my heart in this year's season is how our Advent reset might help us to be more outward focused, inviting, and missional. How might being pointed toward a homeland with hope and joy and new expectation excite a spirit of outreach and missional impact? Are we called to journey home quietly along hidden pathways or along the main streets announcing the way and inviting our neighbors to come along? In terms of mission, we are striving in this season to pay as much toward our mission share apportionment as we possibly can. As you are probably aware, Methodists do a lot of our mission work collectively: we distribute the costs of our collective missional efforts among the churches in the conference and that helps us to take aim at larger endeavors while keeping the organizational costs low. This year I would like to see us contribute as much to that collective missional effort

### INSIDE THIS

<i>Pastor's Corner</i>	1
<i>Christmas Market</i>	2
<i>Pastor's Book Pile</i>	
<i>Outreach Update</i>	3
<i>Salvation Army Bell Ringing</i>	
<i>Our MUMC Family Lamplighters</i>	4
<i>Poinsettias &amp; Mission Shares</i>	5
<i>Musically Speaking</i>	6
<i>Lantern Walk</i>	
<i>Finance</i>	7
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	
<i>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</i>	8
<i>Why Do We Have Social Principles</i>	9
<i>Committees</i>	10
<i>Calendar</i>	11

## Pastor's Corner cont'd

as we possibly can. Let's go for it! And let's lean into all that this season invites us to and spread the word so others might join us on the way.

Deepest Blessings in Advent!

*Pastor John*

## From the Pastor's Book Pile

This month's book is one that I've been meaning to study with you for a while and (finally!) get an opportunity to do so with you on Wednesday nights! This is the book that several of you ordered pre-COVID and we're returning to it this month. There are a few copies left in the office if you would like to purchase one and participate.

Gregory S. Clapper, *As If The Heart Mattered: A Wesleyan Spirituality.*



### Milford United Methodist

December 4, 2021 9-1 & 4-6



HOT  
tea



ARTS & CRAFTS & FOOD - OUTDOORS

327 North River Rd., Milford, NH

**NEW Picture Directory** It's so close. Sometime after the Christmas Market I hope!



### Can Goods Drive for Share

Continuing through December 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.



## Outreach Update

From Pat Rafter

Dear Members

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, I would like to let you know of our plans for SHARE Christmas Family Giving Tree this year. The process is a little different this year at SHARE, they had a few different choices as to how we can support families in need this year. We have chosen to support their Holiday Bonus Giveaway Day for families on December 15.

We are asked to collect the following items: new Pajamas, Hats, Mittens, Boots, Jackets, Family Games, New children's books, Holiday wrap. We will have our same tree set up in the Narthex beginning on Nov 28 with tags on it for you to take and ask you to bring those items back to the church by 5pm on Dec 12. If you are not coming to church you can choose an item/s from the list and leave the items in the red bin outside the front doors.

They are requesting all sizes and boy or girl for the wearables. We will get the items to SHARE prior to their event. Thank you for considering to support this mission.

Blessings,



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Salvation Army Bell Ringing will begin on Sat, Nov 27 running thru Friday Dec 24.

Saturdays we will ring 10-2 at Market Basket and Sundays 12-4 at Shaw's. Friday Dec 24 we will ring at both stores 10-2.

There are different coordinators for each weekend and Christmas Eve. If interested in ringing and can't get to church to sign up please do one of the following, call a coordinator or call the church office to sign up they will let you know available slots. Coordinators are Tom Knapp (603-809-5413) for 11/27 and 11/28, Doris Houston (603-801-5189) for 12/4 and 12/5, Pat Rafter (603-582-0333) for 12/11 and 12/12, Steve Rafter (603-582-1352) for 12/18 and 12/19 and Elizabeth Whitley (703-507-9345) for 12/24.

All slots are 1 hour, but you could find a friend to split up the time. I find the time just flies, dress appropriately! Both spots are in sunny areas if the sun is shining! Get out and enjoy the fresh air and spread the Christmas spirit! Some folks play Holiday music on their phones or bring an instrument to play or a people friendly pet to greet the patrons! Have fun with it. The Salvation Army thanks MUMC for their many years of supporting this mission! I just love this church and our efforts to support our community and the world.

