



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

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Siblings in Christ,

As I write to you this month, the themes of our scripture readings in this season after Epiphany continue to swirl through my brain. Epiphany: “to make manifest”—in this case, of course, to make God manifest in the life of Jesus Christ. In Christ’s birth and its announcement God is made manifest. In his baptism, in all of its spectacle, God is made manifest to the world. In the calling of disciples, in healing the broken, in planting seeds of growth in the world, in “putting our lamps up on a hill” God is being announced, shown, made manifest. In all of these scriptures (and yet in wonderfully different ways) we see God’s life being made manifest to the world. It is a reminder to me that this glorious gift we have in Christ is not a secret or something to hide away, but rather something to share and announce and make manifest!

“To make manifest” strikes me as, somehow, stronger than other ways of defining what an epiphany is. Someone might prefer to use words like “share” or “show” to define it, for example, and, I don’t know about you, but when something is shared with me or shown to me, sometimes it can move past my attention rather quickly. Sometimes it can go into a pocket of a coat I’m wearing only to be rediscovered the next time I put that jacket on. Sometimes something that’s shown to me doesn’t make all that big of an impression on first viewing... but when something is manifest, somehow, it’s there, it’s more real, it’s imposing. Something that is “made manifest” commands attention, sucks out all of the oxygen in the room. I wonder what might happen if we were intentional in this time of year about God’s imposing, brightly shining life and how we, as a church, could make it manifest in the world around us. What would we do? What might we say? What kinds of things would we plan on if our goal was to put our heads together and come up with a plan for how our life as a church might make God’s life manifest to the world at our doors. Pray on that, would you? Pray on what act or word you might do to make God’s life in you manifest to the world around you.

God’s richest blessings!

Pastor John

Meet LeeAnne Steenhoek

LeeAnne Steenhoek is enthusiastic to join us at Milford United Methodist Church as Director of Youth and family Ministries. A career teacher, she has been a middle-school teacher in the Amherst public schools for 20 years. She taught Spanish for 15 years and English for 5 years, retiring in 2015. Since then, she has served as Director of Christian Formation at Lyme Congregational Church, UCC, for one year and at First Church of Nashua, UCC, for two years.



She has received training as a Spiritual Director in "Gateways to God Missional Spiritual Direction Program" through a program sponsored by the United Methodist Church, (Boston University Theology School,) and is also a Reiki Master in both Usui and Shamballa traditions. She holds undergraduate degrees from Keene State College in Spanish and Secondary Education, and a master's degree in Spanish and Language Acquisition from Rivier University.

LeeAnne was born and raised in East Granby, Connecticut growing up and confirmed into East Granby Congregational Church, UCC. She is a long-term resident of Mont Vernon, having lived there with her husband Patrick, who taught fifth grade for more than twenty years also for the town of Amherst. Following his retirement, he now does home renovation and handyman work. Also in residence are two beloved dogs, Star and Daisy, and two entitled cats, Luna and Grace. All furry kids are rescues.

Their two daughters are both in college. Caroline is a senior at Mount Holyoke College, majoring in Chemistry, and Genevieve is a sophomore at Keene State College, majoring in Mathematics. Both daughters plan to work in outdoor ministry as staff at the Horton Center, UCC in Gorham, NH this summer. In the past, the

Youth Mission Events

From Tom Knapp

The youth Mission team will be selling super bowl subs again this year to help fund their trip. Sub orders will be taken in the narthex between services on Sunday,, or on-line through February 8.

Preparation and pick up is Saturday, February 11. You can choose from ham or turkey, with Swiss or American cheese, subs are \$8 each and includes chips and a cookie.

The group is also planning a Ham & Bean super to celebrate Shrove Tuesday on February 21st at 6 p.m. If you have a great baked bean recipe or would like to make a dessert for the supper, let Tom Knapp know.

]
Save the date March 18, 8-11 a.m at the Masonic lodge. Breakfast ! Finds support the trip!



Wednesday's at 6:00



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

LeeAnne Cont'd from pg.2

family has welcomed exchange students and teachers from Columbia, Thailand and Germany.

LeeAnne loves to watch the sun rise over the ocean, hike, paddle canoes, and spend time in Creation. She also appreciates classical music and campfire sing-alongs, praise music, hymns, and the music of other countries. Through the American Field Service program, she was fortunate to live for a year with a family in Brazil and is fluent in Portuguese. She also studied Spanish abroad while living with a family in the Dominican Republic. LeeAnne also enjoys reading, writing poetry, singing, laughing, and dancing. Spiritual rituals include Ai Chi (Tai Chi in the water), studying devotionals such as Jesus Calling by Sarah Young and "The Center for Action and Contemplation" with Richard Rohr as well as Bible study/book studies with a variety of churches. She believes in a multisensory approach to learning and is always seeking creative ways to grow the Beloved Community.

