



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337

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DECEMBER 2022

Dear Friends,

Our Sunday school students are currently studying C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe". This is one of my favorite books; written for children but appreciated by adults for its strong faith and clear messages. In the second chapter the Faun, Mr. Tumnus, confesses to the heroine, Lucy, that he is in the pay of the White Witch.

"The White Witch? Who is she?" *[Lucy asks]*

"Why, it is she that has got all Narnia under her thumb. It's she that makes it always winter. Always winter and never Christmas; think of that!"

I love winter. That's a good thing, since I've grown up with the snows and ice storms which come from living in Northern New Jersey. But one of my favorite things about winter is that it makes me appreciate the gift of spring. And of course the best thing about winter is celebrating the birth of Jesus. Imagine if all we ever had was snow and ice and cold. No hope of spring. Always winter, but never Christmas.

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us; (Isaiah 9:2, 6a)*

We celebrate the birth of the Messiah during the darkest, coldest season of the year. Just when we feel that all hope is lost and we will never see the sun again, Jesus is born into the world. Jesus brings the hope of new life and the promise of salvation. With the celebration of Christmas we remember that God has not abandoned us to the darkness. We light the candles of Advent and we chase away the fear of loneliness because we trust in the promise of tomorrow. We believe in the miracle of God's presence with us in human flesh: Emmanuel.

C.S. Lewis wrote a children's story about the triumph of good over evil, life over death, and the hope and promise of Christmas, to remind us all of the gift of Jesus Christ. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, where it is always winter but never Christmas, a child is born in Bethlehem and the angels rejoice. May we all bring good tidings of great joy so that the world may know and experience the warmth and light of God's love.

Blessings for this Holy Season,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO SERVE

ANGEL TREE



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS HONORED TO, ONCE AGAIN, PROVIDE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR YOUNGSTERS UNDER THE CARE OF PIKE COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH. The agency is a strong community partner and we welcome the opportunity to make Christmas just a bit more joyful for kids who often live in challenging circumstances.

In 2022, our goal is to provide gifts and \$25 VISA gift cards for the 21 adolescents in care. The (Teen) Angel Tree is back up in the narthex, loaded with gift tags for you to take! Each tag provides information about the name, age and gift request of the young person. Be creative and do your best! Follow the directions on the tag and tape it onto your unwrapped gift before returning it to the church.

And, ONLINE CONGREGATION.....WE SEE YOU! And, we need your involvement, too. You are invited to send gift cards or cash donations to the church at 206 East Ann Street, Milford, PA, 18337. **Both unwrapped gifts and gift cards should be delivered to the church no later than Sunday, December 18.** Milford Methodists are a generous people. Let's do this!

BABY SHOWER FOR MARY AND JOSEPH

On **EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023**, we will celebrate the Magi who brought gifts to Mary and Joseph to honor baby Jesus.

The Outreach Team at Milford United Methodist Church invites you to attend a Baby Shower for Mary and Joseph during our regular 10 a.m. service. All donations will be delivered to the Baby Blessings Pantry at Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church.

Baby Blessings Pantry is a vital ministry in the Pike County community, providing children's items to those in need from young families to custodial grandparents. **Items needed include: baby wipes, infant towels and washcloths, baby onesies, toddler undershirts, baby food, burp cloths, sippy cups and baby teethers. DIAPERS SIZE 4 AND UP ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED!**



We will have an opportunity to bring our gifts up to the altar and shower both the Holy Family and our neighbors in need. Although we will not receive a Communion Offering on this day, cash donations are welcomed as well. For more information about the pantry, contact our friends at DFUMC at (570)828-2288. Thank you for your support!

NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

Current and past **MUMC Newsletters** are available to read on the website. Find them under the heading of News and click the large yellow button for Newsletters.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

AMAZON SMILE



A reminder as you do your holiday shopping, that the church has an **AMAZON SMILE** account, which donates 0.5% of the purchase price directly to our church! What an easy way to support the mission and ministry of MUMC. Next time you shop, use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6464581> which will allow you to select Milford United Methodist Church as your charity of choice.



Every time you shop, use smile.amazon.com and the donation will automatically be sent to the church. Thanks for your support!

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRIES

NOURISH YOUR NEIGHBOR

**Our Little Fee 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!**



ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY The next date scheduled for the Milford UMC Team to work the Food Pantry is **Friday, December 2, 6:15pm - 8pm**. The Ecumenical Food Pantry is located at 321 Fifth Street and has reopened as a Choice Pantry with some modifications. We are looking for a team of 6-7 volunteers to work the pantry. Clients and volunteers will be social distancing and masks will be worn.

If you are interested, please contact Liz Steen at 917-270-5439.

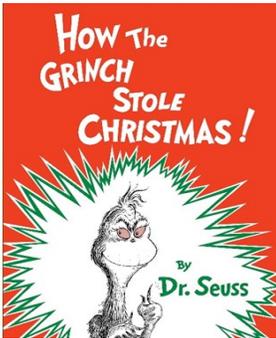


CALENDAR PAGES ON THE WEBSITE: <http://www.milfordmethodists.org>

Website link provides information on meetings, events, worship, bulletins, and activities. At the top of the **Calendar page** is a link to all Zoom meetings. No more looking through old emails to find the link, just click and join!

WAYS TO SHARE JOY

“HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS”



Join us on **Saturday, December 3rd at 2:00 pm** in the Sanctuary for a dramatized reading of Dr. Seuss' *“How The Grinch Stole Christmas!”*

Presented with musical accompaniment by members of our Adult Choir and Bell Choir.

This family friendly event is open to the entire community!
Spend the day in Milford enjoying festive activities, culminating in the Tree Lighting at the Visitors Center.

JINGLE AND MINGLE WITH PASTOR JENN!

Christmas Open House

At the Church Parsonage
208 E. Ann Street, Milford
Saturday, December 10th
1:00 – 5:00 pm

Stop in anytime!



RECONCILING MINISTRIES



JOIN US SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, as we celebrate our **ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BECOMING A RECONCILING MINISTRIES CHURCH** with a dedication of our new exterior sign and a brunch immediately following our 10:00 am service.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega-Perez will speak during worship, and offer the prayer at the sign dedication.

POINSETTIAS



Once again, it's time to beautify our Sanctuary for the holidays by ordering poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones. Plants cost \$15.00 each. Order forms are available as inserts in the Sunday bulletin or in the church narthex. Drop your order form in the offering plate or the church office **WITH YOUR PAYMENT** (make checks payable to “Milford UMC”) **by 12 noon on Monday, December 5.** Plants will be available to take home after the last service on Christmas Eve.

(We cannot guarantee any orders received after December 5)

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

4:30 pm – Family Service with Candlelight and Carols

7:30 pm – Candlelight Worship with Choir, Bells, and Communion

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day

10:00 am— A Service of Lessons and Carols

To worship remotely, go to www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC

Milford UMC
206 East Ann Street
Milford, PA 18337



*The Church office will be closed
Thursday, December 23 thru
Monday, January 2*



www.MilfordMethodists.org

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

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