



# The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church  
February, 2024 Milford, NH, Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

## Pastor's Corner

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Co-travelers in Christ,

Sometime fairly early in my life I discovered a joy for 'popping the hood'—understanding how things work and why they work and all of the inner workings of things that aren't visible to be appreciated when the hood is shut. One of my first memories of that discovery was an almost literal popping of the hood. I had a friend who was into racing remote controlled cars and he was into the really fast ones. The one he first showed me would go 60 mph and there was a dirt racetrack down the street from the church with lights and high banks and even a tall wooden platform where the racers would stand with their huge and expensive-looking remote controls during the races. He took me to one of those races once and it was an incredible experience. There must have been 40-50 people there that night under the lights, and while the races were happening around the dirt track, over in the corner there were tables set up where people would pop the hood of their race cars, so to speak, and talk shop and make recommendations and tweaks for the races to come. The races themselves were great entertainment, but almost equally as entertaining and interesting for me was listening to those folks gathered around those tables over wires and motors and other loose parts having their give-and-take about what made these things run best.

That disposition has always been with me and, in case you haven't noticed, it's something I carry with me in my church life as well. I love to know how and why things work and, in the church arena, that tends to mean digging into why we do what we do. As we enter upon February we're nearing the season of Lent and, if you think about it, some strange things happen on the surface of our church life in Lent that call out loudly for a popping of the hood: a Shrove Tuesday feast, an Ash Wednesday reception of ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads, a 40-day fast of one kind or another (but not on Sundays because on Sundays we're supposed to feast). Eventually, we wave palm branches and then dine in remembrance of Jesus' last supper. We strip our altar, drape the cross in a shroud of black, and show up Easter Sunday morning to a church decked out in white to celebrate that Christ is risen! What's going on underneath the hood of that assortment of practices, which probably looks and sounds quite strange on the surface?

## Pastor's Corner Cont'd

Uncovering what all of that means is going to be my focus for us in this upcoming season. I'm going to be preaching a sermon series called "Fasting and Feasting: Making Ready for Suppertime" in which I'm going to talk both about some aspects of the meaning of communion as well as some aspects of the meaning of fasting. In many ways, the two go hand in hand—both are prayerful practices related to food; both ask us to cultivate an awareness of the presence of God; both ask us to pay attention to our bodies and the ways we consume; both ask us to prayerfully consider our solidarity with a community—with the church and with the poor, for example. So, as we get ourselves ready to

embark, I want to ask you to start thinking ahead. Choose one thing that you can use as a focus food that you can abstain from during the week and feast upon on Sundays—for me it's going to be Dove chocolates because (bonus!) there's an encouraging message in the wrapper. Consider what that thing might be because I want you to have something to pray with. During the weeks of Lent, I'll lead a study in which we focus in a bit more on different disciplines of praying with a fast. This is going to be a season in which we get back into touch not only with the presence of God, but also with ourselves, our needs, our joys, our hopes, our values, and our work. I am looking forward to this journey.

*Pastor John*

### Craft Fair Workshops From Pat Rafter

We had our first Christmas Fair workshop of 2024 on Saturday Jan 27. 7 people attended and we are well on our way for this year's fair. Several attendees came with wonderful ideas for crafts to work on over the year.

We have decided to meet every fourth Saturday from 12:30 to 3 unless there is a church calendar conflict. In the fall we will meet weekly. If you prefer to work on things at home, please do. We can give you some project if you need them.

Still looking for those who may be interested in making jams and jellies. If there are woodworkers amongst you, we could use help with cutting out wooden craft pieces. Please continue to bring in your brown paper bags with handles to give to our shoppers for their purchases. Also we will take clean canning jars, Christmas tins/ boxes. There is a bin under the coat rack labeled, "For Christmas Fair". Thank you for all your support.

### Something Worth Hearing

Join Church and Society staff and partners on February 7 to discuss the revised Social Principles. Hear about the motivation, process, draft, and what to expect when it comes before the General Conference this spring.