LeeAnne's personal statement of belief:

Ours is a God of LOVE!
The Bible is a love story between God and God's people.
God goes before us in all that we do.
We have only to ask for God.
God is with us:
Emmanuel.

What a privilege and opportunity it is to utterly come to the end of one's hope — not only to run out of answers but to run out of questions. To be beyond fighting, to come to that suspended animation where we are so confused and so weak that we can neither fight [nor] run.

When you come to the end of yourself, you find the beginning of God. And there and nowhere else, you find the answers you seek. You find fulfillment for the longings of your soul. —Max Anders

Update from VOICE

The UMC has a long history of concern for social justice. As part of the Companion Litany to our Social Creed says:

Today is the day God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.
And so shall we.

Have you heard of the MUMC VOICE Committee? Our purpose is to bring the voice of the unheard to the congregation and to provide information about social justice issues and events that are happening in our area or nationally. We also aim to give voice to those suffering injustice through situations or institutions. The committee organizes activities for the Church and community members designed to highlight subjects that relate to the Social Principles of the Church.

What types of things do we do? In the past we have organized events around issues facing veterans and their families with a speaker from Liberty House. We held an event called "Life Interrupted" which allowed the audience to hear from the presenter how their life changed as they lived with a person who suffered with mental health illnesses. We organized a session on "Taking Care of Ourselves: Overcoming Stress" lead by Dr. Cynthia Whitaker from the Greater Nashua Mental Health Organization focusing on the symptoms of stress and its impact on our bodies and what we can do to overcome stress — especially the stress we all felt because of the isolation and changes brought on by COVID. We facilitated a program titled "Vital Conversations on Race and Religion" with curriculum provided
Cont'd pg 5

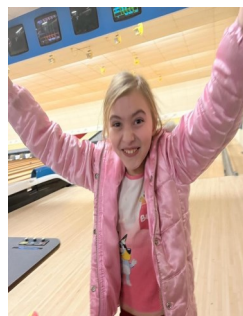
Our MUMC Family Out in the World

January was a pretty quiet month for our family but there are some exciting things that went on.

Congratulations Jacob Erdody for being named to the Dean's List at Western CT State University!



Paula Muller with a number of her running mates. Paula is training to run in the London Marathon for the British Heart Foundation in London in August. Yay Paula and your posse!



Did you know that the Harvey-Olson's celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas? There is a "game day," a "gift card day," a "pet day," and a "what Santa forgot" day to name a few. Shown about are 2 pictures of "outside day", and one of "bowling day".

The whole family and the dog are together in pic 1, Matty and Patrick in pic 2 and Neva in pic 3. What great fun!



Sybil and Pastor John spent some time with LeeAnne Steenhoek, our new Children & Family Minister on Wanakee Sunday



Have you got pics of you and 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.

Choir Notes:

From Jenn Erdody

The celebration of Black History Month in February is the annual celebration of the lives, work, and influence of Black Americans in U.S. history and culture. This becomes more specific to musicians as we celebrate Black musicians and their contributions to the world of music, as well as music inspired by Black history. Throughout February, the Chancel Choir will be singing music in honor of Black History Month. Titles include the anthem "We Shall Overcome", spirituals "Wade In the Water" and "Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet", and the arranged anthem "God's Going to Build Up Zions Walls". Our inriort will be taken from the rousing spiritual "Great Day!". We look forward to sharing the spirit with you through this meaningful music!



In March, the Chancel Choir will begin preparation for our Good Friday cantata. We're planning to combine choirs with First Congregational Church of Milford and invite Pastor Al Hoyt to join Pastor John in leading the service. More details will be forthcoming. We would love to have you join us for the choir!

Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 and we welcome new members! Speak with choir director Jennifer Erdody or any choir member for more information.

In February 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.

A Message from LeeAnne

February is at the heart of winter, and it is a wonderful time to connect in faith and fun with LeeAnne, Youth and Family Ministry Director at Milford United Methodist Church.

Let's explore the heart of God together.
Question: Do you know which Bible Hero is a man after God's own heart?
Answer: David, AKA King David, as in David and Goliath.

February may be the shortest month, but it's just big enough to explore all the ways God loves us... Truth is, finding all the ways God loves us is a never-ending-story. Isn't God amazing!

