

The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church October 2023 Milford, NH, Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

Pastor's Corner

Co-travelers in Christ,

Here's a strange question to lead off a new month: who gave you the right? It's the question that Jesus is asked in the Gospel reading that opens the month of October. In Matthew 21:23-27 Jesus entered into the temple precincts and the first thing he's asked when he gets there is essentially "who gave you the right?": "When he entered the Temple the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, 'by what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" On one level, it's not all that surprising that he would be asked that in this place of all places. The temple precincts, after all, was full of priests in various roles and a high priest and Levites (priestly assistants), many with very specific responsibilities, and their status and authority (within these grounds especially) would have been readily apparent in what they were doing, how they were dressing, and where they were allowed to go. Jesus was teaching in that place and the first thought that came into the priests' minds was, "my, isn't he presumptuous!?" He didn't have a role or a status there and teaching was traditionally a job for the Levites. Who gave him the right?

One of the more interesting things about that question there in Matthew is that it never gets answered. Jesus, rather, just lets that question hang in the air. But that he would be asked it at all attests to a certain attention-grabbing boldness, a certain missional transgressive-ness of his that may itself likely be the point. Jesus was so bold in his ministry that it spurred the question in onlookers: 'who gave him the right?' I want to hold up that thought, that lesson before us as we enter into this new month. Am I? Are we so bold in the ways we carry forward our ministries into the world that we inspire such questions? Do we allow ourselves to be confined and constrained within the assumptions of the environments where we find ourselves or are we claiming a God-given commission in like mind with the likes of John Wesley, who once famously asserted, "The world is my parish!" May we, like Jesus, be so bold in where we're willing to take and share the gospel that we too may raise such questions!

In Christ! Pastor John

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Corner	1
Pastor's Book Pile Crop Walk about.	2
News from VOICE	3
The Garden Spot	4
MUMC Family Share Supper	5
Operation Christmas Child	6
Family Life	7
Youth Mission	8
	9
Finance	10
Birthdays & Anniver-	11
Committees	12
Calendar	13

From the Pastor's Book Pile

Here are a couple of books that I've been reading (or listening to) lately. If the subject interests you, let's talk!

Andrew Davidson, ed., Imaginative Apologetics: Theology, Philosophy, and the Catholic Tradition.

A collection of essays by an interdenominational cast of currentlyinfluential theologians on what it might be today to offer and defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ within our contemporary global context. It includes fascinating surveys of where we've been on this, mistakes we've made, and different approaches taken as well as the role of awakening imagination within this task.

Richey, Russell E., Kenneth E. Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt. The Methodist Experience in America. Vol. 1, A History. Nashville: Abingdon, 2010.

I've been going back into our history a bit lately with this book (along with the next one on the list), which is the current standard history of American Methodism, to find some new inspiration and lessons from the beginnings of our movement. It's a fascinating story full of highs, lows, triumphs, disappointments that puts a fine point on that old saying about history—you couldn't make this story up!

Pritchard, Robert W. A History of the Episcopal Church: Complete Through the 78th General Convention. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2014.

I've also been reading the opening few chapters of this standard history of the Episcopal Church along the same lines since, prior to 1784, Methodists belonged to the Church of England and this volume's chapters on the lead-up to the Revolutionary War are an important supplement to our standard history.



Greater Nashua Crop

Hunger Walk From Pat Rafter

Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk Sunday October 22 1pm.

MUMC will be participating in the Crop Hunger Walk once again. I believe it is more than 30 years we have been participating.

It starts at Temple Beth Abraham, 5 Raymond St, Nashua on Oct 22 at 1pm. There is a brief kick off ceremony, then the walk, followed by a meal and music after the walk. Last year we had a fantastic walk, raising over \$63,000! Remember 25% of what is raised stays local. This year we are supporting SHARE Inc food pantry, Nashua Soup Kitchen, Corpus Christi food pantry, and St James of Merrimack food pantry.

Hoping some more folks will join Team MUMC this year. If you can't walk then find someone on the team to sponsor. It's easy to do online. Just do an internet search for Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk.

If registering to walk choose join team, from the site, scroll down to Team MUMC and hit join.

