

MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

206 East Ann Street

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 10:00-3:00

craft & bake sale - flea market - food

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Milford UMC
206 East Ann Street
Milford, PA 18337



www.MilfordMethodists.org

<https://www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC>

Office: 570-296-6124, milfordmethodists@gmail.com

Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

jennlovallo@gmail.com



JUNE NEWSLETTER



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JUNE 2022

Dear Friends,

On May 1, 2022 a new denomination launched called the Global Methodist Church (GMC). This denomination splintered from our United Methodist Denomination in response to differences in beliefs about ministry with and by LGBTQ+ persons. Our Greater NJ Annual Conference Bishop, John Schol, reminds us that "LGBTQ persons are not the reason for our differences, our differences are because of our own beliefs, traditions, understandings, and attitudes."

For decades our denomination has been arguing over who gets included in membership and leadership. This is nothing new for the church. In the past we've argued over slavery, the ordination of women, and integration of congregations. The history of the Methodist denomination includes schisms as well as unions. One of the characteristics of the Methodist movement is that we focus on discerning God's will, seeking to discover God's ongoing revelation in our lives and our churches today.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, believed that people with differing attitudes and beliefs could still work and worship together. We may not be of one mind, he said, but we can be of one heart. It saddens me that many people in our denomination could no longer love alike, and felt the need to break off from The United Methodist Church. My prayers are with them as they transition to GMC.

In December of last year the members of Milford UMC voted overwhelmingly to become a Reconciling Ministries congregation, indicating their desire to belong to a fully inclusive church. While we can never know for certain what the future will bring, we believe that the future of The United Methodist Church is one of full inclusion where all God's children work and worship side-by-side to bring about the kingdom of God, on earth as it is in heaven. We will continue to live out our membership vows, being faithful to the denomination and our local congregation with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

I leave you with these words from the apostle Paul which he wrote in a letter to the churches in Asia. The point of the letter was that the purpose of God is to unite all things through Jesus Christ, creating a new unity in a divided world. May these words from Ephesians 4:1-6 speak to us once more as we face a dividing denomination, and a divisive society:

"Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all."

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO SERVE

OUTREACH

'There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under Heaven.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV)

This familiar passage will serve as a guide for the Outreach Team as we move through the remaining months of 2022. Our goal is to utilize the three Rs: Review, Reorganize and Refresh as we evaluate our mission initiatives, plan for using our personnel most effectively and plan for 2023.

The period since May 2021 has been one of great challenge and great growth for the Outreach Team. In the midst of navigating the pandemic and welcoming a new pastor, we have stayed focused on building relationships in the community and on developing programs that were both smart and strategic. We will be looking closely at programs currently in place, both that are ongoing (Go Bags, Little Food Pantry) as well as our annual initiatives (Angel Tree, Baby Shower for Mary and Joseph, Souper Bowl Sunday). We will continue to strengthen our relationships with community partners in the region including Pike County Children and Youth and our neighboring United Methodist Churches.

With the support of the Administrative Council, the Outreach Team has begun the process of reconnecting with the larger United Methodist Church in the form of Special Sunday Communion Offerings that enable the congregation to both learn about and support important missions in the world beyond Pike County. Milford United Methodist Church really does believe that 'The world is our parish' and the Outreach Team will remain focused on encouraging the congregation to live out John Wesley's mandate in smart, strategic, sustainable ways.

OUTREACH UPDATE: GO BAGS



Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we have supplies to pack in the Go Bags which are distributed to foster children. We have also received a generous cash donation which will be a big help. We will let you know when our supplies run low. Until then: thank you, thank you, thank you! Your donations are making lives better. Please keep these children in your prayers. Go Bag info is available on the website: milfordmethodists.org on the Wish Lists page.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES

The **RECONCILING MINISTRIES** Team invites you to join us at the Sussex Pride annual event on the town green in the center of Newton, NJ on Sunday, June 12 from 12:00-4:00 PM. We will be joining other reconciling UM Churches in our conference in this celebration of God's children. There will be vendors, food, and entertainment.

The next RMT meeting will be held Monday, June 20 at 6:30 PM, hybrid - in the Conference room and on zoom (www.bit.ly/MUMCZoom)



WAYS TO SUPPORT

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

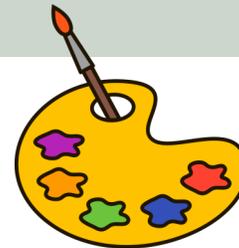
The annual church clean up day was held on Saturday, April 30, 2022 in conjunction with Delaware Valley High School's United Way Day of Caring. Several members of the church including Rebecca Masters, The Hancock Family, Pastor Jenn Lovallo, Bill Arlequeeuw, Dave Osczepinski joined Nick Gelardi, Chris Borges, Miles Nienstadt, Dom Lazzaro, Anthony Quadrino, Herald Quadrino, and Harrison Stark raking, scrubbing, weeding, and organizing. Thank you to all who attended and helped renew and beautify the church grounds.



