



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

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Co-travelers in Christ,

Lately I've been learning a lot about the life of a man that you may or may not have heard of (depending upon whether you're a baseball fan or not)—a man by the name of Branch Rickey. Last weekend, I got to go to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, which is something I've always wanted to do, and Branch Rickey is one of the 346 inductees there whose likeness is immortalized on one of those bronze plaques. He was one of the most important managers, team owners, and all-around institution builders in the history of baseball essentially inventing the minor league system (then called the farm team system) and expanding baseball's reach and influence as the major American pastime of the 20th century. He's widely known today as the owner who was most influential in the racial integration of baseball in the late 1940's when he signed Jackie Robinson to the Brooklyn Dodgers, but he is also famous for being the only catcher in history (during his playing days) to have 13 bases stolen on him and for inventing what was called the "reserve clause", which took away all bargaining power and free agency rights for players for much of the 20th century, essentially making the players captive to the owners' interests. Famously, Branch Rickey was a Methodist—in fact, his full name was Wesley Branch Rickey and he was well known for always having a bible story or parable quick on hand in conversations, for the spiritual mentorship that he often brought into his relationship with his players, and for being ardently against playing baseball on Sundays.

As a person, Rickey was a bit of a mixed bag like all of us, of course—he had some records that no one would want, some that needed to be undone, and yet some others that are truly important, beautiful, and lasting. As I stood in front of his plaque and as I've done a bit more thinking about him since, one of the questions I've been pondering is: what makes this man's life a good example of a Methodist life (or even a Christian one)? Methodists have historically abstained from the use of addictive substances like alcohol and tobacco, but his office (legend has it) was more thickly billowing with smoke than the Holy of Holies. Methodists have historically been especially attentive to issues around civil rights and especially poverty, but Rickey did as much as anyone in history to restrict player rights and bargaining power. And yet, his conscience—formed and shaped in a Methodist pew—spurred him to take real and costly risks in the name of justice and civil rights, to make sure that some things

Pastor's Corner Cont'd

remained holy, and never stop being in love with Jesus. If anything makes this a Methodist life, it's not that it was perfect, but that it was growing and willing to follow the lead of God's grace into brave and uncertain places even while, in some respects, that work remained unfinished. We've just wrapped up the season of Easter and, through that season, I had us think about Easter's Second Fruits on Sunday mornings and read a few of John Wesley's sermons that spell out the foundations of this growing-and-yet-unfinished life—i.e., about what it means and looks like to grow in grace. I hope that that theme won't simply cease with the close of that series. I hope it will develop into further reaches of our life and discipleship as we, like Branch Rickey, continue to find and mold the sort of discipleship here that will hopefully one day bear its fruit in brave acts of justice fueled by faith in the God who takes enormous delight in good and whose will we pray may be accomplished on earth as in heaven. As we head into June, I wonder where it is that you are feeling God's ongoing workings of grace form you and push you forward? ...where it wants to more deeply integrate your heart and your life?...where it wants to nudge you so that not only your song, but your life may reflect and proclaim the love of God. We are certainly not a perfect people. Branch Rickey was never a perfect person. But we move forward in grace.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor John

About my study; about social witness, learning, mixed legacies, grace growing in us!

Mission Team Update From Sue Kostuk

Mission/Outreach. 6 month review

March- UMCOR hygiene buckets. Goal-2. Result-5

April -Donations made to Share, Habitat for Humanity & World Vision. More to come on this sponsorship in the fall.

May -Got Sneakers. Two full boxes donated. 60 pairs sent.

May-June Donations for Malaria Nets. Results as of May 29, enough nets for 15 families!!

Spring Yard Sale \$3250

We meet on-line or live every 4th Tuesday 5-6 pm. Feel free to join us as we are forever looking for new ideas.

A special thank you to the congregation for all you have contributed to these causes. God Bless You!

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



Calling All Campers (Wanakee) From Nancy Tong

Camp Wanakee will be opening soon for the summer, and sounds of happy campers will resound on the hill, around the field, and at the lake.

MUMC has made a promise to help our youth attend camp by offering a half scholarship. If you have a camper, or know of someone who might want to attend camp, please let Nancy Tong know soon, so that we can arrange for the scholarship before camp opens. (wlctongn@hotmail.com or 603-345-0682)

Visit the camp's website at www.Wanakee.org for more information about the different camping possibilities, or pick up a flyer in the narthex.

If you would like to make a donation to the Wanakee Fund, you can make a check out to MUMC and put Wanakee on the memo line, or use the church's Pushpay app.



