



JULY NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337

Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

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July 2023

Dear Friends,

Rev. Matt Rawle is the pastor of Asbury UMC in Bossier, Louisiana, and author of many books connecting pop culture with Christian faith. On the website of Asbury UMC, Pastor Matt wrote the following to explain what it means to be United Methodist:

"As Methodists we have a rich and peculiar tradition unlike any other denomination. Fundamentally, we are people of Grace. We are here because of God's grace. As Methodists we should be experts at sharing and receiving grace, and if there's something the world needs right now, it's just a touch more grace in all that we say, think, and do. Other traditions highlight personal faith, God's sovereignty, and theological tradition as cornerstones of religious expression. As Methodists, everything we do must be rooted in Grace—Prevenient Grace (God loves us even before we know God), Justifying Grace (You have been justified through Christ), and Sanctifying Grace (the power of the Holy Spirit to transform you from the inside out)."

If you remember, I spoke about the 3 stages of grace in last month's newsletter in connection with our favorite hymns. Grace is God's unconditional love given to us freely. There's nothing we can do to earn it, and that's the foundational beauty of grace: God loves us, even when we don't feel worthy of love. Unfortunately, too many people think that they're unlovable, and are unable to receive the gift of grace. This is why it's so important for those of us who have experienced God's love to share it with others. The world is hungry for love, and we as Christians have the means to satisfy that hunger.

Pastor Matt expanded the understanding of what it means to be United Methodist by continuing his explanation:

"We are also champions of both mercy and justice. Mercy is feeding those who are hungry. Justice is asking why people are hungry in the first place. Methodists have a long history of standing up and speaking out to 'resist evil and injustice in whatever forms they present themselves.' If our good news isn't good news for the poor (Luke 4:18), then we are no longer sharing Christ."

I couldn't have said it better myself! Every time we volunteer at the Ecumenical Food Pantry we are sharing Christ. When we protest in the streets or challenge our commissioners to better serve all of the residents in Pike County equally, we are sharing Christ. When we offer a shoulder to cry on or a ride to the doctor's office, we are sharing Christ. Every act of mercy and every stand for justice is a way to share the love of God through Jesus Christ.

We celebrate 4 new members joining our church this month. They were visitors who were warmly welcomed; friends who experienced God's grace through our worship, fellowship, and service opportunities; and now persons who have fallen in love with what it means to be United Methodist. When they take the vows of membership we all stand with them to profess our faith. This is the joy of sharing God's love and welcoming the stranger in the precious name of Jesus!

Blessings,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO WORSHIP

COMING UP IN JULY WORSHIP



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

WORSHIP SERIES: “1/2 Truths”

They’re simple phrases. They even sound Christian – like something you might find in the Bible:

- *Everything happens for a reason*
- *God helps those who help themselves*
- *God won’t give you more than you can handle*
- *Love the sinner, hate the sin*
- *God said it, I believe it, that settles it*

We’ve all heard these words. Maybe we’ve said them. They capture some element of truth – yet they also miss the point in very important ways. Join us in July for a five week sermon series that breaks down these half-truths.

Sunday, July 2nd – Holy Communion/*Guest Preacher Rev. William Nichols*

Sunday, July 9th – *“Everything Happens for a Reason”; Deuteronomy 30:11-20*

In this world there IS some cause for every effect. Join us for worship and discover how our lives are not products of simple chance or predetermined fate.

Sunday, July 16th – *“God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”; Matthew 25:31-46*

Ben Franklin popularized this phrase in the 1730s, but what are we really implying about God’s grace when we share this half-truth?

Sunday, July 23rd – *“God Won’t Give You More Than You Can Handle”; Hebrews 13:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:13*

We may think we’re being encouraging to those who are suffering, but attributing struggles to God isn’t helpful or faithful. Join us as we learn how to flip the script.

Sunday, July 30th – *“God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It”; 2 Timothy 3:14-17*

From where to go to the bathroom, to what to eat, to the death penalty for misbehaving kids, to slavery, to the jewelry and clothing women can wear and what they can say in the church, we recognize that this half-truth may not really capture how we as Christians read the Bible.

Sunday, August 6th – Holy Communion/ *“Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin”; Matthew 7:1-5*

As soon as we pay more attention to others’ sin rather than focusing on our own, we’re moving to a place of judgment. Join us for the final week of our “1/2 Truths” series

WAYS TO SERVE

Home/School Learning Kit Drive

Over the summer, the Outreach Team will be creating Home/School Learning Kits for youngsters at the Ecumenical Food Pantry and Pike County Children and Youth.

We will be accepting donations of school supplies beginning **July 9th**.

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**. 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, on our web site and on social media.

Let's see where the Spirit takes us in 2023!

GIVE * LEARN * PRAY

COMMUNION OFFERINGS: Little Free Pantry July Recipient



In July, we will have the opportunity to provide financial support for our heavily used Little Food Pantry. The LFP acts as an important supplement to the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Many thanks for the incredible generosity displayed by our congregation as you consistently demonstrate that 'the world is our parish'. In May, we received \$201.14 toward Peace with Justice initiatives in the larger United Methodist Church and in June we raised \$536 for the Reconciling Ministries Network.

Well done!



WAYS TO SUPPORT

CHURCH-WIDE FLEA MARKET JULY 22 10-3PM

MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RESERVE SPACE NOW

Flea Market



SAT. JULY 22ND, 2022
10AM-3PM

SPACE RENTALS for Vending \$20
Non-Profits FREE
BYOT (bring your own table)

For space rentals or more information contact
Church Office 570.296.6124
milfordmethodists@gmail.com

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Simply the right way to fundraise

CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP FOR THIS PROGRAM WHICH IS A NO COST WAY TO HELP THE CHURCH EARN MONEY FROM YOUR EVERYDAY PURCHASES. WE ALSO CAN PURCHASE RE-FILLABLE GIFT CARDS FOR MANY LOCAL AND NATIONAL RETAILERS, RESTAURANTSBASICALLY ANY WHERE YOU WOULD SPEND MONEY!

WAYS TO CONNECT

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THAT IS

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WHILE

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FREELY IN

C COMMUNITY

T TOGETHER

A graphic for a community lunch. It features a white plate with a blue rim, a white fork to the left, and a white knife to the right. On the plate is a folded orange triangle with a yellow flower and green leaves in the center. The background is a solid yellow color.

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, July 20th

**Where: Good Shepherd Parish Hall
Corner of W. Catharine & 5th Sts.**

Time: 11:30 – 1:00 pm

Cost: None

A Community Outreach Program of the



&



GAME NIGHT



JOIN US FOR GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, JULY 14 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, July 13 (*Gluten-free option will be available.)*

CRAFTY LADIES



The Crafty Ladies meet every Thursday at 9:30 AM.

All are welcome!

Children's Time



THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

All Around My Neighborhood – I'm gonna let it
shine

All Around My Neighborhood – I'm gonna let it
shine

All Around My Neighborhood – I'm gonna let it
shine

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine



**Let
God's
Light
Shine
Through
You!**

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:

Our Next Turn is Friday, July 7 from 6:15-7:45 PM.

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

**Milford UMC
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