



# The Outreach

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

## Pastor's Corner

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Beloved in Christ,

Have I ever told you how much I love the Olympics (especially the Summer Olympics)? I do. I wait for them. I get excited about them and often find myself inspired by them. I love that they are able to conjure up an interest in me in sports that, otherwise, I'm not all that interested in. I can watch handball, water polo, fencing, anything really!...and somehow, because those Olympic rings and that familiar triumphal music is attached to them, I'm enthralled. I love that, during the Olympics, you can walk into almost any pizza place, mall, appliance store—anywhere with a television—and find them on and be able to strike up a conversation with a perfect stranger over the latest goings-on. The agony of disappointment and defeat are as compelling as the ecstasy of victory on the Olympic stage when you take in what those athletes had to do to get where they are and how slim those margins can be between gold medalists and those who don't make the podium at all.

To go along with all of that, though, there can also be messages that accompany the games that, as a pastor, unnerve me. Who can forget the nationalist messages of civilizational superiority that so often accompanied the games during the Cold War, or the overt messages of racial superiority in Munich, where the games were held under the shadow of Nazi symbolism with Adolf Hitler in attendance. Or, even more broadly than either of those examples, what about the way the games subtly communicate and depict for us what it means and what it looks like to be a winner? There can be only one gold medal in each category and all others must depart the playing field with differing degrees of disappointment. This year, there's a particularly poignant Olympic commercial featuring Labron James—this year's Olympic flagbearer and senior veteran of a U.S. men's basketball team stacked to the brim with superstar talent—a commercial about the burden of winning. To be a winner, the commercial says in so many words, is to indenture oneself to an ongoing, almost compulsive need to win because a person is only as successful as their latest performance and if it isn't a win, you can no longer be called a winner. There's a burden in that, the commercial fairly and insightfully observes, because somewhere along the way in the process of sport (and maybe even the process of life itself) winning or losing an athletic contest comes to define who we are as a "winner" or a "loser." Event subtly transforms into identity. For all of the insightful-

## Pastor's Corner Cont'd

ness of that commercial, as a Christian, I find the need to pause over that messaging.

Identity is our core, rock-bottom understanding of who we are and what place we have in the world, and boy is that fragile if it's built on something as tenuous as a win or a loss in a sporting match. I truly wonder how a person could hold up under such conditions—to always have their core self-understanding be at risk of falling apart or to allow oneself to become compulsively addicted to winning for fear of losing that core. Part of the wisdom of our faith tradition is in making clear just how spiritually destructive this sort of merit-based pathway is and how at-odds it is with the workings of God's grace. I want you to try and imagine with me today, friends, that each and every one of you already has the gold medal in your possession. All of the questions of your identity and your worth are already resolved. There are no longer any lingering questions of what you might have to do to earn your medal to prove you're a winner. All of that is in the past—consigned to a different era, an entirely different life. And, maybe, now that you have your gold, you can be settled and free from the "burden of winning." The only real question now is: now that you have your gold, your wholeness, your freedom, where are you willing to allow it to take you? That's grace. Take it and run with it friends!

In Christ,

*Pastor John*



**Here is what we did by recycling our sneakers with GotSneakers !**

### Bags & Sneakers

**Bag(s):** 5  
**Excellent Sneakers:** 0  
**Good Sneakers:** 13  
**Fair Sneakers:** 18  
**Recyclable Sneakers:** 20  
**Non-Athletic Shoes:** 3

### Sustainability Impact

**Landfill:** 54 Pairs Displaced from Landfills  
**Carbon Dioxide:** 1,620 Pounds Displaced  
**Water:** 121,878 Gallons Saved

### Fundraising Summary

**Amount:** \$44.00 (this will go to the Voice fund for future work)  
**Reference:** Sneaker Recycling Program

## LOOK FOR THE BOX AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER



### **MEN'S MINISTRY HOSTS**

#### **Men's Breakfast**

Third Saturday of the Month Each Quarter  
8:30-10:30 a.m.

2024 Breakfast Schedule

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 [bigdady522000@gmail.com](mailto:bigdady522000@gmail.com)

# Our MUMC Family Out in the World

MUMC folks are still finding & spreading JOY! Even in the heat!



Sylvia Buttemeier with Deb Santinelli, Amherst parade.