Choir News From Jenn Erdody

The Chancel Choir is wrapping up its season with anthems through June! We were thrilled to be able to feature Milford High School seniors Riley Weis and Olivia Rolanti on Sunday, May 26, performing Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Pie Jesu" with the choir. Nice job, Riley and Olivia!

In July and August, we'll be featuring members of our congregation in Special Music. In the past we've had solos, quartets, and instrumental presentations. We even have a harmonica solo every year! If you're interested in performing for Special Music (in place of the 2nd service choir anthems), please speak to Jenn Erdody.

Choir is rehearsing from 6:15 to 7:30 on Thursdays for the remainder of June (no rehearsal June 27). We're always happy to have new members!

A Prayer for Families

Dear heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us in our family — and in our church family. Thank you for the love and nourishment we receive from the people in whose presence you've placed us. We confess our need for your guidance in our families and congregation. Please grant us harmony in our homes and church body. In all situations, help us show love, patience and respect for one another. In your name we pray. Amen.



Adult Mission
From Steve Rafter

The adult mission team has agreed to a work date of June 15 to work on the current Habitat for Humanity house build in Nashua.

Anyone interested in joining in this project or other local mission work please contact Steve Rafter at 603-582-1352 or



“Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed.”
—Cavett Robert



Next Crafting
Workshop

June 22, 2024
12:30-3 p.m.

VOICE

From Janet Hromjak

Back in March I attended an online program called Standing Up To Racism. This is a 2-hr zoom event for 4 consecutive weeks. I continue to work on my action plan from that meeting. One thing I said I would do is work with the Wadleigh Library to see if they would sponsor this event during the year. They have worked with the presenter, Anne Romney, and the event will be Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm on Sept. 11th and 18th, and October 2nd and 10th via zoom.

This workshop will look at racism in all its forms – internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic. Topics will include white privilege, understanding the toll of microaggressions, and what it means to be an ally/accomplice in the fight for social justice – with emphasis on concrete actions people can do, small and large.

I really enjoyed the program and how it made me think. I hope you will consider participating.



“You can always give without loving,
but you can never love without giving.”
—attributed to various sources

* * *

Our MUMC Family Out in the World

MUMC folks are still finding & spreading JOY!



The Frost Family celebrate the new Dr. Trevor Frost ! Yay Trev!



Shannon Drew receives her Masters. Wowza!



Roberta Langis, Kathy Gray, & sister? Enjoy a meal.



The Biron family do a Mother's Day walk!



Nancy & Matt enjoy the Wang Ctr



The BLM quilt at the UU church Voice helped.



L. Bruce & Doris Houston take a bike ride.



R. The Harvey Olson's +1 the Amato ctr, Patrick produced!

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP FIRELIGHT FRIDAY JULY 12

6:00-8:00



In May SHARE Is Collecting

Toothbrushes & paste, Deodorants, Shampoo & Conditioner, Bar Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products, Diapers, Wipes



Food
Pantry
Needs

SHARE
Collection

Share Supper June 18, 2024

Look for signup sheets in the Narthex



Family Life

LeeAnne Steenhoek Director Youth and Family Ministry

HELLO

If you read this line, please take a moment to send a quick text "Got it" to (603)864-9005 or an email to youthfamilyministrydirector@milfordumc.org

In writing to you, it helps to know who you are. Do you read the newsletter? I've prepared a Bio so you can know a bit about me and my journey to MUMC. I'd really love to hear from you and learn what we have in common.

LeeAnne Steenhoek began as Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Milford United Methodist Church in 2023. A career teacher, she taught Spanish for 15 years and eighth-grade English for 5 years, retiring from Amherst Middle School in 2015. Since then, she has served as Christian Educator at Lyme Congregational Church, UCC, for one-year 2018, and as Director of Christian Formation at First Church of Nashua, UCC, for two years, 2020-2022.

LeeAnne is a Spiritual Director having trained with *Gateways to God Missional Spiritual Direction Program*, a program sponsored by the United Methodist Church, (Boston University Theology School).

A Reiki Master in both Usui and Shamballa traditions, LeeAnne is an experienced healer. She is currently training with the Institute of Spiritual Healing & Aromatherapy ISHA working with Deaconess Jana Marie Whitten in a four-session Christian healing program.