To donate, choose the orange donate bar and pick someone from our team. Online donations are preferred or you can give a check (made out to CWS/Crop add Team MUMC in the memo) to the person you want to sponsor or Pat Rafter can give it to someone for you. Online donations or check is preferred but we can take your cash too.

If you are going to walk please sign up online soon. Note to walkers, if all your donations are made online, you can skip

Crop Walk Cont'd

the lines to register on the day of the walk. If you do have checks or cash you will have to stand in line to hand in your envelope. Please convert cash into check if able, it is much easier for the registrars to not deal with cash.

Please see Pat Rafter for envelopes. Please get there by 12:45 if you need to go to the registration lines.

Most importantly pray for a successful walk helping to end hunger!



River Walk With God with LeeAnne Steenhoek

Dates and Locations: St. Luke's United Methodist Church 63 East Broadway, Derry Derry NH & Milford United Methodist Church

Tuesdays St. Luke's, Time: 4:00-5:30 Dates: October 10, 24, November 14,28 Wednesdays at MUMC, 327 North River Road, Milford Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm Dates: October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1 Thursdays at Milford MUMC, 327 North River Road, Milford Time: 10:00am-11:30am September 14, 28, October 12, 19,26, November 2.



News from VOICE From Janet Hromjak

Did you know that more than a dozen podcasts from across the connection are on the schedule to livestream during the **United Methodist Podcast-a-thon Oct. 2-6** where 3 podcasts will be featured each day? Go to <u>https://</u> <u>www.facebook.com/ResourceUMC/</u> Oct 2nd to learn more.

Looking for something to read? The NEAC Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) offers these suggestions:

So You Want to Talk About Race by I. Oluo

God is Red: A Native View of Religion by V. Deloria

Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America by M.E. Dyson

Dear God:

We know that the sound of our complaining is not the music that pleases your ears. We complain about the food that is under or overcooked, and you hear the stomachs that have no food. We whine about the bed being too soft, and you see those whose bed is the sidewalk or the floor of a cell. May the offering we bring today be an act of praise that drowns out the noise of our complaining. May it find its way to bring comfort to your children who have little or nothing; and when that happens, may it be joy for your eyes and ears. In Christ we pray. Amen.

From the UMC Facebook Page

The Garden Spot From Marilyn Edmondson

Hi, this is your MUMC weed puller, flower planter and shrub pruner. This past summer I have had a number of people ask me if I planted all those petunias that have been growing at the base of the large pots at the church entrance. You know, the ones that are thriving-in gravel! The answer is NO! They have grown from dropped seeds from years past. In other words, God planted them. The weather this spring and summer has been challenging due to the amount of almost daily rain, as well as the heat when it wasn't raining, making it difficult to spend as much time in the garden as I would have liked. Others have stepped in here and there and done a bit of this and that.

Levi Sunday workers were greeted with 5 cubic yards of mulch which was spread by a few of our members, not sure who all was involved, but I do remember seeing Pastor John and Will with shovels and Andy Baver on his knees in the garden beds. Pat Rafter brightened the sign at the entrance with a pot of flowers, as well as others planted around the base of the sign. She was also my consultant for garden questions that I didn't have the answers to. She and Steve have been busy with some other projects when I am not around to see, but know that they are responsible.

Lee Anne planted a resurrection garden with some of the children and that has added some bright color to the entrance. Tom Knapp has been babying a fragrant viburnum at his house for several years just waiting for the right spot at MUMC to plant it. Thanks to Tom, Gage Tlapa and there may be others for removing the 2 dead bushes and planting Tom's viburnum.

Everett Gale is my poison ivy guru and is always on the lookout with his spray can in hand. Deb Santanelli reminded me that plantings should not be against the building like they were, so now they aren't! Reminders help.

Nancy Mackay reminds me to always be on the lookout for bears, and I am. Ask her to tell you that story! So, if you deadheaded a flower, pulled a weed as you walked past, or gave a struggling plant a drink of water, I thank you. For those that I missed, I thank you too.



Milford United Methodist Children's Church



Memorial Service for Bishop Devadhar

Saturday, October 28th at 1pm at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 79 Clinton Street, Concord, NH 03301. <u>More here</u> (control/click to access link) or go to <u>https://neumc.org/</u> <u>news/events</u>

Our MUMC Family Out in the World

Some of our MUMC family out and about and having fun in September!



