



MARCH NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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MARCH 2022

Dear Friends,

March can be a cruel month. We're lulled into a false sense of security as the days get warmer, the robins return, and we begin to believe once more in the promise of spring. Then a major snowstorm hits and we're scraping the ice from our cars, feeling hurt and betrayed. The hint of new life can seem a cruel joke when flower buds are wrapped in frost. We wonder if spring will ever come.

Our lives are like March sometimes. We see the promise of new possibilities, only to have our hopes crushed by financial setbacks, health concerns, or family crises. We wonder if life will ever get better. We look at the struggles we're facing and the frost of fear covers our hearts. Icy doubt freezes our faith and God seems as distant as the summer sun.

What I hope you'll discover with me over the next few weeks is that God is far from distant. In fact, God wants desperately to be known. God longs to be in relationship with us just as much as we desire a relationship with something bigger than ourselves. All humans, regardless of our culture, context, or country, seem to have a hunger for understanding this world and our place in creation. That common spiritual yearning has led people over the eons to come to know God; and I pray it will lead you as well.

*If you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding;
if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—
then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs 2:3-6)*

During this season of Lent I encourage you to focus on Jesus and get to know Him better. We can do this through prayer and worship, service and study, and holy conversations with fellow believers. There are opportunities both in person and online through our church to help us grow in faith. Jesus is the human face of God, so as we grow in our knowledge of Jesus we grow in our understanding of God.

Rev. Rob Fuquay of St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis reminds us that Christianity is not a religion. Rather, Christianity is a *relationship*. He says, "A living relationship requires nurture and attention. It is deepened with trust and respect." God is calling us into a relationship, and it's our responsibility to strengthen that relationship and help it grow. I believe the weeks leading up to Easter will be a perfect time for us to do just that.

Blessings for a Holy Lent,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO SERVE

SMALL PROJECT WITH A BIG IMPACT—COMING MARCH 6



GO BAG PROJECT

The **OUTREACH TEAM** is proud to announce that the **Go Bag Project**, in support of Pike County Children and Youth, will launch on **March 6**. A Go Bag is a kit designed to provide a degree of comfort to youngsters entering foster care, often in a very abrupt fashion. We will be assembling age-appropriate kits through April 3 for delivery to our agency partner before Easter. A ready-made kit not only provides support for youngsters of all ages in extremely stressful circumstances, but also removes the need for the caseworker to shop for necessities during this already difficult transition.

How can you help? If you're worshipping in-person, take a tag from the Giving Tree in the narthex and shop for items that range from pacifiers for babies to personal care items for teens. Return the item to the designated box in the narthex. It's easy and it makes a huge difference to a young person! We also need help from our online congregation. The Outreach Team is collecting \$25 VISA gift cards to distribute to adolescents who are entering care. You can send gift cards or a donation toward the purchase of one to Milford United Methodist Church, 206 East Ann Street, Milford PA, 18337. Questions? Feel free to speak with Project Managers, Nancy Heim and Rhonda Leister. During Lent, let's take on this labor of love!

OUTREACH UPDATE



Winter has not slowed down the mission and ministry of Milford United Methodist Church! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, both in-person and online, (and an angel benefactor), we amassed 871 cans of soup! Our collection benefited both the Ecumenical Food Pantry and our own Little Food Pantry. In addition, we received over \$125 in cash and gift cards. And, MUMC proved, once again, that we could not only fight food insecurity but have fun doing it! We are looking forward to the return of Henry, our "Barksperson", Souper Millie and Dr. Soups to the 2023 lineup! Many thanks to Jack Donson and Carolyn Krejmas, Co-chairs, for their leadership. And, of course, a big shout out to Pastor Jenn on her triumphant debut as Chief Cheerleader!



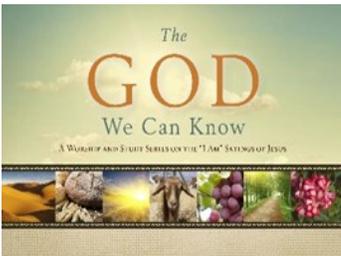
The Outreach Team is taking a deep look into our expanding Digital Ministry. Currently, we have 40+ views at the 10 a.m. livestream service and more than 100 views by the end of each week. MUMC is active on both Instagram and Facebook platforms. Meetings, as well as studies, are conducted via ZOOM. A Cyber Crew has been established to further develop our digital capabilities. How do we maximize the equipment we already have in place? What upgrades need to happen in the short term? How do we both engage and include our online congregation in the life of the church? What IS a Digital Greeter? If these questions interest you, we need your input. You are invited to attend the next meeting of the Cyber Crew on Thursday, March 3, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Questions? Contact Janice Holleny, Outreach Team Leader at janice-holleny@verizon.net.

