

The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church
December 2012—Milford, NH



MUMC's Lenten Devotional

*Introduction From John Millhouse,
Guidelines taken from The Upper Room*

The Worship Committee is putting together a Devotional modeled after the Upper Room for Lent (February 13, 2013 to March 30, 2013). The meditations for each day will be written by people just like you, people who are listening to God and trying to live by what they hear. We want to encourage Christians in their personal life of prayer and discipleship. We seek to build on what unites us as believers and to link MUMC together in prayer.

Have God's care and presence become real for you in your interaction with others? Has the Bible given you guidance and helped you see God at work? Has the meaning of scripture become personal for you as you reflected on it? Then you have something to share in a meditation.

(Continued on page 9)

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MUMC's Christmas Services

*In addition to our regular Sunday Services at 8:00 and 10:45,
we invite you to join us for the following:*

Blue Christmas,

Wednesday, Dec. 19th at 7 p.m.

*A special service for those needing extra support during
a sometimes difficult season.*

Christmas Eve:

Family Service, 5 p.m.

Traditional Service with the Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.

Communion Service, 11 p.m.

A Message from the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

As we enter the Advent season, we are once again challenged to cut through the noise and smoke of what I have come to call "the Christmas machine." You know what I am talking about, I suppose. When the decorations and commercials and hype start gearing up, that's the signal that the Christmas machine has been started and will soon be in full motion. My concern is that the noise of the machine is so omnipresent and so loud that it threatens to drown out the much quieter, but utterly beautiful and life-changing story and song of Christmas itself.

Each year, I look for ways to help our folks hear that story and sing that song more clearly and fully. This year, our Advent and Christmas theme will be "A Different Kind of Christmas," and I hope it will serve as a challenge to all of us to listen closely and sing heartily—to focus on Christmas as Jesus' birthday, and as such, a time to focus, not so much on what we can give our loved ones for Christmas, but on what we can give to *him*. Because as author and pastor Michael Slaughter reminds us, "if you listen closely, you can hear the words of Jesus: 'All I want for Christmas, for my birthday, is for you to remember the poor, reach the lost, and set the oppressed free.'"

As part of our "Different Kind of Christmas," we will once again be encouraging our members and friends to give fewer but more meaningful gifts,

and to commit to giving away one dollar for every dollar we spend on gifts for our friends and family. To assist you in following through on that commitment, we will be receiving a special offering during our worship services on Christmas Sunday, December 23. This offering will go to two ministries that in fact, are engaged in fulfilling Jesus' birthday wish of remembering the poor, reaching the lost, and setting the oppressed free. One of them, SHARE (<http://www.sharenh.org>), is a local charity that serves the poor and needy of the Souhegan Valley. The other, Living Waters International (<http://www.water.cc>), is a Christian ministry that shares Christ's love by digging wells in villages throughout the developing world that do not currently enjoy access to clean water. You can designate your gift to one or the other, split your gift 50/50, or whichever you choose.

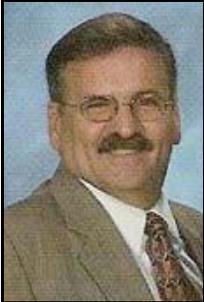
And of course, one place where the noise of the Christmas machine is noticeably quieter is our sanctuary on Sunday mornings (and on December 8, when the Broken Bread Cafe will set the table for a special Christmas celebration). And of course, you won't want to miss our annual Christmas concert on December 16 at 7:00 p.m. So join with us this year as we celebrate Jesus' birthday by having "A Different Kind of Christmas."

Grace and peace,



Meet the Staff: Jim Lawler

From Marilyn Edmondson



Name: Jim Lawler

Position: Church Custodian

Where are you from?

I was born in Melrose, MA, but moved A LOT growing up. From Melrose I moved to Maine, then Lynnfield, Massachusetts, then finally to Salem, New Hampshire. I have lived in New Hampshire, now Milford, since 1968.

Education and Vocation: I have an Associates Degree in Business Administration from Hesser College. I am currently the service manager and head technician at an auto service center. (Editor's note: Translates to super terrific Christian mechanic who makes all things go!)

Family Facts: I have been married to Marilyn for almost 40 years and we have four children, Ray, Jason, Tammy and Steven. We have four grandchildren, two boys and two girls.

