



WINTER NEWSLETTER

MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337

Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

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Winter 2023

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2024 I'm reminded of the Brian Wren hymn, "This Is a Day of New Beginnings." Verse 1 reads:

*This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

I believe this is good advice for all of us, as we welcome in the new year. We look back at 2023 and we remember all that we've experienced. For some it was a time of personal loss, for others a year of health challenges. Some welcomed new faces while others said good-bye to old friends. Still others experienced deep joy and personal success. For all of us it is a year that has fled away, the good and the bad, and we are left wondering what the future holds.

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

One of the many challenges we face is our human longing to control our destinies. We want to make order out of the chaos of life, and many religions seem to promise that if we follow the correct ritual, or say the magic words, our lives will unfold the way we desire. But God reminds us that we're not the ones in control. Jesus sets the standard, modeling complete trust and obedience to God. We're called to let go of our desire and let God take control of our lives. Easier said than done! This is where the verse from the prophet Jeremiah can be helpful. We're reminded that we can put our faith in God because God has a plan for our lives. We can trust that God cares about our welfare and intends to give us a future with hope.

This is why Brian Wren writes, "Time to believe what love is bringing..." A new year is a time of new beginnings, and we are asked to let go of the past and look to the future. The prophet Jeremiah encourages us to have hope as we trust in God. We have just experienced the joy of Christmas and the miracle of God's presence with the world in the human form of Jesus. We have seen with our own eyes the babe in the manger and we can believe that the love which brought us Jesus will bring us a future with hope.

Verse 4 of Brian Wren's hymn reads:

*Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.*

May you experience the presence of the Living Christ this year as your faith and hope is born again. May we all step from the past and leave behind those things which hold us back from serving God faithfully. And may we all look forward with anticipation and excitement at what the future has in store.

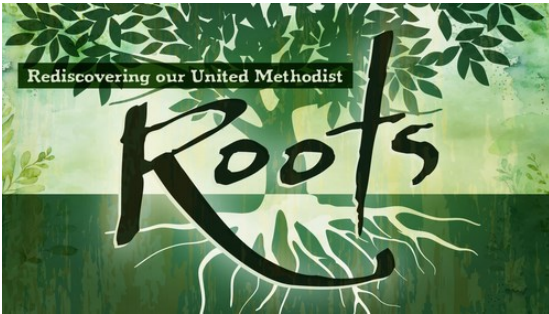
Blessings for the New Year,

Pastor Jenn

WAYS TO WORSHIP

COMING UP IN WORSHIP—JANUARY/FEBRUARY

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



Roots give the stability and nourishment needed to grow and break new ground. As we seek to grow in our faith, looking back at the deep roots of the Methodist movement can help us look forward to our future. More than mere traditions or rituals, our Methodist roots are evidence of God's Spirit moving through our history. Join us for worship as we discover that same Spirit breathing life into us today.

January 7th – Baptism of the Lord/ Holy Communion

"Baptism"; Mark 1:4-12

Baby Shower for Mary & Joseph

January 14th – "Grace"; Ephesians 2:4-10

January 21st – "Missional Connection"; Micah 6:6-8

January 28th – "Holy Conferencing"; Colossians 3:12-17

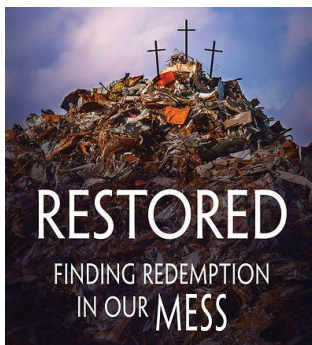
February 4th – Holy Communion

"Communion"; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

February 11th – Transfiguration Sunday; Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, February 14th – ASH WEDNESDAY

LENT Worship Series: "Restored: *Finding Redemption in Our Mess*".



Sometimes our lives are such a mess that we can't see a way through to redemption. But when we look through the eyes of Christ, we not only find redemption, we can clearly see spiritual restoration. During Lent, as we reflect and meditate through our own brokenness by focusing on the cross, we can learn to leave our mess behind, and find true redemption.

Sunday, February 18th – "This is a Real Mess"

Sunday, February 25th – "Who Left This Mess?"

CHURCH INFORMATION

WORSHIP Sundays at 10AM-All Welcome!

