



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Pastor's Corner</i>	1
<i>Retire Mortgage</i>	2
<i>MUMC Family Youth</i>	3
<i>Lamplighters</i>	4
<i>Choir Voice</i>	5
<i>Family Life</i>	6
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries Lectionary</i>	7
<i>Crop Walk</i>	8
<i>Finance</i>	9
<i>Committees</i>	10
<i>Calendar</i>	11

Beloved in Christ,

Our explorations through the Epistle of James over the last month or so has kept this topic of "uncommon wisdom" front and center on my mind as we enter into October. It has reminded me that wisdom does not, in fact, always come easily, that it's something to be sought and strived after rather than something that just effortlessly falls into our laps, that it calls for practice and practices that ground and focus our hearts and minds, that it often pulls and tugs at us mightily to yank our wheels out of their well-worn ruts and onto new and less-ventured pathways that always feel foreign and uncomfortable at first until we habituate ourselves to their rhythms and patterns. That impresses me today as a difficult pursuit. That must be why true wisdom seems so uncommon.

One of the great wisdom books of the Bible—the Book of Proverbs—opens with a reminder that true wisdom really takes work to acquire, that it is to be taken up and mastered like some kind of craft.

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, King of Israel:
For learning about wisdom and instruction,
For understanding words of insight,
For gaining instruction in wise dealings,
righteousness, justice, and equity;
To teach shrewdness to the simple,
Knowledge and prudence to the young—
Let the wise also hear and gain in learning and the discerning acquire skill
To understand a proverb and a figure,
the words of the wise and their riddles...
(Prov. 1:1-6)

Proverbs offers itself as an instruction manual of sorts—as a tome of time-tested, generational wisdom to be put to use by those who would get going on the work that it takes to gain skill in the wisdom of life. And then the opening section closes with the culminating wisdom of v. 7, which offers that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

In the time we've been spending with James this last month, we've had a

Pastor's Corner Continued

chance to explore a few of those key skills in the wisdom of life, but today I'm wondering about going further and deeper. Have we arrived yet at that place where Proverbs or James intends for us to arrive? Are we wise yet? Have we learned all we need to learn to get there? Have we put what we have learned into practice? My sense is that we're still somewhere on the road to mastery and that means that we must still harbor a learner's heart and a student's self-awareness to get any further. The times we are living through are extremely complex. The choices we are faced with are often convoluted. I am convinced, though, that God's forward lead can always be found where hearts are humble, focused upon God's good intentions for this world, intent on learning, and ready to follow the master's lead. May this be the spirit in our hearts as we continue to grow in wisdom and follow where it leads!

In Christ,

Pastor John

Making a big meal this month?

Why not box up some for the church freezer?

Cold, flu and COVID season is approaching. Wouldn't it be great to have some meals put aside for anyone in need?

Please let Callie know if you are adding a meal or two so we can keep track.



?Retire the Mortgage?

There had been talk of retiring the mortgage in 2026. The date was chosen as it would be our 20-year anniversary and all who heard the idea, were excited by the prospect.

Diane Miller, Andy, and I have been trying to drum up excitement for possible fundraisers. We've talked about a Chili cook off where we would have 3 or more categories of cooks, (home cook, kids, local restaurants) compete for the awards. Maybe ask local chefs to judge.

We talked about a talent show, again, involving the community to participate.

Someone mentioned a Bake sale auction where we could have a bidding war for someone's special carrot cake or brownies.

All great ideas!

The problem, no one is stepping up to be involved. We expect maybe the timing is wrong. With all the things we have happening right now, we are all tired.

Please let the office know if you are interested in helping but are just too busy right now. Maybe you have another or better idea. We want those as well.

If we hear interest, we will find a smaller undertaking for now and try planning for something more significant come January /February.

MEN'S MINISTRY HOSTS Men's Breakfast

Third Saturday of the Month Each Quarter
8:30-10:30 a.m.
2024 Breakfast Schedule

Our MUMC Family Out in the World

MUMC folks are still finding & spreading JOY!
What are you doing to spread joy?



Cora, Avery, & Emmy Herlihy when Mom posted on National day..



Matty & Patrick Harvey-Olson at Disney Hollywood Studio



Nash Rafter with mom Jillian and brother's Theo & Easton! Welcome



Aubrey Biron stepping up to a Junior Girl Scout! Yay!



Lincoln St, Jean National Son's Day



Jacob Erdody Parents day at Western Conn. State

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

Youth Group Update From Tom Knapp

MUMC Youth will be supporting the bean bag fund raiser at the Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, October 12, 10a-4p, and Sunday, October 13, 10a-3p. Youth, please let Tom Know when you can help.



"Not seeing results? Feel like giving up? Consider this: The last thing to grow on a fruit tree ... is the fruit."
—Unknown

In October SHARE Is Collecting

Canned Ham, Canned Meats/tuna/chicken, Mac and Cheese, Pasta (all sorts), Progresso and Chunky Soups



Share Supper

October 15 2024
Look for signup sheets in the Narthex



Lamplighters From Carol Rowlette

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in your faith, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, your whole life and outlook may be radiant with hope.