Cecil Rowlette (L) & Nancy Tong with the Brookline band at the parade in Brookline.



Jenn Erdody with Nessy in Scotland.



The Harvey-Olson family with Disney!



Emma & Lindsey Lambert say Kayaking

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 August SHARE Is Collecting**  
 Condiments, Cooking Sauces & Seasonings, Cooking Oil, Pasta Sauce, Tomato Sauce, Tomato Paste, Diced Tomatoes



Food Pantry Needs


SHARE Collection

# Share Back to School From Pat Rafter

We will be collecting items for SHARE's annual backpack/back to school supplies drive. Our collection will end on Sunday Aug 11 at noon. If you can't get your items to church during office hours, there will be a box outside of the church doors for you to put your donations when convenient for you. LIST

New Backpacks (Prefer large, very sturdy. Even little ones need room for snow pants and sneakers!) Lunch Boxes,, Durable, Tear-Resistant 2-Pocket Folders, 1, 2, and 3-inch Sturdy Binders (White)/Filler Paper/ Dividers w/tabs, Calculators (4 function) Notebooks 8 1/2 x 11" (1,3 and 5 subject) , Pens: Blue, Black, and Red, Ticonderoga Pencils 3- hole Pen/ Pencil Cases & Pouches, Thin Tip Dry Erase Markers (low odor), Post-It Notes, Highlighters and Black Fine Point Sharpies, Crayons, Colored markers and Pencils (Crayola preferred), Pens: Blue, Black, and Red Highlighters and Black Fine Point Sharpies , Crayons, Colored Markers and Pencils (Crayola preferred), Erasers: Pencil-top and Chunk, Thick Washable Markers , Glue Sticks, Jumbo and Lg.)/4oz. Elmers' Glue/Scotch Tape , Rulers (Custom/Metric), Anti-bacterial and Baby Wipes/Boxes of Tissues, Hand Held Pencil Sharpeners with covers, Marbled Composition Notebooks. Scissors (Kid friendly), Index Cards

**Share Supper**  
 August 20, 2024  
 Look for signup sheets in the Narthex



COMMUNITY DINNERS

## ***Economic Justice From UMC Church and Society***

Faith-based organizations and institutions of higher education are forming new partnerships to develop affordable rental housing on the land they already own. However, they face barriers like zoning and other policies to develop affordable housing.

Senator Sherrod Brown, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs has introduced the Yes In God's Back Yard Act ([S. 3910](#)), which supports faith-based organizations and colleges building and preserving affordable housing on their land and reduce barriers to the development of this housing. In addition to The United States' shortage of 7.3 million affordable rental homes, access to affordable rental housing is drastically declining ([National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)).

Senator Brown's bill would:

- Provide technical assistance to faith-based organizations and institutions of higher education wanting to use their existing land to increase or preserve the supply of affordable rental housing.
- Provide technical assistance to local governments to learn best practices and how they can facilitate the production of affordable rental housing on land owned by faith-based organizations and institutions of higher education.
- Create challenge grants to provide additional resources to communities that adopt policies that remove barriers to the production and preservation of affordable rental housing on property owned by faith-based organizations and institutions of higher education.

As United Methodists, we are called to help the poor and support policies that aid in alleviating poverty such as access to

affordable housing. We "emphasize measures that build and maintain the wealth of poor people" and "call upon churches to develop these and other ministries that promote asset-building among the poor," (The United Methodist Social Principles).

Contact your elected officials today [through this form](#) and ask them to pass the Yes In God's Back Yard Act (S. 3910) to support faith-based organizations and colleges who want to build and provide affordable housing on their land.

*Note: Enter Cntrl / click to see the linked pages*



## ***Coordinator Needed From Pat Rafter***

We are still looking for one or two more volunteers for Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Won't you consider taking a weekend or two? The work is not terribly time consuming and you will have great instructions.

Please see Pat Rafter, Diane Miller or Sue Kostuk if interested.





## Co-Laborers With Christ

Rusty Stevens, a ministry leader in Virginia, described trying to finish mowing the lawn before dinnertime. His 6-year-old son darted in front of him and grabbed the mower handle. But when Stevens stopped pushing, the mower soon stopped.

