



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337

Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

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NOVEMBER 2023

Dear Friends,

When our children were growing up we used to vacation on Long Beach Island, and one of my favorite things to do was to build sandcastles. I would create intricate designs with moats and turrets and shell-lined battlements. People walking by would often stop and admire my sand creations, and I remember one woman in particular who asked why I built my castle so close to the water. "It's going to wash away when the tide comes in," she said. "That's the point" I answered, and proceeded to explain my philosophy of learning to let go of material possessions, until she just stared at me blankly and walked away.

The trick to building castles is to use wet sand, which is most easily found at the water's edge. The inherent danger is that a wave will come and wash away all of your hard work. Creating art in this precarious manner was a lesson for me in existentialism as I demonstrated my free will in choosing to let go of permanency. Perhaps, like that woman on the beach, you're staring blankly at this page right now. Allow me to explain: When I build a sand castle I put everything I have into it, even though I know it won't last forever. Nothing in this world is permanent. My little girls playing with me in the sand are young women now, with lives of their own. But in that moment of castle building we were 100% present with each other and with the sand and surf. We experienced life to the fullest, enjoying every moment despite the knowledge that it was fleeting.

Jesus reminds us to live fully in the moment. We can't change the past and we can't predict the future. We need to let go of our desire to control the unknown and simply live in appreciation of the moments we have. *"And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?"* Jesus asks in his sermon on the mount, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. *"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own."*

Easier said than done! I have a vivid imagination and I've spent far too much time worrying about an imagined future. One of the many things we learn on our faith journeys is that our spiritual health takes time to develop. We have to work at our faith, just as we work on training our bodies. Jesus models behavior for us, but we have to practice it; and that takes time and effort. For me, building sandcastles and watching them wash away was a way of practicing my faith. I was learning how to focus on the things in life that really mattered: creating beautiful relationships with my family.

I pray you have sandcastle building moments in your life that help you be fully present to the beauty and grace of God's love in our world. Everything in this world may be temporary, but God's love is eternal. As the Prophet Isaiah reminds us, *"All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."*

Blessings,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO WORSHIP

NOVEMBER WORSHIP

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



In a world where many search for the “good life”, we can look to God for fulfillment. God’s desire is for us to have abundant life free from worry. Join us for worship as we explore the good news of Jesus Christ, learn to find contentment in God, and discover the beauty in giving.

Sunday, November 5th – All Saints Sunday*/ Holy Communion

“Scarcity”/ Matthew 6:24-34; Our perspective matters.

**Please email church office with names of deceased loved ones you would like included in the Eucharistic Prayer*

Sunday, November 12th – “Contentment”/ 1 Timothy 6:6-12

Guest Preacher Lee Haase will explore finding contentment in faith.

Sunday, November 19th – “The Flow of Grace”/ Ephesians 3:5-12

We are called to be conduits of God’s grace in the world.

4:00 pm at Milford Borough Hall* – **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

Join us for a community service of thanks as we celebrate our blessings

**(109 W. Catharine Street, Milford, PA)*

Sunday, November 26th – Harvest Sunday/ “Connection”/ John 6:1-14

Jesus calls us to share what we have in order to be a blessing.

Join us for our **Harvest Celebration Pot-Luck Brunch** immediately following worship as with give thanks together.



December 3rd is the First Sunday of Advent.

Join us as we ring in the Christian New Year and celebrate the season with the ***Hanging of the Greens***. Our Advent Worship Theme begins with ***“The Gift of the Nutcracker”***



IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

WORSHIP Sundays at 10AM—All Welcome!

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE *(NURSERY LOCATED AT END OF HALL IN EDUCATION WING)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 10:15 IN EDUCATION WING

(CHILDREN WILL BE ESCORTED TO CLASS AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE)

- **CHOIR REHEARSAL: Sunday at 8:30 AM** in the Sanctuary
- **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL: Sunday at 11:30 AM** in Sanctuary
- **CRAFTY LADIES: Thursday at 9:30 AM** Meets in Craft Room

MEETING SCHEDULE & EVENTS

MEETING ZOOM LINK: bit.ly/MUMCZoom

- **Saturday, November 4th 11AM CHURCH CONFERENCE**
- **Monday, November 6,13,20, 27 "Generous" Small Group**
"Meet Around a Meal" 6:30PM—Please RSVP to Office
- **Wednesday, November 8,15,22,29 NOON "Generous" Small Group**
Zoom (via Link)
- **Wednesday, November 8th 6PM TRUSTEES (Conference Room)**
- **Friday & Saturday, November 10-11 10AM **HOLIDAY CRAFT & BAKE SALE****
- **Tuesday, November 21st Finance Committee Meeting 6PM (online)**
- **Tuesday, November 28th Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM (HYBRID)**

Pastor Jenn will be on vacation Tuesday, November 7 - Wednesday, November 15
Rev. Paul Zorn from Drew UMC will provide pastoral coverage (845-856-3423)

**NOVEMBER /DECEMBER UPPER ROOMS
AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX**



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www.milfordmethodists.org -- milfordmethodists@gmail.com

