



# AUGUST NEWSLETTER



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 East Ann Street Milford PA 18337

Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Office 570.296.6124 milfordmethodists@gmail.com

**AUGUST 2023**

Dear Friends,

When I began the ministry process my biggest concern was evangelism. I was good at serving God, but I wasn't comfortable talking with others about my faith. I wasn't sure how to be a minister if I couldn't share my faith stories in one-on-one conversations. My faith sharing up to that point had always been through drama and the arts. I wrote plays and skits, songs and musicals, that expressed my faith and invited others into a relationship with God; but sitting down with a total stranger and asking if they had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ was terrifying!

What I learned over the years was that faith sharing was just that – sharing my faith with others. It wasn't about trying to make someone believe what I believed, or convert them to Christianity. It was about sharing God's love through word and action. I didn't have to put someone on the spot or decide whether or not they were saved. I simply needed to be kind and loving, compassionate and merciful. And if someone asked me about God I didn't have to recite a doctrine; I just needed to share how God has worked in my life.

We each have a unique experience to share, and special gifts to offer. We bring our stories to the table and we give them voice through word and deed. How we live our daily lives is just as important as the words we share. Often, our lived faith is even more important than what we say because we live in a society where people are quick to espouse a belief, but slow to act on it. I encourage you to live your faith and let others see God's love in you, and through you. By doing so, you may just change the world.

Blessings,

***Pastor Jenn***



**EVERYBODY**  
**TELL SOMEBODY**

A Faith Worth Having, is a Faith Worth Sharing!

# WAYS TO WORSHIP

## COMING UP IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

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



**Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Communion/ *“Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin”*; Matthew 7:1-5  
As soon as we pay more attention to others’ sin rather than focusing on our own, we’re moving to a place of judgment. Join us for the final week of our “1/2 Truths” series.

**Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>** – **Laity Sunday** *“Everybody Tell Somebody”*  
Celebrate faith-sharing as we hear the personal stories of our brothers and sisters in Christ and sing some of our favorite hymns!

**Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>** – *Guest Preacher Rev. William Nichols*



**John Wesley**, the founder of the Methodist Movement, was determined to help people live a good and holy life so they could put their faith into action and grow in their walk with God. He came up with **3 Simple Rules** which gave new life to the people of his day, and helped spread the Wesleyan Movement around the world. Join us as we explore how these simple rules can transform our lives today.

**Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>** – *“Do No Harm”*/ Colossians 3:12-14

**Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Holy Communion/ *“Do Good”*/ 3 John 11, Acts 10:38

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** – *“Stay in Love with God”*/ Colossians 2:6-7

# WAYS TO SERVE

## Home/School Learning Kit Drive

Over the summer, the Outreach Team will be creating Home/School Learning Kits for youngsters at the Ecumenical Food Pantry and Pike County Children and Youth. We will be accepting donations of school supplies beginning **July 9th**. Meanwhile, be on the lookout for the following: ***Pocket folders, crayons (16 or 24 count), ballpoint pens, wide ruled loose leaf paper, colored markers.***

The **August Communion Offering** will go to support this project. Let's help give our younger neighbors the tools they need to be ready to learn on Day #1!

More specific information on opportunities to GIVE, LEARN and PRAY will follow in upcoming bulletin announcements, on our web site and on social media. Let's see where the Spirit takes us in 2023!

**GIVE \* LEARN \* PRAY**

## NOISY OFFERINGS: 5th Sunday in July

This year we had decided to have a second mile giving "Noisy Offerings" in months that had 5 Sundays. This past Sunday we invited you to bring your pennies and any other loose change for us to collect during our "Noisy Offering". It was fun moment and although you may not see much value in the coins you contributed, be assured that your gifts are much appreciated. This month, \$196.10 was collected and will be put towards our Shared Mission Giving. Well done! Our next 5th Sunday will be **October 29th**, so start saving those coins so we can make some more "noise" for Shared Mission Giving.



In the words of our Bishop John Schol, "The foundation of The United Methodist Church is connectionalism. The connections mean we can do more good together than we can do alone. This is what shared ministry and connectional giving is in the United Methodist Church. Our membership is a whole – a whole of many parts that, when connected, makes big impacts."

# WAYS TO SUPPORT

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

We recently established a relationship with a company called RaiseRight that allows us to collect a percentage of purchases made with hundreds of major companies. Participation is at no cost to you, but the church can significantly benefit especially for large purchases at stores such as Lowes, Home Depot and even when purchasing a Royal Caribbean Cruise. RaiseRight is best known as a company by which people purchase gift cards, but it has expanded into other areas such as e-cards, etc.