The busy dad fought the urge to tell his son to get out of his way and instead offered to help. Stevens began pushing again, leaning over and walking awkwardly to accommodate his eager assistant. Although the mowing commenced, it was slow-going and not as efficient as the solo effort.

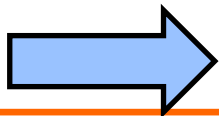
That's when Stevens realized a ministry parallel: "This is the way my heavenly Father allows me to 'help' him build his kingdom!" The church leader pictured God busy "seeking, saving and transforming the lost, and there I was, with my weak hands 'helping.'"

Although God surely can tackle all the work of ministry and evangelism alone, he "chooses to stoop gracefully to allow me to co-labor with him," said Stevens. What a blessing and privilege that God lets us work alongside him!



## Crafting

Do you enjoy crafting with others? We will be resuming our craft workshops in September 9/7 12:30 to 3. This is a change since our last session, due to other church schedule conflicts. We will meet more frequently beginning in October.



## Can we help?

Do you need extra help to hear the service or to read the bulletins or hymnal? Call the office and let us know how we can help you. 603-673-2669. Leave a message with your phone number.



**Think before you spritz or spray. Someone will thank you.!**

Scents can make some people sick.

## Noise Offering for Wanakee

**August 11, 2024**

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



Next Crafting Workshop

September, 7  
12:30-3 p.m.

## Family Life

LeeAnne Steenhoek Director Youth and Family Ministry, MUMC

Join us August 25 as we gather together in Family Ministry to share stories and make new ones. Are you keeping your orange marble in your pocket or windowsill to remember to come back and share your summer adventures in Children's Church? We can't wait to see you!

VBS was a ton of fun round ye olde campfire. We made stone paintings, lightning bugs (Jacqui Cook), beautiful music (Linda Mossey, Steve Rafter) and had great leaders in Lumin Lou and Camp Counselor Sam (Jessica and Johnathan Farnsworth). We had cool balloon sculptures of trees and campfires (Faith Tejada) and a whirly swirly waterfall, tent and sleeping bags decorating our spaces (Jess Farnsworth). We made beautiful flames with tissue paper on specially designed templates (Rob Cook). Patrick Steenhoek led us connecting our Bible stories to science and the fun bubbled over!

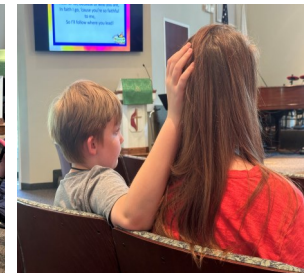
Pastor John shared great Bible

stories including the one of Jesus sleeping in a boat during a massive storm from inside Steve Rafter's boat with all our kids in the boat too. A TON OF FUN. He also told the story of Ruth and Naomi and Jacob sleeping on a rock.

Children's church is just a few weeks away! Hang on to your marbles (it's a joke) and come learn and play and share here at MUMC pronounced mum-see, Milford United Methodist Church.



Jess & John Farnsworth, camp counselors with Lumin!



Dean & Jacqui Cook enjoying the music at VBS 2024!



Tess, Jonah, & John Farnsworth at VBS 2024!



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

2024

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

### Birthdays

- August 3:** Avery Herlihy
- August 4:** Sue Rudolf
- August 5:** Kevin Redden
- August 8:** Rudy Rumohr
- August 12:** Martin Harvey-Olson
- August 14:** Kathy Holland
- August 14:** Ben Erdody
- August 16:** Jenn Erdody
- August 18:** John Whitley
- August 18:** Jess Farnsworth
- August 20:** Esther Thayer
- August 20:** Sue Kostuk
- August 22:** Audrey Haag
- August 23:** Annika Weis
- August 26:** Clint Weis

### Anniversaries

- August 17:** Steve & Kerri-Lynn Kimner
- August 20:** Bruce & Doris Houston
- August 31:** Josh & Jillian Rafter

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

**August 4:** 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a, Psalm 51:1-12, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35

**August 11:** 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

**August 18:** 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14, Psalm 111, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

**August 25:** 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69



## Driving Ministry

If you are in need of a ride and have no place to turn, call the office and we will notify the driving ministry to help you out. This program is primarily directed to our handicapped and seniors, but anybody who needs a ride and can't find one is eligible. There is no charge for this service. Office 603-673-2669 Steve Takacs 603-672-5118  
[office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org)  
[trumpetchoo@msn.com](mailto:trumpetchoo@msn.com)



## What's your oasis?

As the gospels make clear, even the Son of God needed an occasional break. For Jesus, a solitary place reached by boat served as an oasis.