WAYS TO GROW

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

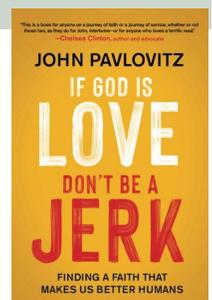
Paint and Play – An introduction to the arts for preschoolers and their parents.
Sunday, June 12, 19, and 26 at Noon



Paint & Play is for kids age 6 and younger. Each child and their guardian will have the opportunity to decorate an artful bear sponsored by our church. Paint & Play classes will be held Sundays, Noon—1:00 PM, on June 12, June 19, and June 26. Please contact Pastor Jenn to sign up. **Contact:** Jenn Lovallo 201-314-8442 or email jennlovallo@gmail.com for more information

BOOK STUDY

A book study will begin Thursday, June 2 at 7:00 PM and will continue for 5 more consecutive Thursdays. The gathering will be a Lay-led hybrid format - in-person in the Conference room and online at <http://www.bit.ly/MUMCZoom>. We will have a group discussion on topics from the book by John Pavlovitz, *If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*. It's an amazing read, but reading is not required, nor is attending every session. Attend when you can and join in on lively and inspiring conversations.



WAYS TO GROW

TRUSTEES UPDATE

The Board of Trustees are working to make our building Accessible to All by 2023.

This ambitious project will involve a lot of planning. To date, we have plans for:

Phase I : Building an Accessible lavatory in the hallway outside the Fellowship Room and Kitchen.

Phase II: Remove the existing lavatory in the Fellowship Room.

Phase III: Build an addition to accommodate a wheelchair lift.

Phase IV: Installation of wheelchair lift and completion.

This is a long term project and is dependent on fund raising.

Additional Projects in the works: Repainting of the Sanctuary, Updating the video information, On-going facilities Church maintenance, On-going maintenance for the Parsonage.

WEBSITE

New Website pages have been added: <http://milfordmethodists.org>

-There is a **Calendar Page** on the website which lists scheduled meetings. Please contact the church office to have a meeting added.

-**Activities** are being advertised on the **Online Calendar**.

-**Wish Lists Page** for Go Bags and the Little Pantry are available. Check often to see updates.

-We have added a **Resources Page** on the website which lists information and local assistance sources such as food pantries in the area, Victims Intervention Program, TriVersity, etc.

Information can be added by contacting the Church Office: milfordmethodists@gmail.com. We want to keep everyone up to date: please supply all necessary information for additions and updates.

WAYS TO SERVE

WAYS TO SERVE

As our Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee prepares to meet during the summer we invite you to consider areas where you might like to serve Christ through our church. Below are three of the groups which help make ministry and mission possible at Milford UMC. *If any one of them interests you please contact Pastor Jenn or our Lay Leader, Pam Houskeeper through the church office for more information.*

TRUSTEES – This group is responsible for all property, equipment, and facility usage for our church, as well as any bequests we might receive. 2/3 of the group must be professing members of the congregation. *If you have knowledge of property insurance, maintenance, construction, or technology this might be a great place for you to share your gifts.*

STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS – This group supports the Pastor and Staff of our church and serves as a liaison with the congregation. All must be professing members of the congregation. *If you have experience working in Human Resources, or good inter-personal skills please consider serving in this capacity.*

NOMINATIONS – This group is responsible for discerning the spiritual gifts of our lay members and encouraging them to participate in the life of the church. All must be professing members of the congregation. *If you have a knack of encouraging people to volunteer we'd love to have you on our team.*

WAYS TO WORSHIP

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

JUNE WORSHIP

June 5th – Pentecost Sunday/Communion

“For THINE is the Kingdom, Power, and Glory”

Celebrate the birth of Christ’s Church with us and learn the importance of praising God. We’ll be receiving new members on this important day in the life of the Church. Don’t forget to wear *RED* for Pentecost!



Our **Summer Worship Theme** is *“Gardens of the Bible”*.

Join us in worship online through Facebook, or in-person Sundays at 10:00 am as we explore the many gardens and their meanings for us today, from Genesis to Revelation.

June 12th – “Garden of Eden”

Discover the nature of God in the act of creation, and how the Garden of Eden continues to speak a message of unconditional love.

June 19th – Father’s Day/“The King’s Garden”

From the time of Solomon to the days of Jesus, the King’s Garden is a place for wholeness and grace.

