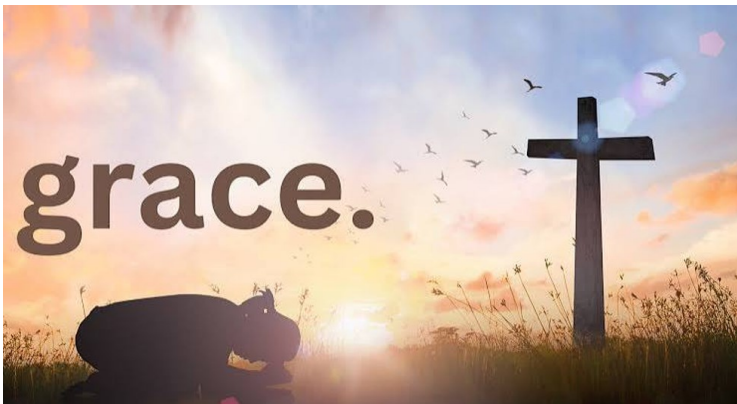




MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 13, 2026 | 10:00 AM

16th Sunday after Pentecost Theme: Lessons in Leadership

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

GATHERING SONG “Sanctuary” (4x) TFWS 2164++
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if forgiveness really works anymore.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions, slow to do the difficult work of reconciliation.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

In this sacred space, may we encounter the life-giving Christ who makes all things possible, and who meets us with abundant grace.

God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “Welcome” W&S 3152 *see insert*

PRAYER OF CENTERING

Awesome God, you have called us to be caring and forgiving people. Remind us that how we treat others is a reflection of how we honor you. Grant us patience with our sisters and brothers. Open our eyes to see when we demand of them what we ourselves refuse to do. Open our hearts to see with compassion, and open our minds to understand our own motivations. Help us strengthen our relationship with you, O God, that we may live in community with one another and grow into the fullness of Christ, in whose precious name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

DRAMATIC READING Matthew 18:21-35 NT p. 20

SERMON “Grace”

ANTHEM “Day by Day” arr. Lou Hayward

OFFERING “In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” TFWS 2195++

***DOXOLOGY** “Give Thanks” TFWS 2036++

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Merciful Deliverer, you forgive debts too great to repay. In the face of fear and brokenness, you lead us with compassion and grace. May the gifts we bring today reflect our deep gratitude for your mercy. Let them support ministries of reconciliation and acts of healing, justice, and welcome. Teach us to lead not with judgment, but with generosity, recognizing that what we have, we hold by your mercy. Bless these offerings and bless us as stewards of your resources through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER UMH 895

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***CLOSING HYMN** “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” W&S 3104 *see insert*

* 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

***BENEDICTION**

For all that has been...*Thanks!*
For all that will be...*Yes!*

***SENDING FORTH**

***POSTLUDE**

GREETER | Pam Houskeeper **LITURGIST** | Janette Hendrick
USHER | Hannah Tomczyk **COFFEE HOUR** | Penny Seltzer

WHAT’S A PEACE POLE?

Peace poles are now the most recognized monument dedicated to peace on earth. They represent the highest aspirations of peace and goodwill inherent in the human heart transcending race, religion and creed. Peace Poles serve as vehicles to carry the message, May Peace Prevail On Earth, out to every corner on earth. They are planted to uplift, empower and elevate the human consciousness to embrace the oneness of our global family.

Join us in worship, Sunday, September 20th to help decorate our Peace Pole and on Monday the 21st at 5PM to Dedicate it and place it on our Front Lawn.



PRAYER LIST: Lorraine Gregory, Rhonda Leister, Marilyn Schultz, Jan Lucciola, Whit Trumbell, Bob Korn, Bob, Paula & Laura Hendricks, Sue Reimlinger, Adam Slate, Joel, Trudy Gelfand, Linda Kent, Linda Grady, Betsy Gramer, Steve Swanson, Jerry Graham, Joe Allred, Teresa Graham, Caite Panzer, Dr. Antonella, Cassie, Gwen Gilmore, Pam Sackett, Bradley Seltzer, Beth Klopffleisch, Jackie & Dani Pentecharsky, Terry Coupell, Gary Psarudakis, Pat Mystkowski, Barbara Urban, Hernandez Family, Dianne Siconolfi, Patrick Singer, Mark Geleyn, Carolyn Grossmann, Linda Ryder, Joanne Green, Jacob Hernandez, Rebecca Suarez, Barbara Brown, Nazareth, Joe Schneider, Jim Schneider, Tedesco Family, John Rodriguez, Geoff Sackett, Armando Avila, Agnes Halsey, James Bennet, Lori Sheppard, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Brian Sheppard, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Henry Salidino, Jim Lordi

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE (NURSERY LOCATED AT END OF HALL IN EDUCATION WING)
(CHILDREN WILL BE ESCORTED TO CLASS AFTER CHILDREN’S MESSAGE)

CRAFTY LADIES: Thursdays 9:30 AM

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

ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE SUNDAYS 8:30AM

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE SUNDAYS 11:30AM—

SUNDAY SCHOOL—BEGINS TODAY SUNDAY 9/13 - After Children’s Message

BIBLE STUDY - Mondays 6:30PM Conf. Rm (H)

ESL Classes: Mon 9:00-11:00AM & Tues 8:00-10:00AM in Conference Room
Fridays 11AM—FRIDAY FRIENDS Bible Study @ Twin Cedars—All Welcome

- **Thursday, September 17th 7:30PM Faith & Fiction Book Group (Conf. Rm.)**
- **Saturday, September 19th 4-6PM - “Second String” CABARET NIGHT**
ALL WELCOME Light Refreshments will be available
- **Monday, September 21st—5PM International Day of Peace—**
PEACE POLE Dedication—Front Lawn
- **Tuesday, September 22nd Noon-1PM—MS Support Group (H) Conf. Rm**
- **Saturday, September 26th 5PM—Dinner Church Fellowship Hall**
- **Friday, Oct. 2nd 6-8PM—Pizza & Game Night (Fellowship Hall) RSVP for Pizza**
- **Saturday, Oct. 3rd 10AM-12NOON—Annual Church Conference –ALL Welcome!**
- **Sunday, Oct. 4th 1 PM—Blessing of the Animals—All Creatures Great & Small!!!**



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