



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

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Siblings in Christ,

I often do my daily devotionals with the scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary and one of the verses from the reading today jumped out at me. It's from Hebrews 13:7: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." When I read that verse my mind was flooded with the faces and names of the many people that have led me spiritually throughout my life—youth pastors and pastors, old Sunday School teachers, college chaplains and friends, people that walked with me for a season in no official capacity, some who led more with the way they lived more than their sage advice or words of wisdom. This verse was asking me to consider them, recall how their faithfulness worked out for them, and to imitate them.

Imitation, they say, is the highest form of flattery, but could it also be a way of the spirit. We look to Jesus first and foremost, of course (Hebrews says that too!), but I never saw Jesus after a bad day at school or after a hard family reunion. But, for some of these others I have and they have shown me in closer detail what it might look like to walk as a faithful disciple through those experiences. That word "leader" can sound so official, so positionally-oriented, so hierarchical even that we forget sometimes that, at its root, it just means someone who takes their steps before you, whom you walk behind, perhaps, looking for the best places to set your feet. It occurred to me what a powerful theme this is through Hebrews, as we've been noticing in August as we've read closely through Hebrews 11. It also reminded me of something very similar that the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:1: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

Could it be that one of the great graces of being church together is having a community of people to imitate—an ever-expanding array of lived examples of where Christ's life has been tried in real world circumstances? If imitation is part of the process then being church must mean being nearer together, being in closer conversation, opening up our lives and our challenges and our stories, right? Imitation requires proximity and enough insight to know whether and how our experiences might apply. The richness and variation of those examples expand and deepen with

Mission at MUMC

A small group of MUMC folks met on August 11 to discuss the future of mission work at MUMC and one of the things we discussed was how many newer people knew what some of our mission work was. Below is an explanation of the things we talked about continuing and what that involvement means.

Share: Share is the area food pantry but it also connects those in need to a free monthly supper, Christmas and Thanksgiving Baskets, Christmas gifts for kids and families that includes warm clothing, back to school items, connections to state and federal programs, and other support as it is able.

MUMC supports the monthly suppers by making desserts and food and serving; the back to school collections by donating items; the pantry through monetary donation and food items; and the Christmas donations by adopting a family or families.

Crop Walk: CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. MUMC supports this by encouraging our families to commit to participating in the walk and asking for sponsors to pledge dollars for their efforts. Any one is able to sponsor a walker even if they cannot physically make the walk.

Youth Mission: Our youth with the leadership of Tom Knapp, join up with Group Work Camps, an international, ecumenical, volunteer, Christian youth mission trip organization that brings together youth (ages 10–20) and adults (ages 21+), usually representing individual church youth groups, for week-long summer work camps, in which participants repair or renovate homes in various communities throughout the world, especially in the United States, Canada, and parts of Latin America and South America. The communities in which the work camps are held are often in economically deprived areas, or areas which have been especially hard-hit by natural disasters, includ-

ing flooding or hurricanes.

Adult Missions: Participation in adult mission trips has not been happening since the pandemic but there is a lot of excitement around expanding and making this team a more local team of adults that can be in mission (the physical, hands on, hammer and nail stuff) in a variety of ways. MUMC might, for example, receive a call for help to move an air conditioner, or hang some curtains, and send out a request for a volunteer to answer the call, or it might answer the call for help building an access ramp for a handicapped person. This is not a dream as we have worked in this capacity before as the BAT Team but we need to decide how to revitalize this through our church family.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing: The sound of bells ringing can be heard in front of department stores and grocery stores alike signaling a time for open-handed generosity. The program began decades ago by a Salvation Army officer "just trying to raise money for his Corp to take care of social service programs.

MUMC has been involved with ringing for a number of years and as of the past few years our involvement has been shared with other area churches but a portion of the proceeds stay right herein the Milford area and, in fact are distributed following Salvation Army Guidelines, by our pastor. A coordinator for this effort will determine our future with this mission.

Those at the meeting also talked about renewing commitments with places like Family Promise of Southern NH (its mission is to end homelessness one family at a time), Habitat for Humanity (who seek to put God's love into action, by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope), and looking to understand better ways to use our building for the asset it is.

One of the celebrations we noted over the last year was the spontaneous mission we witnessed with the group of folks who wanted to do something about the war in the Ukraine and decided to quilt pins in Ukrainian colors that they sold to raise over \$1500 for Ukraine Relief. Have you got a spontaneous idea? Did you miss our first meeting? Stay tuned for the next one on October 20th. Time TBD.