LeeAnne was born and raised in East Granby, Connecticut growing up and confirmed into East Granby Congregational Church, UCC. She loved to climb trees, read and catch frogs by the brook as a child. She also delighted in soccer, tennis, cheerleading, drama club and concert band growing up. A long-term resident of Mont Vernon, she lives there with her husband Patrick of 27

years. Patrick is also a career teacher having taught 5th grade for 22 years also in Amherst, NH. He now does home renovation and handyman work. Also in residence, are two beloved pets: Daisy, a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel and Luna the cat. All furry kids are rescues. They also have an aquarium, cockatiels, and a guinea pig!

LeeAnne and Patrick have two daughters. Caroline is a chemistry lab instructor at Mount Holyoke College, having graduated in Chemistry there last May. Genevieve is a Senior at Keene State College, majoring in Mathematics. Genevieve works at the IT Help desk at KSC as well as a teller at the Savings Bank of Walpole. Both daughters plan to work in outdoor ministry as staff at the Horton Center, UCC in Gorham, NH this summer. In the past, the family has welcomed exchange students and teachers from Columbia, Thailand and Germany. The Steenhoek Family: LeeAnne, Patrick, Caroline and Genevieve joined Milford United Methodist Church October 15, 2023.

Tatiana, our Columbian American Field Service (AFS) daughter, returned after 15 years this Christmas to stay for 3 weeks with her husband and 3-year-old. Three-year old Christmases are magical and offer a pertinent reminder that the wants and needs of parents and children are consistent throughout time.

LeeAnne loves to watch the sunrise - especially over the ocean, garden, bird-watch, hike, paddle canoe, and spend time in Creation. She also appreciates most forms of music especially Latin (Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Lambada) classical, campfire sing-alongs, praise music, classic hymns, and music from around the world. Through the American Field Service (AFS) program, she did the year academic program with a family in Brazil and is fluent in Portuguese. She also studied Spanish abroad while living with a family in the Dominican Republic and is fluent in Spanish.

Cont's pg 8

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
trumpetchoo@msn.com



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

Scents can make some people sick.

Fleece Blankets

We are still looking for fleece (2 yds. long) donations.

Contact Kerri-Lynn Kimner
603 345-7228.



The adult mission team has agreed to a work date of June 15 to work on the current Habitat for Humanity house build in Nashua.

Anyone interested in joining in this project or other local mission work please contact Steve Rafter at 603-582-1352 or the church office.



Noise Offering for Wanakee

June 9, 2024



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



Next Crafting Workshop

June ,, 2024
12:30-3 p.m.

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.



See page 9 of this edition for new help with hearing .

Coordinator Needed

From Pat Rafter

We have one volunteer who will take one weekend in the bell ringing season. Thank you Shannon Short.

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.



Family Life Cont'd

LeeAnne interpreted Spanish and Portuguese for the Nashua public schools for 5 years, 2015-2020.

LeeAnne enjoys reading, writing poetry, singing, laughing, listening to storytellers and dancing. Spiritual rituals include Ai Chi (Tai Chi in the water), studying devotionals such as *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young and "The Center for Action and Contemplation CAC with Richard Rohr as well as Bible study/book studies with multiple churches and online forums. She believes in multi-sensory approaches to learning and is always seeking creative ways to grow the Beloved Community.

I'm here for you. As a Spiritual Director, I've learned deep listening to God and to the one(s) I'm with. Together we can listen for God's holy nudge and partner in Christ as we walk together in faith.

LeeAnne's personal statement of belief: Ours is a God of LOVE! The Bible is a love story of God's love for God's people.

God goes before us in all that we do. No matter where you go, what you do, or what happens to you in life God is with you loving you always and forever. The nature of God is love. Ours is a God of relationship. The Holy Spirit guides us. Jesus shows us the way

No matter who you are or whom you love, I welcome you..



The MUMC Children's church seed sowers. Elizabet Whitley, Sandi Tuthill, Sybil Whitley, Tess, Jonah & Jess Farnsworth, , Kim & Angel Stevens.

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.



Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—The Table Talk of Martin Luther



Praise for God's Handiwork

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!
The heavens declare your glory,
the arch of sky displays your handiwork.
In your love you have given us the power
to behold the beauty of your world
robed in all its splendor.
The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,
the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence.

