



# The Outreach

*The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church*  
Milford, NH, Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor  
March 2025

## Pastor's Corner

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Pastor's Corner</i>	1
<i>Pastor's Book Pile</i>	2
<i>Youth Mission</i>	
<i>MUMC Missions</i>	
<i>Our MUMC Family</i>	3
<i>Choir</i>	4
<i>Financials</i>	5
<i>Family Life</i>	6
<i>Pastor's Book Pile</i>	
<i>Birthdays &amp; Anniver- saries</i>	7
<i>Lectionary</i>	
<i>Variety Show</i>	8
<i>Ways to Help</i>	
<i>Bread of Life Thurs- day</i>	9
<i>Committees</i>	10
<i>Calendar</i>	11

Beloved in Christ,

As I sit down to write, I look out my window and all I can see is snow. Snow piled up, snow that has melted a bit and iced over, and snow that is, right this moment, being covered over with another fresh coat of snow. It's beautiful still, to be sure, but it's also slowing down roadways, cramming up sidewalks, narrowing driveways, and giving my mailman a farther reach. How satisfying it will be when it starts to clear away. How wonderful it will be to see a patch of green grass on a sunny and warm Spring day. How liberating it will feel when we no longer have to watch out for black ice, when the pathways are open and dry, when the canvass of the world is full of color again. But to get from here to there will require that a lot of places be emptied of the piles and piles of snow they now hold.

Have you ever thought about what a tremendous grace it can be to empty? Sometimes the piles, the closets, our heads our lives, can feel so full and cluttered and weighed down that a good emptying out comes as the most welcome grace of all. A grace of removal, a grace of space, a grace of quiet and simplifying. We're coming up on the season of Lent this month and, through Lent, I've chosen emptying as my theme. It strikes me as somehow important and timely this year in this season that we come into a time where one of the key passages of Scripture that's typically put before us is Jesus' heading out into the wilderness. He's headed out there, the Scriptures say, to be tempted, but there's a whole lot more going on out there than just that. He's going out there to make ready and prepare himself for all of the ministry that lies ahead and the emptiness of the wilderness somehow seems important to that effort.

This coming Tuesday is "Shrove Tuesday" or "Fat Tuesday"—Mardi Gras: a day to get your last fill of taking in before we take a full step into a season that asks us to empty. The youth are going to be holding Shrove Tuesday supper from 5-7 and I do hope you'll come. But I also hope that you step from fullness into the emptying season of Lent on Ash Wednesday as we receive our ashes at 6pm and begin to clear off the pathways in our hearts.

In Christ!  
*Pastor John*

## 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 about it.

Paul W. Chilcote, *Cultivating Christlikeness: Loving as Jesus Loved.*

*This one came in the mail as a gift from the bishop's office, but Chilcote is one of the more prominent and prolific United Methodist theologians and writers today (who I've read before). I expect good things from it and with a theme like this, how could you go wrong?*



## Youth Mission Update From Tom Knapp

Shrove Dinner, a gift from the youth mission team, March 4, 2025, 5-7pm. Ham and beans with a pancake dessert.



Mason's Breakfast, March 15th, 8-11am. Mason's Hall, Milford. This Breakfast helps with fundraising for the trip.

March 16, 7pm at MUMC, Mission trip meeting.

## MUMC Missions From Diane Miller

The focus of missions this month will be collecting items for UMCOR hygiene kits. Please take a tag off the tree and return the items by UMCOR Sunday, March 31. On that day, we ask that you stay after the second service and help us assemble the kits. These kits will stay locally.

Save the date and get to that spring cleaning for the Spring Yard sale!

Drop offs 5/3 & 5/10 9-11

Yard Sale 5/17, 8 am-1pm.



Just \$5. Proceeds to the Capital Campaign.

MUMC COOK BOOK  
For Sale All Year  
Ask the office to print one if you want one.



**2025**



**March 8    June 14    September 13  
December 6**

All breakfasts are from 8:30-10:30. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please sign up by the week prior to the event.

## Our MUMC Family Out in the World

Here are some of MUMC Family spreading Joy in February! Did you ?



Our very own Will Whitley, part of the State Champion Milford Track team

Aubrey, Quinten and Lincoln Biron took advantage of some great snow in February and went sledding!



