



*the open door ~ praise & worship service*  
*...in a religion born in a barn, an open door goes without saying*

08.10.16 • 7:00 pm

## **welcome & announcements**

**song** "Come Ye Sinners"

**song** "Lord, I lift Your Name on High"

**scripture reading** "Hebrews 11:29-12:2" (MSG)

<sup>29</sup> By an act of faith, Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. The Egyptians tried it and drowned.

<sup>30</sup> By faith, the Israelites marched around the walls of Jericho for seven days, and the walls fell flat.

<sup>31</sup> By an act of faith, Rahab, the Jericho harlot, welcomed the spies and escaped the destruction that came on those who refused to trust God.

<sup>32-38</sup> I could go on and on, but I've run out of time. There are so many more—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets. . . . Through acts of faith, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves. They were protected from lions, fires, and sword thrusts, turned disadvantage to advantage, won battles, routed alien armies. Women received their loved ones back from the dead. There were those who, under torture, refused to give in and go free, preferring something better: resurrection. Others braved abuse and whips, and, yes, chains and dungeons. We have stories of those who were stoned, sawed in two, murdered in cold blood; stories of vagrants wandering the earth in animal skins, homeless, friendless, powerless—the world didn't deserve them!—making their way as best they could on the cruel edges of the world.

<sup>39-40</sup> Not one of these people, even though their lives of faith were exemplary, got their hands on what was promised. God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours.

### ***Discipline in a Long-Distance Race***

<sup>12 1-3</sup> Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on *Jesus*, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's *there*, in

the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

The Word of God to the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

***children's moment***

"Light My Feet"

Abby DelMastro

***visual reflection***

"" or Message by Brendan Fox

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***prayers of the people***

***visual reflection***

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***moment for collective or individual reflection***

please use this moment to engage a neighbor in conversation about prayer or to reflect on your own prayer practice

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***presentation of the offerings***

***song***

"Mighty to Save"

***song***

"Miracle in My Heart"

***dance party with Jesus***

Everybody Praise The Lord

***benediction & passing the peace***

new milford united methodist church • 68 danbury road • new milford, ct 06776  
860-354-4596 • [office@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:office@newmilfordumc.org) • [www.newmilfordumc.org](http://www.newmilfordumc.org)  
pastor alex • open door band • marlene davis, tech team leader • brinna kolitz, youth leader  
ministers: the people of new milford umc