How can you help? Let us know where you shop so we can obtain cards for your purchase. For instance, Home Depot and Lowes return 4 % of a purchase so a large project can help support and even grow our various ministries and outreach as well as meet the budget deficit.

Below is a link and QR code with the RaiseRight vendors and other information. Please consider supporting this important initiative and know you will have the support of the finance committee to make sure you have a seamless purchase experience.

<https://www.raiseright.com/brands>



USE OUR ENROLLMENT CODE TO FUND-  
RAISE FOR MILFORD UMC:

**Z8IPR9XLFGG4**



**RaiseRight™**

Simply the right way to fundraise



We are looking for people who can knit or crochet to replenish our supply of prayer shawls and baby shawls (blankets). You can get simple patterns off the internet. They don't have to be big or complicated.

If you have any questions call Nancy Heim at 570.269.5389.

# WAYS TO CONNECT

## Back to School Kick Off Teen Tie Dye Party

**SATURDAY AUGUST 19th 5-8PM FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**Kids in MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL WELCOME**

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED**

**ALL MATERIALS FOR TIE-DYE INCLUDED (but you can also bring something white from home if you want to tie dye that!)**

**RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE 570-296-6124 or milfordmethodists@gmail.com  
by Thursday, Aug. 17th**

**ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ALSO!!!**

### GAME NIGHT



### JOIN US FOR GAME NIGHT

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 FROM 6-8:00 PM**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FAVORITE GAME!**

*We will be having Pizza so please RSVP to the Church office by Thursday, Aug 10 (\*Gluten-free option will be available.)*

### CHURCH CHOIR PICNIC

There will be a choir picnic on **August 26** at the Fornoff house 129 Chippy Cole Road beginning at 1 pm. Anyone interested in singing in the church choir or ringing bells in the bell choir is invited along with your family for a time of fellowship, good food, and fun activities. Grilled food will be provided. Salads, deserts and drinks are welcome. *Please RSVP to either Jeff (570 267 8773) or Diane (570 618 1060),... call or text.*

We look forward to seeing you!

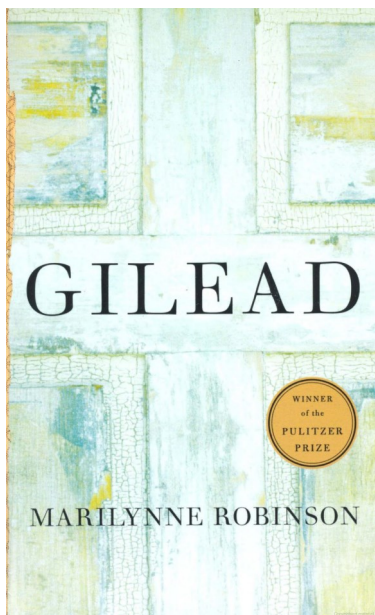


In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, I was privileged to participate in a Milford UMC Book Group discussion of *AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Quite simply, it is the most transformative book I have ever read! At a time when, like so many others, I was feeling unmoored, off balance and a bit scared as well, I needed to be reminded that God could 'drop a ladder anywhere' and that God was EVERYWHERE. The Holy One did not merely reside at 206 East Ann Street but was also present in ZOOM and Facebook and 'snail mail'! I came to understand more clearly than ever before in my 70+ years that '...the whole world is the 'House of God'. That clarity has continued to shape my perspective of 'church' to this day. Although I couldn't be AT church in 2020, I was (still am) IN church 24/7.

