



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337

Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor milfordmethodists@gmail.com

Office 570.296.6124

OCTOBER 2022

Dear Friends,

As I drive south in New Jersey on Route 206 through Sussex County I always notice the same billboard. It's an image of a two lane road heading toward a setting (or rising) sun, with the words "You will meet GOD!" along the bottom of the image. The bright yellow sun and the black road with white lettering is certainly eye-catching, but I'm always struck by the implied threat in those words: "You will meet GOD!" The prospect of meeting God should fill me with joy, but somehow those words seem more like a warning to me, than a promise. I imagine that stretch of road in front of me as I drive, and all of the possible dangers that might await. What if I crash? What if something terrible happens? Look out! I will meet GOD!

The billboard calls to mind "fire and brimstone" preachers, wagging their fingers at us and shouting "sinner!" I've never been comfortable with that sort of judgmental evangelism. It seems as if they're hoping to convert people through fear and guilt rather than grace and mercy. Give me a God of love anytime; a God who sees my sinful nature and believes I can be better. The God I want to meet is not a God of threats and warnings, but a God of forgiveness and compassion.

I've frequently heard people refer to John the Baptist as a fire and brimstone preacher because of his call for repentance, but the truth is he emerged from the wilderness with a cry of hope:

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" (Matthew 3:1-2)

John the Baptist called for us to turn our lives around, not as a threat or warning, but because he knew we were about to meet God in the human face of Jesus. In fact, the only people he got "fiery" with were the Pharisees and Sadducees – those same religious scholars and lawyers who would later persecute Jesus himself. John challenges these "children of snakes" to "Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives."

Jesus gives us that same challenge today. We've been studying the "Fruit of the Spirit" in our Sunday worship series and have learned that these fruit are the qualities true Christians share with our Creator God. When we receive the gift of salvation and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, our hearts are forever changed and our lives transformed. We become co-creators with God in bringing the kingdom of heaven on earth. The Holy Spirit fills us to overflowing, and through our words and actions we begin to produce the fruit that shows how much we've turned our lives around. This call to change is not a threat, but a promise. We are encouraged to grow deeper in our relationship with God and intentionally seek after God. The road ahead may be treacherous, but we're not alone on the journey. God travels beside us, for we have already met God in Jesus, and have become good – if not best – friends.

Blessings,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO WORSHIP

OCTOBER WORSHIP



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

Our Worship Theme, “The Fruit of the Spirit” from Galatians 5, concludes in October

October 2nd – Holy Communion/“Faithfulness”

This characteristic is essential to the Christian life.

October 9th – “Gentleness”

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

Noon -- “Blessing of the Animals” held in front of the church. Our pets bless us daily, bring them for a special blessing.

October 16th – “Self-Control”

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

October 23rd – “i promise...to Pray”

When we join the Church of Jesus Christ we make a promise to follow in the Way of Jesus. Join us for worship as we explore our commitment to pray.

October 30th – “i promise...to Be Present”

What does it mean to be fully present to God? Let’s dig deeper into this second commitment we make to Jesus.

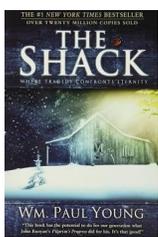
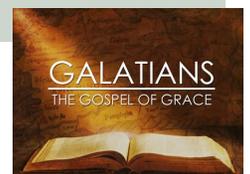
CALENDAR PAGES ON THE WEBSITE: <http://www.milfordmethodists.org>

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!

BOOK STUDY

Join us for the second half of a 6-week Study of Paul’s Letter to the *Galatians*, often called “*The Gospel of Grace*”. We meet **Sundays at 12:00 PM** in the Conference Room beginning September 11th and **Wednesdays at 7:00 PM online** via Zoom link: <http://www.bit.ly/MUMCZoom> beginning September 14th.



Join us for a 6-week study of *The Shack* by William P. Young starting September 22nd. We will meet Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom link: bit.ly/MUMCZoom or in the Conference Room. When life events shake you to your core, do you turn to faith or question it? Would you be willing to meet God face to face in order to find answers? Join us as we journey to a new perspective! Lay-led book study. All are welcome!

WAYS TO SERVE

COMMUNION OFFERING UPDATE

At Milford United Methodist Church, our Communion Offerings provide us with an ongoing opportunity to GIVE/LEARN/PRAY in support of specific concerns ranging from local to international. Thanks to your amazing generosity, the September Communion Offering raised \$463 in support of UMCOR's ongoing relief efforts in Ukraine.

On October 2, 2022, our congregation will join Christians all over the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday. In 2021, the United Methodist Church received \$473,970 which allowed the church to award 242 scholarships as well as grants, mentoring and training for leadership development to aspiring church leaders around the world.

The United Methodist Church, the world, and our communities are in a time of transition. Now, more than ever, we are called to extend healing and hope by investing in talented, qualified students from around the globe to transform the world as witnesses for the Prince of Peace.

As always, you are invited to GIVE as you are able, LEARN (go to *You Tube*, then type in *World Communion Sunday/Did You Know?* for some great information) and, of course, PRAY for young people all over the globe who are called to serve. The WORLD is our parish!

WAYS TO GROW

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Milford United Methodist Church, or simply are curious and eager to learn more, we invite you to participate in our Fall New Member Classes

WHEN: Monday, October 10th and Monday, October 24th from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

WHERE: In-person in the Conference Room and online via Zoom link: bit.ly/MUMCZoom

Please register with the church office by emailing MilfordMethodists@gmail.com by Sunday, October 9th

***Reception of New Members will be on Sunday, October 30th at 10:00 AM worship**

CONFIRMATION CLASSES/ YOUTH GROUP

NEW for this year: Middle School and High School students are invited to join Pastor Jenn for Confirmation class and youth group activities every-other Sunday at 4:00 PM beginning on Sunday, October 2nd.

DATES: Sundays, October 2nd, October 16th, and October 30th

TIME: 4:00 - 5:30 PM

PLACE: Community Room at Milford UMC

Please register with the church office by emailing MilfordMethodists@gmail.com

***Volunteers Needed to assist Pastor Jenn. Contact: jennlovallo@gmail.com for more information.**

WAYS TO GROW

STATS ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

60 Home/School Learning Kits were distributed to the following community partners: Pike County Children & Youth, Ecumenical Food Pantry of Pike County, Helping Hands Food Pantry at Drew United Methodist Church in Port Jervis. Thanks to a generous donation from Dollar Tree in Westfall, we were able to do even MORE than planned! We hope to build on our relationship with Dollar Tree in 2023.

Four crates of school supplies were placed on the shelves at the Ecumenical Food Pantry so that families could select specific items needed for their youngsters. One box of assorted school supplies was delivered to Baby Blessings Pantry at Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church.

Thanks to our congregation for their robust support which included \$202 received in the August Communion Offering.



Every time you shop, use smile.amazon.com and the donation will automatically be sent to the church. Thanks for your support! Use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6464581>.

Milford UMC
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