



JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337
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Office 570.296.6124

JULY/AUGUST 2022

Dear Friends,

As we approach the one-year anniversary of my appointment as the pastor of Milford UMC, I'd like to take an opportunity to look back at all we've accomplished together in this past year.

When I moved to Milford in July 2021 our church building had only recently reopened after COVID. In-person worship had started back up in May and recovery groups were beginning to meet once more in Fellowship Hall. The Reopening Team was evaluating data on a weekly basis, determining whether or not it was safe to sing in worship, have large groups of people gather together, and share coffee and communion. It was still a time of uncertainty and I was impressed with our church leaders who worked so well together to provide a safe environment for us all.

I felt welcomed and supported by my new church and appreciated the spirit of joy and excitement with which I was greeted. Visitors came to worship with us regularly and over the course of the year we received 16 new members. Over the summer I officiated a wedding in our sanctuary and when our choir and hand bell choir returned in September it felt as if we had found our next normal. Christmas Eve Candlelight was back, as well as Holy Week services featuring our choir. And what a joy it was to come together again in-person on Easter Sunday!

Generosity expanded our mission possibilities. The Outreach Team was able to increase support for back-to-school supplies, partnering with the Ecumenical Food Pantry, 3 of our neighboring United Methodist churches, and Pike County Children and Youth Services. We provided pet food during the summer, Angel Tree Gifts, and "Go Bags" for children entering foster care. On Hallowe'en we were back with popcorn for trick-or-treaters and on Super Bowl Sunday our Pomeranian mascot, Henry, helped us deliver hundreds of cans of soup to local food pantries. We reinstated our monthly Communion offerings and held a successful pledge drive.

Our connection with our community continued to grow during the year. We had our annual Holiday Fair, presented a staged reading of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!", and hosted an Advent Concert of Lessons and Carols. The Strawberry Festival was back in June 2022, with perfect weather and a special presentation by our hand bell choir. We were able to support Milford Music Festival and will be represented at the upcoming Milford Plein Air and Black Bear Film Festival.

Sunday school started up again with 3 separate classes, and we offered book groups and Bible studies for Adults. A video series helped us understand our denomination's position on human sexuality, and in December 2021 we voted by an overwhelming majority to become a Reconciling Ministries Congregation. Our Trustees fixed up the Apple Alley house for a new tenant, organized a church cleanup day with United Way of Caring, and continued to work toward making our facility more accessible. A new Vision Team was organized to help us dream like Jesus and our Church Council continues to seek opportunities for us to grow and connect.

Looking ahead to our next year together I know that we will continue to reach out with the love of Jesus, growing in our faith and hope as we become the hands and feet of Christ in our community, and beyond.

Blessings for the Journey,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO SERVE

OUTREACH: GO BAGS and FOSTER CARE



The Pike County Children & Youth Services is our partner in supplying “Go Bags” to aid children in the transition into Foster Care. The duffel bags are filled with supplies needed by the children of different age groups. Your donations are continuing to make lives better. Please keep these children in your prayers and check the website for needed “Go Bag” supplies: [MilfordMethodists.org](https://www.milfordmethodists.org) on the Wish List page.

If you are interested in information about becoming a Foster Parent, there will be a Meet and Greet Resource Parent Meeting held in our church on July 14, 2022, beginning at 5:30 PM. This event requires a **RSVP**. Dinner and childcare are provided. Please respond by July 5, 2022 to Carla Brown, Pike County Children & Youth Services Resource Parent Coordinator, at (570) 296-3446.

OUTREACH

Over the summer, the Outreach Team will be creating Home/School Learning Kits for youngsters at The Ecumenical Food Pantry, Pike County Children and Youth and Helping Hands Food Pantry at Drew UMC in Port Jervis.

We will be receiving donations of school supplies beginning July 10. Meanwhile, be on the lookout for the following: Glue Sticks, pocket folders, one subject spiral notebooks, crayons (16 or 24 count), ballpoint pens, wide ruled loose leaf paper, construction paper, colored markers. In addition, the August Communion Offering will go to support this project. Let's help give our younger neighbors the tools they need to be ready to learn on Day #1.

