



The Outreach

The newsletter of the Milford United Methodist Church
Milford, NH, Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor
February 2025

Pastor's Corner

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Beloved in Christ,

Some time ago I purchased a prayer book called *Celtic Daily Prayer*, which I have used off and on from time to time in my personal devotions, and one of the prayers that I have spent some time with lately is a corporate prayer in several parts that includes a refrain that reads as follows:

I cannot speak unless you loose my tongue;
I only stammer and I speak uncertainly,
but if you touch my mouth, my Lord,
then I will sing the story of Your wonders.

Words are powerful. Words are weak. Words can be difficult sometimes. Words can free the heart to express tremendous joys and do extraordinary things when we find the right ones. The words of this prayer remind me that words can also be a potent means of grace---especially after a season of feeling like we can't find our words or struggle for words or lack confidence with words. "But if you touch my mouth, O Lord," says the prayer echoing the prophetic calls of the likes of an Isaiah or an Ezekiel, "then I will sing the story of Your wonders." The divine touch in this prayer comes with the power to transform the speaker, free the tongue, and empower words that sing with confidence a story that, before, could never have found its way into the light of day.

As we enter into the month of February, I've been thinking a great deal about words, and the work that our words accomplish (or don't accomplish). What might a divine touch to our lips do in us? What might it birth into our world? We have been spending time with Jesus' words in worship lately as we've steadily been working our way through the Sermon on the Plain, and certainly those words have the power to transform relationships, communities, ways of being in the world when their message is heard and lived. If nothing else, they call our hearts into a new sort of shape and for a harder sort of work---true reconciliation, true peace-making, true repair between enemies, between the haves and have-nots. A call to each and every one of us to turn our attentions back to ourselves and to the logs in our eyes. Work born of words.

Perhaps this is a month to do some self-examining. What work are my words doing? Are they effective in doing God's work? Telling God's story? Do they mend or divide? Heal and hurt? Pave pathways or burn bridges? Do they merely satisfy something in my heart or are they effec-

Pastor's Corner Continued

tive? And what could make my words actually be more effective for good? I leave that with you this month as we continue to wrestle together through Jesus' many challenges with words.

In Christ!

Pastor John

Washington, D.C. – Multiple denominational leaders are set to gather for a webinar to discuss the United Methodist response to immigrant justice and United Methodists across the connection. All interested parties are invited to join the conversation. "Solidarity with the Sojourner: Understanding U.S. Immigration and Our Call to Respond" is scheduled for 7 p.m. EST/6 p.m. CST/5 p.m. MST/4 p.m. PST Monday, Feb. 10, 2025. Due to limited space, registration is required.

[Click here to register.](#)

The Voice team received a check for \$7 for recycling 35 pairs of sneakers from the fall yard sale and collection box.

Youth Mission Update From Tom Knapp

Last sale day is Feb 2. All Subs are \$10 and include, the sub, a cookie, and chips.
GET A COUPLE FOR YOUR Superbowl party!

SAVE THE DATE
Shrove Tuesday March 4th
Ham & Beans with pancake Sundaes



Martin Luther King Jr. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST COMMITTEE

I was fortunate to be able to attend the 55th Annual Martin Luther King Memorial Jr. Breakfast with Claire this year in Boston. This 1,500-person event is organized by a Committee whose mission is to 'inspire, empower, and organize the community to bring about real, tangible change in the systemic injustices, inequalities, and inequities that plague our nation' and is sponsored by two Boston area churches (Methodist & Episcopal).

Per the program - We gathered to convene, to envision, and to embody the Beloved Community that we yearn for; to break bread and to be nourished for the urgent work of justice and equity in our community, and we gathered to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose legacy of organizing and leadership inspires us today for the difficult road ahead of building the Beloved Community

There were various speakers in attendance - Maura Healey, Governor of Massachusetts, Segun Idowu from the Mayor's Office, Ed Markey, Senator and Ayanna Pressley, Congresswoman. The theme this year was "**Freedom Isn't Free**" and the keynote speaker was professor, author and activist **Angela Davis**.

