

Milford United Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2025 Issue

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JENN

Dear Friends,

As we begin the season of Lent I encourage you to explore the book of Psalms in the Bible and find the ones which resonate with you personally. One of my favorite Psalms is Psalm 51, a prayer for cleansing and pardon. I've always loved stories, and Psalm 51 has a great story behind it. King David lusted after Bathsheba, the wife of one of his elite soldiers. Because he was King of Israel, David felt he was entitled to take whatever he wanted, including a married woman. After he had his way with her, Bathsheba found out that she was pregnant, and went to the King for help. First, David tried to get her husband, Uriah, to think it was his own child by bringing him back from the frontline for some "R & R". But Uriah was a man of character, and refused to enjoy the comforts of his bed and wife while his own soldiers were camping in the open field. Frustrated by Uriah's morals, King David came up with a new plan. He ordered Uriah to be sent to the front of the fighting and to have the other soldiers pull back from him, so that Uriah would be killed by their enemies. King David, who was near to the heart of God, managed to break at least 3 of the 10 Commandments in one month!

The Prophet Nathan was sent by God to convict David of his sins. When David was confronted by the depth of his own treachery he repented of his sins, and turned his heart back to God.

Psalm 51 is the prayer he wrote in response. In the Bible the Psalm is introduced as "A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba."

What does David say to God in repentance? What would you say to ask for God's forgiveness?

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment." (Psalm 51:1-4)

David recognized and acknowledged his sins, and accepted responsibility for the consequences of his actions. What I find particularly moving is that he counted on God's mercy and steadfast love to save him from himself. We all fall short of God's expectations at some point in our human lives. We're all broken and self-centered and clueless, but God's unconditional love is always available for all of us. In this season of Lent, as we prepare our hearts for the gift of resurrection and new life, I pray that we'll find comfort in the certain knowledge of God's steadfast love and abundant mercy.

Blessings,

Pastor Jenn

March - April Worship

Join us for 10:00 am Worship on Sundays, in-person, or livestreaming on our Facebook page.

March 2nd - HOLY COMMUNION/ Transfiguration Sunday/ "Astonishing" / Luke 9:28-36

Wednesday, March 5th 7:00 pm - ASH WEDNESDAY

Taize Prayer Service of Word, Silence, and Song with Ashes



Steadfast Love: A Lenten Playlist

The Psalms are lyrical conversations between God and the people of Israel. At their core is the conviction that God is approachable: one to whom we can all speak. For the season of Lent, I invite you to join us for worship as we go deeper in our faith by listening to God's playlist.

March 9th - "Rescue Me" / Psalm 91; Luke 4:1-13

March 16th - "Conceal Me" / Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35

March 23rd - "My Soul Clings" / Psalm 63; Luke 13:1-9

March 30th - NOISY OFFERING/ "Steadfast Love" / Psalm 32; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 6th - HOLY COMMUNION/ "Fill Me with Laughter" / Psalm 126; John 12:1-8

April 13th - PASSION/PALM SUNDAY "Open the Gates" / Psalm 118; Luke 19:28-40

April 17th - HOLY THURSDAY/ 7:00 pm Worship with Communion/ "Love One Another"

April 18th - GOOD FRIDAY/ 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service of Shadows

April 20th - EASTER SUNDAY/ Flowering of the Cross/ "Love Never Ends" / John 10:1-18

April 27th - 2nd Sunday of Easter/ Rev. William Nichols, Guest Preacher

Green Team Report

NEX TREX UPDATE

Hi all!

As many of you may know, the Green Team began collecting light plastic as part of the NexTrex community challenge. The goal of this challenge is to collect 1,000 pounds of light plastic by november! We have collected 73 pounds of plastic up to this point. Great job everybody!

In case you are wondering, here is a list of things that can be collected for this challenge:

- Grocery Bags
- Pallet Wrap
- Plastic Stretch Film
- Salt Bags
- Ice Bags
- Cereal box liners
- Ziplock Bags
- Bread Bags
- Newspaper Sleeves
- Bubble Wrap

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me in church or at jacksonreedhancock@gmail.com and I will gladly answer your questions. We do ask that any bags be dry and clean from any residue. We have a collection bin (labeled for light plastic recycling) outside the church office in the education wing. Thank you all for your light plastic & enthusiasm!

