



The Outreach

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

Pastor's Corner

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Beloved in Christ,

I saw something fascinating the other day during a few days off in this new Easter season. This week is Spring Break for my kids and, to boot, it was Leila's birthday and we were down in Boston and decided we'd go to the aquarium (which I had never been to before). After looking around for a while and making our way through the different floors, there was an announcement that it was almost lunchtime for the sea lions and so we headed that way for the show. Well, it was readily apparent by the time we got there that the sea lions had heard that announcement as well. The surface of the water was churning and splashing with their anxious energy. There was a hallway just off to the right where the trainers would eventually come out with their toys and fish and two or three of the sea lions were transfixed with what was about to emerge out from that hallway. One of the sea lions was beside herself. She would jump up out of the water onto the platform and peer down the hallway and bark loudly, then she'd jump back in the water for a spin or two and jump back out again for another bark or two in hopes that the trainers would get the message. After that didn't work, she tried going further down the hallway and barking even louder and then jump into the water again. That went on for about 10 minutes. Another sea lion had clearly heard the same announcement but decided instead to plop herself down calm and still at the end of that same hallway—no barking, no going back and forth in and out of the water, just patiently waiting. The rest mostly went about their business (although clearly also excited that lunchtime was near), but the contrasting attitudes and actions of these other two was as close as I've ever seen to a parable in action.

The trainers eventually arrived with a bucket of fish for each. All of the sea lions were fed at roughly the same time after a few tricks and waves to the audience. I have to imagine that something like this scene is probably the story of every feeding time. The hyperactive sea lion didn't get any more fish any sooner than the rest for all of its anxiousness. The patient sea lion didn't get better treatment either, in the end, than any of the other seals that were less focused on the hallway. If love can be measured in fish, all of them were equally loved and equally attended to by their trainers. And yet, there does seem to be a meaningful difference among the sea lions—particularly between the one who begged frantically

Pastor's Corner Cont'd

and the one who waited, almost rested, patiently. Sometimes I think we pray like that anxious sea lion—worried and frantic as though we don't know where our next meal might come from, even while every other meal has come on time; uncertain that we're loved and provided for; causing ourselves and others around us anxiety even though that attitude doesn't yield a better result. Where in scripture does it say that anxiety in prayer pays dividends? I'm only aware of the place that says "the prayer of the faithful avails much" (James 5:16). Which sea lion resembles faith? As we head into May, my prayer for you is that, whatever you're waiting for, whatever you've been praying for fervently, that these two sea lions might have something to say to you about the expectations and attitudes we bring to our prayers. Even as you wait, may you find the grace to rest confidently in the one who loves you without question.

Bless your hearts!

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!

Timothy Barnes, *Constantine: Dynasty, Religion and Power in the Later Roman Empire*.

Who was this Roman emperor that was so consequential in the history of the church and still so relevant to ongoing discussions today? The emperor who declared toleration, the emperor who convened the first ecumenical council at Nicaea, the emperor who founded and funded so many famous churches world-wide and, with his establishment of Christianity in the West, left the church with so many vexing questions about how we ought to think about our life in connection with that of the larger society and world. Barnes is regarded as the foremost living authority on Constantine and this book (published in 2014) is something of a capstone on a lifetime of research and publishing.

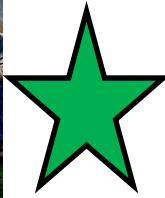


Our MUMC Family Out in the World

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



L. Neva & Mattie with the Easter Bunny,
C. All the Harvey-Olson's at Easter
R. Neva at Dance

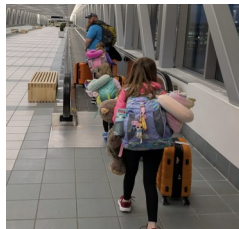


L. Sarah & Chris Biron with the new Pups.
R. Quinten, Aubrey & Lincoln Biron ready to hunt



Deb & Sylvia made this cute Easter House! Then Deb gets in a run to train for a Bloomsday Run in May

R. Tim Herlihy with his 3 girls, Cora, Avery, and Em at the airport heading to FL.

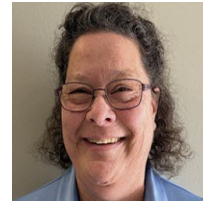


Here's the gang in FL. Betty, Mike, Tim, Jaclyn, Cora, Avery, & Em, Herlihy, Pat & Steve Rafter



