



WINTER NEWSLETTER

MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WINTER 2023

Dear Friends,

December has passed and a new year is upon us. As we greet the season of Epiphany in the life of the Church we ask the basic question: "Who is this that was born in Bethlehem and is headed toward death in Jerusalem?" We seek to discover the full identity of the newborn in order to grasp the meaning of the incarnation, Emmanuel – God with us.

An epiphany is an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. In the Christian church Epiphany begins with the twelfth day of Christmas when we celebrate the visit of the magi. Those ancient astronomers from Persia made a discovery in the heavens when the sign of a star pointed them to the birth of a great king in distant Judea. The visit of the Wise Ones was a disclosure to the world that the child of Bethlehem was born to be our Savior.

Even before the magi identify the newborn as King, we have Luke's account of the angels proclaiming to the lowly shepherds the good news of a Savior. Jesus is revealed as the One who is made known to outcasts. A picture begins to emerge of what the incarnation means to the world: salvation, justice, mercy, and grace.

Epiphany scriptures include the disclosure by God of Jesus' true identity at his baptism: "*And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'*" (Luke 3:22). We also hear about the prophets Anna and Simeon who witness Jesus' presentation at the Temple and proclaim that he is the long-awaited Messiah.

"Simeon took [Jesus] in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'" (Luke 2:28-32).

The entire season of Epiphany is one "Ah ha!" moment after another.

It's appropriate that we begin our new year with these constant reminders of the significance of Jesus as the Word of God made flesh. The Christmas rush is over and the winter doldrums are about to set in. We need to be reminded of the continuing hope that is ours because of Jesus' birth. The dark winter days dampen our spirits and we need the light of God's love to illumine our souls. May we all discover the Savior of the world; realize how much God cares about us; and disclose to everyone the good news of God's illuminating grace in this Epiphany season, and all year long.

Blessings for the New Year,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO WORSHIP

COMING UP IN WORSHIP



JANUARY & FEBRUARY WORSHIP

Our Epiphany Worship Theme for 2023 is
"The Beatitudes" (Matthew 5:1-11).

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

January 1st – Epiphany Sunday/ Holy Communion
"Stand Up for the Hopeless" Matthew 5:1-3
Baby Shower for Mary & Joseph

January 8th – "Stand Up for the Broken" Matthew 5:4

January 15th – "Stand Up for Humility" Matthew 5:5

January 22nd – "Stand Up for the Impassioned" Matthew 5:6

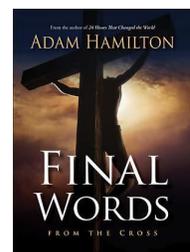
January 29th – "Stand Up for Mercy" Matthew 5:7

February 5th – Holy Communion
"Stand Up for God's Will" Matthew 5:8

February 12th – "Stand Up for Peace" Matthew 5:9

February 19th – "Stand Up for the Persecuted" Matthew 5:10-12

Wednesday, February 22nd – ASH WEDNESDAY
Noon – Prayer Service with ashes
7:00 pm – Worship Service with ashes
"Father, Forgive Them"



February 26th – "Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise"

The Church office will be closed Monday January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and Monday, February 20 in observance of President's Day.

WAYS TO GROW

EPIPHANY OPEN HOUSE

Jingle and Mingle with Pastor Jenn!



Epiphany Open House

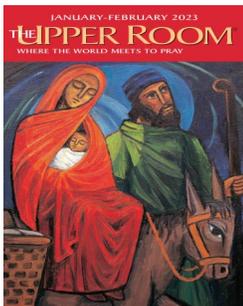
At the Church Parsonage
208 E. Ann Street, Milford

Saturday, January 7th

1:00 – 5:00 pm

Stop in anytime!

UPPER ROOM



Copies of the **January/February Upper Room** are now available. We have regular and large print copies. You can pick up your copy in the Little Free Pantry or in the Narthex of the church. If you are unable to pick up a copy, but would still like one, please call the church office.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

THthankyou!**U!**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It truly is a joy serving this congregation. You make me feel valued and appreciated, and I know that God has brought us together in order to help grow disciples through Milford UMC. Thank you also for the Christmas cards and Christmas treats, and for being faithful in your commitment to Christ through our church.