What brought you to MUMC? My wife is Methodist and she and my daughter had been attending MUMC. One Mother's Day she asked me to attend church with her. Sue Davidson was singing with the choir and made eye contact with me from God's Hole in the choir loft and then came down and held my hand during "If We All Said a

Prayer". She roped me in, and Rev. Morgan closed the deal with his sermon. I've been here ever since. (Editor's note: For those who do not have a history with the old church on the oval, God's Hole was an arch in the center of the choir loft where either a parament or banner was hung. Those of us who had to climb up and stand in the arch with said parament balanced on a pole to change it with the church seasons do not miss that task!)

What do you enjoy outside of work and church? I like to camp and to read, particularly spiritual or inspirational type material. I also enjoy auto racing. When asked if this was as an observer or a participant, Jim admitted that he had taken Dad's Cadillac out on Beach Ridge Speedway when he was 15 and unlicensed! (I wonder when or if Dad ever knew.)

Fun Facts: Oh, I could tell you stories! I won a twist contest when I was 9, and took ballroom dance classes as a child. I also used to work as a disc jockey, impersonating Wolfman Jack. I raised money for Muscular Dystrophy doing this, got to go to Las Vegas, and give Jerry Lewis the check and meet the Wolfman.



Wolfman Jack

Quilting Ministry Request

From Rita Lines

Do you have an old sewing machine that is just spending its days in a closet? Is it still in good working condition and just in need of a good cleaning before putting it to use? The Quilting Ministry is looking for a couple of sewing machines that we could use in our ministry. If you have a machine that we could use please contact either Marley Gale at 672-9441 or Rita Lines at 673-0398. We'd also like to thank the special person who donated the batting to the ministry. It will come in handy to help us complete our current project.

Christmas Cantata "Shout the Good News"

From Sally Landis

Please join the Chancel Choir on Sunday evening December 16th at 7 p.m. for their performance of this year's Christmas Cantata, "Shout the Good News" written by Lloyd Larson. We will have some guest musicians and hopefully, some of our younger church members plus two dramatic narrators participating in what should be a meaningful presentation of the Christmas story. Invite family and friends to share this evening with us and plan to join us afterwards for refreshments and fellowship.

Outreach Corner

From Pat Rafter

Yes MUMC is a giving/serving church and your Outreach Committee has been busy trying to come up with new ideas to reach those in need. We will not be participating in Operation Christmas Child this holiday season, but we will be sponsoring a local family through SHARE. At this time we do not have the family's wish list but that will be coming soon, along with sizes. We will have a small tree set up in the Narthex in early Dec with tags for suggestions for gifts and sizes. Please take a tag and return your purchase unwrapped by the date noted on the tree. Your donation may be the highlight of someone's holiday. Thank you for prayerfully considering this mission. Remember... Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Lamplighter's News

From Elaine Driscoll

We have had many inspirational discussions during our study of the Gospel of John. The different versions of the Bible within our group help us to understand the message. In the next couple of weeks we will continue through I, II and III John.

Advent begins on December 2 and appropriately we will review the Advent and Christmas stories found in the Gospel of Luke. We invite all women to join us for lively conversation, prayer concerns and Bible study.

For questions or more information please contact the following:

Elaine Driscoll at Geldris@comcast.net
Carol Rowlette at Carolleero@aol.com

Seasoned Generation News

From Richard & Roberta Randlett

Once again we had our Christmas dinner and gift exchange party at Dottie and Paul Dishong's home on Dec 2nd. Everyone brought a delicious dish to share and a gift of something they had at home but never used. Very interesting for sure! It definitely served up a lot of laughter.

Dottie and Paul have opened their home to our group for many years and we have appreciated it so very much. Dottie & Paul have always gone out of their way to have their lovely home beautifully decorated and put a lot into setting the tables for our dinner and then enjoying by the Christmas tree while we had our crazy swap. We all have so appreciated their generosity in hosting this fun time each December. We all gave them a great big THANK YOU for all the wonderful times we have had.