L. Jason, Emma, & Haylee Lambert on the water R. Lily & Jamie Eves practicing soccer.





Above. The Harvey Olson's always enjoying the good life.

L. Ivy Rose & Patrick at Homeschool Semi Formal

M. Neva & Matty at Target ready to spend gift cards

R. Buffalo Wild Wings Tradition. Let's ask them about it.



L. Deb Santinelli's lat summer roses.

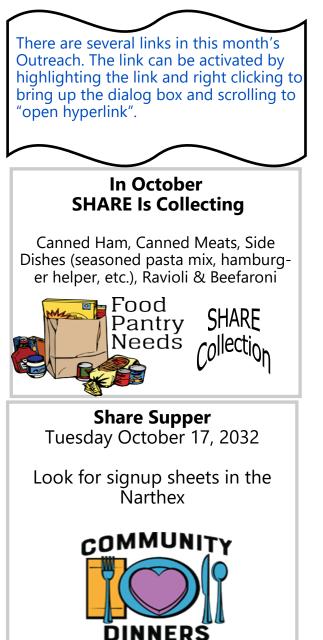
R. Our former Pastor Casey Collins and her grandbaby Vera,



Have you got pics of you & yours sharing the joy? Let's share here. Send to me; at ofice@milfordumc.org, or friend me on Facebook and share what you're up to.



Our own MUMC Praise Band helping to celebrate 50 yrs. of Rolling Ridge Retreat Center,



Operation Christmas Child



The Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift—filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

The amazing Journey of a simple shoebox gift begins with you and results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and multiplication.

Our collection will take place starting October 15 and will be distributed to the distribution center in Nashua between November 13-20. From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Parents often use the project to teach their kids about giving. There will be work to do building the boxes before filling them so please consider helping with this as well as filling a box.

A donation of\$10 per box is needed to cover shipping and other project costs. See the poster in the Narthex for ideas on how to pack your shoebox and ideas of what might go in it. Often a bible in the child's native language is include. We are also urged to pray for the family to be receptive to the Good News of Jesus Christ as well as the pastor of the church who receives the box and for the child's community to be transformed.

See Steve Takacs for more information or email him at <u>trum-</u> <u>petchoo@msn.com</u>

More from VOICE From Janet Hromjak

October has many weeks related to mental health concerns. Here are some seminars you can register for,

Church & Society is having a 2023 Webinar Series on 'Holding Sacred Space: Mental Health & Faith'. <u>Registration is</u> required for each webinar in the series via the links below:

Mental Health & Faith - Wednesday 10/11 at 1:00-2:15 PM. Registration: <u>Click / Tap Here</u>

Mental Health & BIPOC communities – Thursday 10/12 at 1:00-2:15 PM. Registration: <u>Click / Tap Here</u>

Mental Health & Climate Change – Wednesday 10/18 at 1:00–2:15 PM. Registration: <u>Click / Tap Here</u>

Mental Health & Gun Violence – Thursday 10/19 at 1:00-2:15 PM. Registration: <u>Click / Tap Here</u>

Mental Health & Young People – Wednesday 10/25 at 1:00-2:15 PM. Registration: <u>Click / Tap Here</u>

Mental Health & Tools for a Faithful Community – Thursday 10/26 at 1:00-2:15 PM. Registration: <u>Click / Tap Here</u>

Family Ministry Musings By LeeAnne Steenhoek, Youth and Family Ministry Director

There's a nip in the air and it's time to celebrate the harvest here in New Hampshire. Have you gone apple picking? Grown pumpkins? Watched and waited for helicopters to spiral from our beloved maples? How do you bring in Fall?

I'm grateful for those able to attend our movie showing. I can't mention the name of a film in print without paying royaltiesoh! We don't talk about Bruno either, a song from our film. We enjoyed pizza and our film on belonging and knowing we are loved no matter what. The miracle is you! We made candles to shine our lights' for Christ in Children's Church.

Jesus was a wisdom teacher. He taught in stories called parables which are timeless examples of how to live and be and how to follow Jesus.

Jesus shows us the way in parables. Oxford's describes a parable as, "a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson." You know them! Highlights include: The Good Samaritin, The Sower and the Seeds, The Lost Sheep and The Prodigal Son.