We continue to study Paul's letters. Romans tells us the people of Israel have not been following the teachings of God's word. What Paul wanted for Israel was salvation for everyone but they were filled with pride and were self absorbed not trusting in God. Paul had a plan to make the people of Israel jealous of the Gentiles so they would return to God.

Romans 11:13-15 I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead!

Happy Autumn! Enjoy the beautiful foliage which God has created. God is good!



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

October 13, 2024

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



Next Crafting Workshop

**October 5,
12:30-3 p.m.**

Choir Update

From Jenn Erdody

Chancel Choir rehearsals have resumed and we are thrilled to be back providing music during our 10:30 worship service! We've welcomed two new members, as well as returning members, some of whom haven't been with us in years! As always, we're happy to have new singers join us. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00.

Mark your calendars! The Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, December 15 at 4:00.

As you listen to the anthem each week, try to connect the lyrics to Pastor John's sermon, because anthems are chosen with his sermon series in mind. For instance, our upcoming anthem, "If My People Will Pray" will reflect his sermon titled "The Wisdom of Prayer". We hope our anthems will help you to feel the spirit and essence of each sermon!



Operation Christmas Child Coming Soon!



A Good Read

From Kerri-Lynn Kimner / Voice

When Faith Meets Therapy

Sometimes we need a little help. Life gets stressful, and we struggle to get through on our own. We turn to God, and we might think about going to therapy, but does that mean we don't trust God? The book, *When Faith Meets Therapy* by Anthony Edwards and Stacy Kaiser shows that seeking therapy is not a sign of weakness. The book offers insight into how the power of faith and the practicality of counseling can work hand in hand to help guide us on a path toward help, hope, and healing. Check out this [link](#) for more information.

Blessing of the Pets

October 6, 2024



Family Life

LeeAnne Steenhoek Director Youth and Family Ministry, MUMC

Thy Will Be Done

What do we need to let go of to make room for something new? How can we trust God more and stop praying for outcomes or telling God how to answer our prayers?

Nearly a year ago, our Daisy-dog rode with me far, far away to our vet who lives in Barnstead, NH. Brian, DVM, had come to the house as he usually did and found some serious concerns with our girl—a few teeth needed to come out and her heart murmur was bad. She needed surgery and we weren't sure she would survive the anesthesia.

We prayed about it as a family, and wondered how God was going to help. God always helps.

We put our trust in our vet and in God. As we said our goodbyes, I choked up and grabbed one last furry kiss. I watched as Daisy was carried away. Wags! She wags. My heart was still heavy.

On the long road home, I found myself behind a truck with the words, **Thy will be done** painted across the back in large gold letters. Ha! That can mean she lives *and that can mean she dies* I thought. I choked up again and tried to breathe. Just breathe. I prayed. I asked God for courage and for Daisy's healing and that God be with Brian as he did the surgery. I asked God to show up in tangible ways that I could understand.

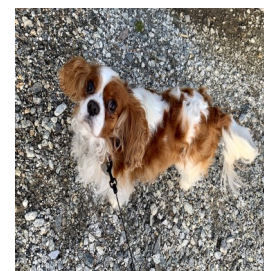
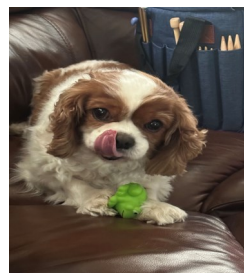
I drove miles and miles and miles home-ward bound. It struck me that God's will

might be that Daisy die on that operating table and that praying God's will be done needed to include that possibility....hmm.

I started to imagine all the possible outcomes. I held the picture of her wags and her healthy self in my mind's eye. I imagined radiant, glowing healing light surrounding Daisy and Brian DVM. I imagined the possibility that dying in surgery might be gentler than dying of infection and a weak heart.

Thy will be done—there's that truck again. (Really!) Peace passed through me as I drove, and I received the message "for reals" this time. God's way is better than my way. **My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness.** 2 Corinthians 12:9

Daisy is healthy and healed. She wags, wags, wags. We plan to bring her to our Blessing of the Animals Sunday October 6. I hope to see you there!



Joy in the morning with Daisy!

HELLO *october* Birthdays & Anniversaries 2024

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

Birthdays:

- October 1:** Shirley Nielsen
- October 1:** Jason St. Jean
- October 2:** Jim Frost
- October 4:** Dave Stackpole
- October 4:** Jim Lawler
- October 5:** Samantha Randlett
- October 6:** John Farnsworth
- October 7:** Natalie Parker
- October 10:** Steve Takacs
- October 10:** Deana Beetcher
- October 16:** Colleen Guzman
- October 20:** Carolan Robinson

Anniversaries:

- October 12:** Chuck & Jan Worcester
- October 27:** Jason & Lindsay 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 6:** Job 1:1; 2:1-10, Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16
- October 13:** Job 23:1-9, 16-17, Psalm 22:1-15,
Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31
- October 20:** Job 38:1-7 (34-41), Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c,
Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45
- October 27:** Job 42:1-6, 10-17, Psalm 34:1-8,
19-22, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52