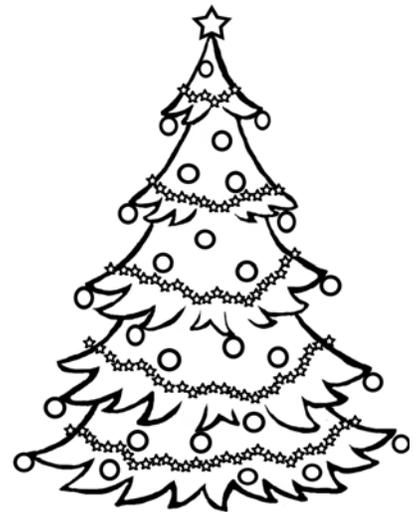
We wish them both the best as they leave for Florida. They will happily be returning back to Amherst before the terrible heat hits Florida.

It was also the final time for us to be leaders of the Seasoned Generation. We have been doing it for over five years and it is time to step down. We want to thank Carol Rowlette for all the help she has always so willingly given for each meeting. Carol, we are both so grateful for all your help given so freely. If anyone wants to step up and take over that would be wonderful, but we resign

from leadership effective this month. We thank all of you who have been so very faithful and helped so much along the way. It has been a fun time and we have enjoyed it so very much but, as it is with a lot of things, it is time for us to take a step back. We hope that one day it may be resurrected again if a leader steps forward!!!

We also need to mention that the Seasoned Generation has been assigned to do coffee hour for the second Sunday service for the month of December. Please, we need as many of you as possible please help with this. It requires getting the coffee made, putting the "goodies" out on the table and, of course, cleaning up. We encourage as many of you as can, to bring cookies or whatever you would like to place on the table, it will be greatly appreciated. Second service people really do enjoy having a cup of coffee and a "goodie" while they are chatting with people following our service so cookies, donut's, whatever you would like to bring will be very appreciated.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year. Thank you for your support!



Broken Bread Café

From Kara Ammon

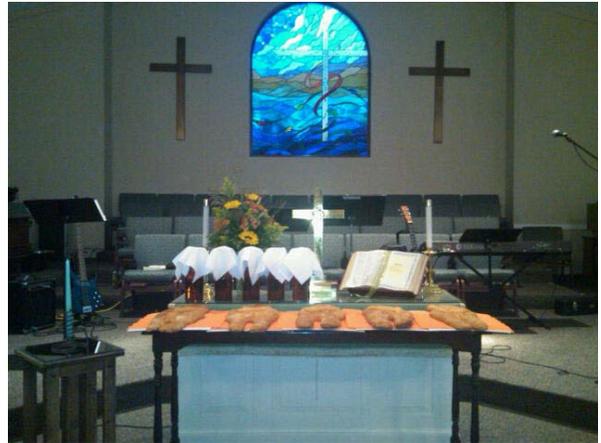
"...and he was made known to them through the breaking of the bread."

-Luke 24:35

Broken Bread's November Cafe celebrated the *Día De Los Muertos* or the Day of the Dead, a southern Mexican tradition in which families honor their departed loved ones by bringing food, flowers, candles and firecrackers to the graveyard. The children decorate *calaveras de azucar*, or sugar skulls, with the loved one's names as a way of remembering them. Special bread is made called *Pan de Muertos*.

When we break the bread and share the cup we remember Jesus. When we eat this special meal together each month we remember our loved ones, those near to us, those far away, and those departed.

Every month, the Broken Bread Café hosts a full meal communion service for those who value food as both an incarnate connection to God the creator of all things and value a shared meal of any kind as a meaningful connection between people of all walks of life. The service is held at 5:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at Milford United Methodist Church. All are welcome!



Top: the altar is set for Dio de los Muertos communion at the Broken Bread Café, bottom left: Day of the Dead Bread, bottom right: a decorated sugar skull—a traditional holiday activity for children in Mexico.



Congratulations to Taylor Bossie and Jessica Rocca on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Leila Danielle!

Ed Team News

From Shelly Frost



For the month of December our Sunday School mission project will be to help SHARE provide a nice Christmas for those in need. We will be collecting gift cards to local stores, gas stations, etc. to bring to SHARE prior to Christmas. please see the "Gift Cards for SHARE" display in the Narthex, we will also collect monetary donations towards purchasing cards, So please help the kids to spread the Christmas cheer to those in need. Any questions please see Ed Team members.

Reminder – there is no Sunday School classes on December 23 and December 30. Happy Holidays!

