



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

Milford UMC
206 East Ann Street
Milford, PA 18337



www.MilfordMethodists.org
<https://www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC>
mumc@ptd.net 570-296-6124
Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor
jennlovallo@gmail.com



APRIL NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337
Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor milfordmethodists@gmail.com
Office 570.296.6124 mumc@ptd.net

APRIL 2022

Dear Friends,

A colleague of mine is a wooden boat builder, and he told me that every Boat Shop needs two things. The first is a "Moaning Chair" where boat builders can sit and bemoan their mistakes for a while. The second is a fireplace. Why a fireplace? So they can burn their mistakes, and move on.

For the past month we've been sitting in our "Moaning Chairs". We've been journeying through the season of Lent, taking a good hard look at ourselves. We've reflected on our relationship with God, seeking to strengthen it and help it grow. We've explored the "I AM" sayings of Jesus from the Gospel of John, and discovered what they say about God, Jesus, and ourselves. We've practiced spiritual disciplines like prayer, Bible study, and fasting in order to deepen our faith. But mainly, we've sat in our chairs and we've bemoaned our mistakes.

It takes courage to admit we've made a mistake. It takes strength to look into our hearts and confront our sins. One of the greatest figures in the Old Testament was King David, and although he was near to the heart of God, he failed to recognize his own sinfulness. The Prophet Nathan had to confront him before David admitted that his lust for Bathsheba had led him to commit adultery and murder. Convicted of his sins David repented and turned back to God. Sitting in his figurative "Moaning Chair", he wrote these words:

*... I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment. (Psalm 51:3-4)*

David didn't stay in that place of self-pity and despair. He understood the power of God's forgiveness and invited God to work in his life: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10) He moved from the "Moaning Chair" to the fireplace and allowed God to burn away his sin and "teach him wisdom in his secret heart."

The reason for Lent and the point of the "Moaning Chair" is to help us move on from our failures into the light of salvation. We acknowledge our mistakes in order to say we're sorry, make amends, and strive to live as holy people. Our lives become a testament to God's grace, and through our witness others can know Jesus. "Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you." (Psalm 51:13) I pray you've had a productive Lent, but soon it will be time to rise and greet the new day. Let's toss our failures in the fireplace and get ready for Easter!

Blessings,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO SERVE

OUTREACH UPDATE

The Outreach Team continues to build relationships in our community. We are partnering with local social services agencies as well as engaging with our neighboring United Methodist congregations. The Go Bag project, in support of children entering foster care, will conclude on April 3. Thanks to Nancy Heim and Rhonda Leister for their leadership on this critical initiative. In addition, we were pleased to be able to donate a \$50 Shoprite gift card to the Helping Hands Food Pantry at Drew United Methodist Church (49 Sussex Street, Port Jervis) in support of their pet food drive. The pantry is open every Saturday from 8:30-10 a.m. and serves everyone, with no residency requirements.



GO BAG PROJECT



Over the past two months, the Digital Crew, a 'pop-up' working group, met to discuss how to maximize our digital outreach and make targeted improvements. We are pleased to report that the sound in our weekly live stream has been greatly enhanced, thanks to the hard work of Jan Lucciola, in collaboration with Pastor Jenn. The church website has been updated and we continue to be active on both Facebook and Instagram platforms. The Outreach Team is working to build a team of

Digital Greeters who will engage with our online congregation during the 10 a.m. service. We hope to hold a training in May.

We are currently working on reconnecting with The Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR and other United Methodist agencies as we extend our congregation's vision to include a global understanding of our mission and ministry. As John Wesley famously proclaimed.....'The WORLD is my parish'. We believe that to be true for Milford United Methodist church as well.



Future plans include developing events, in collaboration with the Reconciling Ministries Team, to observe Pride Month in June. In addition, we will, once again, be creating Home/School Learning Kits for distribution to our community partners in July/August. Interested in exploring how MUMC can reach out more effectively to all of our communities....local, national and global? Your perspective is needed. The next Outreach Team is Monday, July 18, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM. Questions? Reach out to Janice Holleny, Outreach Team Leader at janiceholleny@verizon.net.



WAYS TO SUPPORT

FEED THE PANTRY

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

NOURISH YOUR NEIGHBOR

**Our Little Free Pantry is being used!
We want to keep it fully stocked with
easily prepared, nutritious foods.
Let this helpful graphic be your shopping
guide and please donate generously!**



ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

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:
May 6, June 10, 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.
Thank you.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL—SAVE THE DATE

MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 4
more information to follow

WAYS TO SUPPORT

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN UKRAINE



Ukraine

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has been in communication with partners and actively exploring the coordination of the humanitarian response in Ukraine. If you would like to make an on-line donation in support of Ukrainian response efforts, you can do so by going to: umcmis-sion.org—Advance #982450

BLESSING OF THE “GO BAGS”

Join us **Sunday, April 3** as we welcome representatives of **Pike County Children & Youth Services** in worship and bless the “Go Bags”.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to assist children in foster care.



