



# The Outreach

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

## Pastor's Corner

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Beloved in Christ,

September is here and that means that the flavors of the world around us are changing again! Finally, I don't have to pretend that I don't sneak in the occasional pumpkin-flavored donut and beverage anymore because Fall is soon in coming and the times, like the pumpkins, are ripening! The harvest is almost here! Around the church, that means that Rally Sunday is soon-in-coming (10:30am combined service on September 8). It also means that a number of other new opportunities to gather, to worship, to serve in mission, and share life together are going to be starting up again as well. Wednesday night potlucks and studies, Children and Family events, CROP walk, and other ways to get engaged missionally are starting up with the coming of the Fall season. I will be starting a new sermon series this month on the Epistle of James called "Uncommon Wisdom". Much is happening!

Getting ready to shift into the Fall reminds me of the words of Psalm 65, which is a psalm of thanksgiving for the Fall harvest:

You visit the earth and water it,  
                                  you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.  
You water its furrows abundantly,  
                                  settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its  
                                  growth.

You crown the year with your bounty;  
Your wagon tracks overflow with richness.  
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing for joy!  
(Psalm 65:9-13 NRSV)

May it be so with us all in this new season!

In Christ,

*Pastor John*

## ***A Reflection Janet Hromjak for Voice***

About a year ago, Bishop Devadhar asked Claire to be a delegate to the World Methodist Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden this month. I, of course, had to tag along and also registered for the conference. This was my first such conference and our first trip internationally. The conference was amazing. There were about 1,200 people from 80 different countries represented. There was morning and evening worship, as well as late night events. Participants had the option of signing up for four 1-hour sessions each day with topics like 'Hagar and the African American Pilgrimage to Hope', 'The Tide is Rising - It's Time to Act' or 'Engaging the Story of Ruth'. The conference center was huge and the conference itself was incredibly well run. The music was fantastic. A representative from each country was asked to bring for the display table an object that would serve as a symbol of their church or region. There was something special about being in a hall with 1,200 people worshipping in dif-

Cont'd pg 8

**RALLY SUNDAY**  
**September 8**  
**Combined Service 10:30**  
**Come Join Us!**



## ***Collecting Christmas Cards for St. Jude's! Stay Tuned***

We will be collecting the front of Christmas Cards. No Disney, American Greetings or Hallmark are accepted. New cards for any occasion with or without envelopes are also accepted. Look for a collection box in the Narthex.

## **Going to school with Jesus**

In *Faith Takes a Name*, Dwight E. Stevenson writes that if we consider ourselves to be disciples of Jesus, then we must remain "learners under the instruction of Christ." He notes, "Quite literally, a disciple is a pupil, scholar, student or learner. In [Jesus'] world a teacher with his band of disciples was to that culture what schools and universities are to our society. To be a disciple of Jesus is to go to school with him."



## **MEN'S MINISTRY HOSTS Men's Breakfast**

Third Saturday of the Month Each Quarter  
8:30-10:30 a.m.  
2024 Breakfast Schedule  
November 16th

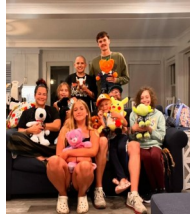
**Please RSVP** a week before each breakfast so we have a headcount for the meal. Sign up sheets will be posted or contact Jim Lawler at [bigdady522000@gmail.com](mailto:bigdady522000@gmail.com)

# Our MUMC Family Out in the World

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



Aubrey Biron at her lemonade stand,



The Harvey-Olson' holding the results of a rainy day at Build a bear.



The herlihy girls help with trimming at MUMC



Tom Knapp, Leila, & Sybil Whitley, taking a quick break from cleanup efforts at the



Linda Mossey with some of her family at open mic night. See them live 9/27



The Erdody's after Jacobs performance in *Chicago* in NC.



Claire Holston & Janet Hromjak at the Archipelago in Sweden. There for the World Methodist Conference



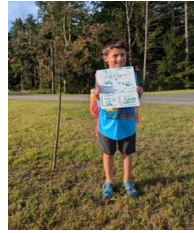
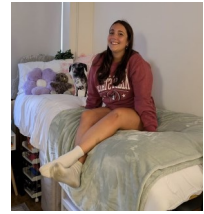
Steve Takacs with his granddaughter-



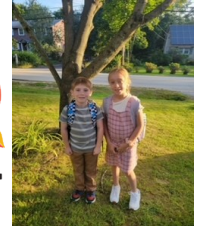
Tessa Farnsworth's Baptism!



Riley Weis L & Grace St. Jean R, all set up in their dorms for college! Blessings!