Our friends, family and teachers can have some pretty good advice too. What's the best advice you've received from a child? From a teacher? From a family member? From a friend? What are your family's proverbs?

Here are a few of my favorites: Measure twice, cut once Your heart always knows the way If you have a baby, layer mattress protectors and sheets all on top of each other, so if you must change sheets in the middle of the night, you can just take the top two layers off!

There's only one person with you when you wake up and right before you fall asleep every single day. Forgive, make peace with, and love that person fiercely. Forgive them.

Advice from a 4-year-old: Sometimes you've just gotta' get nekkie, eat a chocolate popsicle in the bathtub, and try again tomorrow.

Be kind

- Never miss an opportunity to pee while traveling.
- All things in moderation, including moderation-Grandma Ruth
- You can only eat an elephant one bite at a time.
- For soup: Sauté your carrots, onions, celery and leeks in butter and olive oil on medium high heat. Add salt and fresh black pepper. Cook until starting to brown before adding liquid.
- Use pencil to label plastic plant tags in the garden or a sharpie on wooden ones.
- Surround yourself with positive people
- "Live in the sunshine; swim in the sea; drink the wild air." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Exercise is as important for your soul as for your body.

Love one another. Jesus

Love yourself

- Don't solder in shorts
- There are brief glimmers of delight during most days. Take note. A mental snapshot and revisit them.
- Don't ever let anyone tell you how to grieve or how long to grieve.
- You can wear anything with nonchalance.

Proofread out loud.

Pray without ceasing and give thanks for all things. Big or small! What you allow is what will continue. Elegant sufficiency suffices, anything

Cont'd pg 9

Youth Mission News From Tom Knapp

As of this writing, the Youth have decided they will be bringing support to folks in Diniwiddie, Virginia this year. I think we will have a very large group interested in the trip.

We will be at the Milford Pumpkin Festival on October 7 –8 with our usual bean bag toss fundraiser. Youth are urged to be available to help between 10a.m.-4p.m. on the 7th and 10a.m.-3p.m.on the 8th. Let me know when you can be there.

Youth can be available to help with your fall clean up chores for a contribution toward our trip. Talk to me if you have a need.

Remember to think about your gift card needs for the big gift giving season coming up, We will be selling gift cards in November.



2023 Youth Mission Team

Gathered as one body

On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 1, Christians across the globe gather at the Lord's Table for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord's Table stretches around the entire earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Evangelical Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names that are unfamiliar to us — all join in worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: remember him!

"This do in remembrance of me," Jesus said during the Last Supper with his disciples. Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted the cup of wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice, love and forgiveness for each of us.

As we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace, remember that we are united in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. "In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north. All Christly souls are joined as one throughout the whole wide earth" (John Oxenham).

Thank you, Lord!



Family Musings cont'd from pg 7

more is a burden to capacity. Honor your creativity, delight in your imagination. Make time to watch the clouds change shape, wait for falling stars and watch a storm come init's the best way to see a rainbow Music is the highest form of praise! Poetry is the soul's own speech! God is the only one who can accompany you from cradle to grave. Our parents, siblings and friends can only understand part of our story. Only God is with you always. God delights in you, loves you exactly as you are with and because of your perceived flaws and mistakes too. Trust, share and be intentional about your spiritual journey.

- **LOOK** for our Family Ministry Mason Jar! Add your own bits of best proverbs and advice from children, pastors, friends, colleagues and elders to be shared in our November Newsletter. What is the wisdom of MUMC?
- We had a wee sheep escape the fold last week during children's church. Fortunately, Sybil was able to help me find our little lost sheep at our Wednesday potluck. My little Daisy-Dog helped.

Yours in Christ, LeeAnne



October is Domestic Violence Aware-

ness Month here are a few things you might want to know.

Help the victim find support and resources, such as telephone numbers for shelters, social services, attorneys, counselors, or support groups. <u>National Domestic</u> <u>Violence Hotline</u> at **1-800-799-7233** for confidential assistance from trained advocates.

Offer support and let them know they are not alone. Make time for them. Start a conversation about domestic violence by expressing your worry or concern for them.

Encourage them to reach out to community resources.

Believe them and communicate that you care about their safety.