More specific information on opportunities to GIVE, LEARN, and PRAY will follow in upcoming bulletin announcements, our website and on social media. Let's see where the Spirit takes us in 2022.

RECONCILING MINISTRIES

The **RECONCILING MINISTRIES** Team invites you to join us at the Sussex Pride annual event on the town green in the center of Newton, NJ on Sunday, July 17 from 12:00-4:00 PM. We will be joining other reconciling UM Churches in our conference in this celebration of God's children. There will be vendors, food, and entertainment.



The next RMT meeting will be held Wednesday, July 20 at 6:30 PM, hybrid - in the Conference room and on zoom (www.bit.ly/MUMCZoom)



WAYS TO SUPPORT

CHURCH PICNIC



Horses connecting humans in mind, body, and spirit

PICNIC with the Horses

Join us at GAIT Therapeutic Riding Center on Sunday, July 10th at 11:30 AM for a Church Picnic with the Horses. Enjoy the company of the horses, but no riding, please. Head up after church.

Bring a bag lunch and RSVP with the church office at 570-296-6124

WAYS TO GROW

CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR

First rehearsal of the Adult Choir will be August 21 at 8:30 (before church) in the Sanctuary.

First rehearsal for the Bell Choir will be held following Sunday Services starting on September 4.

WEBSITE

New Website pages have been added: <http://milfordmethodists.org>

-View the **Calendar Page** on the website for scheduled meetings. Please contact the church office to have a meeting added.

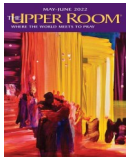
-**Activities** are being advertised on the **Online Calendar**.

-**Wish Lists Page** for Go Bags and the Little Pantry are available. Check often to see updates.

-We have added a **Resources Page** on the website which lists information and local assistance sources such as food pantries in the area, Victims Intervention Program, and TriVersity.

Information can be added by contacting the Church Office: milfordmethodists@gmail.com. We want to keep everyone up to date: please supply all necessary information for additions and updates.

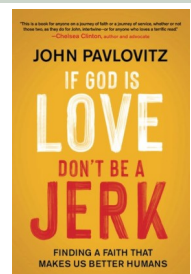
UPPER ROOM MAGAZINE



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

BOOK STUDY

A book study will continue through July 7 on Thursdays at 7:00 PM. The gathering is a Lay-led hybrid format: in-person in the Conference room and online at <http://www.bit.ly/MUMCZoom>. We will have a group discussion on topics from the book by John Pavlovitz, *If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*. It's an amazing read, but reading is not required. Join in on lively and inspiring conversations.



WAYS TO SERVE

VOLUNTEERS CAN GET CONNECTED

Scientific and medical journals have linked social isolation with depression, dementia, and multiple health issues. In fact, isolation is considered one of the greatest health risks to our society today. The good news is that our church provides many opportunities to connect with others and ease the burden of self-isolation and we need your help!

Please choose the area(s) in which you'd like to connect, then call or email the church office to volunteer: (570) 296-6124.

We need your NAME: _____ **EMAIL/PHONE:** _____

Serve on, or Support a COMMITTEE: *Contact Pastor Jenn (201-314-8442) with any questions.*