#### Panelists for the discussion include:

- John Hill, Interim General Secretary for the General Board of Church and Society
- Jeff Corey, Director of Communications
- Dr. Randall Miller, Vice President of Church and Society's Board of Directors and Chair of the Social Principles Revision Task Force
- Rev. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean Emerita of the School of Theology at Boston University and Chair of the Revision Editorial Team

**Register now to join us on February 7 from 3-4PM (ET).**

## Freezer Meals

Our freezer at church is running on empty. Should you make a large meal and can package up a meal or 2 to add to the freezer it would be greatly appreciated by someone with a last minute need. Please just label with contents, reheating instructions and when it was made. Also if you know of someone with a need, feel free to take a meal to them or let Pat Rafter know and she can get it delivered.

Thank you,  
Mission Team



## Youth Mission Update

The youth mission team is in fundraiser mode with their yummy Super Bowl subs sales. Look for them in the narthex. Subs are \$10 each and include chips and a cookie. Pick up is Saturday, Feb 10 or you can pick up Sunday morning.

The youth will be hosting us at the 2nd annual Shrove Tuesday supper on February 13. Ham, beans, corn bread, Cole slaw, and a pancake sundae. 5-6:30 pm. Free will donation.

March 16, 8-11 a.m. is another Mason's Breakfast to benefit their trip. At the lodge on My Vernon St.



## MEN'S MINISTRY HOSTS Men's Breakfast

Third Saturday of the Month Each Quarter

8:30-10:30 a.m.

2024 Breakfast Schedule

February 17th

May 18th

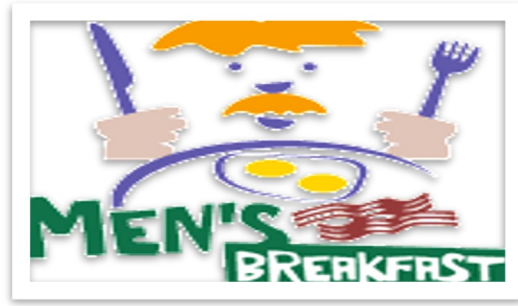
August 17th

November 16th

**Please RSVP** a week before each breakfast so we have a headcount for the meal. Sign up sheets will be posted or contact Jim Lawler at [bigdaddy522000@gmail.com](mailto:bigdaddy522000@gmail.com)

Thank You!

Have a great day! 'For the same price, have a great life!'



## Noise Offering for Wanakee

February 14



This collection will happen the 2nd Sunday of the month. Quiet Money is always welcome too!

## A Message from VOICE

Hopefully you've been noticing some items on the back of the bulletin. There is, as usual, our green tip for the month. But we've also added something you might not typically think of before you come to worship. We all like to smell nice, but for millions of folks – including some members of the church, choir members and visitors – what we smell like can be a problem for them. I'm talking, of course, about perfume.

Perfume is a growing problem for millions of Americans who report allergic, immunologic, asthmatic and/or neurological reactions to chemicals and/or synthetic fragrances. For many people, breathing in fragrances from perfumes, colognes, fragranced personal care items, candles, air fresheners and/or cleaning supplies can just be a little annoying...but for a growing number of others, these smells can be a form of torment that throws their bodies into reactive overdrive. One whiff of a chemical can result in a vast array of debilitating symptoms.

It has also been reported that exposure to fragrances can exacerbate several health conditions. Once in the air, these materials pose serious health concerns for many with asthma, allergies, migraines, chronic lung disease, and other health conditions. In addition, approximately 12% of the population suffers from multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), causing them to experience such reactions as migraines, nausea, aching joints, irritated eyes, nose or throat, etc.

We may not be able to provide a fool-proof scent-free environment, but if we all do our part we can make a huge difference to others. We ask that you join us in doing this small thing towards cleaner indoor air.

