



The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church
Milford, NH, Rev. Matthew Wissell, Pastor
September, 2025

Pastor's Corner

Dear MUMC Family,

As summer draws to a close and the first signs of fall begin to appear, I find myself deeply grateful for the warm welcome you have extended to Amy and I since we arrived and I began serving as your pastor in July. These first weeks have been filled with joy, grace, and hope as I've come to know you, worship with you, and begin to share in the life of this congregation.

Fall is a season of new beginnings. Children return to school, schedules shift back into routine, and our church family comes together again after the slower pace of summer. In many ways, this season mirrors my own journey with you—a time of starting fresh, of planting seeds, and of trusting God to bring about growth in our life together.

The writer of Lamentations says, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (3:22–23). I believe this is true not only for our daily walk with God but also for the seasons of the church. This Fall, I sense God's mercies made new for us as a congregation—new opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, and service.

As programs resume, choirs begin singing and playing again, and ministries find fresh energy, I invite you to step into this season with open hearts. Let us recommit ourselves to being present for one another, to welcoming all who enter our doors, and to listening for the Holy Spirit's leading as we grow in faith together.

I look forward to discovering with you all that God has in store for us. May this season of renewal strengthen our faith, deepen our love, and empower us to be Christ's witnesses in the world.

Under the mercy,

Pastor Matt
Email
pastor@milfordumc.org

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GREATER NASHUA CROP

Hunger Walk:

We walk because they walk." This is our 41th year! The walk will take place on Sunday, October 19., 2025, beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua. Registration is from 12 to 1pm with opening ceremonies at 1pm and stepping out at 1:30pm. Those who raise all their monies on line don't need to register and can grab lunch before coming at 1245. Registration and celebration are in the TBA parking lot, weather permitted.

To sign up, see **your recruiter** to make sure that you have all the tools you need to be a CROP walker! (Each team or faith community has a recruiter) You can also "walk on the web." Your recruiter will set up a team page on the website or you can start your own team (just indicate what faith community you are connected to) and raise money online. Here is the website link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/nashuanh>. You can also find us on Facebook; just search for Nashua Cropwalk.

In 2024 we had 29 faith communities or teams and some unaffiliated folk as well. There were more than 350 people at the walk. We are a very large walk now that we have merged with Souhegan. **We ranked #1 in New England and # 17 in the country! We raised \$54930**, which resulted in **\$3433** to each of our 4 recipient agencies. They are:
Corpus Christi food pantry
Nashua Soup Kitchen
St James of Merrimack Food Pantry
Share Inc of Milford

This year, our goal is to raise at least \$56,000.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/nashuanh>

If you can't walk, be sure to sponsor a walker, or make a team donation. We can also always use volunteer help at the event if your feet aren't made for walking!

For any questions or to volunteer please contact Becky Green at nashuacropwalk@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!



Choir Update From Jenn Erdody

Chancel Choir has enjoyed their summer off but is anxious to resume rehearsals!

Please join us on Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:50 to fellowship and sing. Our first anthem of the year will be offered on Homecoming Sunday, September 14th.

Thanks to all who provided Special Music this summer! It was wonderful to receive the fruits of your talents!



Our MUMC Family Out in the World

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



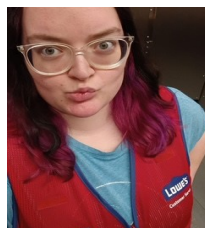
The Edmondson family together in a pic recreation.



Ben & Jenn Erdody after Ben's performance in "Disaster" at the Amato.



Rob & Jacqui Cook @TerrifiCon in CT!



CJ Miller got a new job at Lowe's. Congrats!



Karin Harvey-Olson & Mattie celebrating their togetherness!



Lily & Jamie Eves on Lily's first day of third grade!



Peg Dotter, Pat Rafter, Maureen Lockwood, Nicole Masters & Callie McMahon with flowers.



Aubrey & Quinten Biron, off to school!



This pup belongs to Kathy Gray & always makes me smile.



Deb Santinelli Delta Dental Elliot 5K



The Farnsworth's camping!



The Herlihy's on vacation!



Lincoln & Libby St Jean head back to school.

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



Lincoln, Grace, Libby & Jason St Jean get Grace back to Keene State.



Debbie & Steve Santinelli at Mrs. Knott's Chicken dinner.



Jaclyn, Cora, Emmy, Avery & Tim Herlihy. Back to school 2025.

In September SHARE Is Collecting.

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



Food Pantry Needs

SHARE Collection

Crafting Workshops

The next crafting workshop is Saturday, September 27,, at 12:30p.m. -3p.m.

Starting in October, we will be meeting twice a month. The 2nd and 4th Saturdays, same times.

Christmas Fair is December 6, and it's coming fast.