Although an oasis might make us think of a beach-like vacation spot in the middle of a desert, it's simply "something that provides refuge, relief or pleasant contrast" (Merriam-Webster).

So, what's your oasis? For someone who recently lost a spouse, it could be a break from the newfound silence. For a young parent, it could be a block of solitude and silence to complete a thought.

I haven't found any definition of oasis that includes a timeframe. Such an experience could last 30 seconds or a full week. Work within your circumstances so you can get away for a time with Jesus.

As you identify and pursue an oasis, consider your answers to these questions:

What circumstances in life cause you to desire an oasis, or break?

What will it look like to create a personal oasis or sanctuary at home?

When you spend time with Jesus, what do you want to do?



## Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts: "For the Common Good" From Callie McMahon

Did you know? "Laity are the primary agents of holy love incarnate in the world: The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and The United Methodist Church will fulfill its mission" (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶1127, "The Ministry of the Laity," p. 97

Laity, that's you and me.

When you think of this responsibility, what are your thoughts? I know I have felt overwhelmed by it: " This job can't be meant for me, can it? What do I know about getting people to come to Christ?"

As it turns out, we all know a lot. After all, my relationship with Christ is probably different than yours, but no less meaningful or right. Sharing our stories is our vehicle. The problem is we are uncomfortable sharing what we know. Maybe talking to anyone about our faith walk feels impossible. Maybe talking about this is not one of your gifts, maybe you're better at listening, or being generous, or organizing. Laity does this work by being themselves and being willing to use their gifts for the common good.

In September, I will be leading a course called "For the Common Good".

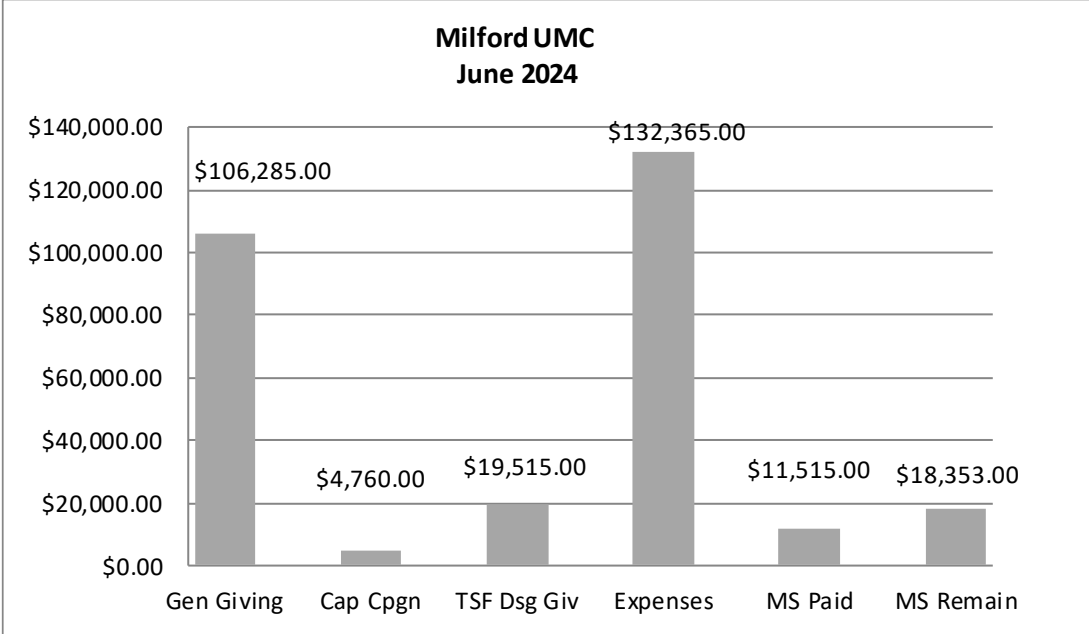
This course offers a scriptural understanding of spiritual gifts as always given "for the common good." By helping participants identify and link their gifts, abilities, and sense of calling, we will learn

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# Financial Reports

*From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee*



YTD Financials	
General Giving	\$106,285.00
Cap Campaign	\$4,760.00
TSF Dsg Giv *	\$19,515.00
Expenses	\$132,365.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$ 11,515.00
Mission Shares Remain	\$18,353.00

\*Dsg = Designated giving accounts that are being used to fund items that show up in the Expense category. The two areas this month were Other Designated funds not budgeted (that is where the Mission Share designated money goes) and the Future Fund (that is where we have designated funds set aside to fund the Youth and Ministry Director position if we are unable to do it from general giving).