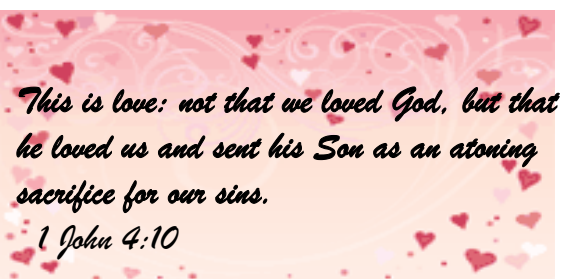
So think before you spritz. We'll keep the reminder in the bulletin and mention it in event information we put out. Thank you!

Our MUMC Family member Claire Holston speaks in Peterborough at an MLK event on what would have been his 95th birthday.



Claire Holston, vice chairwoman of the N.H. Center for Justice and Equity, told the audience that acknowledging the interconnectedness of races is a great step toward building unity and harmony between races.

"When we understand this principle and we begin to see the interconnectedness of all living things, it can lead to a greater sense of empathy and compassion towards each other," she said. "And this can be reflected in the way we treat others and in the way we approach problems and conflicts."



# Our MUMC Family Out in the World

MUMC folks are still spreading JOY!



Nancy & Harry Tong with family at the Escape Room.



Emma Lambert got her black belt! YAY



The Herlihy's sledding  
Jaclyn, Tim Cora, Avery, & Emmy



Harvey-Olson kids Building  
Zen, Mattie & Neva with Dad



Ivy Rose on exercise day at the Harvey Olson's

I'd love to show you and your family finding or spreading Joy... Won't you share? Facebook friend me or email to the office.  
office@milfordumc.org

## In February SHARE Is Collecting

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



Food Pantry Needs

SHARE Collection



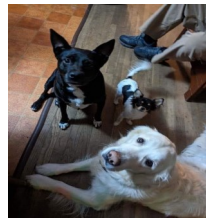
LeeAnne Steenhoek & Daisy



Deb Santinelli & Ranger



Steve Rafter with Indy coming on the 17th!



Fancy, Jinx, & Popcorn love Linda Mossey and Marissa Davis!

## Share Supper February 15, 2024

Look for signup sheets in the Narthex

Note: 5th Tuesday this month



## **Family Life**

**With LeeAnne Steenhoek, Youth and Family Ministry Director**

Friends,

I am grateful for you. I notice the way that you show up for compassion and care for me and for each other. We care about making a difference and one act at a time, we transform the world. All things are possible through Christ who strengthens me.

We build community each time we gather, hold each other in prayer in and out of church and believe in what is possible.

We believe in doing good works. I love the big and little ways that you share and shine your light for Christ.

Let's continue to share each time we gather. The WOW\*POW\*CHOW is one way to show up, share, shine and remember who we are and whose we are. Sometimes one story in our lives contains WOW\*POW\*CHOW.

**WOW:** Light of God moments. Tangible moments that God's presence is revealed.

**POW:** When life knocks you down. A bend in the road.

**CHOW:** Food. We eat both for pleasure and necessity. Food can be solitary and is often social. A time to gather and be grateful to God. Soul-food shared God experi-

ences as well as tasty tidbits count here.

### *A Story:*

Our little King Charles Cavalier Spaniel Daisy needed urgent medical attention in recent weeks. She had an infection in her teeth and a murmur in her heart. Dr. Brian, our traveling vet, put Daisy on a course of antibiotics and scheduled surgery. Dr. Brian cautioned us that her heart is not strong and surviving anesthesia was to be considered. **POW.**

Surgery day came and Dr. Brian reached out to say that his transmission needed to be replaced and he could not collect Daisy for surgery as planned. **POW.** I offered to bring her to KL Ranch in another part of the state in Barnsted. We made arrangements and I dropped Daisy off with Dr. Brian getting there early to spend time with Daisy and God asking for health and healing, safe surgery and recovery. I took a video for my family so they could share and pray with me.

