



MAY NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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May 2023

Dear Friends,

I was in my late 20s when I first began exploring the possibility of becoming a minister. I met with my Pastor who suggested I keep a journal of theological reflections. It was important, she explained, that I learned to “think theologically”. I had no idea what she meant! Did ministers think differently than other people, I wondered; and what did she mean by “theology”?

The word “theology” intimidated me. It wasn’t until I learned that it’s made up of two Greek words – “theos” meaning “God”, and “logos” meaning “word” – that I came to understand its simple meaning. Theology is God talk. I wasn’t intimidated anymore because I talked about God, and talked with God, all the time! Theological reflection is intentionally exploring our relationship with the world in conversation with God. When I watch a bird take flight I marvel at the physics, and I compliment the designer. It’s as if I’m in a constant conversation with God, admiring all that God has created, and seeking to know God better through genuine dialogue.

Over the years I’ve grown in my ability to think theologically. The more I practiced, the more instinctive it became. And I quickly learned that ministers don’t think differently than others. Anyone who is seeking a deeper relationship with God and is intentional in their prayer life, is thinking theologically. As we ask the big questions of life, search the scriptures for wisdom, and pray to God for understanding, we are learning God talk.

The writers of the Psalms were always engaged in theological reflection. They looked at the world around them and saw God’s fingerprints in all of creation. They experienced suffering and wrote about their struggles, processing their pain and remembering God’s goodness. They had genuine dialogue with the Divine. They listened for God’s wisdom and found comfort and joy in God’s abiding presence. May we all do the same!

*I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
(Psalm 16:7-9, 11)*

Blessings,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO WORSHIP

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

MAY WORSHIP

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



WORSHIP SERIES: "Rising Strong"

"...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life," (Romans 6:4b).

The Bible is full of stories of redemption, change, and hope. Through four of those stories, we will discover how faith in a Risen Jesus can transform our lives for the better, here and now. No matter our failings, God's outstretched hand is ready to lift us up.

Sunday, May 7th – Holy Communion/"Rising from Hatred (Saul/Paul)"; Acts 9:1-22

In a divided world, hatred can bubble up even in the hearts of those who seek to do good. The risen Christ moves us from a place of judgment to a place of connection, so that we can work together for the sake of God's kingdom.

Sunday, May 14th – "Rising from Conflict (The Church)"; Acts 15:1-21

As communities work through inevitable conflicts, prioritizing grace can lead us to become stronger and healthier in our relationships with God and one another.

Sunday, May 21st – "Counting Up to Number One"/Hymn Sing

Tell us your favorite hymns by May 14th and we'll compile the list of the Top 10 Hymns for Milford UMC.

Sunday, May 28th – Day of Pentecost/ Acts 2:1-21

Don't forget to wear **red** as we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church!

WAYS TO CONNECT

YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Youth Group and Confirmation classes continue. This program is open to Middle School and High School students and their friends. We will be meeting **Friday, May 12** 6:15 PM at the Ecumenical Food Pantry 321 Fifth St. To serve and afterwards we will come back to the Community Room to discuss how serving others helps connect us to our faith and how giving of ourselves makes us feel.



GAME NIGHT



JOIN US FOR GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 5 FROM 6-8:00 PM

BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FAVORITE GAME!

We will be having a Taco Bar so please RSVP to the Church office by Thursday, May 4. All are welcome! (*Gluten-free option will be available.)*

CRAFTY LADIES



The Crafty Ladies are looking for donations of used light bulbs. If you have any of these items to share, please drop them off in the church office.

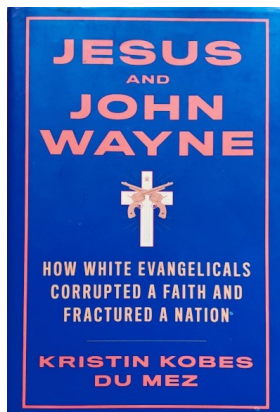
The Crafty Ladies meet every Thursday at 9:30 AM.

All are welcome!

June Book Study: Jesus & John Wayne

Get ready for an exciting lay-led book study coming your way in June. The name of the book is **Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation** by Kristin Kobes Du Mez, PhD.