Hand Bells From Heidi Rocha

Greetings from the hand-bell corner! We are excited to start up again this fall. Our rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7pm - 8:00pm. (Give or take a few minutes) We ring during second service worship the 3rd Sunday of the month. If you think it looks complicated...I PROMISE...IT IS NOT. If you'd like to be a part of this fabulous, fun group, give me a call or send me a text/email. I would LOVE to have you join us. Peace...Heidi (heidirocha@comcast.net/603-493-4908)



We Donated to Share Back to School



15 Back Packs, 10 Lunch Boxes & All of This



Can we help?

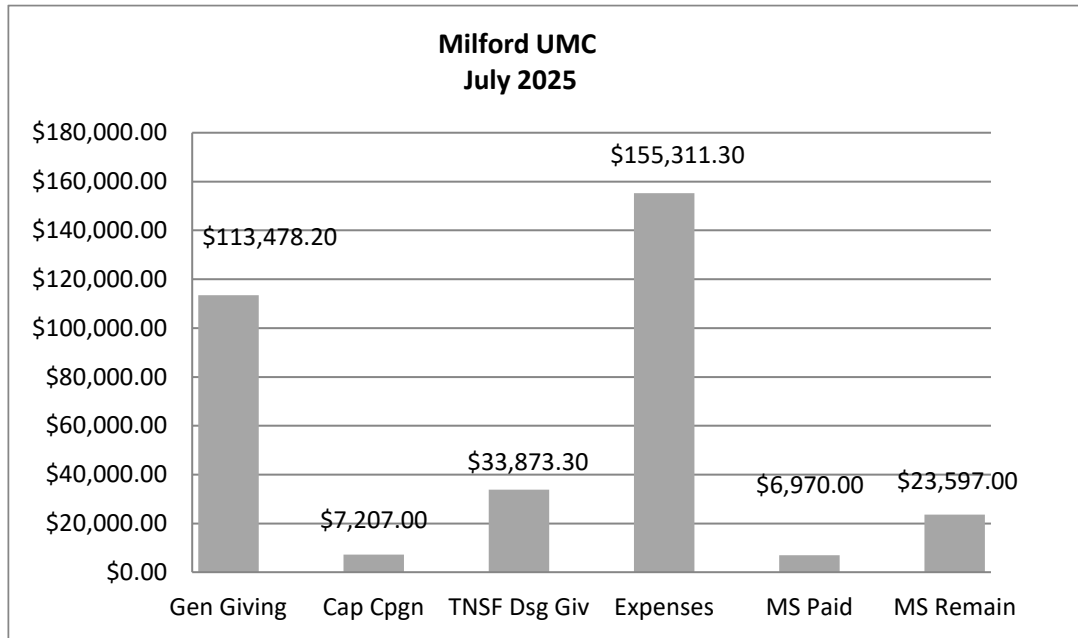


Do you need extra help to hear the service or to read the bulletins or hymnal? Call the office and let us know how we can help you. 603-673-2669. Leave a message with your phone number.

**December Men's Breakfast
Date Changed to December
13th**

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.

YTD Financials

General Giving	\$113,478.20
Cap Campaign	\$ 7,207.00
TSF Dsg Giv *	\$ 33,873.30
Expenses	\$155,311.30
Mission Shares Paid	\$6,970.00
Mission Shares Remain	\$23,597.00

*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/15ABZaWNGao>

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

MUMC giving QR Code

From VOICE

Many of you may know that the United Methodist church has a committee on Church and Society.

The General Board of Church and Society is dedicated to the work of living faith, seeking justice, and pursuing peace.

The board is called to seek the implementation of the Social Principles and other policy statements of the General Conference on Christian social concerns - to fulfill the mandate of:

1. Relating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Church, communities, and the world in which they live,
2. Bringing the whole of human life into conformity with the will of God, and showing that reconciliation involves personal, social and civic righteousness.

The vision of this committee states:

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections." The United Methodist Church has consistently stated its intent through church and community witness to advance the cause of peace and justice. The things this committee care about are civil and human rights, Economic, Health, and Gender Justice, Environmental Justice, Peace with Justice, and United Nations and International Affairs. Are you wondering how you can advocate for this tenet of United Methodism? Here are a few ideas:

Take action to ensure your elected officials hear from you. You can find a list of current advocacy actions at [Take Legislative Action 2025 • GBCS](#). The list provides links to the topics listed and by clicking on any of the items you can sign your name to letters directed to your elected officials. The topics include Grace over Greed, Civil and Human Rights, Environmental Justice, and Peace with Justice.

[Letters To My Daughters • GBCS](#) Is a monthly study that will examine the intersection of faith and advocacy as it relates to the social conditions of women, girls, and femmes.

[Seminars & Trainings • GBCS](#) here Church and Society offers numerous opportunities for learning and engagement for youth, emerging leaders, universities and seminaries, clergy, and congregational groups in

Washington DC.