The energy in the room was palpable as she spoke about how every year we see evidence of why we need to continue to fight discrimination and that civil rights gains didn't lead to economic gains for all. She quoted MLK that "we must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope" meaning that even when facing setbacks and disappointments, we should never let go of our belief in a better future and the possibility of positive change.

She ended with a powerful statement which resonated with me. I no longer accept the things I cannot change. I'm changing the things I can no longer accept. Maybe it resonates with you too.



Our MUMC Family Out in the World

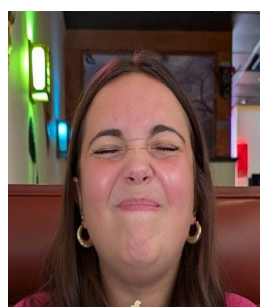
Here are some of MUMC Family spreading Joy in January! Did you ?



Above L: Tim Herlihy named President of the NH board of building officials.
Above R: The Harvey-Olson's celebrating day 11 of the 12 days of Christmas,



Claire Holston, at the UU Church speaking at the MLK service .



Grace St. Jean made the President's list and finished the semester with a 4.2 GPA!



Deb & Steve Santinelli at Ice Castles to celebrate Steve's B'day!

Would love to see how you spread Joy. Friend me on Facebook or send a pic to office @milfordumc.org

Missions From Diane Miller

Thank you to those who donated their Christmas cards to the St. Jude's ranch collection. Janet reported that she has two heavy boxes of cards to send out.

Our normal mission projects such as our SHARE food donation and our driving ministry will go on as normal in February, but we don't have any special projects until the beginning of March. At that time we will begin collecting for hygiene kits to be kept at MUMC. The tags will be out and more details will be shared next month.

[Take Action 2025 • GBGS](#)

Interested in taking action on social Justice matters. CTRL Click this link to UMC Church and Society Pages. The page is updated regularly.

Just \$5. Proceeds to the Capital Campaign.

MUMC COOK BOOK
For Sale All Year
Ask the office to print one if you want one.



**In February
SHARE Is Collecting.**
Canned Ham, Canned Meats/tuna/ chicken, Mac and Cheese, Pasta (all sorts), Progresso and Chunky Soups



Choir News

From Jenn Erdody

Choir is enjoying singing together in these cold weeks. We love to sing anthems that support the scriptures and sermon. For February 2nd, we're singing "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing", with the theme of the spirit of giving. On the theme of judgement vs. forgiveness, we're singing "Beloved, Let Us Love One Another". As you listen to the anthems each week, see if you hear the connection!

The January 12th anthem, "You Will Be Found", was from a Broadway show called *Dear Evan Hansen*. In the show, Evan is an anxious, lonely high schooler who makes up a friendship in his mind. He wants so much to have friends, and then through a series of events, finds himself addressing the student body in a speech meant to comfort them. He starts to sing this song, and by the end, the whole student body is singing with him. We thought this embodies what our young people will find when they attend Wanakee, and what we experience when we come to MUMC. "You will be found!!"

Choir rehearsal is Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:00. We're happy to have new singers join us any time!



Help Needed!

The worship committee continues to look for a second service communion steward/stewards. The duties involve set-up of communion and clean up after the service. If this interests you, please let the office know. office@milfordumc.org Training is available and back-up as needed will be provided if needed.



Noise Offering for Wanakee

February 9, 2025



Think before you spritz or spray. Someone will thank you.!

Scents can make some people sick.