Follow us on Instagram: [@milfordmethodists](https://www.instagram.com/milfordmethodists)
and Facebook: www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC

WAYS TO CONNECT



The world gives us lots of messages about the “good life”, and everything we need to do – and have – to achieve it. Yet many of us remain unsatisfied, chasing after the next best thing in search of fulfillment. Join us for a 4-week small group discussion as we explore what it means to live lives of contentment, free from worry and

fear. We'll meet on Mondays over a meal at 6:30 pm in the Community Room, beginning November 6th. (Please RSVP with the church office so we have an accurate head count for dinner). Or take a lunch break with us on Zoom on Wednesdays at noon, beginning November 8th. (Zoom link bit.ly/MUMCZoom)

GAME NIGHT



JOIN US FOR GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD FROM 6-8:00 PM

BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FAVORITE GAME!

*We will be having Pizza so please RSVP to the Church office by Thursday, Nov. 2nd (*Gluten-free option will be available.)*

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE NOVEMBER 20th



MUMC will host the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) annual observance on November 20th from 5:30-6:30 pm. This service honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives have been lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. We will gather for coffee and hot chocolate and fellowship at 5:30, and the service will begin at 6:00.

WAYS TO CONNECT



Community Lunch

All are welcome!

*Join us for a delicious lunch, good fun, and pleasant conversation
No need to call first, just come on in*

When: Thursday, November 16
Where: Good Shepherd Parish Hall
Corner of W. Catharine & 5th Sts.
Time: 11:30 – 1:00 pm

Doors open at 11:30 and the meal is served from 12 to 1
Cost: None

A Community Outreach Program of the



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WAYS TO SUPPORT

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:

NEXT TURN * Friday, November 24th 6:15-7:45 PM

The Ecumenical Food Pantry is located at 321 Fifth Street. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or would like to be added to our text messaging group, please email church office at milfordmethodists@gmail.com

COMMUNION OFFERINGS/SPECIAL PROJECTS

As 2023 comes to a close, we are so thankful for the leadership of Janice Holleny as our Outreach Coordinator. For several years, she has made the concept of second mile mission giving and thinking of the “World is our Parish! standard operating procedure for our church. She has reminded us that as Christians, we are called to PRAY, LEARN and GIVE what we can. She envisioned and gathered people together to execute such mission projects, as “To-Go Bags” for our area foster kids, the B-T-S Backpack and At-Home School supplies drive and distribution. She has led the “Giving Angel Tree” initiative for the Holidays and a champion of our “Souper-Bowl” activities. She has fostered our connections to other community groups, such as Triversity, Pike County Children & Youth, Baby Blessings Pantry and the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Under her tenure, our congregation continues to be extraordinarily generous in its response to Communion Offering appeals. The World Communion Offering in October totaled \$270. The November Communion Offering will focus on resources for the homeless in the Tri-State region and will be evenly divided between Pike County Hands of Hope and the Tri-State Warming Station in Port Jervis.

Looking ahead to Christmas/Epiphany, MUMC will, once again, host a Baby Shower for Mary and Joseph on Epiphany Sunday, January 8. More information will be published in the December Newsletter and in the Sunday bulletins for several weeks prior to the event. The baby shower will benefit Baby Blessings Pantry at Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church.

WAYS TO SUPPORT



HELPERS NEEDED!!!!

- Set up Thursday
- Bake Goodies and drop off Friday AM or Saturday AM
- Breakdown /Cleanup Saturday afternoon

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our Stewardship Campaign is underway which is time to reflect on gratitude and what God has brought into our life and the life of the church. It's been a trying year from a finance perspective considering we have grown our ministries despite a deficit between the amount of money pledged vs the operational budget needs. We can only continue our outreach with the support of the congregation and we ask for your prayers as we go forward.

One goal during this year's campaign is that the members and friends step up to the next giving level so we can meet all our budgetary obligations in the new year. For those who give but do not make a formal pledge, we ask that you reconsider so we can better plan the budget. A pledge can be changed at any time so please don't feel obligated if your financial circumstances change.

Pledges and other offerings only cover less than 75 % of our expenses and expenses have gone up given the current inflationary economic environment. Our building is being used for many groups for outreach and we would like to be able to continue our various missions and ministry.

A while back we announced our participation with "RaiseRight" which allows us a significant percentage of purchases made from hundreds of associated businesses through the purchase of their gift cards. If you have a major renovation or construction project, both Home Depot and Lowes provide a 4 % return to the church at no cost to person purchasing the card. The Finance Committee is looking for someone with organizational skills to be the RaiseRight coordinator so please contact the office should this be of interest and within your skill set. More information on the program can be found by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page.

The committee deeply appreciates the generous nature of the friends and members of the church. We are truly blessed by your generosity. The finance committee continues to meet the Tuesday before the monthly Church Council meeting and our meetings are open.

Proverbs 11

²⁴ ***One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.***

²⁵ ***A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.***



GIVING THANKS

Things we were grateful for this year !!!

