



## MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337

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Office 570.296.6124

### SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear Friends,

I grew up on Schooley's Mountain in Morris County, New Jersey. Just down the road from us was a Christian Mission and Retreat Center named "Liebenzell" that was often used by my Mother's home church, Emmanuel UMC, for retreats and special events. Shortly after we had moved to Schooley's Mountain, Emmanuel UMC held a celebration there for several missionaries. My Mom described to me how she drove the three short minutes from our new home to the familiar Retreat Center. There is an historic inn that serves as the main building, and as you come up the country drive you see the beautiful building with the long front porch filled with rocking chairs. Just as she pulled up and got out of her car the people in the rocking chairs rose to greet her. She saw her parents and Aunts and Uncles all gathered there: her entire family waiting for her on that front porch. In that moment, standing on the lawn of the Retreat Center whose name means "Where Love Dwells", my Mom had a foretaste of what heaven will be like: greeted by those we love and welcomed back into the family for a feast and celebration!

Throughout my years of ministry I have often been asked about life after death. What do I think heaven looks like? Who will be there? As I ponder these questions, I am always reminded of my mother's "Liebenzell" experience. I imagine all of our loved ones eager to greet us, and I imagine a perfect place where love dwells forever.

Jesus has given us an idea of heaven in the Gospel of John. As he shares a last meal with his closest friends he knows that he's about to die, and so he offers them a glimpse of heaven and words of comfort:

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."* – John 14:1-3 (NRSV)

Jesus teaches us that there's room for everyone in heaven. He's already seen to that, and he's the one who makes it possible for us to have eternal life. He doesn't give us a detailed description, so maybe heaven looks a little different for each of us. Maybe heaven is a seaside resort for some, or an endless garden for others, or an historic inn with a long front porch. Those details aren't really important, anyway. What matters most is the one who's waiting there for us. Jesus will take us to himself, so that where he is, we may be also. Jesus is our "Liebenzell", the place where love dwells. May we always find our home in his welcoming embrace.

Blessings,

*Pastor Jenn*

# WAYS TO WORSHIP

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP



Join us in worship online through Facebook, or in-person Sundays at 10:00 am.

Our Worship Theme for September will be “The Fruit of the Spirit” from Galatians 5

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Communion/“Peace”

Discover what it means to live the way of peace in the world.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** – “Patience”

Join us as we learn about the patience of God toward sinners, and how God’s love leads us to better relationships.

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** – “Kindness”

The Greek word “chrestotes” is translated as “kindness”. Learn the complex meaning behind this simple word.

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** – “Goodness”

In the Bible “goodness” and “kindness”, although closely connected, mean two different things.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Holy Communion/“Faithfulness”

This characteristic is essential to the Christian life.

**October 9<sup>th</sup>** – “Gentleness”

Join us as we struggle to define the “most untranslatable of words.” (William Barclay, Bible Scholar).

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** – “Self-Control”

Our “Fruit of the Spirit” Worship Theme concludes with a self-evaluation of the mastery of our personal desires.

**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!



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES September 11th

ADULT CHOIR PRACTICES Sunday at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary

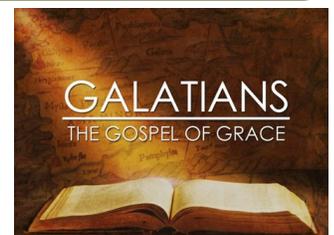
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES September 4, 2022 at 11:30 AM

Join us for a 6-week Study of Paul’s Letter to the **Galatians**, often called “**The Gospel of Grace**”

**Sundays at 11:30 AM** in the Conference Room beginning September 11<sup>th</sup>

**Wednesdays at 7:00 PM online** via Zoom link: <http://www.bit.ly/>

**MUMCZoom** beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>.



# WAYS TO SERVE

## NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM

Thanks to the encouragement and generosity of our amazing congregation, the Outreach Team was able to distribute 60 Home/School Learning Kits in time for the opening of school. Recipients included the families of The Ecumenical Food Pantry, Pike County Children and Youth and The Helping Hands Food Pantry at Drew UMC in Port Jervis. It was especially fun to collaborate with our partners at Drew as each church donated specific items to create complete kits!

As the Outreach Team heads into fall, we look forward to continuing to grow our relationships with our current community partners as well as developing new opportunities for ministry with new partners. In addition, we will remain focused on our connections with our neighboring United Methodist congregations.

The next Outreach Team meeting is on Monday, September 19, 6:30 PM via Zoom. If you're interested in what it means to 'serve Christ in the heart of Milford' in 2022, there is a place for you in the conversation. What 'lights you up' about missions and outreach? Questions? Reach out to Janice Holleny, Outreach Team Leader, at [janiceholleny@verizon.net](mailto:janiceholleny@verizon.net).

## NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee has been meeting monthly as of late. We have developed a Teller schedule and are always looking for members who are able to count the offering during the week in the afternoon. We are currently developing general finance procedures including some fundraising guidelines. Events are a lot more than just raising money: there are spiritual benefits such as the interaction between the leadership, members, and the community when we coordinate, support, and attend community in the name of Jesus Christ.

Speaking of the fund raisers, the Finance committee is looking for a few people who would like to co-chair a smaller Fall-themed festival around the first weekend in October. The committee discussed several ideas, but nothing was finalized or presented to the Ad Council. It would be an event without vendors which might include ideas like a silent auction, apple dumplings and ice cream, or pumpkin painting. The possibilities are endless and can be finalized if we can line up a few people to lead and help. The committee will provide support, guidance, and general assistance to all who feel moved.

Please do not forget to make your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile and designate the MUMC as the charitable organization. We will receive a small percentage of all of your purchases. You can download the Smile app on a smartphone or click on the Smile link each time on your desktop.

### **Final Charge to Timothy**

<sup>17</sup> *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*  
<sup>18</sup> *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.* <sup>19</sup> *In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

Meetings of the Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 6 at 6:00 PM. Meeting will be held online via Zoom link: [bit.ly/MUMCZoom](https://bit.ly/MUMCZoom).

# WAYS TO GROW

## COMMUNION OFFERING UPDATE

At the Milford United Methodist Church, our Communion Offerings provide us with the opportunity to GIVE/LEARN/PRAY in support of specific concerns ranging from local to international. During the summer months, we raised \$227 (July/Little Food Pantry) and \$202 (August/Learning Kits) in support of our own MUMC local initiatives. Thank you ALL for giving, learning, and praying!

For the September Communion Offering, we will turn, once again, to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the great work being done via UMCOR on our behalf. In addition to our in-person offering opportunity on September 4, online donations in support of Ukrainian relief efforts can be made at [umcmiissions.org-Advance #982450](https://umcmiissions.org-Advance #982450).

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**206 East Ann Street**  
**Milford, PA 18337**



[www.MilfordMethodists.org](http://www.MilfordMethodists.org)

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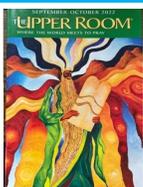
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## UPPER ROOM MAGAZINE

The new September/October issue of the Upper Room Daily Devotional is available in the Narthex and in the Little Free Pantry.