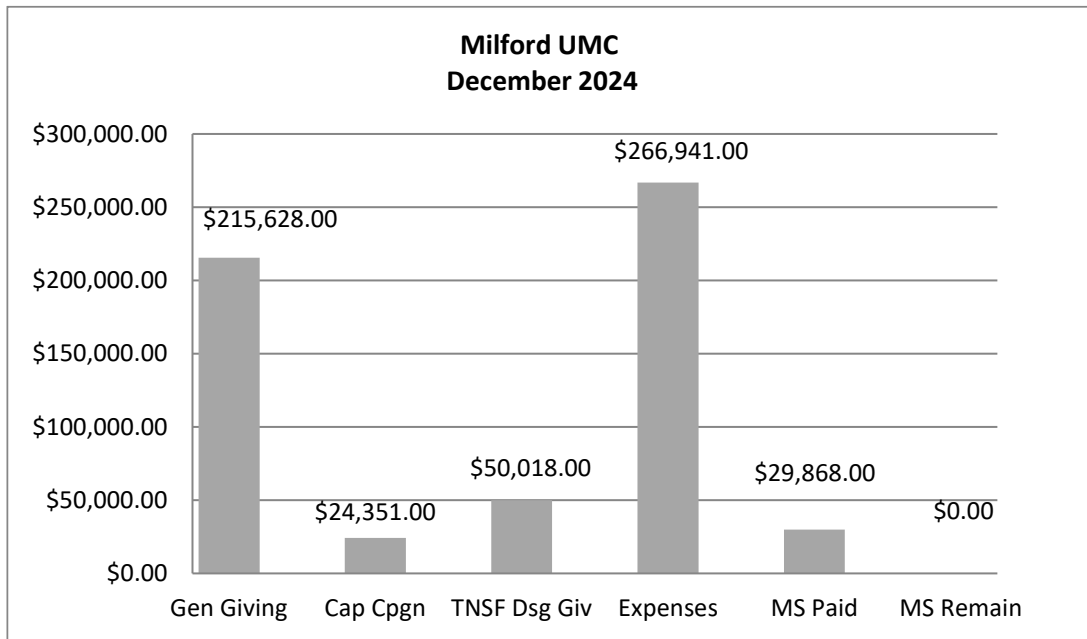
Can we help?



Do you need extra help to hear the service or to read the bulletins or hymnal? Call the office and let us know how we can help you. 603-673-2669. Leave a message with your phone number.

Financial Reports

From Kirk Randlett, for the Finance Committee



YTD Financials

General Giving	\$ 215.628.00
Cap Campaign	\$24,351.00
TSF Dsg Giv *	\$50,018. 00
Expenses	\$266, 941. 00
Mission Shares Paid	\$ 29,868..00
Mission Shares Remain	\$0.00

*Dsg = Designated giving accounts that are being used to fund items that show up in the Expense category.



Milford UMC
General Fund
<https://pay.com1562420700>

The miracle of giving is that giving makes miracles.
—Bishop Robert E. Goodrich

MUMC giving QR Code

Family Life

LeeAnne Steenhoek

How is your child's heart?

Consider these words from the *Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones:

"...would you have done just what these children did-run straight up to Jesus and let him pick you up in his arms and swing you and kiss you and hug you and then sit you on his lap and listen to your stories and your chats?

You see, children loved Jesus, and they knew they didn't need to do anything special for Jesus to love them. All they needed to do was to run into his arms. And so that's just what they did.

Well, after all the laughing and games, Jesus turned to his helpers and said, "No matter how big you grow, never grow up so much that you lose your child's heart: full of trust in God. Be like these children. They are the most important in my kingdom."

I just love envisioning myself as a little one running full-tilt into Jesus' arms. Pause with me for a moment....What does that mean for me now in middle life? What does that mean for my young adult children? You parents? How about the foster kids I met at the mission in Brazil or our Emilio in the Dominican Republic? What does that mean for our new babies and toddlers in the Family Worship Room at MUMC? I wonder what do our Children's Churchers think? I'm Joyful that I have only to ask at our next meeting! How I love your stories! **How do we love deeply and well and allow ourselves the unabashed courage to love Jesus and one another as children do?**

I'm eager to share some dates with you in Family Ministry so mark your calendars! Gathering and sharing life's journey is a start.