___ TRUSTEES – maintenance, improvements, and decision-making for building and grounds

___ STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS – supporting and hiring staff, and connecting congregation

___ LAY LEADERSHIP/NOMINATIONS – developing and identifying spiritual gifts in the church

___ FINANCE:

___ Fundraising

___ Stewardship

___ Festivals (planning and coordinating)

___ EDUCATION:

___ Teacher

___ Superintendent

___ OUTREACH – planning and developing community

programs; developing partnerships

___ RECONCILING MINISTRIES TEAM – educating, supporting, and building relationships

___ WORSHIP:

___ Altar Guild

___ Choir

___ Hand Bell Choir

___ Hospitality (Greeters, Fellowship Hour)

___ Liturgist

VOLUNTEER

___ Ecumenical Food Pantry

___ Little Food Pantry

___ Church Gardens (weeding, creating new designs)

___ “Go Bags” for Foster Care

___ Souper Bowl of Caring

___ Back-to-School Supplies

___ Angel Tree Gifts

SOCIAL GROUPS

___ Crafty Ladies

___ Book Club

___ Bible Study

___ Children's Programs

___ Youth Programs

___ Family Programs

___ Holiday Fair

WAYS TO SERVE

As our Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee prepares to meet during the summer we invite you to consider areas where you might like to serve Christ through our church. Below are three of the groups which help make ministry and mission possible at Milford UMC. *If any one of them interests you please contact Pastor Jenn or our Lay Leader, Pam Houskeeper through the church office for more information.*

TRUSTEES – This group is responsible for all property, equipment, and facility usage for our church, as well as any bequests we might receive. 2/3 of the group must be professing members of the congregation. *If you have knowledge of property insurance, maintenance, construction, or technology this might be a great place for you to share your gifts.*

STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS – This group supports the Pastor and Staff of our church and serves as a liaison with the congregation. All must be professing members of the congregation. *If you have experience working in Human Resources, or good inter-personal skills please consider serving in this capacity.*

NOMINATIONS – This group is responsible for discerning the spiritual gifts of our lay members and encouraging them to participate in the life of the church. All must be professing members of the congregation. *If you have a knack of encouraging people to volunteer we'd love to have you on our team.*

WAYS TO WORSHIP

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

JULY/AUGUST WORSHIP



Our **Summer Worship Theme**, “*Gardens of the Bible*” concludes with the Garden Tomb and the Garden of Glory. Join us in worship online through Facebook, or in-person Sundays at 10:00 am.

July 3rd – Holy Communion/ “*Garden of Redemption*”
There is hope at the Garden Tomb.

July 10th – “*Garden of Glory*”
In the Garden of Glory God’s home will be with God’s people at last.

July 17th – *Guest Speaker, Lee Haase*

July 24th – “*Perseverance*”/ Luke 11:5-13
“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.”

July 31st – Holy Communion/ “*Greed*”/ Luke 12:13-21
“Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

August 7th – *Guest Speaker, Lee Haase*
August 14th – *Guest Speaker, Lee Haase*



End of the Summer **Worship Theme**:
“*The Fruit of the Spirit*”

August 21st – “*LOVE*”
August 28th – “*JOY*”

CALENDAR PAGES ON THE WEBSITE

<http://www.milfordmethodists.org> link includes all information on meetings, events, worship, 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!

WAYS TO SUPPORT

FINANCE

Meetings of the Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday, July 5 at 6:00 PM, and Tuesday, August 2 at 6:00 PM. Meetings will be held in-person in the Conference room and on-line via Zoom link: bit.ly/MUMCZoom.

The Milford UMC has an account to consign items at **Gina's Hopechest**. Think about us when you are cleaning out and de-cluttering or if you have an unwanted gift you can't return. If you are interested in dropping off items of this nature in order to benefit Milford UMC, you can do so by telling Gina they are being donated for **account #919**. We receive 50% of the proceeds. Gina's Hope Chest is located at 77 Fowler Street, Port Jervis [\(845\) 856-4673](tel:8458564673). Call to confirm hours.



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>.

WAYS TO GIVE



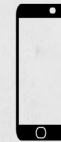
ONLINE

Donate online at
bit.ly/GiveToMUMC



ENVELOPE

Place in offering plate
or by mail.