Patrick Harvey – Olson as Jack Kelly in Newsies



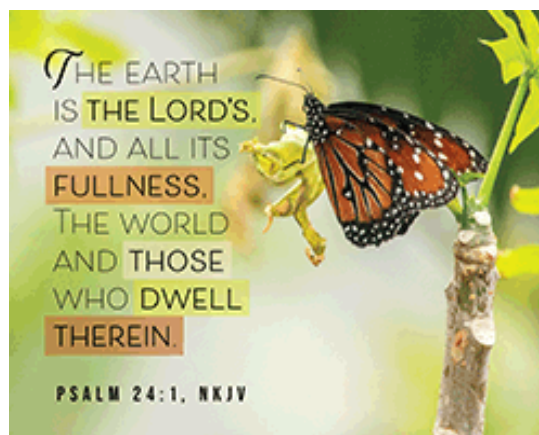
Avery (L) and Cora (rt) had a great basketball season in Wilton! Go Warriors!



Would love to see how you spread Joy. Friend me on Facebook or send a pic to office @milfordumc.org

## Protecting Our Resources: Something to do in April

Come to the 2025 Souhegan Sustainability Fair on April 5th at the Milford Boys & Girls Club at 56 Mont Vernon Street from 9am to 1pm. This will be a family-friendly event with learning opportunities and activities for both adults and children. Visitors to this plastic-free event will be invited to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the local food pantry SHARE. Learn about ideas and best practices around socially and environmentally responsible living, celebrate the natural beauty of the Souhegan Valley and find out about new ideas to protect our natural resources.



### In March SHARE Is Collecting.

Canned Fruit, Flour, Sugar, Coffee & Tea, Juice, Instant Rice, Cold Cereal, Instant Oatmeal packets, Individually wrapped snacks



Food  
Pantry  
Needs

SHARE  
Collection

## Choir News

### From Jenn Erdody

Chancel Choir thanks you for your continued support through these snowy times. We were happy to be able to re-use two of our "Virtual Choir" videos recently. They were made by our choir in 2020/2021 but certainly were lovely to see again on the two snow Sundays!

We are preparing our Good Friday cantata, "It Is Finished", written by one of our favorite composers, Mary McDonald. We will again join with singers from First Congregational Church, their Music Director Kim Whitehead, and their interim pastor, Alex Gondola. We invite YOU to sing with us too! The rehearsal schedule is below. Please see Jenn, Nancy, or any choir member if you have questions!

#### Cantata

3/20 5:30-7:00 rehearsal- mandatory if at all possible please  
 3/27 6:15-7:00 cantata (5:30-6:15 MUMC choir)  
 4/3 6:15-7:00 cantata (5:30-6:15 MUMC choir)  
 4/10 6:15-7:00 cantata (5:30-6:15 MUMC choir)  
 4/18 Good Friday Rehearsal 4:00-5:20, service 6:00 at MUMC



## Help Needed!

The worship committee continues to look for a second service communion steward/stewards. The duties involve set-up of communion and clean up after the service. If this interests you, please let the office know. [office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org) Training is available and back-up as needed will be provided if needed.



## Noise Offering for Wanakee

### March 9, 2025



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

Scents can make some people sick.



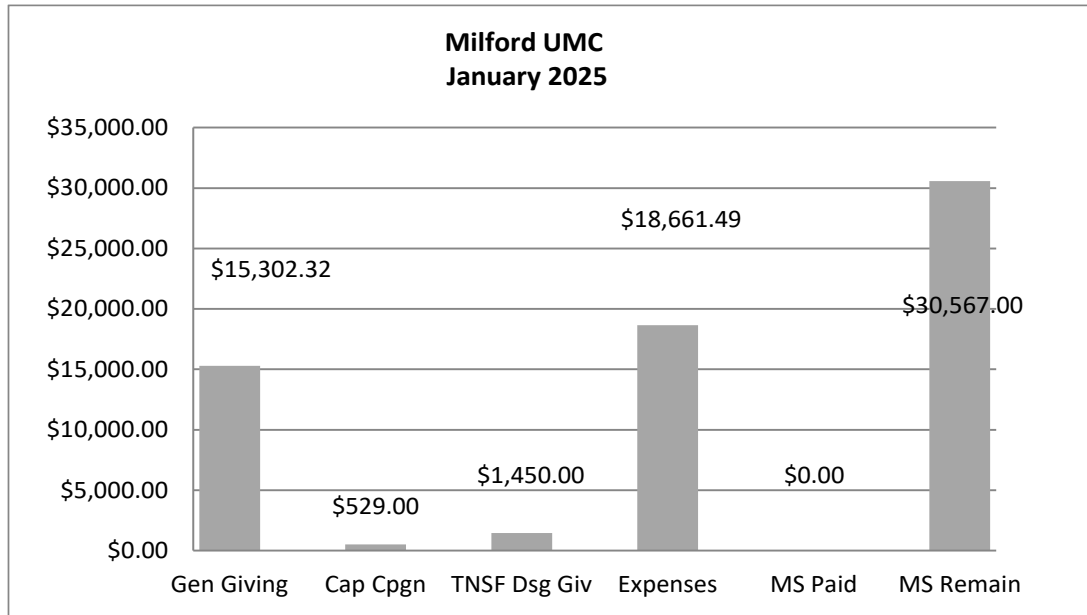
## Can we help?