Vacation Bible School VBS 2025 Road Trip!

Friday July 11, Saturday July 12 and Sunday July 13th is our VBS Family

weekend!

Did you mark your calendar? Do please invite a friend!!!

Moms and Dads- Be on the lookout for a plain white shirt for VBS Road Trip in weeks to come! We're going to tie dye our shirt at a family spotlight event this spring. Date TBD. Yes, you can just give me money for a shirt from a craft store.

Lenten Study

Tuesday mornings at 11:00 March 11-April 15

Join me in *READING THE BIBLE THROUGH POETIC EXPRESSION* *How to live a life of Faith* by Layne Case. This study comes highly recommended by Pastor Jeff Hunt. Come if you love poetry and come even if you don't and you're the least bit curious. We're going to make the scripture come alive in new ways as we read and write our way through new and familiar passages and share. The text is written for 12 and up. I can offer a response to scripture through watercolors if our little ones can join us. Big ones are welcome to respond to scripture through watercolor as you wish as well. All are welcome.

From the Pastor's Book Pile

Here are a couple of books that I've been reading (or listening to) lately. If the subject interests you, let's talk about it.

Paul W. Chilcote, *Cultivating Christlikeness: Loving as Jesus Loved*.

This one came in the mail as a gift from the bishop's office, but Chilcote is one of the more prominent and prolific United Methodist theologians and writers today (who I've read before). I expect good things from it and with a theme like this, how could you go wrong?



HELLO february Birthdays & Anniversaries 2025

If you see any of these folks around town, be sure to wish them a happy day!

Birthdays:

February 4:	Natalie Houston
February 5:	Joe Guzman
February 6:	Suzanne Randlett
February 8:	Mickey Katz
February 9:	Steve Kimner
February 9:	Patrick Steenhoek
February 22:	Sybil Whitley
February 22:	Patrick Harvey -Olson
February 23:	Ivy Rose Harvey -Olson
February 27:	Nate Kimner
February 28:	Juan Guzman

There were no anniversaries on my calendar this month. Hope we didn't miss yours.

We would love to include you on the birthday and anniversary list. Won't you share your special dates at office@milfordumc.org



This Month's Lectionary

February 2: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

February 9: Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

February 16: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

February 23: Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38



Driving Ministry

If you are in need of a ride and have no place to turn, call the office and we will notify the driving ministry to help you out. This program is primarily directed to our handicapped and seniors, but anybody who needs a ride and can't find one is eligible. There is no charge for this service. Office 603-673-2669 Steve Takacs 603-672-5118
office@milfordumc.org
trumpetchoo@msn.com



MUMC's Got Talent

From Callie McMahon

We are excited to announce that MUMC will be having a Variety show on May 9, 2025 at 7 p.m. Proceeds to go to the Mortgage fund.

We know how much talent God has blessed MUMC with and we really want to get a chance to see it all together in one fun and entertaining event. We also know that we have friends and other family with tons of talent. What a fun time if they all got together!

Have you been looking for a venue to share your talent? We want to see it, so we are going to provide it!

Jenn Erdody will be our coordinator and help us put together a great evening of fun. Rudy Rumohr has agreed to be our sound booth person, but we would love to have help for him, just in case he also wants to share his talent in the show.

We are in the planning stages, and we know there is much to do and we will need help other than talent, but we are ready for you to let us know that you want to participate.

If you get this newsletter electronically, please sign up here [Variety Show Signup](#). If you are reading this in paper format, please contact the office at office@milfordumc.org or call 603-673-2669 if you want to show your talent or work behind the scenes.

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."

—Maya Angelou



Why not tune in?