We urge you to explore the resources at [Church & Society](#) | [ResourceUMC](#).



What about these ideas for New Newsletter Sections

Would you like to see some new newsletter sections? Maybe something that happens occasionally or something more regularly?

Who is this? Maybe a pic of you or a loved one as a baby or teenager? Everyone could guess and we could print the answer in the next issue or hide it in the current issue?

A favorite recipe section?

Your favorite bible verse?

Did you know? Reveal some little known information about yourself. For example: Did you know I was once on television? I was. I was answering phones for a Labor Day Telethon.

Let me know if you have ideas that might be fun.



2025



This Month's Lectionary

September 7: Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

September 14: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

September 21: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

September 28: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

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 9:	Shannon Short
September 13:	Alyssa Kaufold Benjamin Kaufold
September 14:	Jim Tyler-Wall
September 16:	Gage Tlapa
September 18:	Tom Knapp
September 21:	Jaclyn Herlihy
September 23:	Tim Herlihy

Anniversaries:

September 8:	Martin & Tami Betelak
September 10:	Kirk & Suzanne Randlett
September 15:	Everett & Marley Gale
September 19:	Ray & Colleen Guzman

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



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



HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

HAPPY
Anniversary
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Fall Yard Sale From Pat Rafter

It's that time again! Ready to start cleaning up and putting things away for the winter? Good time to pack up what you have not used in years! Yard Sale is 9/20 8-1. Drop offs will begin 9/6 and 9/13 9-11.

Nothing will be accepted after 9/13. If you need help please make plans before, by speaking with Pat Rafter 603-582-0333 or Tom Knapp 603-809-5413.

We will NOT take furniture, VHS, DVDs, CDs, electronics or dirty or broken items. No magazines either. Gently used clothing also needs to be clean, no underwear or socks unless in unopened packages. Season appropriate please.

This will be my last time organizing the yard sale. I will continue to help at some capacity but not as I have been for the last 20+ years. A team is being formed, please speak with the office if you are interested in joining this group. We raise close to \$6,000 each year for missions, a very worthy cause. Get connected, meet your church family and help your community!



Note: A couple of us are meeting with Pat on September 23 at 6 to make plans to take up this opportunity to keep this event going. If you want to join us, we'd love to have the help.

Youth Update From Tom Knapp

First Friday is September 5. at Café on the Oval.

The first meeting for the 2026 Mission trip is Sunday September 14 at 7 p.m. Please join us for information on this year's plans.



**REMEMBER YOUR TO
WEAR YOUR NAME TAG**

Noise Offering for Wanakee
September 9, 2025



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

Scents can make some people sick.

Family Life **with LeeAnne**

We're kicking off September with a fabulous float for our Labor Day Parade and our families are making posters and preparing to share our MUMC love with our greater Milford community.

Homecoming is September 14th. This is a time to register for Children's Church if you are new. If you are returning, you do not need to register. This is a single combined service at 10:30.

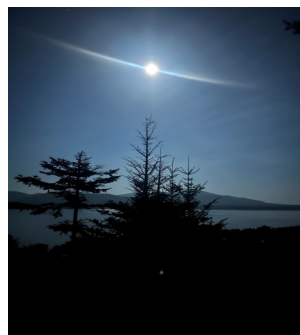
September 21st is Rally Sunday for Children's Church. We are back to our beautiful classrooms to learn and play and grow together as young disciples! Consider wearing tie-dye to bring in the new year!

This Fall we will be learning about ALL THE WAYS TO PRAY. There's probably more ways than you can imagine and we are going to name and explore all of the wondrous prayer-tunities for us so STAY TUNED for PRAYER-TUNITIES. Additionally, we will be following the lectionary with Pastor Matt. What's the lectionary you say? The lectionary is the whole Bible broken up in a 3-year cycle so we are sure to read and learn and grow with the word of God.

LOOK FOR OUR ALL THE WAYS TO PRAY JAR in the narthex. I'm hoping the whole church will join us in writing their favorite devotionals, books of the Bible or verses, Psalms, meditations, and spiritual disciplines. We will open up the jar each week to see who is checking in and helping us share this journey of faith and fellowship with all the ways to pray. We need you and we appreciate your candid sharing of this walk of faith.

As you begin your back-to-school rhythms I'm curious if anyone has done kissing hands with their loved ones or thought about the hello goodbye windows in our lives at home, grandparent's homes, and at school. Did you? Did you remember our turtle laying her eggs in June? I stopped by to check on those eggs several times this summer and earlier this week. I haven't seen anything, have you?