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



Crop Walk For Hunger From Pat Rafter

Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk is Sunday Nov 3 1-3:30. The Crop Hunger Walk is a fundraiser for Church World Services. An organization who's vision is to create a world where everyone has food, a voice and a safe place to call home. We help by walking in area walks asking for donations from friends and family. Each area walk has the ability to request 25% of funds raised to stay local. The Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk gives its 25% to 4 area food pantries. The Nashua Soup Kitchen, Corpus Cristi Food Pantry, St James of Merrimack Food Pantry and SHARE Inc of Milford. Last year's walk raised a little over \$49,000 giving \$3069 to each of these local pantries! Over 300 people walked, among them about 25 folks (and 3 dogs) from our congregation. Our walkers contributed to over \$5,000 of the funds raised. How awesome is that! A few hours of your time can mean so much. The event kicks off at 1 from Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua with a nice stroll through downtown Nashua and North Nashua neighborhoods, and back to the temple. The walk is followed by a luncheon under the big tent with live music. Please sign up on line or see me for details.

If you can't participate in the walk, but would like to sponsor someone, go to the site (greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk 2024, scroll down to list of teams, then click on Milford United Methodist, choose someone on the list of walkers and hit donate. OR I will have a list of walkers posted in the Narthex. You can find them and give a donation to them directly, though online donations are preferred it saves our walkers time waiting in registration lines.

There are shirts for sale for walkers that might want a shirt to commemorate the event (\$15 each). I have some if you would like to purchase in advance.

Let's make a great MUMC presence this year! The more the merrier!!

Pastors appreciate your prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

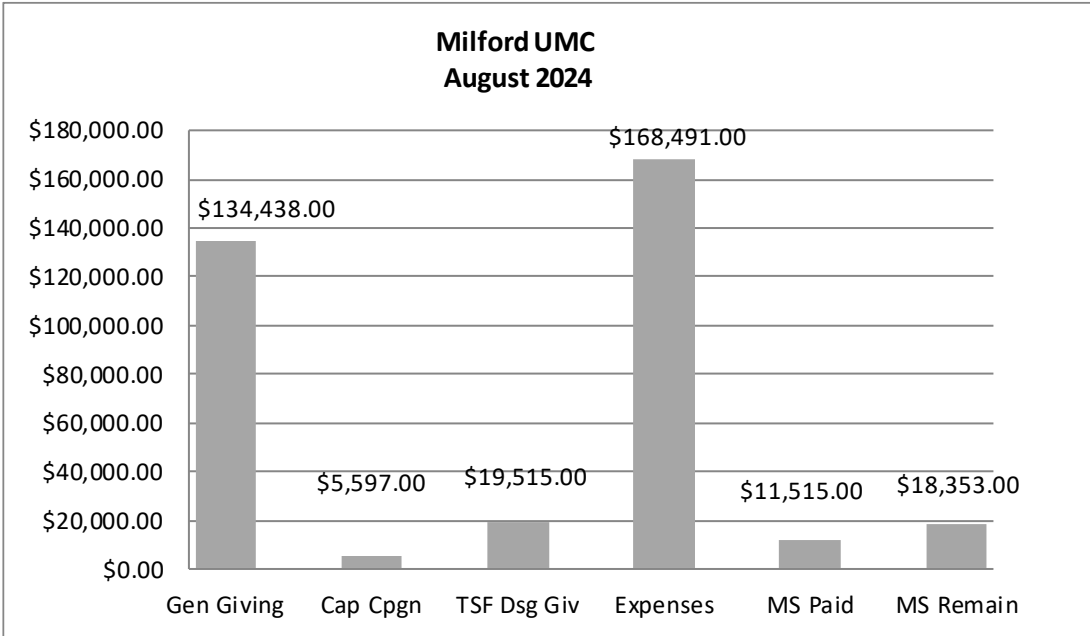
That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!



Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



YTD Financials	
General Giving	\$ 134,438.00
Cap Campaign	\$5,597.00
TSF Dsg Giv *	\$19,515.00
Expenses	\$168,491.00
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 miracle of giving is that giving makes miracles.
—Bishop Robert E. Goodrich

MUMC giving QR Code

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 Bayer
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



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 7 Praise Band	2	3 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p bells	4	5 12:30-3p Crafting
6 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children’s Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 2p. Blessing the Pets	7	8 7 p Praise Band	9 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	10 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	11	12
13 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children’s Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6:30 p Men’s	14 7 Trustees	15 7 p Praise Band	16 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	17 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	18	19 12:30-3 p Crafting 4p. Church Conference
20 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children’s Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6 p Men’s Group	21 Voice 5:45	22 5 p. Mission 7 p Praise Band 6p Finance	23 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	24 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	25	26
27 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children’s Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 6:30 p Men’s Group	28	29 7 p Praise Band	30	31 5:30-7:30 Choir 7p Bells		



Milford United Methodist Church

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

October 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.