



Milford United Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER

September-October 2024 Issue

A LETTER FROM PASTOR JENN

Dear Friends,

When I was growing up I loved getting new clothes at the start of the school year. We didn't have a lot of money, but somehow my parents always managed to afford some new outfits and it helped me get excited about going back to school. We'd shop at the end of August and I'd look forward to the first day when I could wear my new cargo pants or suede leather skirts, cowl neck sweaters and Robin Hood boots. Inevitably, the first week of September would bring a hot spell and all of my new fall clothing would have to wait until, well, fall!

We all know how difficult going to school can be for our children and youth. For me, a fashionable outfit felt like armor, protecting me from the bullies who made fun of my curly hair. As Christians, we have armor that protects us as well. In Ephesians 6:11 we are encouraged to *"put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"*. The armor of God is not an actual physical outfit, but rather spiritual strength and protection needed for us to stand firm in our faith. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil.

*"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with **truth** and put on the breastplate of **righteousness** and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of **faith**, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of **salvation** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**."*

As Christians we stand in the truth of the Spirit, developing a right relationship with God. Our faith is born of salvation, and strengthened by the word of God as revealed in scripture and made visible in the Living Christ. We know that there will be struggles in life. There will be bullies, and worse. There will be grief and suffering. There will be challenges that shake the very foundations of our faith. But through it all, we are clothed in the glory of the resurrected Jesus; a new outfit that helps us face each day with strength and hope and courage.

The armor of God doesn't always come easily or fit comfortably. Sometimes it feels too warm as if it's the wrong season; too tight, or too loose. We have to work at it, polishing the metal, softening the leather. We do this through spiritual disciplines. We pray and worship. We join in fellowship with other Christians. We study the Bible and we serve in missions. We practice our faith in order to grow in faith, and the more we get to know God, the stronger our armor becomes.

It is always a new season in our faith; always a day of new beginnings. I pray you have joy and excitement as you clothe yourself in Christ and face the future unafraid.

Blessings,

Pastor Jenn

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER WORSHIP

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



During the month of September we're going to take a deep dive into the Book of Revelation. Written in the first century by John of Patmos, this visionary account of the victory gained by Christ and the struggle of the faithful is still relevant for us today.

September 1st - HOLY COMMUNION/ "Back to the Future"/ Revelation 1

September 8th - "To The Churches"/ Revelation 2-3

September 15th - "Visions"/ Revelation 4-18

September 22nd - "Victory"/ Revelation 19-20

September 29th - NOISY OFFERING/ "New Creation"/ Revelation 21-22



OCTOBER will be an opportunity for us to develop an "Attitude of Gratitude" as we explore the path of generosity. Join us for worship as we count our blessings, grow in gratitude, and give thanks for God's many gifts.

October 6th - HOLY COMMUNION/ "An Attitude of Gratitude"/ Luke 17:11-19
1:00 pm - BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 13th - "In All Things"/ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

October 20th - LAITY SUNDAY/ "F.R.O.G"/ 2 Corinthians 1:7-10

October 27th - "Give and It Will Be Given"/ Luke 6:17-49

November 3rd - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY/ HOLY COMMUNION/ "A Cheerful Giver"/ 2 Cor 9:7-8

November 10th - BLESSINGS SUNDAY/ "Expect a Miracle"/ Matt 12:54-57; Luke 4:29-30



A Blessing of the Animals witnesses to the Church's love, care, and concern for God's creation. Join us on **Sunday, October 6th at 1:00pm** and bring your pets~ *All Creatures Great and Small!* for a time of worship and celebration.

If you're unable to attend, but would like a prayer for your pet, here's a special blessing you can share with them:

***Dear God, you have given us care over all living things:
protect and bless the animals who give us companionship
and delight, make us their true friends and worthy
companions. Amen.***





BIBLE STUDY : JONAH

Join us for a 4-week study on the
Book of Jonah, the reluctant prophet.

Sundays at 11:30 am in the
Fellowship Hall

September 22 - Week 1

September 29 - Week 2

October 6 - Week 3

October 13 - Week 4



Would you like to understand the Christian faith more fully?

