



July 2023 – Abridged Edition

The Messenger

A Word from the Pastor...

Good morning (or whatever it is when you read this), I am coming to you from my home, working for you, good people of Milford and its surrounding area. As we approach the steamy days of summer this month and into next, I can't help but experience a little of the heat of summer (even in this early part of the day.) The humidity is enveloping and invading my living room, the remains of the day that just passed. It is a kind of strength-sapping weather. But it is summer, after all, and we must expect it.

The reading in the Upper Room devotional magazine for today was from the Psalms, specifically #121, which is, according to its superscription, or the reason for its writing, "A Song of Ascents." That means it was probably written for the comfort of pilgrims making their way to the temple in Jerusalem, climbing the hills surrounding it after perhaps a long journey from a far-flung area of the region. It would be a trip only undertaken at most a few times in the year when all of Israel was required to be there or maybe the pilgrim had an opportunity in a time of rest to travel. The first question the psalmist asks is, "I lift up my eyes to the hills –

from where will my help come?" (Verse 1). I can picture the pilgrim, weary from their journey and seeing the last climb they had to make before them, taking a deep breath and steeling themselves for that last push to the temple mount. But the psalmist answers the question in the best way he knows, "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Verse 2) There is confidence in the Creator of everything and in his ability to connect with the pilgrim and to cover them with the protection of an ever-present God. The verse that really got my attention was the 6th, "The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night." There is not a time in your day when the Lord is not present with you and ready to come to your aid if needed. And that is such a comfort to me, and should be to you as well. "God is good all the time," the saying goes, "and all the time God is good." Whether you are ascending that last great obstacle to Jerusalem, your place of solace, or are in the midst of some sort of trial on your way to that comfort. God is there.

I look forward to the summer worship in the Fellowship Hall for us, having the advantage of the air conditioner to battle its heat, and at least one Sunday in the sun in our newly-refurbished outdoor chapel to dedicate the facilities made possible by Mark Butters' Eagle Scout project and the team he assembled to get it done, including his father Malcolm. We also celebrate this month the time when we as a nation declared our independence from England and began that centuries-long enjoyment of self-government. So, if you are not away this month, I invite you to join us for our 10:00 AM worship hour. Keep your eyes open for details as the month progresses.

God bless you.

Pastor Dan



News & Notes



Church wears orange to help end gun violence

Rev. Effie McAvoy shares the following:

Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church (SOV UMC) in Hope, RI, participated in this year's [Wear Orange to End Gun Violence](#) sponsored by Moms Demand Justice.

Sunday, June 4, was Children's Ministry Sunday; it was the PERFECT Sunday to bring awareness to the community regarding protecting our kids from gun violence. Because the number one cause of death to children in the United States is by guns, SOV UMC believes that the church should be front and center in the demand for common sense gun reform in this country.

The Epistle of James reminds us that "faith without action is useless!" Thoughts and prayers must be connected to action and transformation. We understand that Wearing orange is only a small action, but it leads to further conversation.

Church member Marti Bower wears her orange ribbon daily. Folks stop and ask her what that ribbon represents. Marti then uses that as a conversation opener. Member Steve Higgins shared that a longtime friend and colleague was the victim of a mass shooting in RI.

So, yes, we continue to pray and do so without ceasing as Thessalonians states. We are also putting our prayers into action to make a difference in our little corner of the world.

Goings on at the Church

Special Needs Services will be starting in September.

Starting July 2, Worship will take place in Fellowship Hall – the heat is on! Hopefully, we can worship outside too! On the Last Sunday in July, worship will take place upstairs, along with a baptism.

Would you like to volunteer to read the scripture? If so, see Pastor Dan or Bill. We will add your name to the Newsletter to recognize your efforts!

Bible Study is on vacation for the summer - resuming Sept. 5.

Also, coming up in September, Ushers will be needed. Please consider reading as well!



2023 Camp Meeting at Empire Grove

Empire Grove Camp Meeting Association, located in East Poland, ME, will hold its annual Camp Meeting July 30-Aug. 6, 2023. This year's camp directors, Revs. Cathy and Raymond Anderson, have selected the theme Blessed Are the Peacemakers as a focus for the week.

For a complete schedule and to learn more about Empire Grove, please visit the website at www.friendsofempiregrove.com



Pastor Dan has been working hard trying to fix all the computer glitches so he's able to record our services for those at home!!

Wishing the happiest of Birthdays to those born in July!!