Jacob Erdody was awarded the Theatre Arts Musical Theatre Award

Lonni Stapanon, Semi finalist for Care Giver of the year at Visiting Angels



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



In May 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

Mapping NH 's Untold Stories From Janet Hromjak

About thirty-five of us showed up in the rain at the Nehemiah Hayward Homestead here in Milford to celebrate the Black Heritage Trail of NH Harriet Wilson marker unveiling. David and Liisa Palance own the home on Maple Street which housed Harriet Wilson where she was indentured until age 18. Harriet was the first African American female novelist to be published in the US. As the marker states, 'Harriet was subject to inhumane treatment which deeply influenced her writing. Wilson's life, and her novel confronting the harsh realities of her time, are a testament to her resilience, courage and fortitude'



A Prayer for Mother's Day

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



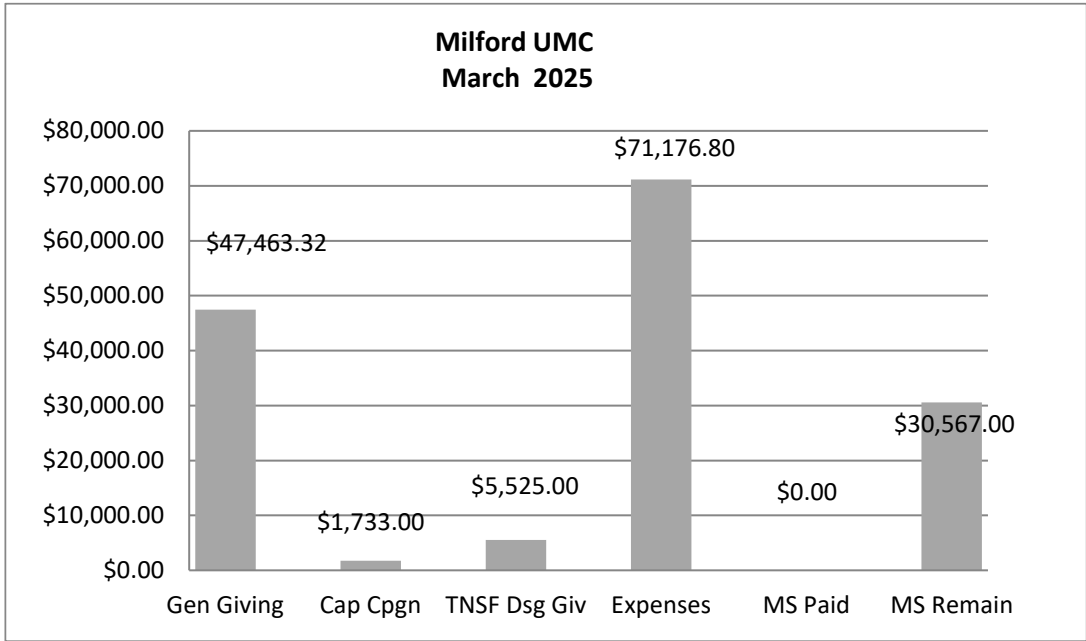
Can we help?



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 Deb Santinelli, for the Finance Committee



Please consider volunteering to be a money counter on Sunday mornings. This job only takes about 20 minutes after the service. It is required that 2 people be present to count cash. Once we have a few volunteers, we can rotate serving so no one is burdened every week. See Callie or Andy, if you are interested.

General Giving	\$47,463.32
Cap Campaign	\$1,733.00
TNSF Dsg Giv *	\$5,525.00
Expenses	\$71,176.80
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
Church of Christ
<https://giving.com/1548247929>

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

MUMC giving QR Code

Family Life with LeeAnne

Family Spotlight Events **Mark your calendars!**

Tye Dye is RESCHEDULED TO SUNDAY JUNE 1 FROM 2-4. We are making tie dye shirts for VBS. Please let me know how many will come and sizes.

Vacation Bible School VBS 2025 Road Trip!

Friday July 11, Saturday July 12 and Sunday July 13th is our VBS Family weekend!

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

Lenten Study

Thanks to all who participated in our rich poetry and discussions.

Psalm 23: We continue learning Psalm 23 in Children's Church using prayer beads. Each bead ties into a line in the psalm. I invite you to memorize Psalm 23 along with us. We will share during worship.