Youth Mission Meeting

From Tom Knapp

Sunday September 18, 7 p.m., the youth mission group will meet to discuss the next youth mission trip.

Discussion about our destination, dates and fundraising will be on the docket.



Reminder the youth are committed to the bean bag toss on the community house lawn Sat. October 8, 10-4 and Sunday October 9, 10-3.

Wednesday's at 6:00



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

In September Share Is Collecting:

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

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

Here is a book that will greatly enrich your reflection on and engagement with the coming Easter season.



Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*.

It Only Takes a Spark

Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.



—William Arthur Ward

Pastor's Corner cont'd from page 1

every new person that plugs into what is happening. New opportunities to grow and learn and walk in strength with every new person. What a powerful reminder to us as we come out of a season of Hebrews 11 and into a season of new gathering as a church. September 11 is Homecoming Sunday, where we gather in combined worship at 10:30 as one large community and kick off a new season in our life together. I invite you and encourage you to come and experience the rich gifts that God has in store.

Glory to God!

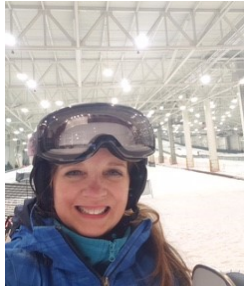
Pastor John

Our MUMC Family Out in the World

August had us all looking for cool places!



The St. Jeans enjoying a rain delay during swim meet.



Who finds snow inside in August? Jenn Erdody, of course!



Avery, Cora, & Emelaine on cool bumper cars!



Debbie Santenilli at a very happy place on horseback!



Cool Choir folks celebrating Ben Erdody's Birthday. You know them!



Patrick Harvey - Olson in the Big Bad Wolf and Sydney Grimm



Ivy Rose Harvey Olson in "Big Bad Wolf and Sydney Grimm"



Kathy Wood and her Grandbabies at "Grammy Camp"



Jaclyn & Tim Herlihy celebrating their anniversary with Kenny Chesny.

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.



Andy & Andrea Bayer spend some time with son Jesse!



The Harvey-Olson yearly wall photo



Grace O'Shaughnessy off to Plymouth SU!

Some Other Back to School Kids!



Cora & Avery Herlihy



Jack Seale to Davidson College



Josh & Madison Muller, 3rd grade

The Beauty of Learning

There is divine beauty in learning. ... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps.



The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.

Elie Wiese

Fall Yard Sale

From Callie McMahon

We have decided there are enough interested helpers to run the fall Yard Sale.

Drop off dates are September 17. and October 1 from 9-11. The sale is October 8, 9-1. Proceeds will go toward missions.

The same requests apply as always. We take most items as long as they are clean and working. Things we do not accept are electronics, furniture, exercise equipment, stuffed animals unless with original tags, musty books, encyclopedia sets, or magazines.

We are still likely not including clothing on this sale.

We would love your donations as written above and your help with pricing on drop off days or set-up and tear down help the day of the sale.



Lamplighters

From Carol Rowlette

Lamplighters still working our way through the parables. We have enjoyed discussing the parables but also have been confused by what Jesus was teaching his disciples and us. Talking through our thoughts has been quite interesting. We have many more to read and discuss before we move on to a new subject. Happy September!



Join us for a combined service on Sunday September 11, 2022, at 10:30.

This is the day we celebrate after a summer of folks being away on vacation or just away from church due to the free time no school gives come summer. This is also the day the choir returns.

Here at MUMC we just celebrate being together a couple time a year and if you haven't attended a combined service, give it a try! When we all fill the sanctuary with praise, it's amazing!

Christmas Fair

From Callie McMahon

The Christmas Fair will go on as usual this year thanks to team of people who want to see it happen.