Blessings for an abundant New Year!

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO SUPPORT

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY CAMPAIGN

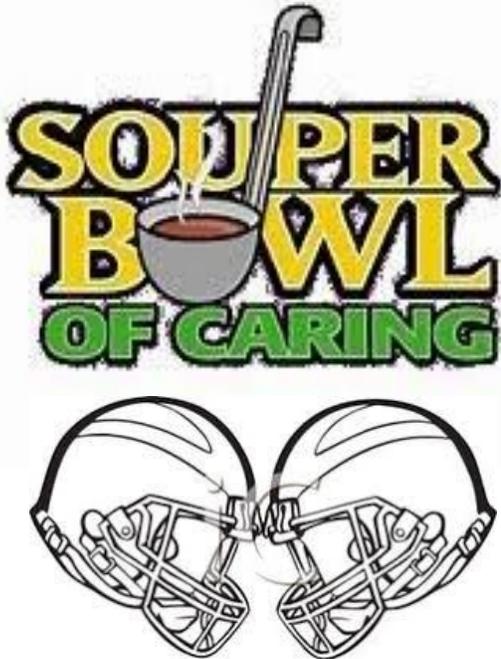
Henry has been anxiously awaiting the Souper Bowl Sunday festivities and is looking for some fellow animal pics to use in Facebook posts during the campaign. **If you have any pictures and clever campaign slogans, please email them to the church.** He also is looking for some benefactors who will match the donations up to a certain point because our goal is to exceed what we collected last year.

WE WILL BE COLLECTING SOUP STARTING SUNDAY, JANUARY 8.

Please support Souper Bowl Sunday because the need is greater now than ever!



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY-DATES



Back by popular demand, Milford United Methodist Church will be celebrating **Souper Bowl Sunday on Sunday, February 12, 2023**, during the 10 a.m. service. Throughout the month of January, the Outreach Team invites you to bring your cans of soup to the sanctuary on Sundays and place them in the designated bins. Or, you can deliver them to the church office during regular office hours (M-Th 9-12). Your gifts will support both the Ecumenical Food Pantry as well as our own Little Food Pantry. **In 2022, we collected 871 cans and over \$125 in cash and gift cards.** Where will the Spirit lead us in 2023? Questions? Contact Jack Donson, Chair.

And don't forget to wear your team gear on February 12!

TACKLE HUNGER

WAYS TO SUPPORT

RECONCILING MINISTRIES ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF VOTE FOR FULL INCLUSION AND DEDICATES SIGN

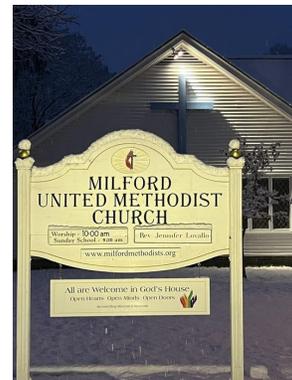
On Sunday, December 11th, the Milford United Methodist Church (MUMC) welcomed its District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega-Perez, to dedicate and bless the new addition to the church's main sign. The addition was made in response to a vote of the church's membership to become a Reconciling Ministries Congregation, recognizing MUMC as a church committed to welcoming EVERYONE to full participation in the life and ministry of the church. This was the one year anniversary Sunday of that vote, and it was celebrated during the service and with a delicious warm brunch during fellowship following the service. The sign addition announces to the public that we at MUMC are living out the tagline of the United Methodist Denomination: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.



Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega-Perez far left, church pastor Rev. Jenn Lovallo just to the right of the sign, the Reconciling Ministries Team (Jim Snodgrass - photo credit)



Fellowship following morning worship and dedication (Jim Snodgrass - photo credit)



Close up of sign (Rev. Jenn Lovallo - photo credit)

LITTLE FREE PANTRY FOOD DONATIONS

Our Little Free Pantry is being used and we want to keep it fully stocked with easy to prepare, nutritious foods for those in need. We are looking for donations of canned tuna, canned chicken, rice, beans, macaroni and cheese, hearty soups, pasta, spaghetti sauce, individual servings of cereal, oatmeal, fruit cups, peanut butter, jelly, and more. Donations can also be dropped off at the church or placed right in the pantry.