Are you interested in rekindling your love of Jesus and renewing your vision?

Why not take a spiritual pilgrimage in your own backyard, by attending the Walk to Emmaus, this coming October at Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Newton, NJ?

Through small group fellowship, prayer, and worship, pilgrims will build faith and community, fostering inclusion as they learn about servanthood and God's grace.

Men's Walk begins Thursday, October 3 at 7:00pm, through Sunday, October 6

Women's Walk begins Thursday, October 17 at 7:00pm, through Sunday, October 20.

Learn more at <https://swtesite.wordpress.com/> or Contact Pastor Jenn

BOOK STUDY

Get ready for our **October Book Study**. Our book studies give us opportunities to look at a diversity of issues that impact us all. This time it's how we handle aging in our society. When you hear the word "old", what pops into your mind? Are you a young adult wondering what's going to happen to you? Are you a mid-life adult worrying about elderly parents? Are you an aging boomer ready to turn into a pro-aging radical?



The book is *Elderhood: Redefining Aging, Transforming Medicine, Reimagining Life* by Louise Aronson, and is available from Amazon in paper, kindle, and audio formats. Sponsored by the **Reconciling Ministries Team**, the book study will occur weekly, virtually and in person, **Thursday evenings 7-8PM in October, 3, 10, 17, and 24**, virtual and in-person in our Community Room. Invite a friend or relative to join and don't forget to mark your calendars!



If you're interested in becoming a member of Milford United Methodist Church, or simply curious about us, and eager to learn more, we invite you to participate in our Fall New Member Classes.

WHEN: Monday, October 7th and Monday, October 21st from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
AND

Sunday, October 27th at 11:30 am

WHERE: Mondays In-person in the Community Room; Sunday In-person in Fellowship Hall

Please register with the church office by emailing MilfordMethodists@gmail.com by Sunday, October 6th

Hello everybody!

The first meeting of the MUMC Green Team (A.K.A. Caretakers of Creation, Stewards) was held on Sunday, August 18th. We had a great group of people show up, and the conversation brought about some great ideas for helping our church & our community be better stewards of God's creation. One idea we discussed is the need for more accessible recycling bins in our building. Mr. Richard had the great idea of upcycling cardboard boxes to use as recycling bins instead of buying new ones! So if you see a lovely cardboard box with the recycling logo on it, please put your recyclables in it! All bins in the church go to a single-stream recycling service, so you can put any recyclable item in whatever bin strikes your fancy! If you are thinking to yourself, "Is this recyclable?" you are not alone! At the bottom of this article you will find a list of common items that can or cannot be recycled. Navigating recycling can be a little tricky at first, but recycling keeps waste out of landfills and helps to conserve our natural resources, helping us to live in harmony with Creation.

Another idea we discussed was promoting the mug rack that Mr. Roger Hughes had built for us. The mug rack is located in the Fellowship Hall and is a great way for us to avoid using disposable cups and choose a reusable option. Bring your own mug or use one of the many on the rack.

If you are interested in joining us, see me after church some time or email me at jacksonreedhancock@gmail.com. Special shout-out to Mrs. Rebecca for her article in the last newsletter! Thank you to everyone who is a part of our green team, and I look forward to seeing what this ministry does next! Keep an eye out in the announcement section of your weekly bulletin for upcoming meetings!

Environmentally yours,
-Jackson Hancock

Include:

Plastic bottles and containers (recyclable plastic will usually have the symbol on it)
Cardboard and paperboard
Magazines & Catalogs
Cereal/soda/beer boxes
Chipboard/ Box Board
Office paper and mail
Newspaper
Paper Egg Cartons (not styrofoam ones)
Aluminum, tin, or steel cans
Glass bottles or containers

Do Not Include:

Plastic bags or plastic films
Any dirty/wet/greasy materials
Food waste (compost)
Broken glass
Ceramics, crystal, or leaded glass
Plastic toys, bins, bulk items
Garden hoses
Wire hangers
Propane tanks
Styrofoam
Shredded Paper

*Also, we learned that we shouldn't bag recyclables :)



Coffee at Church *(an excerpt from an article by Ralen Robinson)*

Coffee hour creates space for strengthening bonds of friendship and for strangers to be welcomed into the community. Fellowship and hospitality are ingrained in church culture. We seek a space for community, deeper connection and comfort with our siblings in Christ.