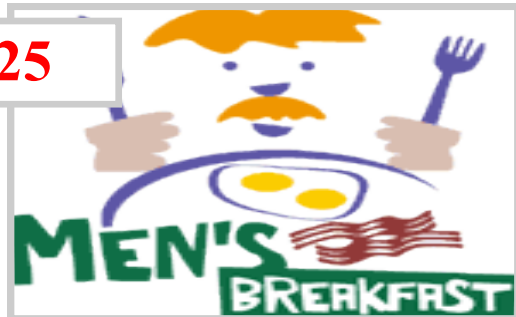
**Tuesday, February 4 | 7:00 PM | NH
Chronicle | WMUR -TV**

NH Chronicle Special Honors

Harriet Wilson's Legacy

NH Chronicle host Sean McDonald will feature Harriet Wilson, the first African American woman to publish a novel in North America, in an upcoming episode of NH Chronicle. Filmed at the Nehemiah Hayward Homestead in Milford, the program will honor the 200th anniversary of Wilson's birth and her groundbreaking novel. Told in the first person and based on her own life, the novel sheds light on the realities of race and servitude in 19th-century New England. Wilson titled her book, *"Our Nig, or Sketches from the Life of a Free Black; In a Two-Story White House, North, Showing that Slavery's Shadows Fall Even There"*

2025



**March 8 June 14 September 13
December 6**

All breakfasts are from 8:30-10:30. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please sign up by the week prior to the event.

Spring YAAard Sale From Pat Rafter

It's been so cold but I am looking forward to temps warming and getting ready for our spring yard sale. Looking for lots of helpers with pricing, sorting and setting up.

Get in those closets, cupboards basements and attics and clean out those items you haven't used in years. One man's trash is another man's treasure!

Please remember items should be clean and in working order. We do not accept furniture, exercise equipment, old musty moldy books, electronics, or VHS. We will take stuffed animals that are clean and have original tags. Clothing will be accepted as well. Drop offs will be May 3 and 10, 9-11. If these dates and time do not work or you can't get things to the church on your own, please call Tom Knapp 603-809-5413 or Pat Rafter 603-582-0333 to arrange a different time.



Wherever you call me to go this week, Lord, may I respond like Isaiah: "Here I am. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8).



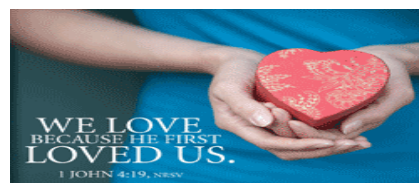
True love

Many of us celebrate Valentine's Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine's Day can be, it's also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

- "When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be." —Leo Tolstoy
 - "You don't love someone because they're perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they're not." —Jodi Picoult
 - "Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses." —Ann Landers
- We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine's Day, if you don't remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:

"We love because God first loved us." — 1 John 4:19 (NCV)



Committees, Groups and Ministries

If you are interested in becoming involved with, or learning more about, a committee or group on the calendar, here's who to talk to.

Administrative (Ad) Council: Steve Kimner

Reviews monthly committee meetings, discusses pending issues and votes on church-wide decisions.

Adult Mission Trip Steve & Pat Rafter

Bell Choir: Heidi Rocha

For adults and older kids interested in hand bell ringing.

Christian Aftercare Ministry: Callie McMahon

Serving primarily men leaving prison, helping them settle in new homes and productive, positive lives.

Chancel Choir: Jennifer Erdody

Open to adults and teens interested in singing in the Chancel Choir at the second service.

Community Supper: Kerri-Lynn Kimner

A supper we host at SHARE in Milford every 6-8 weeks. Volunteer to help bake or prep ahead of time, or to work at the supper itself.

Driving Ministry— Steve Takacs

Provides transportation for those in need of help. Call the church office for contact information.

Finance: Andy Baver

Oversees church financial commitments

Home Groups: Steve Rafter (Thursday) or Callie McMahon (Friday) **Not meeting** Expands spiritual experience in a social context, meeting at a host's homes.

Lamplighters: Carol Rowlette & Elaine Driscoll

A Bible-study group for women.