The author, a professor of history and gender studies at Calvin University, a private Christian university in Grand Rapids, Michigan, looks at the last 75 years of white evangelicalism, showing how some American evangelicals have worked for decades to replace the Jesus of the gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism. The book is available through Amazon. Saddle up your horses and join us in person or by Zoom for four weekly sessions starting June 7th and continuing the 14th, 21st, and 28th.



In preparation for the book study, we will be showing two brief videos on May 21st and May 28th during fellowship time. If you are unable to view them at fellowship hour, or you would prefer to view them on your own, the YouTube links to the videos are below. For more information, contact Pam Houskeeper at rockband@ptd.net or Pat Moulton at pmoulton01@gmail.com. All are welcome at this book study, including friends and neighbors from outside at MUMC. We are looking to learn and understand, and the best way to do that is with **open minds, open hearts, and open doors. Join us!**

Links: How Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith | Amanpour and Company: <https://youtu.be/whV8heFHxOQ>
Confronting Our Histories: <https://youtu.be/9ZkFtgys7f0>

WAYS TO SERVE

Garden Group



Our newly formed Church Garden Group will be partnering with Camp Speers YMCA of Dingmans Ferry to plant their vegetable beds in preparation for their Farm Camps this summer. Our volunteers will be planting vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers for the children to harvest and enjoy in July and August. Our first work day is Saturday, May 6th at 9:30 am at Camp Speers. If you'd like to join us please contact the church office at MilfordMethodists@gmail.com. We will meet at the church at 9:00 am to carpool.

The Garden Group will also meet on Monday, May 8th at 6:00pm in person and via Zoom to continue planning for the beautification of our church grounds.



**Our Little Free Pantry
is being used!**

**We want to keep it fully stocked.
Donations of easily prepared,
nutritious foods are welcome.**

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:

Our Next Turn is May 12 from 6:15-7:00 PM.

The Ecumenical Food Pantry is located at 321 Fifth Street. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Jodi Hancock at clarity172@yahoo.com.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

The May Communion Offering will be received in support of Peace with Justice Sunday. In 2021, at the height of the pandemic, United Methodists gave \$328,463 toward ministries funded by this Special Sunday! We are a generous people! In 2023, more than ever, we are called to be part of extending healing and hope in a world that desperately needs both. The United Methodist church prioritizes collaboration among nations, works to reduce the use and need for weapons and fosters equitable and durable solutions to the root causes of conflict. Half of our gifts will be directed to local ministries within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and half will support the work of The Board of Church and Society.



As always, **GIVE** as you are able, **LEARN** (check out Peace with Justice/Did You Know? online) and **PRAY** for all of God's children who are trapped in conflict zones.

The WORLD is Our Parish!

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/peace-with-justice-sunday-did-you-know-landing-page>

WAYS TO SUPPORT

FINANCE UPDATE

The finance committee meets the Tuesday before the monthly Administrative Council meeting and meetings are open.

We continue to ask for volunteers to chair or co-chair fundraising events, offer ideas on raising income, etc. Pledges and other offerings only cover about 75 % of our expenses. Expenses have gone up given the economic environment in the country and our building is being used for many Outreach purposes. We continue to explore some of the below ideas should any of them resonate for you or one of the small groups of our church to coordinate the activity.

Gift Card Program – We have reached out to the company sponsoring this and it should be up and running in the near future.

Youth Group to make Wreaths

Gertrude Hawks Candy Sale

A Series of Dinners/possibly Afternoon Tea (possibly theme nights , Italian, German, Luau. BBQ, etc.)

Silent Auction

Table Sales of T shirts, Fair Trade Merch, crafts, baked goods

Car Wash

Musical Concerts

Flea Market in Parking Lot

The committee deeply appreciates the generous nature of the friends and members of the church. We are truly blessed by your generosity.

Proverbs 11

*²⁴One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

*²⁵A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

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

Methodist History: The Founding Mothers of Mother's Day

Statistics say that \$31 billion will be spent on moms in honor of the U.S. holiday that falls on the second Sunday in May:

Mother's Day.

All that cash and commercialism goes against everything the women who originated the idea wanted. In this video, meet the Methodist mother and daughter team who worked to create a day to ***honor a mother's love and to emphasize how important a mother's role is in building a peaceful world.***

<https://youtu.be/4dAhaLNkSNQ>

The church office will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.



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