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.

# Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



Due to the snowy New England weather February giving at the time of this printing is behind a bit, and expenses due to the same snow are up. Please consider making up for any giving Sundays you may have missed. Thank you.

## YTD Financials

General Giving	\$15,302.32
Cap Campaign	\$529.00
TSF Dsg Giv *	\$1450.00
Expenses	\$18,661.49
Mission Shares Paid	\$0.00
Mission Shares Remain	\$30,567.00

\*Dsg = Designated giving accounts that are being used to fund items that show up in the Expense category.



Milford UMC  
General Fund  
<https://pay.com/15ABZaXNKGcc>

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

MUMC giving QR Code



## Family Life

with LeeAnne

We opened 2025 in Children's Church with a soapstone statue of Christ the Redeemer which I picked up in Rio de Janeiro. Bubble-wrap careful pulled away, our statue came to us without hands. Hmm. I asked the children what it might mean, a statue of Jesus without hands. Our children were quick to respond that WE are Jesus's hands when we are kind and use our hands to help and heal. I love them so. We've got great kids! Jonah drew Christ the Redeemer holding out his arms and hands embracing the whole world which you can see on page 9 of the Outreach this month. Jesus helps, holds, and heals us wherever we are.

We gathered for Children's Church this Sunday, held our candles as the Christ candle glowed from the sand and offered our hearts. **"Everyone should know that I love them."** Voiced our youngest child. Yes, child, you are following Jesus. This teacher thought you, MUMC, the congregation might need to hear that you are loved. This brings joy to my heart every time I remember. Let us each be as our youngest child, loving everybody.

Psalm 23: We are learning Psalm 23 in Children's Church using prayer beads. Each bead ties into a line in the psalm. Please see the picture here in the Outreach. I invite you to memorize Psalm 23 along with us.

***What happens in your heart shapes the world. What happens in your heart shapes the world. What happens in your heart shapes the world.***

Pastor John said, "What happens in your heart shapes the world." And I'm taking it as a challenge to see everyone and love them. I don't have to love everything they say and do, and that is different, isn't it? Loving them as a child of God is joyful. Looking into the eyes of a stranger until the light is reflected back is

a soul connection. People do choose to look away, and I understand. Most people respond with a twinkle in their eyes. We used to say that Grandma Ruth never met any strangers. If you think about it, babies don't meet any strangers either. I noticed in Brazil that even adults take time to see one another and be present. It sure made us feel special and seen and heard. Perhaps seeing one another is one way we can follow Jesus.

### **Vacation Bible School VBS 2025 Road Trip!**

**Friday July 11, Saturday July 12 and Sunday July 13<sup>th</sup> is our VBS Family weekend!**

Did you mark your calendar? Do please invite a friend!!!

Moms and Dads- Be on the lookout for a plain white shirt for VBS Road Trip in weeks to come! We're going to tie dye our shirt at a family spotlight event this spring. Date TBD. Yes, you can just give me money for a shirt from a craft store.

### **Lenten Study**

Tuesday mornings at 11:00 March 11-April 15

Join me in *READING THE BIBLE THROUGH POETIC EXPRESSION* *How to live a life of Faith* by Layne Case. This study comes highly recommended by Pastor Jeff Hunt. Come if you love poetry and come even if you don't and you're the least bit curious. We're going to make the scripture come alive in new ways as we read and write our way through new and familiar passages and share. The text is written for 12 and up. I can offer a response to scripture through watercolors if our little ones can join us. Big ones are welcome to respond to scripture through watercolor as you wish as well. All are welcome.