Environmentally, -Jack Hancock

UM Earthkeepers Training

May 2-17, 2025

Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a training and incubator program that provides a collaborative space for United Methodists to develop and grow environmental projects in their communities. Topics include eco-theology, antiracism, community organizing, and project planning.

Learn more @ <https://gnjumc.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b2ab2248b91542a5f476025fe&id=c315a771ee&e=e69c19d9e2>

Ecumenical Food Pantry 2025

These are the dates the Milford United Methodist Team will serve at the Pantry. These are all Friday evenings and the team meets at 6:15 and serves until cleaned up after closing about 7:45. If you are interested in serving, reach out to either Jodi Hancock or Rebecca Masters for more information.

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 6

July 4

August 1

August 29

September 26

October 24

November 14

December 5



Monthly Friday Pizza & Game Nights will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The time remains the same, 6-8PM

Here are the scheduled dates for the rest of 2025:

April 4 May 2

June 13 July 11 August 8

September 5 October 3 November 7

December 12



Ways We Worship

Ash Wednesday 2025



"Return to me with all your heart."

Journey to the Cross

Ash Wednesday Service of Word, Silence and Song



LENTEN MISSION PROJECT- UMCOR KITS

Vision

To Complete and deliver needed Hygiene Kits and Menstrual Hygiene Kits to UMCOR. UMCOR collects relief supplies in the form of hygiene kits and menstrual hygiene kits that are assembled by United Methodist volunteers for distribution in the United States and its territories. We will collect your completed kits or contributed items at our **March 30th** Worship Service and organize them during fellowship. Additional information on back of page.

ITEMS NEED FOR KITS

• HYGIENE KITS

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)
- No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth
- No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb

Must be sturdy with at least 4-7 inches of teeth
No pocket combs or picks

Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 4-7 inches of teeth

- One toenail or fingernail clipper
- No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
- No Ivory or Jergen's soap
- Do not remove from packaging
- One adult toothbrush
- Do not remove from packaging
- Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)
- Common household bandages acceptable
- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag



• MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KITS

- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag
- Two 2 oz. bottle hand sanitizer
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of wet ones
- 10 Tampons (5 regular and 5 super absorbency)
- Unscented
- 10 Sanitary Napkins
- Unscented
- Long super ultra-thin
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
- No Ivory or Jergen's soap
- Do not remove from packaging
- One pack of flushable wipes (42 count)
- Unscented
- Six laundry detergent sheets



Laundry detergent sheets should be placed inside of a small plastic storage bag prior to being added to the kit.

Growing in Faith

Soup & Study

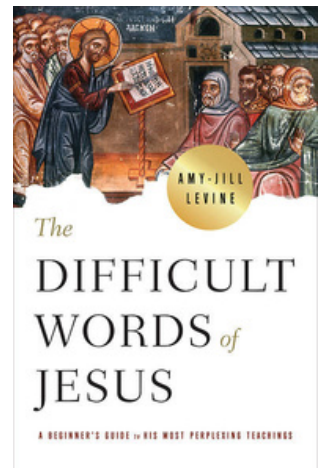
For the season of Lent we'll be offering a weekly soup supper and video study on Thursdays from 6-7:30 pm in the Conference Room, beginning on March 6th. The study will also be available on Zoom (bit.ly/MUMCZoom link).

We'll be studying "The Difficult Words of Jesus", a beginner's guide to his most perplexing teachings. The author, Amy-Jill Levine, shows how Jesus' most challenging teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they've been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the gospel of love and reconciliation.

The book is available for purchase, but is optional for the study. Here is a link to Cokesbury.com, that offers the book.

<https://www.cokesbury.com/The-Difficult-Words-of-Jesus?refq=the%20difficult%20words%20of%20jesus>

Blessings,
Pastor Jenn



COMING SOON FROM THE RMT!