As we get back together, I'd like you to think about one amazing God-smack moment of wonder you've experienced since we've been together this summer. Did you have a moment to be amazed like we all were as we watched our turtle dig her hole and lay her eggs right in our path? What was it? For me, it was a meteor shower in Northern Maine the second week of August. We had one night that the wind shifted and the smoky air from the Canadian wildfires was no longer with us. Cool crisp pure air from the west engulfed us and our tent on the peninsula on the lake. The stars and planets shimmered and sparkled, and the Milky Way was clear to see. The shooting stars began to dance across the sky, and we lay in our sleeping bags in our tents in the woods by the lake to soak in the wonder and the magic of our great creator God.



Pictures from LeeAnne's trip to Maine.

New Fellowship Hour Process From Callie

I have been working to get groups to supply refreshment for fellowship time on Sundays, both services. Here's where I am so far.

I currently have 10 groups for fellowship time. Below are the groups and number of people (or couples as I'm trying not to burden anyone with more than one time a year) in the group.

The names for each group were sent to the chairs or leaders of the group and they will tell you if you are in a group and what month you are responsible for.

Choir	5	Bells	5	Praise Band	5
Worship	5	Missions	5	Voice	5
SPRC	5	Trustees	5		
Men's Ministry	6				
NM (Non ministry) Group 1,	5				

I have asked 2 other groups of at least 5 to fill the last 2 groups I'd like to have.

If you cannot make all the Sundays in a month, maybe you could still supply enough goodies and we could freeze them. Also, within the group, you might not be able to stay for both services and your group can work out those details as it sees fit.

I hope this will work for everyone.

The draft rotation will be posted in the Narthex.



Honoring the Gift of Work

The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden "to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, ESV). In the fourth commandment, we are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: "Six days you shall labor, and do all your work" (Exodus 20:9, ESV).



Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world.

Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, "We are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV).

On this Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, and labor with purpose and care.

REMINDER

The VOICE committee will again be collecting sneakers for recycling as part of the Fall Yard Sale.

gotsneakers?
A Sneaker Recycling Organization

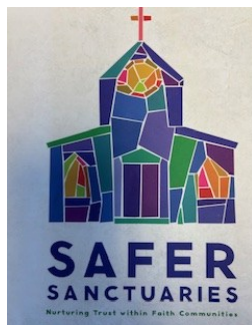
Safer Sanctuary Corner

The Safer Sanctuary team is working from a list of topics that will eventually become sections of the Safer Sanctuary policy.

Currently we are working on Basic Guidelines which includes among other things, general conduct with children, 2nd adult policy, and creating or updating forms.

We have also started working on Hiring Guidelines which includes, Background checks and job descriptions to name just 2 of the 8-item lists.

Job descriptions are being updated with Safer Sanctuary needs by the SPRC committee.



Join the VOICE Committee for a Book Discussion Group

The VOICE Committee invites you to participate in a three-part book discussion on *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee, a bestselling exploration of the cost of racism to everyone in society.

The group will meet on three consecutive Sundays—October 5, 12, and 19—at 11:45 AM, immediately following the second service, here at MUMC. Each session will last 90 minutes.

This discussion is part of *Pages for Progress*, a Church and Society initiative designed to foster collective learning through shared reading. The program offers a theological lens for exploring important social issues, helping participants grow to become more effective advocates as people of faith.



Books will be provided, and a link to the study guide will be shared with all participants. To register, please contact the church office at office@milfordumc.org.

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God's faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God's ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.



This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God's steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.

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 Matt. 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 6 SPRC Virtual	2 4 Worship 4:45 Staff 7 Praise Band	3 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6:30 retreat	4 8:45 Coffee with Pastor Matt, Donut Express on Elm St	5	6 Yard Sale Drop Off 9- 11
7 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5p Men's Group	8 7 Trustees	9 7p Praise Band	10 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6:30 retreat	11 8:45 Coffee with Pastor Matt, Donut Express on Elm St	12	13 8a Men's Breakfast 9-11 Yard Sale Drop Off
14 Homecoming Sunday! 10:30 a.m. Combined Ser- vice 5p Men's Group	15 5:45 Voice 7 Finance	16 7p Praise Band	17 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters 6:30 retreat	18 8:45 Coffee with Pastor Matt, Donut Express on Elm St 6p Worship Design	19	20 8-1 Yard Sale
21 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5p Men's Group	22	23 5p Missions 7p Praise Band	24 9 Whitetop 1 Lamplighters 6:30 retreat	25 8:45 Coffee with Pastor Matt, Donut Express on Elm St	26	27 12:30-3pm Crafting
28 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5 p Men's Group	29	30 7p Praise Band				

Remember to
wear your name
tag!



Milford United Methodist Church

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

September, 2025

Sunday Worship Times:

8:30a. Spirit Celebration, 10:30a. Traditional Service, 9:40a Adult Sunday School & Children's church. Watch Us live Online Facebook & YouTube @10:30 Rev. Matthew Wissell, Pastor
Email: pastor@milfordumc.org

Milford United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Church

Discover the Joy!

Rev. Matthew Wissell, 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.