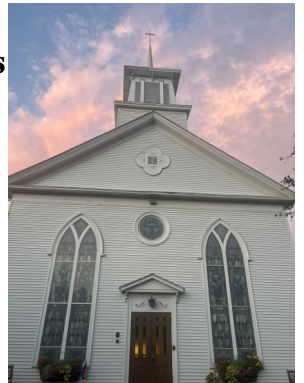


**CELEBRATING MILESTONES:
AGNES HALSEY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY!**



COMFORT & JOY

OUR BEAUTIFUL TRADITIONS



**OUR HISTORIC, WELCOMING
CHURCH**



CONNECTIONS WE'VE MADE



BLESSINGS FOR ALL GOD'S CREATURES



**OUR SPIRIT OF GIVING AND
VOLUNTEERING**



GIVING THANKS

Things we were grateful for this year !!!

Give THANKS
WITH A GRATEFUL
HEART 1 Thessalonians. 5:18

CRAFT & BAKE SALES



COMMUNITY



**CELEBRATING CONFIRMATIONS AND
NEW MEMBERS**



ART & MUSIC



OUR CHURCH FAMILY



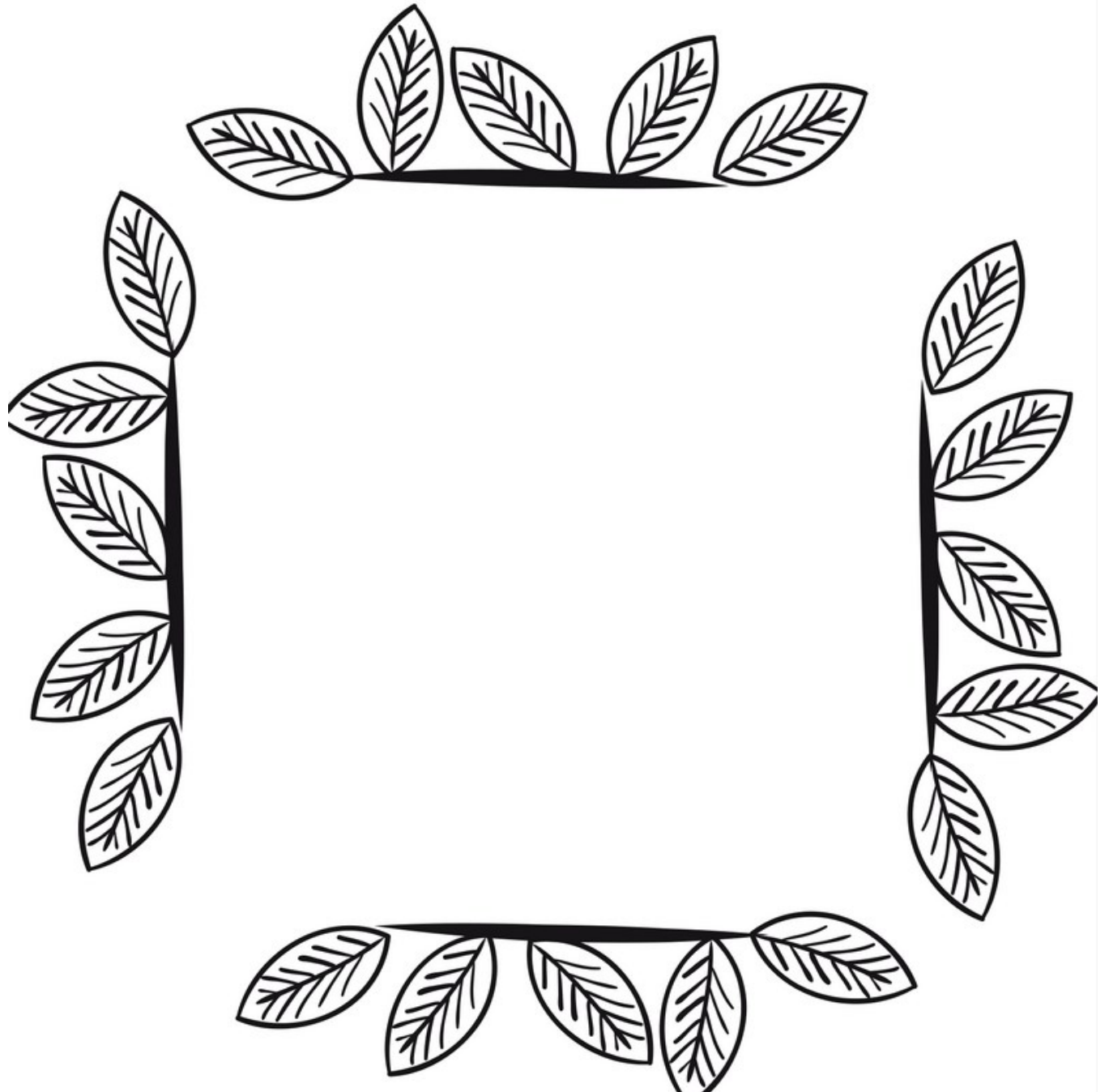
**GAME NIGHT AND ALL THE TIMES
WE GATHER TOGETHER**



GIFTS OF TIME & TALENTS



I am thankful
for...



Give Thanks

Ministry-To-Children





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