Happy Holidays,  
Pat Rafter



# Our MUMC Family Out in the World

# Lamplighters From Elaine Driscoll



Take a look at these joy filled activities by our MUMC families,

At the House of Martha and Mary



**Our 5 K  
Runners**



Paula, Madison,  
& Josh Muller!

Jenn Erdody

The O'Shaughnessy's  
Kristi, Christian, Cam,  
Riley!

Luke 10:38-42.

*As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!'*

*'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'*



Good Bye, Anita!  
We'll miss you!  
God bless!

Ivy-Rose Harvey-  
Olson in "Once on  
this Island "

Hello Eme Tyler-Wall  
good to see you home!

We can easily relate to Martha, alone in the kitchen. So much to do and no help from Mary. There is a bit of Martha in many of us— too many chores, meetings, or other events, but we are also like Mary when we talk to Jesus during our devotions and Bible reading. We are willing then to slow down and listen to the Holy Spirit for guidance for the day. Be still!

And this one says it all!  
Jameson Eves, enjoying the  
his life! We all need that  
kind of grateful joy, every  
day. Thanks for reminding us  
that we can find it, even in a  
pile of leaves!



Peace on earth begins with ourselves.  
A Blessed Christmas to all!

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



## Christmas Poinsettias' & Mission Shares

This year you will be able to honor or memorialize someone you love by buying one of 10 poinsettia we have ordered for the altar for Advent season or by giving a donation to MUMC's Mission shares.

The cost for flowers or the Mission Shares donation is \$17. Donating to our Mission Shares adds another opportunity to participate without the church having too many flowers, which although appreciated and beautiful on the altar, do not have the lasting effect that a Mission Share donation will have and it will not end up being tossed out.

Please consider participating!



Donations can be made by cash or check and a form will be available on the welcome table. If you are still watching us from home, just call the office if you are interested, send a check by December 12 and we'll be sure to acknowledge your contribution in a bulletin before Christmas.

## Lullaby for the Christ-child

First published in 1539 in Germany, the Christmas hymn "From Heaven Above" recounts the angels' message to the shepherds and then the spiritual journey of the baptized Christian to Jesus' manger-bed.

Try singing verses 8, 9 and 13 (translated by Catherine Winkworth) as a tender lullaby of praise, a song of love and a prayer to the newborn Savior. If the original tune is unfamiliar, use "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" or "Just As I Am."

Welcome to earth, thou noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
Thou com'st to share my misery;  
What thanks shall I return to thee?

Ah, Lord, who hast created all,  
How weak art thou, how poor and small,  
That thou dost choose thine infant bed  
Where humble cattle lately fed!

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for thee.



### In January Share is collecting:

Toothbrushes & paste, Deodorants, Shampoo & Conditioner, Bar Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products, Diapers, Wipes

Share is taking donations at the Columbus Ave. However, call ahead for times, 603-673-9898, and they will direct you donation specifics.

SHARE  
Collection

## Musically Speaking

From Jenn Erdody

Our MUMC music groups are thrilled to announce that we'll be holding our annual Christmas concert this year!

So we can have a safe event, reservations will need to be made through the church office, as we did this fall for church services.

Praise Band, Hand Bell Choir, and Chancel Choir will all perform. We're so grateful to be able to bring you some beautiful and uplifting Christmas music! More details to come as the date approaches!

And... have you ever thought about singing in the choir? We would love to have you join us in January! We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30. Talk to Jenn Erdody, Nancy Tong, or any choir member if you're interested!

There will be a Messiah Sing sponsored by Souhegan Valley Chorus on Sunday, December 5th at the Amato Center. Singers should arrive at 6:45 (in black and white concert dress), and audience should arrive at 7:30. Jenn Erdody will direct, and Kim Whitehead will accompany. Our choir member, Naomi Cohen, is the alto soloist! We'll sing all of Part 1, and the Hallelujah chorus. Singers ages high school and up are welcome. There is a suggested donation of \$10. Hope to see you there!



## Lantern Walk

December 4, 5:30 p.m



We invite you to join us in this simple and magical experience of light as we gather after sunset with our handmade lanterns. This reflective walk allows us the opportunity to center our hearts and minds on the Light during this hectic season. Lantern making kits will be available during the day at our Christmas market. This is a family friendly event.