June 26th – “Garden of Gethsemane”

Connect with the humanity of Jesus as we gather beneath the olive trees in prayer and petition.

July 3rd – Holy Communion/“Garden of Redemption”

There is hope at the Garden Tomb.

July 10th – “Garden of Glory”

CALENDAR PAGES ON THE WEBSITE

<http://www.milfordmethodists.org> link includes all information on meetings, events, worship, activities, etc. At the top of the page is a link to all Zoom meetings. No more looking through old emails to find the link!

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

The Delaware Valley Choral Society will perform at the Milford United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM. The concert will feature a medley of 100 Years of Broadway. Admission is free to the public.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

FINANCE UPDATE

Special Funds Report: 5/22/2022

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Easter Offering</i>	<i>\$1,510.00</i>
<i>Lenten Offering</i>	<i>\$940.00</i>
<i>Local Outreach</i>	
<i>Souper Sunday</i>	<i>\$156.00</i>
<i>Go Bags</i>	<i>\$280.00</i>
<i>Cash Card for Teen</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>
<i>Cash Contribution</i>	<i>\$93.00</i>
<i>Specific Restricted</i>	
<i>Baby Shower</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Audio Equipment</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Banners</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Reconciling Ministry Sign</i>	<i>\$500.00</i>
<i>Local Youth Programs</i>	<i>\$640.00</i>
<i>Native American Sunday</i>	<i>\$391.00</i>
<i>Superintendent mission call</i>	<i>\$439.00</i>
<i>UMCOR</i>	<i>\$4,297.00</i>

This is a report for special fundraising efforts through May 22, 2022. This is something we can all be proud of at Milford United Methodist Church. Through your donations we continue to be able to fund special programs. We are extremely grateful for all donations received so far this year.

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE
Donate online at bit.ly/GiveToMUMC

ENVELOPE
Place in offering plate or by mail.

TEXT
Text amount to 570-609-3437

* If you use the unnumbered envelope in the pew and want to have the donation documented, please write your name on the envelope.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS OFFERINGS

SPECIAL SUNDAYS ARE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Why do we celebrate Special Sundays? United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. On Sunday, June 5, Milford United Methodist Church will observe Peace with Justice Sunday. Our Communion Offering on that day will go toward ministries that work for human rights, peace and environmental justice, educate communities about sex trafficking and provide free legal work for persons who have been wrongfully imprisoned, to name a few. In 2021, United Methodists nationwide gave \$328,463 in support of Peace with Justice initiatives. Fifty percent of the offering remains in our annual conference to support this ministry. Even a dollar makes a difference as it joins with a stream of donations from across the connection!

Special Sundays are, of course, opportunities (not obligations) to give as we are able. They are also opportunities to learn more about the work of the United Methodist Church both nationally and internationally. Check out UMC.org/yourimpact to learn about ongoing programs and how YOU can make a difference. And, please include the persons and programs that are supported by the special offerings in your prayer life. Give, Learn, Pray!

WAYS TO SUPPORT

LITTLE FREE PANTRY NOURISH YOUR NEIGHBOR

Our Little Free Pantry is being used!

We want to keep it fully stocked with easily prepared, nutritious foods.

Let this helpful graphic be your shopping guide and please donate generously!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY The Ecumenical Food Pantry has begun planning for resuming in-person distribution. We are looking for volunteers to work the following dates: **June 10, July 15, and August 19 from 6:15-8:00 PM.**

Mark your calendar for the above dates and watch the bulletin for further information. The Ecumenical Food Pantry is located at 321 Fifth Street. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Liz Steen at 917-270-5439.



LITTLE PANTRY SUPPLIES LIST

The Little Free Pantry is serving a need in our community. The stocks are low for Grab-&-Go style foods; especially needed are canned goods. Please look for pop-top cans and quick nourishment ideas. *At this time, peanut butter is not needed. The Pantry provides quick foods, meal staples, and The Upper Room Magazine to feed the body and soul.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN UKRAINE



Ukraine

On-line donation in support of Ukrainian response efforts can be made at: umcmission.org—Advance #982450

WAYS TO GROW

GRATITUDE

A large effort is underway by all who are involved in the planning and execution of the Strawberry Festival. We would like to thank each person in advance for their time and talents. The community benefits from our participation and so do we! We are grateful for all who are involved.

Sunday, June 19 is Father's Day. Don't overlook the impact a special person has made in your life. Share your thanks and inspire others to do likewise.

We celebrate our national heritage for Juneteeth, on Sunday, June 19. The Emancipation Proclamation is one year older than our Milford Church Sanctuary! Thanks, President Abe.