



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

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Dear Siblings in Christ,

Welcome to February pilgrim people! Somehow this month manages to be the shortest of the year while also being one of the months we walk slowest through. Everything takes longer in February, it seems: warming up the car, shoveling the driveway, defrosting the windshield, walking to and from the car to the doors of wherever we want to go alert to all the hidden treacherousness that hides in plain sight on the ground. We travel slowly and intentionally whether we like it or not in February, or we just put off the going out until later. Either way, it's slow going. How long is this going to take?! It's only 28 days, but 28 days can seem like a long time when you're scooting and shuffling with laser-sharp focus over dangerous terrain. All of that care and focus and attention is tiring, and as my grandmother used to say: "it takes a lot of energy to walk this slowly."

We are still walking slowly and carefully in many areas of our lives as we enter into this month. How are your spirits holding up amid all of this slow walking? It would be natural and understandable to be impatient and frustrated with the pace of all of this slow movement, I think, just as it would be natural to be exhausted from it. Where is God in this, I wonder? How many of the psalms ask that same question—where are you in all of this frustration, all of this unwanted extra, all of the blahhh and mehhh? Uhhggg, God. Where are you!

Confession time: you pastor doesn't like to scoot or shuffle. I like to walk fast and get where I'm going. If there's a flower to smell along the way, let's get to the flower and smell it, but not take 20 minutes tip-toeing over black ice to get there. I want my February's to take 28 days and no more. Is it possible that God has put us together for just a season as this? ...to discover together, perhaps, that my cries, my frustrations,

aren't just my cries and frustrations? Is there such a thing as becoming the people of God together in this shared uncomfortableness? Is there relief and a strange sort of joy in lamenting our grief and frustration together rather than by ourselves? Where 2 or 3 are gathered, there am I in your midst! Even in our impatience? Even in our exhaustion? Even in our scoots and shuffles? Even there.

May God's glory shine brightly in your hearts, even in the scoots and shuffles!

Pastor John



Financial will continue next month!

In January 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

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!



Brian D. McLaren, Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What To Do About It.

Special Dates in February

African American History Month

Valentine's Day, February 14, 2022

Presidents Day, February 21, 2022

Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 27, 2022

Can Goods Drive for Share

Continuing through February 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 is holding the annual Super Bowl Sub fundraiser.. Preparation and pick up is Saturday February 12. You can choose from ham or turkey, with Swiss or American cheese, subs are \$8 each and includes chips and a cookie. A link to purchase on line will be sent out as soon as it is available. Sales also happen in the narthex Sunday between services.



Musically Speaking

From Jenn Erdody

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 and would like to invite you to sing with us! Talk to Jenn Erdody or any choir member for more information.

During the month of February, the choir will be adding to our worship with a series of spirituals, in honor of Black History Month.

"The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort.

By the time of Woodson's death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been

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Our MUMC Family Out in the World

Happy February!

There were not many pictures of our family out and about but I'm sure you were out there., sharing smiles, being kind, helping those in need, and being your beloved selves.

I love the pictures of Kristi O'Shaughnessy as she ticks off another 4K footer in the White Mountains and look how happy she and this bird are to have had this encounter!



In this picture, Matty Harvey-Olson, an avid Batman fan, has a visit from his hero at his home. Look at the love his sibling brought! Keep at it!

Here is Madison Muller, all set to step out on those skates to see what she can do. Looks like fun, Madison!



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

Beyond Candy Hearts and Roses

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine's Day is as good a reminder as any.



Faith's Role in Love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. "I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more." That "more," she explains, involves these paradoxes: "We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand."

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: "When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart."



What United Methodists Care About From Voice taken from umcjustice.org

We understand as a general principle that every person is created in the image of God and is therefore of equal standing in society. Recognizing the inherent dignity of every person, United Methodists are committed to upholding human rights for all, including their social and political rights.

Free and fair elections are a pillar of democracy. They are determined in part through a commitment to the following principles:

- One person, one vote
- Fair political representation of all residents
- Fair and transparent paths to citizenship
- Transparent and secure electoral process

The United Methodist Church affirms the right to vote for all adult citizens as a basic human right. According to our Social Principles:

"We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections... The form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise of the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens." (2016 Book of Discipline, Paragraph 164a "Basic Freedoms and Human Rights.")

United Methodists are particularly concerned for discriminatory practices against under-represented communities: "We further assert the right of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic persons....to non-discrimination in voting" including "access to public accommodations," (Social Principles, "Rights of Racial and Ethnic Persons," 162.A)

In the Book of Resolutions, 3378: "Racism and Economic Justice Against People of Color," The United

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Methodist Church calls for a vision of beloved community founded on economic and racial justice. The vision includes among many things, “re-instating and strengthening voting rights protections,” in light of continued systemic racism that threatens to undermine provisions for fair and free elections for all citizens.

Further, the United Methodist Church opposes the disenfranchisement of formerly incarcerated persons. We know that incarceration rates disproportionately impact communities of color thus disenfranchising a massive number of black and brown voters in the United States. In “Stop Criminalizing Communities of Color in the United States,” (Book of Resolutions, 3379), The United Methodist Church calls on local and national governments to restore the full citizenship rights, including the right to vote, to US citizens with felony convictions.

Three things you can do!

Register to vote and support local voter registration drives.

Endorse the Voter’s Covenant (below)

Tell the Senate To Protect Our Sacred Right to Vote.

Voter’s Covenant

As the moral conscience of the state, the faith community has a unique role in the public debate. Our country faces a transformative moment that demands moral leadership and collective action. In response, the Voters Covenant calls on our elected leaders to take urgent action against the structural weaknesses, white supremacy, and institutional racism that undermine democratic systems and public trust.



made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week. The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all colors on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first Black History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then each American president has issued Black History Month proclamations. And the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year."

(Excerpt from an essay by Daryl Michael Scott, Howard University, for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History)

Read about how some churches take a special collection every time a spiritual is sung in the church. <https://www.wgbh.org/news/arts/2021/11/16/this-church-is-paying-royalties-when-it-sings-spirituals-composed-by-enslaved-africans>



Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16



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

February Birthdays:

- February 4:** Natalie Houston
- February 5:** Joe Guzman
- February 6:** Suzanne Randlett
- February 8:** George Driscoll
- February 8:** Mickey Katz
- February 9:** Steve Kimner
- February 10:** Wendy Bauerschmidt
- February 16:** Kara Ammon
- February 17:** Sean Murphy
- February 22:** Sybil Whitley
- February 22:** Patrick Harvey-Olson
- February 23:** Ivy Harvey-Olson
- February 27:** Nathan Kimner
- February 28:** Juan Guzman

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.



Celebrate Life

This Month's Lectionary

February 6: Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

February 13: Jeremiah 17:5-10' Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-36

February 20: Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

February 27: Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)



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: 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 7:30-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 7:30-Chancel Choir	11	12 Super Bowl Subs
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 6 p.m. Hand bells 7:30-Chancel Choir	18	19
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 7:30-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 7:30-Chancel Choir		



Milford United Methodist Church

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

February, 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.