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

MUMC giving QR Code

**Fall Yard Sale  
From Pat Rafter**

Time to start thinking about fall cleaning! Plans are in the works for the fall yard sale. Drop off dates 9/14 and 9/21 9-11. Yard Sale 9/28 8-1.

We will not be accepting any furniture, no old musty books, no magazines, no electronics, no stuffed animals unless clean with original tags, no VHS tapes, no exercise equipment. All things need to be clean and in working order. Gently used clothing will also be accepted. No underwear or socks unless in unopened packages.

Proceeds will go towards missions and purchasing a new cover and bungee balls for the large canopy frame.

Looking for helpers for drop offs, pricing and help the day of yard sale. If listed times do not work for you please contact Pat Rafter 603-582-0333 or Tom Knapp 603-809-5413.

Happy cleaning!



**Please save your 1/2 gallon and larger plastic bags for yard sale pricing. If they can be reasonably cleaned or rinsed, we can use them and keep them out of the land fill a bit longer.  
Thank You!**

**Handbell Choir  
From Heidi Rocha**

It's that time of year AGAIN!!! If you ever thought in your wildest dreams you would want to ring in a handbell choir, NOW is the time!

Give Heidi a call.... 603-493-4908.... or email if you're afraid to talk with her ..... [heidirocha@comcast.net](mailto:heidirocha@comcast.net) ..... and let her know you really, REALLY want to try it. It's really, REALLY fun.

Hope you'll consider it...and of course, you can stay and sing with the choir too.



*Save the Date*

**RALLY SUNDAY**

*September 8*

*Combined Service 10:30*



## Choir Notes:

From Jenn Erdody

Thanks to all our summer musicians who have been sharing their talents during our July Special Music! We are so happy to have such a wonderful variety of music in our church services!

HUGE thanks to Sally Landis for filling in for our Traditional Service in July. We're so happy to have you back, and hope you've enjoying sharing your beautiful musicianship with us!

All-  
Consider joining choir or handbells in the fall. We always welcome new members. Look for more info to come!



the powerful connection between spiritual gifts and vocational discernment in the context of the mission our local church. We will also learn how to make spiritual gifts discernment a part of our congregation's culture and commitment to equip mission-focused leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This course is offered through the resources of Discipleship ministry and Lay Servant Ministry. It is a 10 hour course which I would like to schedule for 3 consecutive Sundays starting September 15 at noon, or right after the 2nd service, for 2.5 hours. There is a participant's book available on line for \$14 and I will need to set a deadline of September 1 to have the books here for the course start.

Please email the office (or tell me when you see me) to let me know if you are interested, or if you want more information. *(note: for those of you who have taken the Basic Lay Servant Ministry course, this could be your course to become certified Lay Servants).*

Knowing your Spiritual gifts will help you feel comfortable about sharing what you know because you do it using the gifts you've been given. It will also help you better understand others and how they fit into the big picture of sharing Christ with the world. By reading, discussing, and engaging in practical exercises, participants will discover that God gives spiritual grace gifts for two purposes: one, to uniquely serve on a personal level, and two, how gifts and the gifts of others work together in their church for the common good.

I really hope to see you there.



# 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: Is now Mission/Outreach Diane Miller**

**Sue Kostuk** *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**





# August 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

				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6 p Men's Group	<b>5</b> SPRC 6	<b>6</b>  7 p Praise Band	<b>7</b>  8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6 p Men's Group	<b>12</b> 5:45-VOICE	<b>13</b> 5p Mission 6p Finance  7 p Praise Band	<b>14</b> 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6 p Men's Group	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b> 7 p Praise Band	<b>21</b> 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6 p Men's Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7 p Praise Band	<b>28</b> 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>



## Milford United Methodist Church

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

*August 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.