Services are Livestreamed and archived on our Facebook page

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, January 11th NOON**

Holiday Luncheon @ Failte

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

- **Friday, January 5th 6:00-8:00PM-Family Game Night**-Bring your family, friends and favorite game! We will be having Pizza so please RSVP to the Church office by Thursday, January 4(*Gluten-free option will be available.)
- **Sunday, January 7th Baby Shower for Mary & Joseph**-Bring a donation of baby needs or a financial contribution for this month's Communion Offering recipient, Baby Blessings Pantry, a ministry and mission of the Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church.
- **Wednesday, January 10th-Trustees Meeting 6PM** (Conference Room)
- **Friday, January 12th-Ecumenical Food Pantry 6:15PM**
- ***Sunday, January 14th-Sunday, February 11th-
Collecting for Souper Bowl of Caring***
- **GNJ DISTRICT FOUNDATIONAL TRAINING** Saturday, January 20th 9:00am-12:30pm by ZOOM
- **Monday, January 22nd 6:30 PM-Reconciling Ministries Meeting** (Hybrid)
- **Tuesday, January 23rd 6PM—Finance Meeting** (Online)
- **Tuesday, January 30th 6:30PM-Church Council Meeting** (Hybrid)
- **Friday, February 2nd 6:00-8:00PM-Family Game Night** Bring your family, friends and favorite game! We will be having Pizza so please RSVP to the Church office by Thursday, February 1st(*Gluten-free option will be available.)

PHOTO GALLERY

Scenes from our Paper Bag Pageant !



WAYS TO CONNECT

GAME NIGHT FRIDAY JANUARY 5th 6:30-8:30PM RSVP PLEASE



JOIN IN OUR MONTHLY INTERGENERATIONAL GAME NIGHT! EVERYONE HAS LOTS OF FUN AND THERE IS PIZZA !!! HELD IN OUR COMMUNITY ROOM IN THE EDUCATION WING EACH MONTH. GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AND SHARE STORIES AND LAUGHS. LEARN A NEW GAME OR ENJOY AN OLD FAVORITE. PLEASE RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE SO WE CAN HAVE THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF

CRAFTY LADIES LUNCHEON JANUARY 11th Noon

The Crafty Ladies will celebrate the new year with a Luncheon to be held at **Fáilte Irish Pub & Steak House** 1492 PA Route 739 Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328 . This event will be weather-permitting and will begin at noon. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Leister at 845-741-9120

RECONCILING MINISTRIES



Become a Member of our Reconciling Ministries Team! The Next Meeting is Monday, January 22nd at 6:30PM. The meeting is held in the Church Education Wing, but also accessible via our Meeting link, bit.ly/MUMCZoom. This group meets monthly and has led several interesting book studies this year and has been a vital connection to our LGBTQIA+ community, near and far. Speak with Jan Lucciola or Pat Moulton if you have any questions or want to learn more !

OUTREACH - ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER DATES

Mark your calendars for 2024 Dates of the Milford United Methodist Team's Turn to Serve at the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Under the Leadership of Jodi Hancock and Rebecca Masters, this monthly outreach ministry team has blossomed into a small group of church goers who have become family! Our support of the Ecumenical Food Pantry has been vital to its' mission and we pray, give, and learn cheerfully and generously! New members of the team are always welcome!

JANUARY 12, FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 10, JUNE 7, JULY 5, AUGUST 2, AUGUST 30, SEPTEMBER 27, OCTOBER 25, NOVEMBER 22, DECEMBER 13. NOVEMBER and DECEMBER dates correspond with the THANKSGIVING and CHRISTMAS FOOD Distribution, so we will need extra hands for those two months!

WAYS TO SUPPORT

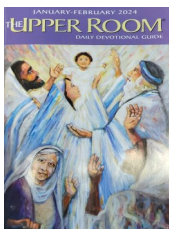
On Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 2024, you are invited to celebrate a Baby Shower for Mary and Joseph during the regular 10 a.m. service. We will remember the Magi as we bring our gifts to the altar. **DIAPERS SIZE 4 AND UP** are especially needed as well as wipes, diaper rash cream, gas drops, sleepers, nail clippers and socks. **NO PLUSH PLEASE.** All donations and the proceeds of our Communion Offering for January will be delivered to Baby Blessings Pantry at Dingmans Ferry United Methodist Church. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry!