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34

Let's connect and capture all the ways God loves us. Let's connect and share all the ways we can shine God's light and show God's love. Let's learn about how the Bible is in many ways a love story. The Bible is a love story about God's love for God's people.

Question: Who are God's people?
Answer: We are God's Beloved People

Let's connect, share, and care. Mission Possible!

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phillipians 4:13

Keeping our balance with Christ at the center of our hearts is one important way we grow our compassion for ourselves and for others. Here we practice our balance and grow our compassion:

VOICE con't from pg3

by the UMC General Commission on Religion and Race.

The committee also provides information through Outreach on pending legislation (local and national), voter information, how the Bible relates to advocacy and putting our faith into action.

The VOICE team is gearing up for 2023 and we are looking for new members! We meet once a month and discuss opportunities for advocacy of social justice issues in our community and provide resources and opportunities for discussion and education. There are a plethora of topics we can choose from – come let us know what moves you to act. Interested? Reach out to Callie, Claire, Janet or Kerri-Lynn. We need you! All are welcome!

Crafting Work Shops

The first crafting workshop of 2023 was held on Saturday the 28th and we had a great turn out. Thanks to the 8 people who came to lend their hands to continuing our crafting legacy and to have a lot of laughs in the process

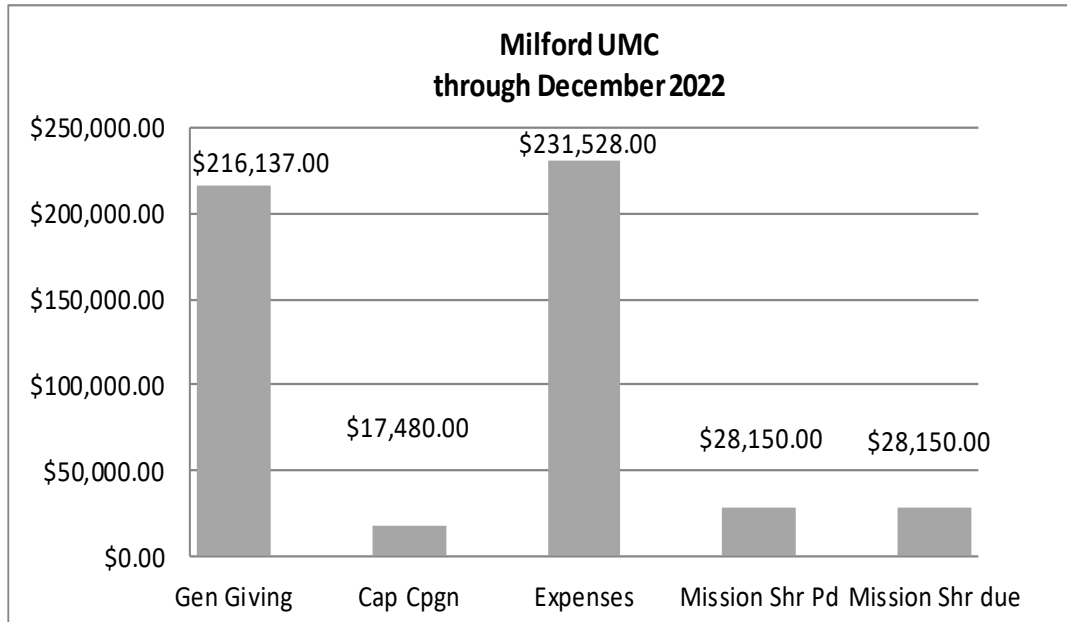
The next workshop will be February 25, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Tami Betelak came up with some new sewing projects that went out to our sewers. We will be working on snowmen and finishing up what we had started last time.

Join us! We do have a great time!



Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



YTD Financials

General Giving	\$216,137 .00
Capital Campaign	\$17,480.00
Expenses	\$231,528.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$28,150,00
Mission Shares Due	\$0.0



- 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:

- 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 Rose Harvey-Olson
- February 27:** Nathan Kimner
- February 28:** Juan Guzman

Anniversaries

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

February 5: Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-16, Matthew 5:13-20

February 12: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9. Matthew 5:21-37

February 19: Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 99, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

February 26: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11



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.

Praise Band: Steve Rafter, Lisa Payne, Rudy Rumohr

Contemporary Christian music that plays at the first service on Sunday.

Staff Parish Relations (SPR): TBD

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.



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 Masks required in the building.

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 10:30 Traditional Ser-	6 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 10:30 Traditional Ser-	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 10:30 Tradi-	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 10:30 Traditional Ser- vice	27	28 7 Praise Band			SPRC, Trustees, VOICE, Finance, Ad Council are virtual unless communi- cated 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

February, 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.