There is power in coffee.

Coffee hour is essential to stir up the spirit. Having a comfortable space to unload the highs and the lows of life and creating space for one another to convene is essential. The spirit moves you from the holy space of the sanctuary to the common spaces of companionship.

The Old Testament tells us in the book of Hebrew that we cannot neglect each other by not meeting up, but we need to carve out space for each other. “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrew 10:25)

The Church is not only an isolated event but a group event that makes people from all walks of life share in the Good News. The book of Hebrew reminds us of this and says, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” We bring love, comradery and support when we gather with each other. This is the true meaning of fellowship. We are inviting you to help us in this important ministry - for more info, see Linda Grady or Liz Steen.

Scan this QR CODE for Sign up Sheet or In-Person during Fellowship Hour



IN APPRECIATION!

Mission Accomplished!

Thanks to the great generosity of our congregation, Milford United Methodist Church was able to:

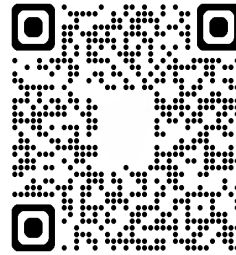
1. Provide 10 units each of a variety of school supplies to Pike County Children and Youth for use at its Annual Backpack Giveaway
2. Provide 36 Home/School Learning Kits to families at the Ecumenical Food Pantry
3. Provide 10 school box kits plus assorted school supplies to Delaware Valley Action for distribution at their Community Engagement Center.

It has been great to, once again, engage with our community partners. Whether you contributed via the donation boxes, Amazon or via your checkbook, you helped provide youngsters in our community some of the tools they need to succeed on Day One of the new school year. Well done, Church!





I want to thank all the volunteer tellers, who set aside time to help count the Sunday Collection each week. It is greatly appreciated and also fun to take time to visit with each person! Thank you, Joan Arlequeeuw – Recording Financial Secretary

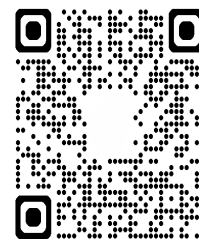
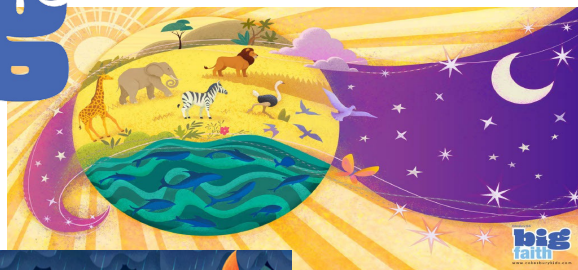


Use the QR Code to Learn about some current needs and sign up if interested. If you can't use the QR code, please contact the office at 570-296-6124



Cokesbury Kids

**big
faith**



Our Fall Sunday School has started !!! Using Cokesbury's Big Faith Curriculum for All Ages, this fall will focus on Faith in God, with lessons related to God's Creative Nature, God Keeping Promises, and God Providing for Us. Please use the QR Code to Learn about some current needs and sign up if interested. If you can't use the QR code, please contact the office at 570-296-6124

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHILD CARE (IN CLASSROOMS AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE)

CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 8:30AM SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 11:30AM SANCTUARY CRAFTY LADIES:

THURSDAYS 9:30 AM

MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: bit.ly/MUMCZoom

- **Wednesday, Sept. 4th 6-8PM Congregational Meeting (via Zoom Link)**
- **Friday, Sept. 6th 6PM Pizza Game Night—RSVP to 570.296.6124 for pizza**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 10th 6:30PM Trustees Meeting**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 17th 6:30PM Reconciling Ministries (H)**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 24th 6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting (H)**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 24th 6:30PM Church Council Meeting (H)**
- **Friday, September 27th 6:15PM Food Pantry @ Good Shepherd Church**
- **Sunday, September 29th 6:30PM Annual Church/Charge Conference (H)**
- **Friday, October 4th 6PM Pizza Game Night – RSVP to 570.296.6124 for pizza**
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- **SAVE THE DATE: FALL ART AND FOOD FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26th**
- **SAVE THE DATE: CRAFTY LADIES ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT/BAKE SALE NOVEMBER 8-9TH**

**FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WE WILL BE
RUNNING A POPCORN SALE
A SAMPLE OF THE ORDER SHEET IS INCLUDED IN THE
NEWSLETTER - WE
WILL HAVE FORMS FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN
OFFERING POPCORN TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY OR
FOR THEMSELVES.**



**Handmade in
Small Batches!**

Gourmet Popcorn



\$18
GALLON
&
\$12
HALF
GALLON

Gluten Free | GMO Free Corn | No Added Preservatives



BUTTERY CARAMEL *Gluten Free*
Mantecoso Caramelo

A rich and buttery classic that is a favorite for many! Our family recipe uses sweet brown sugar, creamy butter and a cooking temperature perfected to deliver the right caramelization of every kernel. Absolutely amazing!

F800 | Gallon Resealable Bag (23.5 oz) \$18
F850 | Half Gallon Resealable Bag (11.5 oz) \$12



CHEESY CHEDDAR *Gluten Free*
Cheddar Queso

Our signature blend of kernels, mixed with our secret blend of gourmet cheeses provides the most delicious cheesy cheddar corn ever! A must try!

F801 | Gallon Resealable Bag (9.5 oz) \$18



CHEDDAR JALAPEÑO *Gluten Free*
Cheddar de Jalapeño

A delicious popcorn with a kick of the southwest! Our secret duo of cheddar cheese combined with a touch of jalapeño delivers a bold flavor with just the right amount of heat! AWESOME!

F803 | Gallon Resealable Bag (9.5 oz) \$18



CHICAGO STYLE
(CARAMEL & CHEESE MIX) *Gluten Free*
Estilo de Chicago (Mezcla de caramelo y queso)

A delicious mixture of sweet and salty! A Midwest Favorite! We perfected this flavor by combining our delicious gourmet buttery caramel corn and our cheesy cheddar corn to make the perfect snack!

F804 | Gallon Resealable Bag (16 oz) \$18
F854 | Half Gallon Resealable Bag (8.5 oz) \$12



WHITE CHEDDAR *Gluten Free*
Cheddar Blanco

Our special blend of creamy white cheddar coats every inch of our fluffy white popcorn, so no bite lacks in cheesiness. Leaving your mouth in a state of complete and utter elation.

F855 | Half Gallon Resealable Bag (5 oz) \$12



FRUITY *Gluten Free*
Frutas

A favorite with kids! So much color, so much flavor, so much fun. Our Fruity popcorn brings the colors of the rainbow and the flavors of grape, lemon, orange, blue raspberry and cherry in a light, crunchy coating.

F809 | Gallon Resealable Bag (23.5 oz) \$18



KETTLE CORN *Gluten Free*
Hervidor Maiz

Lightly sweet, a little salty, perfectly crisp and ready for every occasion, a delicious American tradition for 200 years.

F810 | Gallon Resealable Bag (22 oz) \$18



MOVIE THEATER BUTTER *Gluten Free*
Mantequilla de cine

The toasty taste of corn complements the rich creaminess of butter, and a touch of salt develops both flavors. Double yum!

F815 | Gallon Resealable Bag (8 oz) \$18
F865 | Half Gallon Resealable Bag (4.25 oz) \$12



THREE CHEESE *Gluten Free*
Tres queso

Bite after fluffy, crispy bite, our 3 cheese is guaranteed to satisfy the cravings of even the most sophisticated cheddar connoisseurs. Each bag is mixed with our Cheesy Cheddar, White Cheddar and Sour Cream popcorn.

F820 | Gallon Resealable Bag (9.5 oz) \$18

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Milford, PA 18337



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(570) 296-6124

milfordmethodists@gmail.com | www.milfordmethodists.org