GO BAG PROJECT

GINA'S HOPECHEST

A reminder that we still have our 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. If you would like to arrange for a contact-less pickup, please email peacegrl62@gmail.com or call Liz at [917-270-5439](tel:917-270-5439).

Gina's Hope Chest-77 Fowler Street, Port Jervis [\(845\) 856-4673](tel:845-856-4673). Call to confirm hours.



ANNUAL SPRING CHURCH CLEAN UP



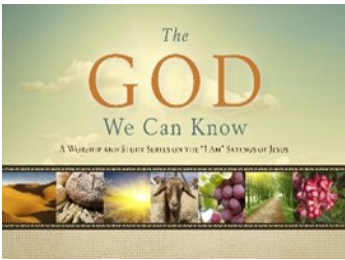
ANNUAL SPRING CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, April 9
9:00 AM—12 NOON

WAYS TO WORSHIP

COMING UP IN WORSHIP



April 3rd – “Knowing God’s Way” John 14:1-7

What does it look like to make Jesus Christ our pattern for living? Jesus says, “I AM the way, the truth, and the life.” Join us in Worship for a special **Mission Moment** featuring Pike County Children & Youth Services as we bless our “Go Bags”.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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

We’ll begin Worship outside (in front of the church building) and process into the sanctuary, waving our palm branches!

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

Sunday, April 24th – Guest Preacher Lee Haase brings the message



WEEKLY PRAYER TIME

During this Lenten season, the Sanctuary is open Wednesdays from 2-3 PM for a time of prayer, reflection, and meditation. All are Welcome. *An on-line prayer service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page at the same time.*



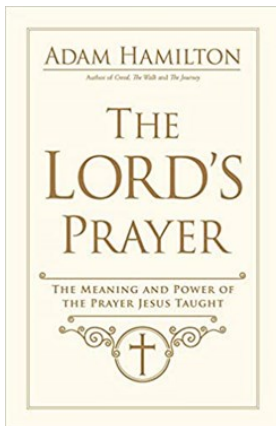
WAYS TO GROW

RECONCILING MINISTRIES



There will be a **Reconciling Ministries Meeting, April 7 at 6:30** in person and online at bit.ly/MUMCZoom. We have several exciting things in the works and hope you'll join our team. Also, look for our next lay led book study on John Pavlovitz's book *If God Is Love, Don't Be A Jerk*.

BOOK STUDY—LOOKING AHEAD



“The LORD’S Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught”
by Adam Hamilton

No other prayer is more important than the one Jesus taught us to pray. We pray it often, but do we really know it? The challenge of this 6-week study is to understand and appreciate the meaning and power of The LORD’S Prayer, and what we ask God each time we pray it. Meeting in person on **Sundays at noon**, and **online Wednesdays at 6:00 pm** via Zoom link bit.ly/MUMCZoom beginning May 1st.

CRAFTY LADIES



The Crafty Ladies have begun meeting Thursdays at 9:30AM, to prepare for the spring festival. All are welcome, crafty or not.

PASTORAL COVERAGE



Pastor Jenn will be on vacation April 18-April 25. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Rev. Will Nichols at 917-293-8040.



The church office will be closed Friday, April 15 thru Monday, April 18 for the Easter holiday.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

FINANCE UPDATE

The finance committee met in February to discuss the budget, fundraising and general church finance issues. While many churches struggle, we are so fortunate to have a supportive congregation and are current with our bills and fair share ministry expenses. We continue to touch the lives of many people through our collective support of local and worldwide missions such as the Ecumenical Food Pantry, Children and Youth Services and most recently the special communion offering for the people in the Ukraine which raised **\$2987.00**.

The annual budget was submitted to Ad Council and approved at the last council meeting.

The next finance committee will be held in April and our intent is to have a standing bi-monthly meeting at 6:30 on the Tuesday preceding the Ad Council meetings. Our meetings are open, and we are always open to feedback, fund raising ideas and events. Consider co-chairing an event with someone such as the upcoming Strawberry Festival.

Members and friends of the church who make Amazon purchases are reminded to make them through Amazon Smile. You can designate the MUMC as your charity and we will receive a small percentage of the purchases. You can download the Smile app on a smartphone or click on the Smile link each time on the desktop.



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**

AMAZON SMILE

A reminder that the church has an **AMAZON SMILE** account, which donates 0.5% of the purchase price directly to our church! What an easy way to support the mission and ministry of MUMC. Next time you shop, use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6464581> which will allow you to select Milford United Methodist Church as your charity of choice.

Every time you shop, use smile.amazon.com and the donation will automatically be sent to the church. Thanks for your support!