- July 1 – Kim Hollister
- July 6 – Rosalie Kimba
- July 10 – Malcolm Butters
- July 12 – Maurice Kimba
- July 14 – Meradith Creber
- July 18 – Min Milo
- July 20 – Andrew Nicholas and Ed Hollister
- July 30 – Betty Milo



Each year, United Women in Faith members prepare for faithful living and action by engaging in transformative educational experiences at Mission u events.

These events are centered around Mission u curricula that are designed to motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry. Join us at Mission u as we explore the good news and what it means for our lives!

Registration

[Click this link to download the registration form \(PDF\)](#)

<https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/17359954>

Save when you register by June 30; final deadline to register is July 14.



Do you know what you've been missing?? Log on to the Church's Facebook page and find out what's going on with your church family!

www.facebook.com/fumcmilford.ma.9





Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford



“At Watson Colonial Funeral Home, we take great pride in caring for our families, and will work tirelessly to provide you with a beautiful, lasting tribute to your loved one. In addition to the services we offer, you will receive an online memorial that you can share with family and friends. While honoring your loved one is our top priority, we also want to help you through this difficult time. We have a wide range of resources to support you not only today, but in the weeks and months to come. Please call us at [508-473-0282](tel:508-473-0282) so we can help you through this process.”



Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford



EDWARDS

Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

The Edwards Memorial Funeral Home is a third-generation family-owned funeral home that has proudly served families in the Greater Milford area since 1882 and is dedicated to providing services to the families of Greater Milford with care and compassion.


Since 1882 the Greater Milford community has trusted Edwards Memorial Funeral Home with helping them plan the celebrations of lives lived.

We serve every family in our community with great pride. We are able to offer a wide range of services to meet your family's needs and customs. We will listen to you and your wishes to help plan a celebration consistent with your expectations. We will take the time to plan every detail and help to relieve the burden on your family during your time of loss.

Please give us a call at **(508)-473-0225** and allow us the sacred privilege of assisting you.




Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford



CROWN SUPPLY
ELECTRICAL & FIRE ALARM DISTRIBUTORS
www.CrownSupply.com

&



The
LIGHTING SHOPPE
AT CROWN SUPPLY
www.TheLightingShoppe.com

41 Central Street, Milford, MA
(508) 478-5900



Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford



Need Help? Call:

(508) 473-1309

(508) 634-8854

331 Main St., Milford, MA 01757



The outdoor Sanctuary is looking great,
thanks to Mark Butters and the work he did (with a little help
from Dad Malcolm!)
for his Eagle Scout Project!!
Thankyou guys!!

Save the Date! On July 9, there will be a dedication of the outdoor chapel,
dependent on the weather, of course!





United Methodist Economic Ministry: 1458 Salem Road, Salem Twp, ME 04983-4011
www.umeeconomicministry.com 207-678-2611 umem@tdstelme.net

"...From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see." [UMH #707]

While we would like to know what the future holds, the beautiful "Hymn of Promise" reminds us that only God knows. If you are looking for a testimony of God's faithfulness, look no further than this letter! Where, in a previous Appeal, I might have been asking you for your support to assist UMEM in surviving, this letter gratefully invites and encourages your continued support so that UMEM can continue to thrive, and dare I say, flourish! Here's an update...



"In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be..."

Our new Executive Director, Helen Pinkham, opened a Warming Center at our Salem site this past winter, and organized several Community Social Events, among them the St. Patrick's Day Dinner pictured here. Plans are already underway for more events next fall and winter.

Preparations are now being made for the visits of eight mission/work teams this spring and summer!


"There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me..."

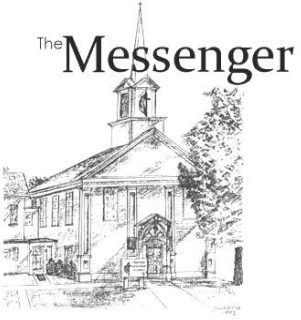
One year ago, our hope was to find and hire a new Executive Director to succeed Rev. Michele St. Cyr. Hope abounds in Helen (at left in this picture) and the devoted staff she has assembled in her first nine months with us (some of whom are also pictured here). Another hope realized is in the grant opportunities we have been able to pursue, that we hope will fund improvements and upgrades to our facilities and enable expanded programs.



July

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 5th Sunday after Pentecost	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9 10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 6th Sunday after Pentecost	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 7th Sunday after Pentecost	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10 a.m. Worship In person and by Zoom 8th Sunday after Pentecost	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 a.m. Worship In person and by Zoom 9th Sunday after Pentecost	31					



First United Methodist Church
39 Exchange Street
Milford, MA 01757
508-473-4252