Mission Project: Would you like to help make marble boxes or prayer beads for anyone who needs to experience Psalm 23? We could offer them in exchange for a donation at the yard sale or Christmas Fair and take orders if needed.

Family Ministry Spotlight Event: Resurrection Gardens and Sowing with the Sower

Please return the dish garden pot to Children's Church when you are done. Re-plant plants and bulbs and remember Christ. There is a spiral cycle to bulbs and seeds like our pansies. Repot that

palm and remember Palm Sunday. Remember sowing with the sower? God is working in us and through us each time we plant and tend and sow seeds, repot and allow for rest.

Friends,

We are into a new season experiencing God through awe and wonder. Whoosh! Wow! We will be exploring the church grounds and learning about God the Creator. We are Easter People! How does this offer us opportunities to receive and give? The more love we receive, the more we can give. Start with loving God. Know your belovedness as God's child. Share this love by being God's hands and feet in the world.

A Question: I'm wondering if there are some willing helpers to mark trails and make clear pathways to experience our great God on MUMC's great grounds? All that we have is of God. Let's join together and serve!

Grace and Peace,

LeeAnne

PS. Reminder of your invitation. Sunday, I invited you all to try healing touch, Spiritual Direction, Reiki or a chat in Spanish or Portuguese with me for one hour. I was given a huge gift as you heard in the Children's Message. Thank you for receiving my gift and giving me this opportunity to serve.

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

Scents can make some people sick.



This Month's Lectionary

May 4, Psalm 30, Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) , Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

May 11: Psalm 23, Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

May 18: Psalm 148, Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6. John 13:31-35

May 25: Psalm 67, Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29



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



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

Birthdays:

- May 13:** Gavin Lawton
- May 16:** Judy Hoppe
- May 17:** Sarah Theriault
- May 18:** Violet Holland
- May 19:** Emelaine Herlihy
- May 21:** Jenny Lawton
Jerry Theriault
Cora Herlihy
- May 24:** Pat Gunter
- May 26:** Shirley Blair
- May 28:** Ray Guzman
- May 31:** Nancy Tong

Anniversaries:

- May 6:** Pat & Steve Rafter
- May 6:** Judy & Jerry Hoppe
- May 22:** Carol & Cecil Rowlette

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



Best Wishes



MUMC's Variety Show!
From Callie McMahon

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

We currently have about 16 contributions to the show and they should make for an entertaining evening.

Everything will be a free will offering and we hope you will invite your friends and family to attend. Why not consider bringing your mother as a special Mother's Day time together. We will provide a QR code to make giving easy and we will pass the offering plate, if cash is easier.

Jenn Erdody is our coordinator and will be putting 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.

Please contact the office at office@milfordumc.org or call 603-673-2669 if you want to work behind the scenes or contribute a baked good for the concession stand.

Join us for a special evening!
Bring your friends!
We can't wait to see you!

Spring Yard Sale
From Pat Rafetr

You may have noticed the gray carport was damaged by the heavy snow fall. Part of our proceeds will go towards cost to replace that cover and the cover for the extra large one, that is currently sitting out in the back forty! That cover was destroyed in late summer winds. I think it may be best to take the extra large cover off when not in use to save it from winds and UV damage. If you need to use that extra large canopy you will need to make arrangements for the cover to go on and off. It goes quickly and easily, but requires several bodies.

Drop offs for the spring yard sale will be May 3rd and 10th, from 9am to 11am. Looking for volunteers to help with pricing and sorting and putting in their designated areas. Yard Sale day is May 17 8am to 1pm. Helpers needed for the sale as well. Remember all donations must be clean and in working order. No furniture, magazines or musty books. Stuffed animals with original tags will be accepted. No exercise equipment or electronics. Gently used clothing and shoes will be accepted. If drop off dates do not work for you please contact Pat Rafter 603-582-0333 or Tom Knapp 603- 809-5413 for alternate dates and times. PLEASE try to have all donations in by May 12 at the very latest! Happy Spring cleaning.