Nominations: Pastor John. Matches people with the committees they might be interested in serving on.

Mission/Outreach Diane Miller Sue Kostuk

Focuses on ways our church can reach out to the local, regional and international community.

Children & Family : LeeAnne Steenhoek

Focuses on involving Children and

Families in church events and spiritual growth.. Family Worship room available during service

Children's Church: LeeAnne Steenhoek
10:40 Sunday morning year round.

Praise Band: Steve Rafter, Lisa Payne, Rudy Rumohr

Contemporary Christian music that plays at the first service on Sunday.

Staff Parish Relations (SPR): Sue Rudolf

This committee acts as liaison between our staff and the congregation.

MUMC Care Team: Callie McMahon

Provides confidential one-on-one Christian care with trained lay ministers.

Trustees: Steve Rafter

Oversees and facilitates the care and keeping of the church building and parsonage.

White Tops: Everett Gale

A social group for retired men of all denominations.

Worship Committee: Heidi Rocha

Plans and facilitates Sunday service needs and organizes special Sundays

Worship Design: Steve Rafter

Plans music and worship for the contemporary Sunday service.

Vacation Bible School: LeeAnne Steenhoek,

Usually happens in July. A time for the kids to be immersed in learning about Jesus.

VOICE Giving voice to the marginalized in our community. Janet Hromjak, Claire Holston, Callie McMahon. Esther Thayer, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Kathy Wood, Annika Weis

Men's Group: Jim Lawler

For men interested in fellowship and service. Meet Sunday Evenings

Youth Mission Trip Tom Knapp

Works with the youth and organizes mission work

February 2025

For Virtual Services starting at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, join Us On-Line from our Facebook page Milford United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation or YouTube milfordumc or from the Website milfordumc.org

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5p Men's Group	3 7p Trustees	4 7p Praise Band	5 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	6 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	7	8
9 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service	10	11 7p Praise Band	12 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	13 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	14	15
16 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5 p Men's Group 7 Youth Mission	17 5:45p VOICE	18 7p Praise Band	19 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	20 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	21	22
23 8:30 Spirit Celebration 9:40 Children's Church, Adult Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Service 5 p Men's Group	24	25 5p Missions 6p Finance 7p Praise Band	26 8:45 Coffee w/Pastor. Union Coffee 9 Whitetops 1 Lamplighters	27 5:30 –7:30 Choir 7p Bells	28	



Milford United Methodist Church

327 No. River Rd
PO Box 476
Milford, NH 03055
(603) 673-2669
www.milfordumc.org

February 2025

Sunday Worship Times:

8:30a. Spirit Celebration, 10:30a. Traditional Service, 9:40a Adult Sunday School & Children's church. Watch Us Online Facebook & YouTube @10:30 Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

Milford United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Church

Discover the Joy!

Rev. Dr. John Whitley, Pastor

Our Mission:

The Milford United Methodist Church exists to help **all** people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

We will help all people discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ by:

- Providing joyful and meaningful worship experiences.
- Establishing and encouraging small groups for study, support, prayer, fellowship and service.
- Empowering people to discover, develop, and deploy their gifts for ministry.
- Reaching out beyond our congregation in Christian love and service.

Our Values:

We commit ourselves to:

- Know scripture and live it.
- Act with integrity.
- Be faithful to Jesus Christ, our families, and our church family.

- Strive for excellence in all we do for the Lord.
- Celebrate the ministry of all Christians, lay and ordained.
- Treat all people with respect and sensitivity.
- Encourage people to grow in Christ.
- Care for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of all people.

Welcoming & Inclusion Statement:

Milford United Methodist Church is a welcoming and inclusive church which celebrates that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth. We welcome and serve persons without regard to age, race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, religious background, economic status, or developmental and physical abilities. Milford United Methodist Church recognizes the diversity of the Body of Christ and gives thanks to God for this divine gift. We invite ALL to discover the joy of knowing and serving Jesus Christ.