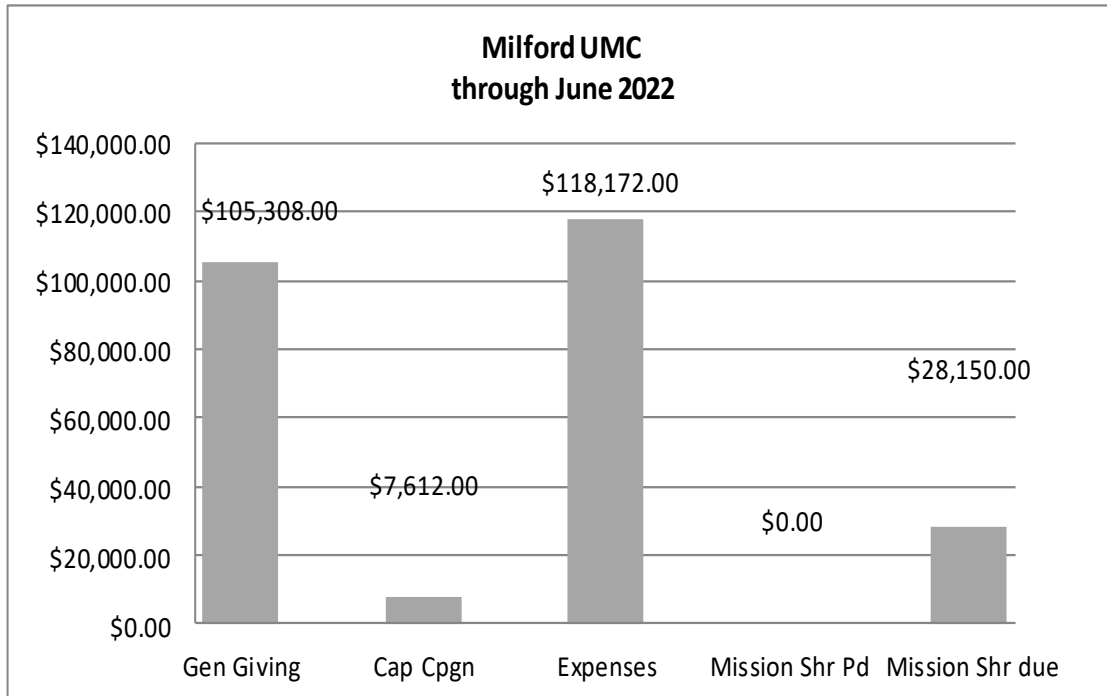
A planning meeting will be held on September 8, 7p.m. Pat cannot make the meeting but we will be able to call on her for help with the particulars if we need her. Jim & Shelly Frost will run the café. Feel free to attend the meeting if you would like to be involved. The usual requests for the congregations help with items will happen as we move closer and I expect we will have a couple of crafting times.

Stay tuned for more information and ways to be involved.



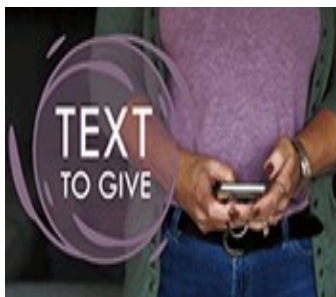
Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



YTD Financials Thru July 2022

General Giving	\$105,308.00
Capital Campaign	\$7,612.00
Expenses	\$118,172.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$0.00
Mission Shares Due	\$28,150.00



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

September

2022

Birthdays & Anniversaries!

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

Birthdays:

September 3:	Marcia Redden
September 4:	Karin Harvey-Olson
September 8:	Emily St. John
September 8:	Jess Bossie
September 9:	Shannon Short
September 14:	Jim Tyler-Wall
September 16:	Gage Tlapa
September 17:	Marcus Mallows
September 18:	Tom Knapp
September 18:	Scott Masters
September 21:	Jaclyn Herlihy
September 21:	Mason Mallows
September 23:	Tim Herlihy

Anniversaries

September 8:	Martin & Tami Betelak
September 10:	Kirk & Suzanne Randlett
September 15:	Joe & Sylvia Buttemier
September 15:	Everett & Marley Gale
September 19:	Ray & Colleen 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.



This Month's Lectionary

September 4: Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Philemon 11:-21, Luke 14:25-33

September 11: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14 , 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Luke 15:1-10

September 18: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

September 25: Jeremiah 32 1-3a, 6,-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6: 6-19, Luke 16; 19-31



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: TBD

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.

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: 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.



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:-Chancel Choir	2	3
4 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	5 6 SPRC	6 7 Praise Band	7 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer /	8 7:-Chancel Choir	9	10
11 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	12 7p— Trustee's Committee	13 7 Praise Band	14 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	15 7:-Chancel Choir 7— Ad Council	16	17
18 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 7p Youth Mission	19 6 p -VOICE 7p— Finance	20 7 Praise Band	21 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer /	22 7:-Chancel Choir	23	24
25 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	26	27 7 Praise Band	28 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer /	29 7:Chancel Choir	30	SPRC, Trustees, VOICE, Finance, Ad Council are virtual unless communicated 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

September, 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.