Janice Holleny dropping off last year's shower gifts to DFUMC Baby Blessings Pantry, seen with Pastor Rev. Sung Kim and Aly Solch

LITTLE FREE PANTRY FOOD DONATIONS

Our Little Free Pantry is being used and we want to keep it fully stocked with easy to prepare, nutritious foods for those in need. We are looking for donations of canned tuna, canned chicken, rice, beans, macaroni and cheese, hearty soups, pasta, spaghetti sauce, individual servings of cereal, oatmeal, fruit cups, peanut butter, jelly, and more. Donations can also be dropped off at the church or placed right in the pantry.



Copies of the **January/February Upper Room** are now available. We have regular and large print copies. You can pick up your copy in the Little Free Pantry or in the Narthex of the church. If you are unable to pick up a copy, but would still like one, please call the church office.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

GET READY TO DONATE!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

DATE
Feb. 11th, 2024

TIME
10 AM

LOCATION
Milford United Methodist
Church 206 E Ann St
Milford PA 18337



It is time for one of most beloved mission projects, "THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" ! We will begin accepting donations of cans of soup or dollars for soup, Sunday Jan. 14th—up until Sunday, Feb.11th. Tackle Hunger's signature Souper Bowl of Caring effort is a youth-inspired movement working across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. Mobilizing grassroots resources including churches, schools, civic groups and caring individuals, Tackle Hunger and the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has created over \$193 million worth of support that stays completely local to make sure no one goes without soup in their bowl!



WHAT IF EVERYONE GAVE JUST ONE
DOLLAR OR ONE CAN OF FOOD?



WAYS TO SUPPORT

TRUSTEES UPDATE - 2023 IN REVIEW

The Trustees would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

William Arlequeeuw and Dave Oszczepinski and other volunteers have done an amazing job with all the work involved in keeping our beautiful buildings running smoothly. We can always use more hands if you are capable.

The Grounds

- Flower Box installed around our Sign
- Garden Club created and Prayer Garden was cleaned up and given some TLC

Educational wing

- Installed new Vinyl flooring in Church and Pastor' Offices
- Replaced Hallway Lights to energy saving LED
- Removed Bushes and trees from side of education wing and planted grass.
- Began process of applying for Grant to assist in installing an ADA metal ramp for access to Education Wing

Fellowship Hall

- Kitchen—Replaced ceiling and installed new lighting—Energy saving LED



OUR TRUSTEES—We thank them for their service!

Bill Arlequeeuw	Richard Bloomer	Dave Oszczepinski
Dick Weifert	Rachel Hendricks	Gregg Rhodes
Linda Torborg	Franz Tresenreiter	Carolyn Krejmas

WAYS TO SUPPORT

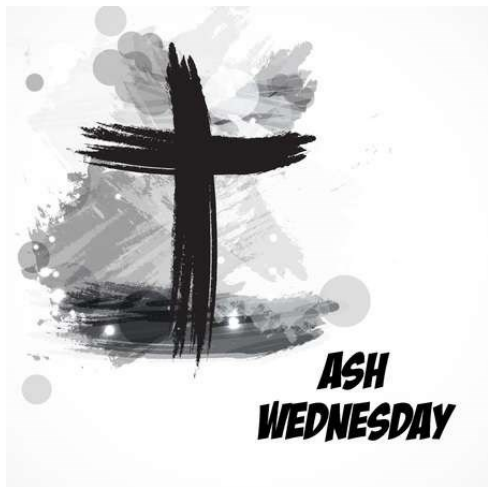
2024 Church Leadership

Church Council 2024

Chair	Laurie Oszczepinski
Recording Secretary	Liz Steen
Financial Secretary	Joan Arlequeeuw
President, Trustees	To Be Elected by Trustees
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Liz Steen
Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference	Richard Bloomer
Lay Leader	Pam Houskeeper
Treasurer	Liz Steen
Superintendent of Sunday School	Linda Torborg
Chair, Finance Committee	Jack Donson
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee	Richard Bloomer
Chair, Outreach	Liz Steen
Co-Chair, Reconciling Ministries Team	Jan Lucciola
Membership Secretary	Church Admin.
Co-Chair, Crafty Ladies	Rhonda Leister
Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Lovallo
Members-at-Large	Steven Bloomer Nancy McCallum



***Pray for our
church leaders,
and keep them
close to your heart***



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

12:00 PM—IMPOSITION OF ASHES
7:00 PM—IMPOSITION OF ASHES
& SERVICE

206 EAST ANN STREET

Milford UMC
206 East Ann Street
Milford, PA 18337

The Church office will be closed Monday January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day.



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