



## MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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March 1, 2026 | 2nd Sunday of Lent | Holy Communion

10:00 AM Theme: Renewed in Mercy

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

*We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.*

Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

*We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.*

Children of hope, we remember that God's promise of new life has always rested on grace.

*We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.*

Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

*We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow. Amen.*

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\* CONGREGATION STANDS AS COMFORTABLE      CONGREGATION RESPONSE IN **BOLD Italic**

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament    UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS: The Faith We Sing    ++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

#### \*OPENING HYMN

"Hymn of Promise"

UMH 707++

#### PRAYER OF CENTERING

*Infinite God, heart of all life, you called this word into being with such love that you birthed yourself among us in Jesus the Beloved. Your presence does not separate but unites; your love does not push away, but embraces; you do not condemn, but save. Trusting this, we know that we are loved, never rejected, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

##### SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:1-17

NT p.93-94

##### SERMON

"Guided by the Promise"

##### ANTHEM

"God So Loved The World"

J. Stainer

##### OFFERING

##### \*DOXOLOGY

"My Tribute"

UMH 99

##### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Faithful God of New Beginnings, in the shadows of our questions and the uncertainty of our understanding, you meet us with grace, not condemnation. Receive these gifts we offer, not as payment or proof, but as signs of our belief, our hope, and our gratitude. Use them to share your transforming love with a world still searching in the dark. In the name of your Son, given in love, we pray. Amen.*

##### PASTORAL PRAYER

##### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

##### PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

***In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.***

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

UMH 15-16

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP** (*Everyone is invited to come to the rail to receive a piece of bread and to dip in the cup*)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

UMH 127

**\*BENEDICTION**

For all that has been...*Thanks!*

For all that will be...*Yes!*

**\*SENDING FORTH**

**POSTLUDE**

**PRAYER LIST:** Family of Marshall Cooper, Jackie & Dani Pentecharsky, Maryann Schneider, Pat Corcoran, Connie & Fred Lamando, Terry Coupell, Gary Psarudakis, Pat Mystkowski, Barbara Urban, Hernandez Family, Dianne Siconolfi, Rhonda Leister, Greg Hunt, Patrick Singer, Mark Geleyn, Carolyn Grossmann, Linda Ryder, Beth Klopfleisch, David Scheer, Mike St. Jean, Joanne Green, Sue and Gregg Rhodes, Jacob Hernandez, Rebecca Suarez, Barbara Brown, Nazareth, Joe Schneider, Jim Schneider, The Tedesco Family, John Rodriguez, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Armando Avila, Agnes Halsey, David Kent, James Bennet, Joan Pauley, Lori Sheppard, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Brian Sheppard, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Henry Salidino, Jim Lordi

Today's Communion Offering will be dedicated to our Shared Ministry Giving. The Shared Ministry Fund is required giving that is apportioned equitably to all churches to support the numerous administrative functions, ministry programs and mission endeavors of our Greater New Jersey Conference.

**GREETER** | Liz Steen **LITURGIST** | Jack Donson

**FELLOWSHIP** | Maria Cirillo –Lein

**IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHILD CARE** (*IN COMMUNITY RM/NURSERY AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE*)

**CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 8:30AM SANCTUARY**

**BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 11:30AM SANCTUARY**

**LIFE TALK : SUNDAYS 12:30PM in COMMUNITY ROOM**

**CRAFTY LADIES: Join us in Craft/Community Room Thurs. March 5th 9:30 AM**

**MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: [bit.ly/MUMCZoom](https://bit.ly/MUMCZoom)**

- **Mondays 6PM, March 2nd—March 30th —Lenten Soup & Study (H)**  
**To attend Virtually, Join us via the Meeting Zoom Link at 6:30PM**
- **Thursday, March 5th 9:30 AM Crafty Ladies in Community/Craft Room**
- **Friday, March 6th 6-8PM—Pizza & Game Night (Fellowship Hall-RSVP to Office)**
- **Friday, March 13th 6PM—Ecumenical Food Pantry at Good Shepherd**
- **Sunday, March 15th—11:15 AM GREEN TEAM MEETING**
- **Sunday, March 15th 4-7PM—Tastefully British Fish & Chips Fundraiser**
- **Thursday, March 19th 7:30PM—Faith & Fiction Book Group:**  
***Orbital* by Samantha Harvey**
- **Wednesday, March 25th 6:30 PM—One Board/Trustee Meeting (Conf. Rm)**

The Green Team Plastic Drive is going strong- we've currently reached **300 pounds!** We're on track to earn a bench this year!

Our next meeting will be **March 15th** after church to plan our spring hikes and earth day activities! All are welcome, come with ideas!



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