A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth

From Janet Hromjak for VOICE

Our Church Conference Commission on Religion and Race offered clergy and laity an opportunity to participate in **A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth**, a 21 day anti-racism activation experience geared to putting an anti-racist at every dinner table in America to join in these uncomfortable but necessary conversations. I'm glad I decided to participate. The first thing they did was ask us to watch the video 'The History of Race in America'. I sent **this out to a number of folks. It takes you through the US' history of anti-Black racism** from 1619 to present, showing how the legacy of slavery & the myth of white supremacy impacts every aspect of our society. It was eye opening. Here's the link - please share with your friends. <https://vimeo.com/776376209/6328cf735e>

In session 1 "**Unpacking the Truth.**" we explored the historical roots of systemic racism and began essential discussions about its ongoing impact. In session 2 "**Finding Your Voice,**" we focused on practical tools for change – learning about the **CPR Protocol**, a powerful approach to confidently address problematic statements and take meaningful steps in anti-racism. We role-played in how to **Clarify, Probe & Redirect** when we find ourselves in racist conversations with people. Only by engaging with people can we truly institute change and eradicate racism. Here's their website with a listing of activities: <https://alongtalk.com/events> - I hope you'll check it out.

Blankets for Grads From Kerri-Lynn Kimner

Every year, we present graduating seniors with tied fleece blankets made by members of our church. We are collecting fleece for this project. Each piece should be 2 yards long. We need patterns and solids. If you want to donate, please place fleece in the container in the lobby. If you have any questions or would like to make a blanket, contact Kerri-Lynn Kimner. (kkimner@gmail.com)



Craft Work Shops From Pat Rafter

Christmas Craft Fair Workshop are going well. We are increasing our inventory! What great little worker bees are we. We will continue to meet on the 4th Saturday of each month, taking July and Aug off. In September we will start back up and decided if we need to meet more often this fall. Pat is also considering some random jam making days as fruits come into season this summer. If you are interested in making jam or learning how, let Pat know and she will include you on these days. This year's fair will be 12/6.



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Souhegan Valley

CROP HUNGER WALK

MAY 4, 2025

SOUHEGAN VALLEY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

This is the first year for the new Souhegan Valley Crop Walk. It's a 3 mile walk that starts at the Congregational church in Milford. Registration is 1 pm, start time is 1:30 pm.

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world.

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

You can register below:

[Souhegan Valley CROP Hunger Walk](#)

Mission Team From Diane Miller

This year we are collecting funds for the bed nets from Mother's Day till Fathers Day, just as we did last year.

These nets protect children from mosquitos that spread malaria.

Bed nets for a family of 5 costs \$105. Last year we collected \$1142 for a total of 55 nets. Do you think we can do better this year?



Trustees have announced that **Levi Sunday** will be on **May 18th**. Everyone is invited to come dressed for some light yard work and bring rakes, brooms and shovels for after worship fellowship!



During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. "Only those could speak to him who came to where he was," explained Archbishop William Temple. "If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee" (from *Readings in St. John's Gospel*).

Spiritually speaking, Christ's Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. "Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV) — that is what the Ascension affirms.



Noise Offering for Wanakee

May 11, 2025



Internet Frauds & Scams

The Milford United Methodist Church, VOICE Committee, will be sponsoring a presentation by the Network Intrusion Forensic Analyst Team at the Secret Service on Internet Enabled Frauds & Scams, on May 28th, at 6 pm, at the Keyes Meeting Room, Wadleigh Memorial Library's.

Discussions will be Phishing, Social Media Scams, Tech Support Scams, Email Compromise Scams, SMSing, Pig Butchering Scams, Crypto / Digital Currency Scams. Password Best Practices, and what to do if you are a victim of a scam.

I have attached a flyer for you to hang on your bulletin board if you think your congregation might be interested. Feel free to share with other organizations.

This is a free event.



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, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, 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 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30	2	3 Yard sale drop off 9-11
4 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children’s Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5p Men’s Group 7 youth Mission	5 6 SPRC virtual	6 7p Praise Band	7 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6:30 retreat	8 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	9 Talent Show 7 pm	10 Yard sale drop off 9-11
11 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children’s Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5p Men’s Group Happy Mother’s Day	12 4 Worship 7 Trustees	13 7p Praise Band	14 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6:30 retreat	15 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30 Choir	16	17 Yard Sale 8-1
18 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children’s Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service Levi Sunday 5 p Men’s Group	19 5:45p VOICE 7p Finance	20 7p Praise Band	21 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetop 1 Lamplighters 6:30 retreat	22 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30 Choir	23	24 Crafting 12:30 –3 pm
25 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children’s Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5 p Men’s Group	26	27 5p Missions 7p Praise Band	28 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6:30 retreat	29 12 Hybrid Study 5:30 –7:30 Choir	30	31



Milford United Methodist Church

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

May 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.