### Social Principles Cont'd from page 9

The Social Principles urge us to make a difference and to live differently in the world, but also to build a different kind of world than the one we have now.

As part of ongoing efforts to function as a fully worldwide denomination, the Social Principles have been in a process of revision with worldwide input since 2013 with the goal of making them more succinct, theologically founded and globally relevant. The first full revision in 50 years will be presented to the 2020 General Conference.

Questions about the Social Principles? Contact the Rev. Neal Christie at [nchristie@umcjustice.org](mailto:nchristie@umcjustice.org).

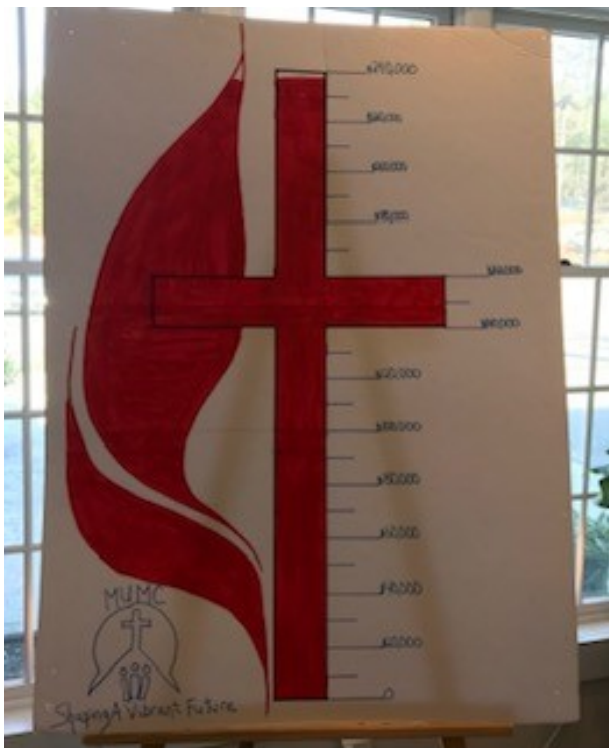
# Financials

From Tom Knapp

Regular monthly financial reporting is unavoidably unavailable this month. Stay tuned for January reporting. We Can however, report the following.

It has been three years since the start of our Capital Campaign. In fact, December 2, 2018 was our First Fruit offering that kicked off the campaign. Our pledges then totaled \$240,210.

For the past 3 years, we have consistently and faithfully worked towards our goal of reducing our mortgage for this church. We have done this through some very trying times. We have raised, as of November 21, a total of \$238,239. We are thankful to God for His blessings on this church.



# Christmas Eve & December 26th Service Details

## Christmas Eve

5pm Contemporary: in person by reservation only, livestreamed

7:00pm Traditional: in person by reservation only, livestreamed

11pm Readings and Carols with Communion: reservation preferred (but not required); not livestreamed

On Sunday 12/26, we will have a combined service at 10:30--attendees are encouraged to wear tacky Christmas sweaters, ties and the like. (we're still deciding whether this will be livestreamed or not--we may re-air the Christmas Concert, stay tuned)



# December

2021

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

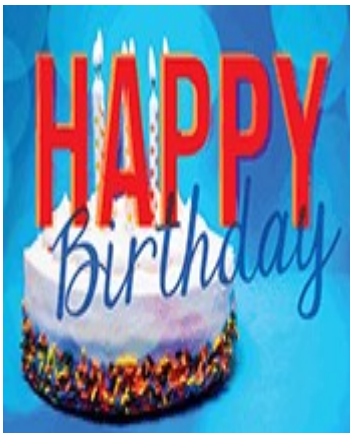
If you see any of these folks around town, be sure to wish them a happy day!

### December Birthdays:

- December 2: Terri Henderson
- December 4: Marilyn Edmondson
- December 8: Jason Lambert
- December 11: Wendy Ayotte
- December 11: Lily Eves
- December 11: Bruce Houston
- December 12: Ryan Seale
- December 18: Rich Rudolf
- December 23: Amy Holland
- December 23: Becky McMahon
- December 24: Steve Rafter
- December 25: Carol Rowlette
- December 30: Elaine Driscoll
- December 30: Diane Bellerose
- December 31: David Mallows

### December Anniversaries:

- December 30: Deanna & Paul Berkebile
- Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary! Let us know when yours is. It's always nice to be remembered, please e-mail the office your special dates at [office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org).