WAYS TO SUPPORT

TRUSTEES UPDATE - 2022 IN REVIEW

The Trustees would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

William Arlequeeuw and Dave Oszczepinski have done an amazing job with all the work involved in keeping our beautiful buildings running smoothly. We can always use more hands if you are capable.

Apple Alley House

- We are happy to announce we have a new tenant this year who has been working out amazingly well.
- Half of the house received a new roof.
- There was an emergency septic repair.
- Installation of new electric baseboards since the old ones were not working efficiently.
- We will be able to give \$1100 to our shared ministries which we have not been able to do in a few years.

The Parsonage

- Side porch roof was repaired.
- Some exterior siding was repaired as well.



Educational wing

- Prepared and painted windows in office area.
- Tree removal from parking area and side of the educational wing.
- Rugs cleaned in offices, conference room and entrance to church.

Sanctuary

- One of our many goals is to get the sanctuary painted in 2023.
- Many of you may have noticed we needed to repair the roof over the sanctuary. We were told by the roofer we need a new roof. We will start getting estimates after the new year.
- Plan for a platform lift to make the Church Accessible to all.

Fellowship Hall

Phase 1 of adding a lift

- Getting information on building a handicap bathroom in the fellowship hall.



WAYS TO SUPPORT

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The finance committee would like to thank everyone who made a pledge on Consecration Sunday. A pledge is your commitment to God that helps the church function and touch the lives of people in the name of Jesus Christ. Your financial commitment by way of a formal pledge is extremely important as the committee meets over the next few months and submit a budget to the Administrative Council.

The growth or reduction in our ministries and outreach are directly impacted by what is expected from the friends and members of the congregation. If you have not submitted a formal pledge, please pray on it and consider supporting our collective mission. There are pledge cards on the bulletin board next to the church conference room door which also includes various church finance related information in the spirit of transparency. The committee understands that financial situations change, and a pledge can be modified at any time by contacting the financial secretary.

As of the date of this newsletter, the congregation has pledged \$ 78,120 as of December 12, 2022. This year's overall church expenses totals approximately \$172,000. That leaves a deficit of \$93,880 which needs to be made up with additional pledges and fund-raising events for us to meet our obligations. There were twenty less pledging units received so far during the campaign but historically, pledges come in for several weeks after Consecration Sunday.

As we formulate next year's budget, please feel free to contact anyone on the committee if you have any questions, feedback or requests regarding the church budget.

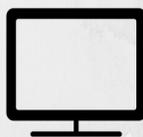
We are always interested in fund raising ideas and people to chair or co-chair events. If anyone has a fund-raising idea they can contact the pastor or any member of the finance committee. Please do not forget to make your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile and designate the MUMC as the charitable organization by downloading the Smile app on a smartphone or click on the Smile link each time on your desktop.

The finance committee conducts open meetings monthly, and our next meeting is scheduled for December 20, at 6:00 PM in person and via zoom.



"The first person to make a tithe, which means a tenth (ten percent) of one's increase, was Abram (Genesis 14:20) ... Notice please: Abram's tithe was not under the law which came more than six hundred years later. It wasn't requested by anybody. It wasn't suggested by anybody. It wasn't coerced by anybody. It was purely a voluntary act of gratitude to honor "the Most High God, Possessor of heaven and earth." Abram simply appreciated God's favor and gave up something of value to honor the One who had helped him get the victory."

WAYS TO GIVE



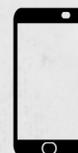
ONLINE

Donate online at
bit.ly/GiveToMUMC



ENVELOPE

Place in offering plate
or by mail.



TEXT

Text amount
to 570-609-3437



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

12:00 PM—IMPOSITION OF ASHES
7:00 PM—IMPOSITION OF ASHES
& SERVICE

206 EAST ANN STREET

Milford UMC
206 East Ann Street
Milford, PA 18337



www.MilfordMethodists.org

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