News from SHARE

*From Karen Graveline and
Kathy Beane*

**For the month of December MUMC is collecting:
Stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy,
canned fruit.**

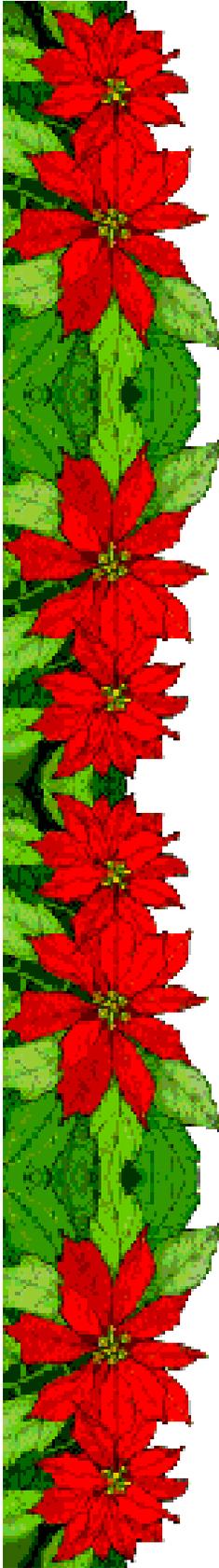


Tomorrow we are finishing up the Thanksgiving baskets for our clients and their family and friends. We are distributing approximately 375 baskets this year, providing a Thanksgiving meal for over 1700 people. We greatly appreciate the community's donations of food, financial contributions and volunteer hours which enable us to provide a holiday meal to the neediest among us. We couldn't do this without all of you!

Dear MUMC Friends,

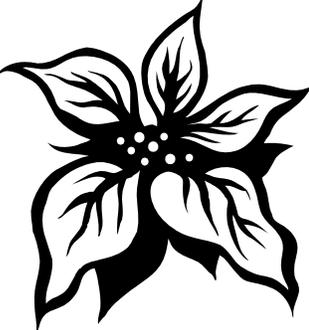
Tom and I want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers, well wishes, cards, visits and donations of food during my recovery from surgery. It gave us comfort to know so many of you were thinking of us. It has been a gradual process, but I am feeling better and have been happy to slowly become more involved in the life of the church again. (I hope I have been a welcome addition back in the choir!) I look forward to spending more time with you all as my energy and activity levels increase. Thanks you so much for your love and support.

Love, Wendy Getchell-Lacey



Order your holiday Poinsettias today!
Remember, they make great gifts and beautiful home décor!



 **Beautify our sanctuary**
this Christmas...
with the purchase of a poinsettia.

Please fill out the form below and include a check for \$15 per poinsettia. Checks should be made payable to "MUMC" and please note "poinsettia" on the memo line.

Orders are due by December 9, 2012.

Your Name _____

Phone number _____

of poinsettia's _____

Total cost: \$ _____

To honor or to remember a loved one, please fill out below:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please pick up your plants after the Christmas Eve service.

Lenten Devotional, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

Where do I begin?



You begin in your own relationship with God. Christians believe God speaks to us and guides us as we study the Bible and pray. Good meditations are closely tied to scripture and

show how it has shed light on a specific situation. Good meditations make the message of the Bible come alive.

Good devotional writing is first of all authentic. It connects real events of daily life with the ongoing activity of God. It comes across as the direct, honest statement of personal faith in Christ and how that faith grows. It is one believer sharing with another an insight or struggle about what it means to live faithfully.

Second, good devotional writing uses sensory details -- what color it was, how high it bounced, what it smelled like. The more sensory details the writing includes, the better. Though the events of daily life may seem mundane, actually they provide the richest store of sensory details. And when we connect God's activity to common things, each encounter with them can serve as a reminder of God's work.

Finally, good devotional writing is exploratory. It searches and considers and asks questions. It examines the faith without knowing in advance what all the answers will be. It is open to God's continuing self-revelation through scripture, people, and events. Good writing chronicles growth and change, seeing God behind both.

How do I get started writing a meditation?