## This Month's Lectionary

**December 5 :** Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 1:68-79, Luke 3:1-6

**December 12:** Isaiah 12:2-6, Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

**December 19:** Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45, Luke 1:46b-55

**December 25:** Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-20

**December 26:** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52



## 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](mailto:office@milfordumc.org)

[trumpetchoo@msn.com](mailto:trumpetchoo@msn.com)





## Why do we have Social Principles? Where did they come from?

The Methodist Social Creed, predecessor to the Social Principles, originated over a century ago to express concern over the exploitation of millions of workers in factories, mines, mills, tenements and company towns during a time of rapid industrialization and growing prosperity in the United States. Developed in 1908, the Social Creed was the first document of its kind written by a church.

Five Methodist Episcopal clergymen believed the denomination required an organization to lead it into social ministry. The five included Frank Mason North, mission and evangelism executive, Ohio Wesleyan University president Herbert Welch (who later became bishop and founder of the Methodist relief agency that became UMCOR), publishing house editor Elbert Robb Zaring, social service executive Worth Tippy, and Chicago pastor Harry F. Ward.

Ward, while serving as pastor in the stockyards district, conducted funerals for packinghouse workers killed in frequent factory accidents. He strongly supported the workers' drive to form a union to improve their conditions. When Ward penned the Social Creed he was writing with these families in the forefront of his mind.

The list of 11 social reforms the church should champion included an end to child labor and the sweatshop system, rights of workers, a living wage and safer workplace conditions. In 1908, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church adopted a statement addressing these social concerns.

Other Methodist-related denominations later developed similar statements. At the 1968 union of the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist churches, the social statements of both denominations were included in the first United Methodist *Discipline*. These statements thus became the basis for a continually expanded and revised document of social commitments.

Over time, it expanded from its original focus on economic concerns to include sections on family life, alcohol and other drug abuse, crime and rehabilitation, gambling, mental health, civil liberties and peace with justice.

In 1972, the statements were completely rewritten and called the Social Principles, using the former Evangelical United Brethren terminology to title them.

Six areas of concern form the major sections of the Social Principles: (1) the natural world, (2) the nurturing community, (3) the social community, (4) the economic community, (5) the political community, and (6) the world community. The Social Creed, reserved for the final section, continues as a resource for use in worship alongside a "Companion Litany" adopted by the 2008 General Conference.

The Social Principles articulate our "ethical aspirations for the common good in our public policies and personal commitments" through which we "love God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength and love and desire for our neighbors what we desire for ourselves." (Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:30-31)

Cont'd pg.6

# 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



2021  
December

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 @mumc.nh or from the Website milfordumc.org

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 8-White Tops 8- Coffee with Pastor John @Union Coffee 1-Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer	2 7-SPRC	3	4 Christmas Market 9-1 Lantern Walk 5:30 p.m.
5 8:30 Spirit Celebration 10:30 Traditional and Live Stream Service	6 7- Outreach	7	7 8-White Tops 8:45- Coffee with Pastor John @Union Coffee 1-Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer	9	10	11
12 8:30 Spirit Celebration 10:30 Traditional and Live Stream Service	13 7-Trustees	14	15 8-White Tops 8- Coffee with Pastor John @Union Coffee 1-Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer	16 7-Ad Council	17	18
19 8:30 Spirit Celebration 10:30 Traditional and Live Stream Service	20 6-VOICE 7-Finance	21	22 8-White Tops 8- Coffee with Pastor John @Union Coffee 1-Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer	23	24 See pg. 7 for details Christmas Eve Services 5 p.m. 7p.m. 11p.m.	25
26 Combined Service 10:30 a.m. See pg.7	27	28	29 8-White Tops 8- Coffee with Pastor John @Union Coffee 1-Lamplighters 6:30 Prayer	30	31	



## Milford United Methodist Church

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

*December, 2021*

### **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.