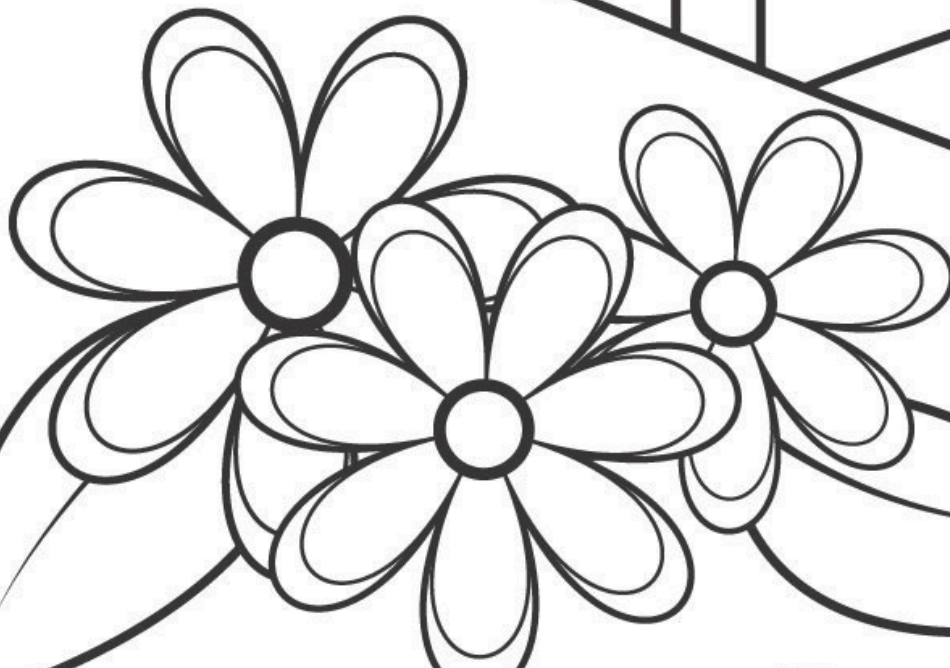
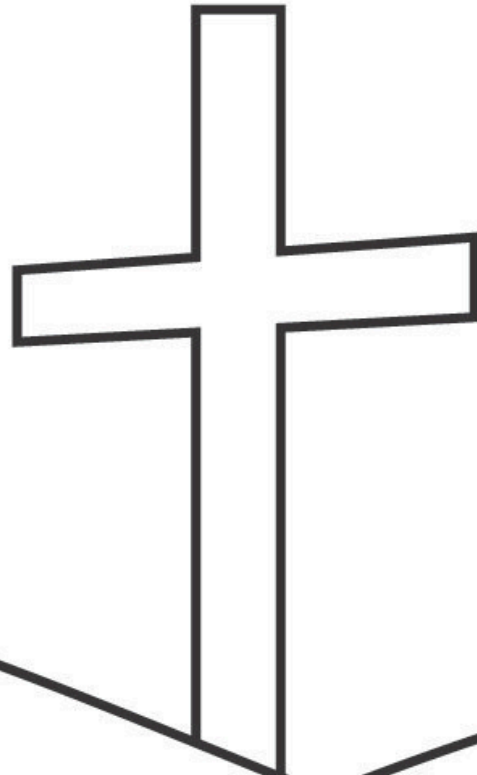
The Reconciling Ministries Team is pleased to announce that our next book study will be **THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a German local church pastor and one of the great theologians of the Twentieth Century. Published in 1937 during the rise of Hitler, Bonhoeffer explores what a commitment to live out one's faith in the world really means for both the individual and the church. What did Jesus mean to say to us? What is his will for us TODAY? Drawing on The Sermon on the Mount, Bonhoeffer addresses these timeless questions by exploring the difference between 'cheap grace' and 'costly grace'. Wrestling with these questions is just as relevant in 2025 as it was in Bonhoeffer's time.

We'll meet to engage Bonhoeffer's ideas Thursdays in May, beginning on May 1. The discussion begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room or via ZOOM. The book is available via Amazon, Cokesbury or online (and free) via the Libby App of the Pike County Public Library.

ALL are welcome! Bring your questions!

HAPPY

EASTER





SAVE THE DATE

Tastefully British Fish & Chip Fundraiser Dinner

Tuesday, April 15 5:30 & 6:30 Seatings
and Take Out Available

\$20 - Adults \$10.00 - 12 and Under

*Chicken Tenders available also



Pasta Night

Saturday, May 10 5-7PM
Community Dinner
featuring Rose Haring's
Sausage & Peppers over
Pasta Vegan and GF
Options will be
available. All Welcome
Bring your Mom for
Mother's Day!



Milford United Methodist Church

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