### **Family Ministry Spotlight Event: Resurrection Gardens**

Join me to create a resurrection garden for your family Sunday Morning April 6<sup>th</sup> during Children's Church 9:40-10:20. We'll make one per family. Please sign up by texting (603)864-9005 so we can reserve materials for you!



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

### Birthdays:

<b>March 2:</b>	Tami Betelak
<b>March 4:</b>	Andrew Houston
<b>March 8:</b>	Kristi O'Shaughnessy
<b>March 10:</b>	Cynthia Geiger
<b>March 11:</b>	William Tobbe
<b>March 14:</b>	Pat Rafter
<b>March 14:</b>	Bronwyn Tyler-Wall
<b>March 15:</b>	Nicole Masters
<b>March 22:</b>	Kim Antonetti
<b>March 23:</b>	Janet Johnson
<b>March 25:</b>	Dawn Mallows
<b>March 26:</b>	Debbie Santinelli
<b>March 26:</b>	Dave McMahon

There were no anniversaries on my calendar this month. Hope we didn't miss yours.

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

**March 2:** Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

**March 9:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

**March 16:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

**March 23:** Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

**March 30:** Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



### 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)



## ***MUMC's Got Talent*** **From Callie McMahon**

Are you still practicing that stand up routine in front of the mirror? Are you getting better at singing in the shower? Are you chomping at the bit to be the next super star? Here's your chance to show the MUMC world what you've got.

We are excited to announce that MUMC will be having a Variety show on May 9, 2025 at 7 p.m. Proceeds to go to the Mortgage fund.

We know how much talent God has blessed MUMC with and we really want to get a chance to see it all together in one fun and entertaining event. We also know that we have friends and other family with tons of talent. What a fun time if they all got together!

Jenn Erdody will be our coordinator and help us put together a great evening of fun. Rudy Rumohr has agreed to be our sound booth person, but we would love to have help for him, just in case he also wants to share his talent in the show.

If you get this newsletter electronically, please sign up here [Variety Show Signup](#). If you are reading this in paper format, please contact the office at [office@milfordumc.org](mailto:office@milfordumc.org) or call 603-673-2669 if you want to show your talent or work behind the scenes.



## ***Ways to Help Others*** **From VOICE**

Are you feeling the need to help others but are not sure how to do so? Learning more about immigration and the struggle people are facing currently is one way to help. United Women in Faith's podcast Faith Talks will be discussing immigration and loving our neighbors. They will be discussing the current climate for immigration and how it may impact our communities. The live podcast is on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 2:00 pm EST. You can register for this zoom webinar here:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HtNuBo2QG00kEsPV7BXNA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HtNuBo2QG00kEsPV7BXNA)

This Faith Talk will be available later as a podcast if you are unable to join live, just search for United Women in Faith: Faith talks wherever you listen to podcasts.

The VOICE committee also has Know Your Rights Cards known as Red Cards that can be given to people to help them understand and assert their rights as immigrants. If you would like some please email the church office or see Callie. As United Methodists our Social Principles call us to "Recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all."



Service at 6pm, MUMC





Jonah Farnsworth's beautiful artwork of "Christ the Redeemer." See LeeAnne's article on page 6.



Great work Jonah!

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, "O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past."

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. "This is what Lent is meant to be," writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. "Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other."



## Committees, Groups and Ministries

If you are interested in becoming involved with, or learning more about, a committee or group on the calendar, here's who to talk to.

### **Administrative (Ad) Council: Steve Kimner**

*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.*

### **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) **Not meeting** 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.

### **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: Heidi Rocha**

*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,**

*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, 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**

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



2025

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
<b>2</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5p Men's Group	<b>3</b> 6 SPRC virtual	<b>4</b> 7p Praise Band	<b>5</b> 8:45 Union Coffee with Pastor 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6p Ash Wed Service	<b>6</b> 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5p Men's Group	<b>10</b> 4 Worship 7 Trustees	<b>11</b> 7p Praise Band	<b>12</b> 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>13</b> 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8-11a Mason's Breakfast Youth Trip fundraiser
<b>16</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5 p Men's Group 7 Youth Mission	<b>17</b> 5:45p VOICE 7p Finance	<b>18</b> 7p Praise Band	<b>19</b> 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>20</b> 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Crafting 12:30 –3 pm
<b>23</b> 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5 p Men's Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5p Missions 7p Praise Band	<b>26</b> 8:45 Coffee w/ Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	<b>27</b> 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	<b>28</b>	





## Milford United Methodist Church

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

*March 2025*

### **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.