



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 21, 2022 | 10:00 AM | 1st Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Greens

Theme: *The Redemption of Scrooge*

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

Glory to God in the highest!

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

In the darkest days of winter an evergreen tree brings hope of new life, reminding us of the gift of life we have through Jesus Christ.

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this Christmas tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The circle of greens which form the Advent Wreath is a sign of life without end. Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

Come, Lord Jesus. Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Agnes Halsey, The Lordi & Rhodes Families

***OPENING HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1 & 7) UMH 211++

GOD WILL SEND A RIGHTEOUS KING Jeremiah 23:5-6
In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality and was used for purification. We place this cedar branch as a sign of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming, in justice and righteousness, will purify our hearts.

HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH 196++

THE PROPHET DECLARES A CHILD WILL BE BORN Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Because the needles of pine and fir trees appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we place this wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle, which itself has no end, to signify the eternal reign of Jesus, the Christ.

HYMN "People, Look East" (verse 1) UMH 202

THE FOURTH SERVANT SONG Isaiah 53:1-6
For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by his death on the cross, and by his resurrection from the dead. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ's passion. Their prickly leaves suggested the crown of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we place the holly and the ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (verse 1) UMH 203

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1-5, 9-14
As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we light the Christmas tree. During this Advent, wherever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (verse 1) UMH 206

SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 10:19-25 OT pp. 224-225

SERMON "Bah! Humbug!"

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. by J. Fornoff

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING & *DOXOLOGY
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 95

***CLOSING HYMN**
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (verses 1-3) UMH 213

***SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE



GREETER | Sue & Gregg Rhodes **LITURGIST** | Rebecca Masters

FELLOWSHIP | Lorna Cuevas

*Sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall
for Flowers and Fellowship.

Key to abbreviations:

OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament

UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal TFWS: The Faith We Sing

++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Nicole Dunn Hernandez, Jay Norejko, The Family of Ros Williams, The Family of Nancy Farr, Brian Sheppard, Eileen Rail, Thomas Rail, Rose Belcastro, the Family of Robbie Schneider, the Family of Cesar Lecha, Jeanette Hendrick, Patrick Hall, Barbara Urban, Paul and Pat Ingold, Jean Troutman, Alan & Karen Zuis, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Barbara Myer, Joan Wortman, Valerie Dimatteo, Maureen Tresenreiter, Kelly Foster and family, Roy Sirel and family, Robert Keuhne, Sr., Alyre Hayworth, Thomas Harris, Henry Salidino, Henry Repp, Bill Davis, Jim Lordi, Gina Bebenroth and family, Christine Pasquarosa, Patty Reynolds, Casey Peguero, Gina Alfano Walsh, Linda Klee, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Diane Siconolfi.

The **DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING** will be received in support of **UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY**. In 2021, United Methodists gave \$272,159 toward ministries funded by this Special Sunday. Your gifts support over seventy loans and scholarships for United Methodist students. These funds are truly an investment in the future. Every dollar donated goes toward educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. As always, GIVE as you are able, LEARN(You Tube/U.M. Student Day/Did You Know?) and, of course, PRAY for students everywhere. The WORLD is our parish!

We welcome all! Our live church worship services are made available to persons viewing through the link: www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC. The weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter can be viewed through our website: www.milfordmethodists.org. It is located under the Worship Heading on the site. If you would like to be on our email list, please contact the office at www.milfordmethodist@gmail.com or (570) 296-6124.



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UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: bit.ly/MUMCZoom

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Every Sunday at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Every Sunday at 9:30 AM

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL: Every Sunday at 11:30 AM following worship service in Sanctuary.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for middle and high school students, will be held **TODAY, November 21, and Sunday, December 11 from 4:00-5:30 PM in the Community Room.**

LOOKING AHEAD:

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 PM. Online.

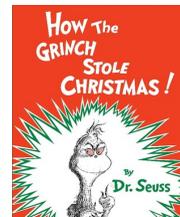
FINANCE COMMITTEE: Tuesday December 6 at 6:00 PM. Online.

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE: Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM. Con. Rm./Online.

Join us **Sunday, December 11**, as we celebrate our **ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BECOMING A RECONCILING MINISTRIES CHURCH** with a dedication of our new exterior sign and a brunch immediately following our 10:00 am service. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega-Perez will speak during worship, and offer the prayer at the sign dedication.

The **(TEEN) ANGEL TREE** is back up in the narthex! The Outreach Team invites you to take a tag and help make Christmas just a bit more joyful for youngsters in fostercare. In 2022, we are focusing on gathering gifts for teenagers in the care of Pike County Children and Youth. We especially need \$25 VISA gift cards! Both unwrapped gifts and gift cards should be delivered to the church **no later than Sunday, December 18**. Thanks for your generosity!

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, December 10
Christmas Open House at the Parsonage 1-5 PM



Join us on **Saturday, December 3rd at 2:00 pm** in the Sanctuary for a dramatized reading of Dr. Seuss' "**How The Grinch Stole Christmas!**" Presented with musical accompaniment by members of our Adult Choir and Bell Choir.

This family friendly event is open to the entire community! **Spend the day in Milford enjoying festive activities, culminating in the Tree Lighting at the Visitors Center.**

Please see the enclosed flyer for information regarding this year's poinsettia ordering.