When you find yourself in the middle of some situation thinking, "Why -- that's how God is, too!" or, "That's like that story in the Bible . . ." that can become a meditation. Excellent ideas come from reading and meditating on scripture, looking for connections between it and daily life. When you see such a helpful connection, here's a simple formula for getting it on paper:

- Retell the Bible teaching or summarize the passage briefly.
- Describe the situation that you link to the Bible passage, using a specific incident. Write down as many details of the real-life situation as you can. For example, if you write about an incident when people were talking, write down what each person said.
- Tell how you can apply this spiritual truth in days to come.

After a few days, look carefully at what you have written. Decide which details best convey your message, and delete the others. Ask yourself whether this insight will be helpful to believers in other situations.

Lenten Devotional, cont.

(Continued from page 9)

Tips to keep in mind

- Begin with studying and meditating on the Bible so its power supports your words.
- Connect scripture with your own life. Your experience is unique.
- Each day's meditation includes a title, suggested Bible reading, quoted scripture verse, personal witness or reflection on scripture, prayer, a "thought for the day" (a pithy, summarizing statement), and a "prayer focus" (suggested subject for further prayer).
- Meditations should be about 250 words long.
- Avoid preaching ("you should ...," "you need to ...," "we must ...," etc.)
- Use language and examples that appeal to the five senses. Tell what you heard, saw, touched, smelled, tasted. When appropriate, use dialogue to tell your story.
- Make only one point. Think snapshot, not movie.
- Focus on how you can deepen the Christian commitment of readers and nurture their spiritual growth.
- Indicate the version of the Bible

quoted in the text, and give references for any scripture passages mentioned.

- Seek always to encourage readers to deeper engagement with the Bible.
- Always give the original source of any materials you quote.

When is the deadline?

Start sending your meditations to the Church office today. We need 45 meditations. Lent is early this season so please try to get them in to the office by **January 15, 2013**.



Do you regularly attend the Spirit Celebration?

Are you looking for a simple way to contribute to the fellowship of our church family?

We are looking for someone to organize the coffee hour after the first service on Sunday. If you are interested, or would like more information, please call Wendy in the office.

Online Contributions to MUMC

*From John Bradfield &
Natalie Parker*

Offering envelopes for 2013 will be available in mid-December. If you do not currently use the offering envelopes and would like to, please notify Natalie Parker (654-9493) or the church office. Likewise if you want to discontinue receiving envelopes, please let Natalie know. Remember electronic giving through your bank is an option and incurs no additional cost to you or the church.

Another option: if you have online bill-pay with your bank, contributing to MUMC can be set-up automatically. Most of us are using online banking in some form or another and this is an opportunity to take one more item off of your list each week. It's fast and easy and doesn't cost you, or the church, anything. MUMC will have a steadier cash flow for use in the mission of the church. With the electronic bill-pay feature, the bank will mail a check each week or month to MUMC on your behalf. This lets the Financial Secretary get the funds deposited in a timely manner and allows the church to better fulfill its mission. In these tough economic times, steady cash flow for the church is critical to MUMC being able to continue to help the community.

So, sign up with your bank today. It's free, simple, and tremendously beneficial for both you and the church! All the details are provided in the box at right.

How to Make Online Banking Contributions to MUMC

Specify to your bank:

- Weekly or monthly
- The day of the week or month
 - The "paid to" (MUMC)
 - The dollar amount
- The "memo" line (optional)
For example: the envelope number or whether the contribution is for the general fund, building fund, etc.

- Where to send the check:
MUMC—Financial Secretary
P.O. Box 476
Milford, NH 03055

The bank will then write a check for the specified amount and the day you have chosen. The check is mailed to MUMC, with no cost to you for the postage. The amount is automatically deducted from your checking account.

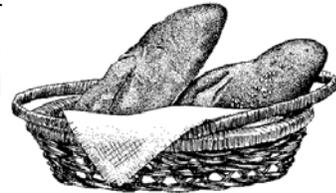
MUMC receives your check in the mail and confidentially records your contribution.

**It's EASY and FREE—
Sign up at your bank
TODAY!**

Bits & Pieces...

Donate Bread Loaves on Communion Sunday, December 2.

Please remember to bring a loaf of bread (plain or wheat, no specialty breads) to be placed in the basket at the altar. The bread loaves will be delivered to SHARE, the local food pantry, on Monday.



Do You Have a Name Badge?