The full **Outreach Team will meet on Monday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM**. Our focus will be on refreshing our connection with our denomination's worldwide missions via The General Board of Global Ministries and The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). As people of faith in the Wesleyan tradition, we deeply believe that 'the world is our parish'. ALL are welcome to join in!



WAYS TO WORSHIP

COMING UP IN WORSHIP



Our Lent Worship Theme for 2022 is *"The God We Can Know: Exploring the 'I AM' Sayings of Jesus"*. Join us for 10:00 am Worship on Sundays, in-person, or livestreaming on our Facebook page.

A 7-week book study is available in-person on Sundays at Noon, and online via Zoom link bit.ly/MUMCZoom Wednesdays at 6pm

Wednesday, March 2nd – ASH WEDNESDAY

Noon – Prayer Service in Sanctuary/Online with ashes

7:00 pm – Worship Service in Sanctuary/Online with ashes

The use of ashes is a sign of mortality and repentance.

As we begin our 40 days of preparation for Easter, I invite you to observe a holy Lent.

March 6th – Communion/“Knowing God’s Satisfaction” John 6:27-59

Discover the difference between being full, and being satisfied as we explore Jesus’ statement, “I AM the bread of Life.”

March 13th – “Knowing God’s Guidance” John 7:2, 14; 8:12

The Bible teaches us that when God comes on the scene, there is light. Jesus said, “I AM the light of the world.”

March 20th – “Knowing God’s Care” John 10:1-10

Discover the security and comfort God provides through Jesus, who said, “I AM the Good Shepherd.”

March 27th – “Knowing God’s Power” John 15:1-8

Discover the power of pruning as we explore Jesus’ statement, “I AM the true vine.”



Sunday, April 10th – “Knowing God’s Salvation” Palm/Passion Sunday

Thursday, April 14th – “Knowing God’s Love” Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm – Worship Service in Sanctuary/Online

Friday, April 15th – Good Friday

Noon – 3:00 pm – Sanctuary will be open for private prayer

7:00 pm – Tenebrae “Service of Shadows” in Sanctuary and Online

Sunday, April 17th – “Knowing God’s Possibilities” Easter Sunday

10:00 am – Worship Service with Flowering of the Cross

WAYS TO GROW

MUSICAL THEATRE SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE

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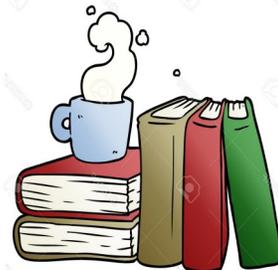
Join us in the Fellowship Hall on
Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 4:30 pm
for a FREE Performance of a
"Tribute to Sondheim"

Presented by the Youth of our Theater Workshop

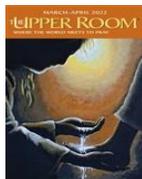
LENTEN STUDY

Join us as we continue our in-person **LENTEN STUDY** on **Sundays at Noon OR online Wednesdays*** at **6:00 PM** via Zoom link bit.ly/MUMCZoom for a 7 week book study of the "I Am" sayings of Jesus. The study will follow the Lent sermon series "The God We Can Know" from the book by Rev. Rob Fuquay. Books are available at UpperRoomBooks.com. We also have a limited supply through our church office.

**(Please note that the first week of online study will meet TUESDAY, March 1, since March 2 is Ash Wednesday.)*



UPPER ROOM



Copies of the **March/April 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.

CRAFTY LADIES



The Crafty Ladies will meet again on Thursdays at 9:30AM, beginning March 17. All are welcome, crafty or not.



Daylight Saving Time is Here!!!

Don't forget to "SPRING FORWARD"
Sunday, March 13

WAYS TO SUPPORT

FINANCE UPDATE

The Souper bowl Sunday event was a success as we collected almost nine-hundred cans of soup to support the Ecumenical Food Pantry. I think we started a new animal/mascot tradition as well as some healthy competition.

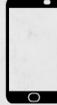
There will be a finance meeting this week and we will be discussing the budget as well as the possibility of a large, mid-summer fundraiser, possibly a festival. The concept of co-chairs seems to be productive so if anyone is moved to chair or co-chair the event, let the pastor or anyone on the finance committee know. Ideas for events are always welcome, always feel free to bring it to the committee for discussion and know that our meetings are open.

While many churches have struggled during the past few years, we have been blessed to have maintained our outreach and keep current with our shared ministries which has enabled us to touch the lives of people in our community and around the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

JAMES 1 : *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*



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

ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar Flower Sign-up



A reminder that we are once more adorning our communion table with weekly floral arrangements made by Myer the Florist.

If you would like to purchase an arrangement in honor or memory of a loved one there is a sign up sheet available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$30, but arrangements can be made for less by request with the florist. Payments are made directly to Myer the Florist.

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.





ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

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

206 EAST ANN STREET

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Milford, PA 18337



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