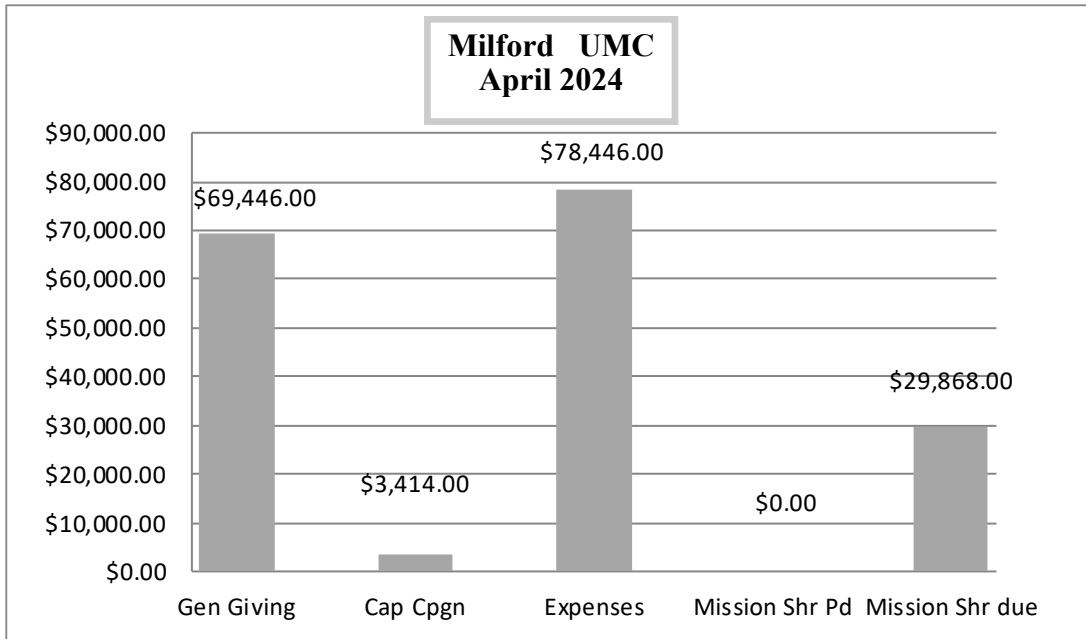
The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome might;
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
bespeak your wondrous will.
In your goodness you have made us able to hear
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones
reveal to us that you are in our midst.
A divine voice sings through all crea-



tion.

Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



General Giving	\$69,466.00
Cap Campaign	\$ 3,414.00
Expenses	\$78,4.00
Mission Shares Paid	\$ 29,868.00
Mission Shares Due	\$0.00

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



MUMC giving QR Code

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

- June 2:** Dan Roby
- June 2:** Andrea Bayer
- June 4:** Dan Muller
- June 7:** Janine Rumohr
- June 8 :** Elizabeth Whitley
- June 9:** Marian Diorio
- June 10:** Theo Rafter
- June 11:** Shirley Stackpole
- June 11:** Sandi Tuthill
- June 12:** Doris Houston
- June 20:** Everett Gale
- June 25:** Dean Cook
- June 25:** Julio Quintana
- June 26:** Emma Lambert
- June 26:** Shawna Frost
- June 26:** Dotty Dishong
- June 30:** Madison Muller
- June 30:** Kim Pfeil

Anniversaries

- June 9:** Dave & Shirley Stackpole
- June 13:** Dan & Wendy Ayotte
- June 30:** Dan & Paula Muller

We would live to include you on the birthday and anniversary list. Won't you share your special dates at of-



fice@milfordumc.org

This Month's Lectionary

June 2: 1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 2 Corinthians 4:5-12, Mark 2:23-3:6

June 9: 1 Samuel 8:4-20,11:14-15, Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Mark 3:23-35

June 16: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13, Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13),14-17, Mark 4:26-34

June 23: 1 Samuel 17:(1a-4-11,19-23),32-49
Psalm 9:9-20, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

June 30: 2 Samuel 1:1,17-27, Psalm 130, 2
Corinthians 8:7-15, Mark 5:21-43



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
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: 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



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 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6 p Men's Group	3 6 SPRC Virtual 7 Trustees	4 7 p Praise Band	5 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	6 12 Hybrid Study 5:45 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir	7	8 11a Taesung goodbye Manchester
9 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6 p Men's Group	10	11 7 p Praise Band	12 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	13 12 Hybrid Study 5:45 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir 1	14	15
16 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	17 5:45-VOICE	18 5p Mission 6p Finance 7 p Praise Band	19 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer /	20 12 Hybrid Study 5:45 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir	21	22
23 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6 p Men's Group	24	25 7 p Praise Band	26 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6 Potluck 6:30 Prayer / Study Zoom	27 12 Hybrid Study 5:45 Bells 7:- Chancel Choir	28	29
30 :See Above						



Milford United Methodist Church

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

June 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.