Jonah Farnsworth



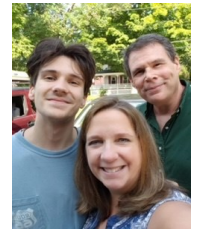
Quinten & Aubrey Biron



Lincoln & Libby St. Jean



Cora & Avery Herlihy!



Jacob, Jenn & Chris Erdody

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](mailto:office@milfordumc.org)

**In September  
SHARE Is Collecting**


Condiments, Cooking Sauces & Seasonings,  
Cooking Oil, Pasta Sauce, Tomato Sauce, Tomato Paste, Diced Tomatoes



**Food  
Pantry  
Needs**

**SHARE  
Collection**

**Share Supper**  
September 17, 2024  
Look for signup sheets in the Narthex



**COMMUNITY  
DINNERS**

## ***Mission and Outreach Update From Pat Rafter***

We are once again doing a monthly shopping for SHARE food pantry instead of a monetary donation. Cost for these supplies comes out of the Outreach budget. You can still purchase pantry items on your own and add to the basket on the Decon's bench at the back of the sanctuary. There is a list of items most needed for SHARE in this newsletter each month. If you are interested in being a monthly shopper please see Diane Miller, Sue Kostuk or Pat Rafter for details.

Thank you all who contributed to the back to school supplies collection for SHARE. A great success! 7 heaping boxes of supplies were brought to SHARE on 8/12. Adding to a phenomenal community outpouring of necessary items. Area students needing this support will have an excellent assortment of supplies to choose from. Thank you!

Cleaning/flood buckets that we put together last Feb were offered to needy areas in Vermont hard hit by rainfall a few weeks ago through early response teams in the conference. Currently they do not need them but we are on their radar. We have learned there is a local need for churches to have a supply of 25 hygiene kits, 20 menstrual kits and 6 cleaning/flood buckets on hand for emergencies. That will be our winter project and we will store them in the garage attic until asked to respond. Keeping these kits local will eliminate the cost of shipping to Louisiana as we have done in the past.

We have a new World Visions child. Our previous child and his family we were sponsoring, has left their community in the Dominican Republic and is no longer serviced by World Vision. We have a new

child, Elia, also from the Dominican. He is 7 years old. The Missions/Outreach Team will be presenting a Mission Moment in September to share how we support Elia and what World Visions does. There is also information about him on a bulletin board in the Nathex. Please feel free to write to him. Correspondence goes through the world vision office. Information will be on the bulletin board with Elia's bio.

Cropwalk will take place on Nov 3 once again from Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. More info to follow. Mid to late Nov there will be boxes for Operation Christmas Child if you choose to support that mission.



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

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

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

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





## Lamplighters From Carol Rowlette

September 2024 Lamplighters Bible Study celebrates our 20 year anniversary!

Psalm 119:105 *Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.*  
NLT

In September of 2004 Emily St. John and Elaine Driscoll formed a new Women's Bible Study in the Education Building of our previous church on Mt. Vernon Street. Seven or eight women met every Wednesday until the property was sold, awaiting the construction of a new church building on North River Road. During 2005 and 2006 our group met in several members homes. We grew in numbers, sharing concerns and prayers for our families and friends, and thanking God for His Blessings in our lives.

Finally we were able to move into our new MUMC building, where we chose the name of "Lamplighters:" Let our light shine".

Two events that we organized during those early years: a Clothing Collection in conjunction with the church yard sale. Another was a special Valentine's Day event on Sunday February 14. The narthex displayed a beautiful setting of sweets and treats, all contributed by the many talents in our congregation. If any previous or current members of Lamplighters have pictures to share please contact Elaine Driscoll or submit to the church office.



### 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

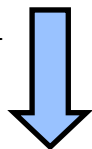
### September 8, 2024

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



### Crafting

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



Next Crafting  
Workshop

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

## Family Life

**LeeAnne Steenhoek Director Youth and Family Ministry, MUMC**

Rally with us for Homecoming by making a weekend of it!

Please join us Friday September 6 at 7pm for a campfire, movie and sleep-in at church. We will make breakfast together Saturday morning, have a brief worship service and conclude at 9am.

Bring sleeping bags, bed rolls, air mattresses and what you need to be comfortable. Sleep as a family in or out, tent or not.

Bring your favorite bedtime story from when you were very young to share 'round the campfire.

Homecoming Sunday is September 8<sup>th</sup>!

We will be learning and going deeper with the Lord's Prayer in Children's Church this Fall!

Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father,  
Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom  
And the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen

## Labor Day laughs

Take a break and enjoy this work-related humor!