I drove back home with a bit of angst and a lot of trust in God and in Dr. Brian. I didn't know if I would ever see my little dog again. As I drove down the highway I noticed that the truck I'd been following for some distance had a message painted on the back:

**THY WILL BE DONE**

*Gulp. Does this mean you are bringing Daisy home now God? Do I need to find a space of acceptance? Is there hope that I will have a few more months or years with her? What does this mean? I prayed. I waited. I gave it over to God. WOW. A tangible message.*

## THY WILL BE DONE

Yes, this means I need to let my faith be bigger than my fear God. I know it does. If you take her now, maybe you are saving her pain which means saving us pain. Sign. Deep breath. Acceptance. Peace. WOW. Thank you God.

The “Thy will be done” truck and I rendezvoused multiple times in the journey home. Does God talk to us through things like trucks in our journey with messages we need? I believe God does.

Daisy made it through surgery and Dr. Brian let us know the next day that our little dog is just fine for now.

## THY WILL BE DONE

Trusting God means letting go of control and that is so very hard as a parent, friend or child.

All of a sudden, I'm reminded of another time when God was faithful when our daughter

Genevieve needed surgery in the midline to remove a dermoid cyst at 8 months of age. I literally couldn't hand her over to the surgeon. We'd talked about it. I knew it was the right choice but my arms were locked around that baby. I asked if we could pray together before surgery and a Catholic nun was called in To pray with our family and the medical team. The holy spirit took over powerfully in prayer and I handed baby Genevieve over to the surgeon with seeming ease.

God was faithful, not because I got the outcome that I wanted for Genevieve and for Daisy. God was faithful being present for me in the uncertainty and not knowing if things would be okay. **Knowing God holds us in our struggle** is one of the most beautiful truths I can share as a woman of God.

The **CHOW** for me in my sharing is the holy feast God shares in showing up and being constant in the storm. The feast is the willingness of the surgeon and my husband to honor my need for prayer. The feast is the realization that even if my little Daisy did need to be with God that it's all okay. Friends- God's got this!

Grace and Peace,

LeeAnne



## Coordinator Needed

From Pat Rafter

I am looking for someone to take over the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Coordinator for 2024. It's not a hard job, just a job that comes during the time of year where I am already busy enough. I am willing to train you and give you all my notes and contacts. Tom Knapp will still take care of all the deposits. Planning starts in late October. Please let me know, (icu2per@aol.com) ASAP. If no one steps up the program will not continue in 2024.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity for the last 4 years.

### A Prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me.

—Aelred of Rievaulx (12<sup>th</sup> century)



## Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for spring-time. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season "spring training for Christians." This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God's favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we'll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, "Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed" (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.





## Do you know ASL?

If you are fluent in American Sign Language and would like to interpret as a ministry at MUMC, either regularly or on an as needed basis, please contact anyone on the VOICE team (Claire Holston, Janet Hromjak, Callie McMahon, Kathy Wood, Esther Thayer, Annika Weis, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, or email the office.



## Invaluable!

"The kingdom of heaven," said Jesus, "is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45-46, NRSV). In 2021, the Good News Network reported that a crab fisherman in Thailand stumbled upon a valuable Melo pearl while cutting up a snail for lunch. In wonder, he brought it to his brother to verify the discovery. "My family had been fishing for generations," said Prasarnphon Phunwan, "but I believe our fate is about to change because of my lunch." Several months prior, another fisherman had been offered \$351,000 for a similar pearl.

Likewise, God's priceless love immeasurably alters our eternal fate. If we fully comprehended the value of that love, we'd give up everything to obtain it. But the greater wonder is that we don't have to buy it. God gives it to us as a gift! Whether we seemed to encounter Jesus by chance or someone joyfully shared the Gospel with us, our Savior is the merchant who "sold all that he had" — even his life. So priceless is salvation! So valuable are we!  
—Heidi Hyland Mann