Janice Holleney

## RECOMMENDED READING

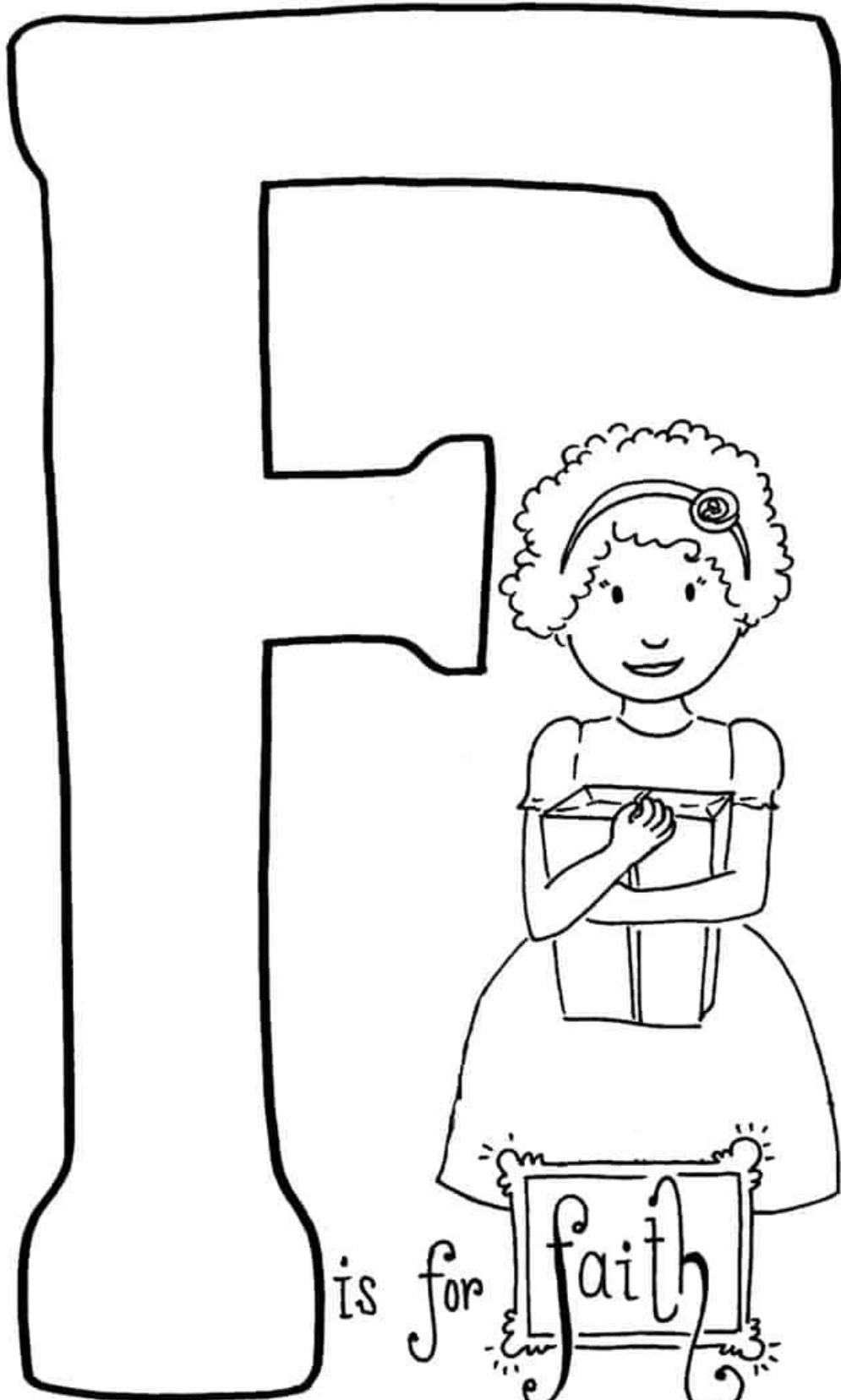
Linnea Geno's Pick for August



Told through the eyes of a Midwestern minister nearing the end of his life, *Gilead* unfolds in the form of a letter. As Reverend Ames writes to his young son, we learn of the family's legacy, a heritage steeped in abolition, economic hardship, and conflicting views on religion and war as each generation comes of age.

## PRACTICE LECTIO DIVINA (DIVINE READING)

One of the most ancient ways to experience the Bible comes through a practice called *lectio divina* (Latin for "divine reading"). The practice moves through four phases with an underlying confidence that God speaks to us whenever we read the Bible. The first step is to read the passage over and over, savoring each word and waiting for one to rise above the rest. Once a single word or phrase sticks in your mind, you begin to explore the word. What feelings, emotions or memories does it evoke? After a time of experiencing the word, it's time to ask and listen to God for the answer to what this word is meant to say to you. Why this word? What is God saying? Finally, use the word as a focus point to let go of every distracting thought so that you can rest in the presence of God.



Mandy Grace '11

ministry-to-children.com

## **VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOOD PANTRY:**

**\* Friday, Aug. 4th 6:15-7:45 PM      Friday, Sept. 1st 6:15-7:45 PM**

The Ecumenical Food Pantry is located at 321 Fifth Street. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or would like to be added to our text messaging group, please email church office at [milfordmethodists@gmail.com](mailto:milfordmethodists@gmail.com)

**Milford UMC  
206 East Ann Street  
Milford, PA 18337**



**[www.MilfordMethodists.org](http://www.MilfordMethodists.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/MilfordUMC>  
*mumc@ptd.net* 570-296-6124  
Rev. Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor  
*jennlovallo@gmail.com***