Name badges can be printed up anytime by either signing up on the clipboard at the information booth in the foyer, or by e-mailing Diane at jaquith2@gmail.com with your request. Please write out exactly how you would like your name printed and whether you prefer a pin rather than "clip on". When the badge is ready, it will be added to one of the "clotheslines" located by the windows in the foyer.

Christian Aftercare Ministry

CAM is currently in need of men's T-shirts, jeans, boots, sneakers, cooking pots & pans, microwave ovens, coffee pots, towels, bed linens, and stainless steel knives, forks and spoons. Call Margie for information: 465-7752. We thank you for all the help you can give—may God bless you abundantly!

Join us for the next Broken Bread Café!

*Saturday,
December 8
At 5 p.m.*

Help Our Youth Mission Team

Clean out those old CDs, DVDs, video games - including Wii, Nintendo, XBox, etc and help the Youth Mission Trip! This does not include VCR tapes. And you need to have the original box that your old CD, DVD, or game came in. Then bring it on in to the church and put it in the bin under the coat rack. Liane Wright will take care of the rest. Those old dust collectors can bring a lot of money for our Youth Mission Trip. Thanks!

Bits & Pieces...



Donation of Altar Flowers

Would you like to honor or remember a special person in your life or celebrate a special occasion? Please consider signing up to purchase altar flowers. The flower chart is posted on the wall across from the church office. Contact and payment instructions are on the flower chart. Standard arrangements are \$35. Thanks for helping to beautify the altar and sanctuary for Sunday worship.

Have you visited a Home Group?

Our Home Groups are a wonderful way to get to know people in our church, share our faith and build connections. You are welcome to join us anytime!

Monday's at 7 p.m. @ The Mentch home, call 672-1204

Tuesday's at 7 p.m. @ The Reed's home, call 673-6950

Thursday's at 7 p.m. @ The Rafter's home, call 673-4516

Friday's at 6 p.m. @ The McMahon home, call 673-5239

A Noise Offering

Following each service on the second Sunday of the month we will have a "Noise Offering." This donation of your spare change will benefit the Wanakee Scholarship Fund that helps youth to participate in our United Methodist summer camp located in Meredith, NH. If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to MUMC with the note "Wanakee Scholarships" in the memo space.



Winter Info

Winter will be arriving soon, and with it snow and ice. We do everything possible to have worship every Sunday, but rarely we might be forced to cancel services. In that event, Pastor Tom will make the decision by 7 a.m. and you can check the list of closings on WMUR TV or find it on WMUR.com. Please use your discretion as well when deciding if the roads are safe in your area, and whether or not to drive in.





December 2012

Sunday Services:
 8:30-Spirit Celebration
 9:30-Sunday School
 10:45-Traditional Worship

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 9-2— Christmas Craft Fair
2 12:15— Confirmation Class 5-6:30— Youth Group	3 7—Outreach Committee	4	5 8—White Tops 1-3— Lamplighter's 7—Worship Committee	6 12:30—Lunch Group @ Union Street Grill 6—Adult Bell Choir 7-9 —Chancel Choir	7 7:30—Praise Band	8 5—Broken Bread Café
9 5-6:30— Youth Group	10 7—Trustee's Committee	11	12 8—White Tops 1-3— Lamplighter's 7—Stephen Ministry Supervision	13 12:30—Lunch Group @ Union Street Grill 6—Adult Bell Choir 7-9 —Chancel Choir	14	15
16 5-6:30— Youth Group 7— Christmas Cantata	17 7—Finance Committee	18	19 8—White Tops 1-3— Lamplighter's 7— Blue Christmas Service	20 12:30—Lunch Group @ Union Street Grill 6—Adult Bell Choir 7-9 —Chancel Choir	21	22
23 /	24 5—Family Service / 7—Traditional Service / 11— / Communion Service /	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26 7—Stephen Ministry Supervision	27 6—Adult Bell Choir 7-9 —Chancel Choir	28	29
30	31					



Milford United Methodist Church
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www.milfordumc.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Milford, NH 03055
Permit No. 17

December, 2012

Sunday Worship Times:
8:30 Contemporary Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Traditional Worship
**Free childcare

Change Service Requested

Milford United Methodist Church

Discover the Joy!

Our Mission:

The Milford United Methodist Church exists to help people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

We will help 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.