## God-shaped hole

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

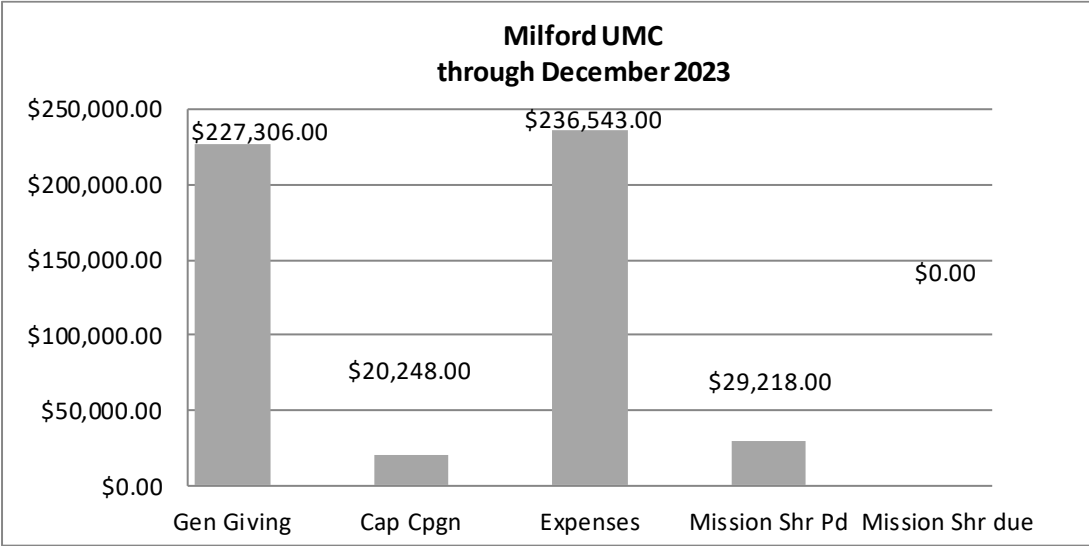
Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!



# Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



General Giving	\$227,306.00
Cap Campaign	\$ 20,248.00
Expenses	\$236,543.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$ 29,218.00
Mission Shares Due	\$0.00



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



Milford UMC  
General Fund  
<https://www.umc.org>

OR Code

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

**Birthdays**

<b>February 4</b>	Natalie Houston
<b>February 5</b>	Joe Guzman
<b>February 6</b>	Suzanne Randlett
<b>February 8</b>	Mickey Katz
<b>February 9</b>	Steve Kimner
<b>February 9</b>	Patrick Steenhoek
<b>February 16</b>	Kara Ammon
<b>February 22</b>	Cameron Randlett
<b>February 22</b>	Sybil Whitley
<b>February 22</b>	Patrick Harvey-Olson
<b>February 23</b>	Ivy Rose Harvey Olson
<b>February 27</b>	Nate Kimner
<b>February 28</b>	Juan Guzman

**Anniversaries**

The office calendar shows no anniversaries this month. Hope we didn't miss yours.



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

**This Month's Lectionary**

**February 4:** Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

**February 11:** 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6,  
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

**February 18:** Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10  
 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

**February 25:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16,  
 Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25,  
 Mark 8:31-38



**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](mailto:office@milfordumc.org) [trumpetchoo@msn.com](mailto: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: Carol Rowlette & Elaine Driscoll**  
*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.*

**MUMC Care Team: 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: LeeAnne Steenhoek, Karin Harvey Olson**  
*Usually happens in July. A time for the kids to be immersed in learning about Jesus.*

**VOICE** *Giving voice to the marginalized in our community. Janet Hromjak, Claire Holston, Callie McMahon. Esther Thayer, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Kathy Wood, Annika 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*



2024

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**

				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				12 Hybrid Study 5:45 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir		
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 7 p Men's Group	7 Trustees		8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	12 Hybrid Study 5:45 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir		
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 7 p Men's Group	5:45- VOICE 7—Finance	5 p Shrove Tuesday Dinner	8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom Ash Wed. 6P	12 Hybrid Study 5:45 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir		
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service			8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	12 Hybrid Study 5:45 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir		Crafting Workshop 12:30-3 pm
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>		
8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 7 p Men's Group			8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom			



## Milford United Methodist Church

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

*February 2024*

### **Sunday Worship Times:**

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