TEXT

Text amount
to 570-609-3437

If you use the unnumbered envelope in the pew for your offering and want to have the donation documented, please write your name on the envelope.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS OFFERINGS

COMMUNION OFFERINGS ENGAGE THE WORLD

This summer, our Communion Offerings will 'engage the world' in the Pike County region. In July, we will have the opportunity to provide financial support for our heavily used Little Food Pantry. In August, the Communion Offering will be directed to helping to fund Home/School Learning Kits for our community partners at Pike County Children and Youth and Youth and the Ecumenical Food Pantry as well as our connectional partners at Drew UMC. Look for more information in the weeks ahead on how you can GIVE, LEARN, PRAY.



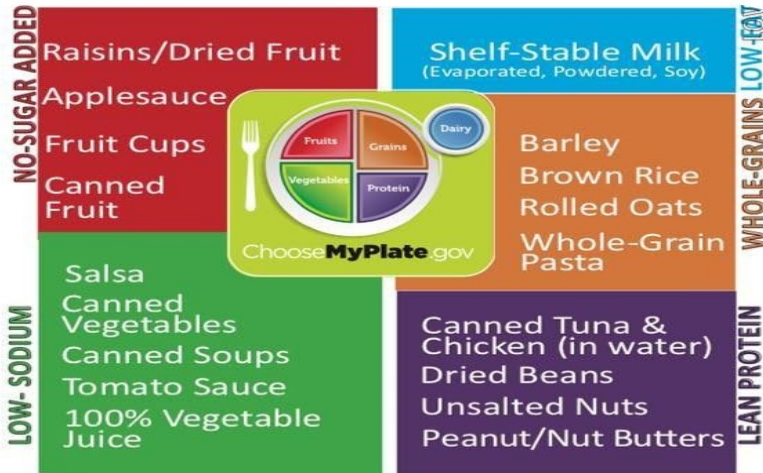
Many thanks for the incredible generosity displayed by our congregation as you continue to demonstrate that 'the world is our parish'. To date, we have received the following: UMCOR (Ukraine) \$4297, Native American Sunday \$391, Peace with Justice Sunday \$150. The Spirit is alive at Milford United Methodist Church!

WAYS TO SUPPORT

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

We want to keep it fully stocked with easily prepared, nutritious foods.

Let this helpful graphic be your shopping guide and please donate generously!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY The Ecumenical Food Pantry has begun planning for resuming in-person distribution. We are looking for volunteers to work the following dates: **July 15, and August 19 from 6:15-8:00 PM.**

Mark your calendar for the above dates and watch the bulletin for further information. The Ecumenical Food Pantry is located at 321 Fifth Street. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Liz Steen at 917-270-5439.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY SUPPLIES

The Little Free Pantry is serving a big need in our community. The stocks are low for Grab-&-Go style foods; especially needed are canned goods. Please look for pop-top cans and quick nourishment ideas. The Pantry provides quick foods, meal staples, and The Upper Room Magazine to feed the body and soul.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN UKRAINE



On-line donation in support of Ukrainian response efforts can be made at: umcmmission.org—Advance #982450

WAYS TO GROW

GRATITUDE

The Strawberry Festival was a great (and tasty) success! The community benefits from our participation and so do we! We are grateful for all who were involved.

Our Little Food Pantry is helping those in need in our community. Please donate if you are able. Please use if you are in need. Let others know that it is available to all.

With the onset of summer, needs increase at Food Pantries.

We Thank you for your generosity.

Celebrate Independence Day on July 4.

The Declaration of Independence has it's 246th birthday this year!

IN RESPONSE TO OVERRULLING ROE V. WADE

The United Methodist Church's law and doctrine are contained in our Book of Discipline. Paragraph 161k under the "Social Principles" section states: "Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child. We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers."

The entire paragraph can be read using this link to our denominational agency, Church & Society's website:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/the-nurturing-community-161/the-nurturing-community-abortion-161-k>

Bishop John Schol of the Greater NJ Annual Conference shared his response in this letter which is on our Conference website:

https://www.gnjumc.org/news/message-from-bishop-schol-united-methodists-and-abortion/?fbclid=IwAR1Fnq96ZYPA72t_eY9ocaMcTmmI7kwSrEIGCT9k310K_-heTQu2vg1Zpc

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

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