- My first job was in an orange juice factory. I got canned because I couldn't concentrate.
- When I couldn't hack it as a lumberjack, I got the ax.
- I wasn't suited to being a tailor.
- Working in the muffler factory was too exhausting.
- I was a banker ... until I lost interest.
- I realized there was no future in being a historian.
- Any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard at the deli.
- I studied to become a doctor but had no patients.
- My job at the coffee shop was always the same old grind.
- When I worked as a plumber, the tasks were too draining.
- I was hired at a gym but wasn't fit for the job.
- Finally, I got a job at a bakery; I kneaded dough!



SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries 2024

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

**Birthdays:**

- September 3:** Marcia Redden
- September 4:** Karin Harvey-Olson
- September 5:** Caroline Steenhoek
- September 6:** Deklan Quintana
- September 9:** Shannon Short
- September 13:** Alyssa & Ben Kaufold
- September 14:** Jim Tyler-Wall
- September 16:** Gage Tlapa
- September 18:** Tom Kanpp
- September 21:** Jaclyn Herlihy
- September 23:** Tim Herlihy

**Anniversaries:**

- September 10:** Suzanne & Kirk Randlett
- September 15:** Everett & Marley Gale
- September 19:** Colleen & Ray Guzman

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



**This Month's Lectionary**

**September 1:** Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**September 8:** Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 125, James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

**September 15:** Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

**September 22:** Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

**September 29:** Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22, Psalm 124, James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50



**Driving Ministry**

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



## Mental Health

From Voice [umcjustice.org](http://umcjustice.org)

### Mental Health Services Needed in Schools

As United Methodists, we must remain diligent in advocating for access to expansive mental health services (The Social Principles, The Social Community). In our collective efforts to promote compassion and eradicate stigma regarding mental health, we must also work towards a structure in which everyone can access equitable care.

Representatives Rosa DeLauro, Brian Fitzpatrick, and Jahana Hayes introduced a bipartisan bill to address mental health services. The Expanding Access to Mental Health Services in Schools Act of 2024 ([H.R. 7108](#)) seeks to extend the School Based Mental Health Service Grants program to increase the number of mental health professionals available at schools.

In the United States, one in six youth aged 6 to 17 experience a mental health disorder each year, and half of all mental health conditions begin by age 14. In 2019, 15% of adolescents aged 12 to 17 reported receiving mental health services at school, compared to 17% who saw a specialty provider. School-based mental health services are delivered by trained mental health professionals who are employed by schools, such as school psychologists, school counselors, school social workers, and school nurses. By removing barriers such as transportation, scheduling conflicts, and stigma, school-based mental health services can help students access needed services during the school day ([National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)).

If passed, the Expanding Access to Men-

tal Health Services in Schools Act will have a profound impact on the mental well-being of students. Contact your representative now to advocate for this much-needed legislation.

Contact your elected officials today [through this form](#) and ask them to pass the Expanding Access to Mental Health Services in Schools Act of 2024.

Janet cont'd from pg 2

ferent languages, with preachers from different countries and the uplifting music from all over praising God. As one of the participants said to me 'it's good to get out of our comfort zones'....it was indeed. I feel blessed for having been able to attend.



Janet & Claire beside a collection of items from many of the conferences represented at the World Conference in Sweden.



### Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts:

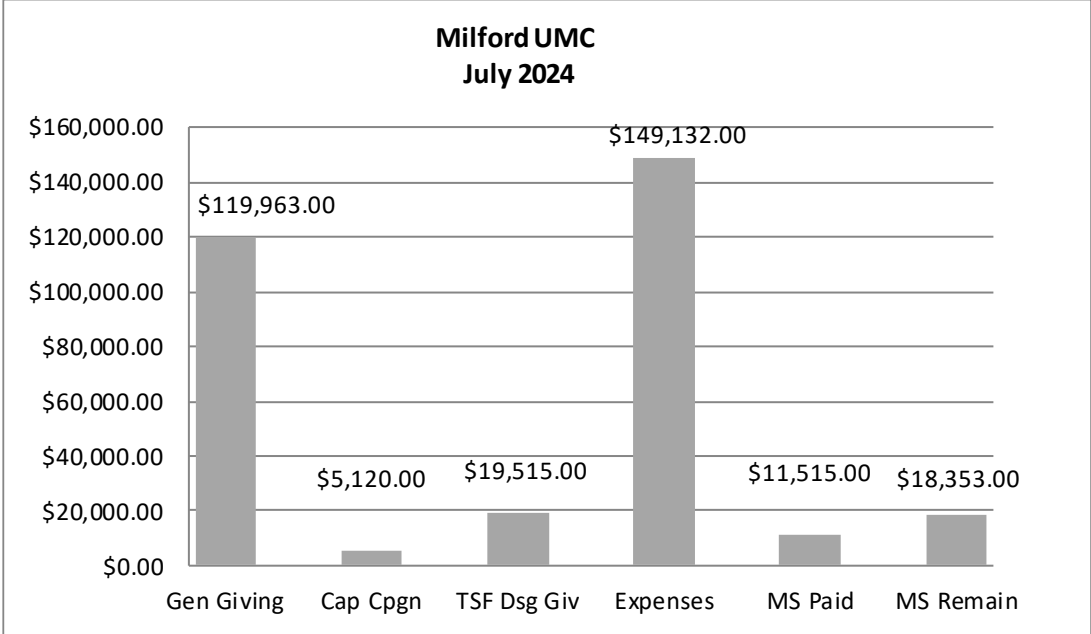
*"For the Common Good"* Will be postponed at least until October.





# Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| General Giving        | \$119,963.00 |
| Cap Campaign          | \$5,120.00   |
| TSF Dsg Giv *         | \$19,515.00  |
| Expenses              | \$149,132.00 |
| 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

**Fall Yard Sale  
From Pat Rafter**

Fall yard sale. Drop off dates 9/14 and 9/21 9-11. Yard Sale 9/28 8-1.

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

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

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



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

We are collecting again!

Sneakers can be dropped off with the yard sale drop offs. All sneakers that are not taken in the clothing sale, will be collected and sent to getsneakers?.



**Back-to-school laughs**

These education-themed riddles will make the return to classrooms more fun!

Why was the arithmetic book so sad?  
*It had too many problems.*

What school supply is in charge of the classroom?  
*The ruler*

What does the English teacher make for breakfast?  
*Synonym rolls*

Why doesn't the school library have a clock?  
*It tocks too much.*

What is the blackboard's favorite drink?  
*Hot chalk-olate*



## Choir Greetings

From Jenn Erdody

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer and have been able to relax, recharge, and enjoy all that our world has to offer!!

Heidi and I are looking forward to resuming choir and bell rehearsals, and have scheduled our first rehearsal for Thursday, August 29. As many of you already know, we're going to try a new time for choir and bells. Many of you had asked for an earlier choir time, and the later bell time works well for them. So we hope it will be a success, but will revisit the change a few weeks in.

Choir will rehearse from 5:30 to 7:00. As there are a couple people who can't be there right at 5:30, we'll flip our rehearsal and do the upcoming two anthems no later than 6:15, and work on music for further out, at the beginning of the rehearsal. I would very much encourage all singers to attend the Thursday rehearsals whenever possible, understanding that some folks have unique circumstances. If you can't make it on a Sunday, please let me know as soon as you know you'll be out, so I can plan accordingly. Case in point- one Sunday in June, I knew we were going to be low on sopranos, so I chose a three part piece and had the tenors sing with the sopranos.

We want to welcome alto Jen McInnis to the choir! We're excited to get to know her and look forward to making music together!

See you on the 29th!  
Jenn



## Youth Mission Update

From Tom Knapp

The first meeting for the 2025 Youth Mission trip will be Sunday September 15, at 6 p.m. at MUMC. There will be snacks and games before the meeting start about 7. We hope to see you there!



Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

"This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God's way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness."

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."



# 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

|   |                                |  |  |                                       |                  |  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| <p>1:30 Spirit Celebration<br/>9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School<br/>10:30 Traditional Service<br/>6:30 p Men's Group</p>               | <p>2<br/>SPRC 6</p>            | <p>3<br/>7 Praise Band</p>   | <p>4</p>   | <p>5<br/>5:30 –7:30 Choir</p>         | <p>6</p>         | <p>7<br/>12:30 Crafting</p>                    |
| <p><b>8</b><br/>10:30 Combined Service Rally Sunday<br/>6:30 Men's group</p>  | <p><b>9</b><br/>Voice 5:45</p> | <p><b>10</b><br/>5p Mission<br/>6p Finance<br/>7 p Praise Band</p> | <p><b>11</b><br/>8:45 Coffee w/Pastor.<br/>Union Coffee<br/>9 Whitetops<br/>1 Lamplighters</p> | <p><b>12</b><br/>5:30 –7:30 Choir</p> | <p><b>13</b></p> | <p><b>14</b><br/>9-11 a Yard Sale Drop Off</p> |
| <p><b>15</b><br/>8:30 Spirit Celebration<br/>9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School<br/>10:30 Traditional Service<br/>6:30 p Men's Group</p> | <p><b>16</b></p>               | <p><b>17</b><br/>7 p Praise Band</p>                               | <p><b>18</b><br/>8:45 Coffee w/Pastor.<br/>Union Coffee<br/>9 Whitetops<br/>1 Lamplighters</p> | <p><b>19</b><br/>5:30 –7:30 Choir</p> | <p><b>20</b></p> | <p><b>21</b><br/>9-11 a Yard Sale Drop Off</p> |
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## Milford United Methodist Church

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

*September 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.