Help find shelters, social services, attorneys, counselors, or support groups they can turn to.

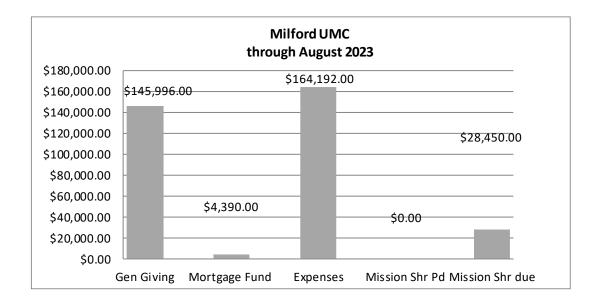
Listen without judgement.

Learn the warning signs. (Black eyes, busted lips, red or purple marks on the neck, sprained wrists, bruises on the arms, low self-esteem, overly apologetic, substance abuse, talk of suicide, depression, withdrawal, distancing themselves, isolation, tardiness, etc.) Remember that both women and men can be victims of domestic violence!

Visit <u>https://www.verywellmind.com/how</u> <u>-to-help-a-victim-of-domestic-violence</u> for more information. The information in this article was summarized from that site.

Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



	YTD Fina		
and the second	General Giving	\$145,99600	
	Mortgage Fund	\$4390.00	
	Expenses	\$164,192.00	
Online Giving	Mission Shares Paid	\$0,00	Give
R. 12100 8	Mission Shares Due	\$28,450.00	unto the

• The miracle of giving is that giving makes miracles.

-Bishop Robert E. Goodrich



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

Birthdays:

October 1:	Shirley Nielsen		
	Jason St. Jean		
October 2:	Jim Frost		
October 4:	Jim Lawler		
	Dave Stackpole		
October 5:	Samantha Randlett		
October 7:	Natalie Parker		
October 10:	Steve Takacs		
October 13:	Olivia Masters		
October 16:	Colleen Guzman		
October 20:	Carolan Robinson		
October 27:	Dylan Pfeil		

Anniversaries

October 6:	George & Elaine Driscoll
October 12:	Chuck & Jan Worcester
October 27:	Lindsay & Jason Lambert

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



This Month's Lectionary

October 1: Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

October 8: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 119, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

October 15: Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

October 22: Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

October 29: Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46



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. Cll 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: 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.

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.

Stephen Ministry: 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: TBD

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

Men's Group: Jim Lawler

For men interested in fellowship and service. Meet Sunday Evenings

Youth Mission Trip Tom Knapp

Works with the youth and organizes mission work near and far.



2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 Spirit Cel- ebration 9:30 Adult Sun- day School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Tradition- al Service	2 5 VOICE 6 SPRC	3	4 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Un- ion Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplight- ers 6 Potluck 6:30 Study Zoom	5 12p Study Hybrid 5:45 Bells 7:-Chancel Choir	6	7 12:30-3 Crafting
8 8:30 Spirit Cel- ebration 9:30 Adult Sun- day School 10:30 Tradition- al Service	9 7—Trustee's	10 7 Praise Band	11 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Un- ion Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplight- ers 6 Potluck 6:30 Study	12 12p Study Hybrid 5:45 Bells 7:-Chancel Choir	13	14 12:30-3 Crafting
15 8:30 Spirit Cel- ebration 9:30 Adult Sun- day School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Tradition-	16 7—Finance Committee	17 7 Praise Band	18 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Un- ion Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplight- ers 6 Potluck 6:30 Study	19 12p Study Hybrid 5:45 Bells 7:-Chancel Choir	20	21 12:30-3 Crafting
22 8:30 Spirit Cel- ebration 9:30 Adult Sun- day School 9:40 Childrens Church 10:30 Tradition- al Service	23	24 7 Praise Band	25 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Un- ion Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplight- ers 6 Potluck 6:30 Study	26 12p Study Hybrid 5:45 Bells 7:-Chancel Choir	27	28 12:30-3 Crafting
29 8:30 Spirit Cel- ebration 9:30 Adult Sun- day School 9:40 Children's Church 10:30 Tradition-	30	31 7 Praise Band				



October 2023

Sunday Worship Times:

8:30a. Špirit Celebration, 10:30a. Traditional Service, Children's church 9:40a. 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.