

The congregation joins in repeating Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth,
and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in your sight, Lord,
my strength and my redeemer.

Sermon "God's Abundance" REV. PAUL A. FLECK

Reader's Theater

Please stand if you are able to sing the song.
Hymn 63 "My Redeemer Lives"

SENDING FORTH

Joys and Concerns

our prayers are with:

- Robert Cerrato as he heals from leg injuries and heart surgery.
- Jerry Jones as he recovers from an arm injury.
- Marlene Davis' son, whose cancer is more serious than originally thought.
- Kay Jones' niece, Sherri, whose cancer has returned.
- Jan and Gene Parsons' friend, Brad, whose cancer has returned.
- Brady Tripp's mother-in-law who has cancer.
- Eileen Clark, who recently had a stroke.
- Sue Sterling's cousin, Mary, who has lung cancer
- The LaBella family whose daughter is undergoing chemotherapy.
- Millie Ackerly's daughter who is receiving cancer treatment.

Our Life in Community

For more information about any item listed below, please contact the Church Office at 860-354-4596 or office@newmilford.org

VBS - Vacation Bible School begins Monday, August 4 at 5:30 p.m. To Volunteer contact Barbara Williams at 860-354-4203 or the Church Office at 860-354-4596.


Our Daily Bread: Our Daily Bread Food Pantry is in need of macaroni & cheese, tuna fish, and toilet paper. We appreciate your continued support of this mission.

New Member Orientation- Interested in joining our congregation? Want to learn more about the foundations of our faith and the United Methodist Church? Join us for a New Member Orientation to be held on Saturday, August 9 from 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, contact the Church Office at 860-354-4596 or by email at office@newmilfordumc.org.

Safe Sanctuary Training will take place on Sunday, August 17, time to be announced. Anyone who works with children and/or youth must come to this mandatory training and complete a background check. Our Safe Sanctuary Policy can be found online at www.newmilfordumc.org. For more information about this training, contact the Church Office at 860-354-4596 or by email at office@newmilfordumc.org.

Rally Sunday- A joint service will be held on Sunday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. for our Rally Sunday—when we welcome families back to church for the Sunday School year. We will be kicking off a new sermon series entitled "Why?," exploring topics such as "Why Faith?" "Why Prayer?" "Why Worship?" and "Why Jesus?" Please be sure to join us!

IN ALL THINGS
WE ARE
MORE
THAN
CON-
QUERORS
THROUGH
HIM WHO
LOVES US



R O M A N S 8 : 3 7

The Service of Worship
New Milford United Methodist Church
68 Danbury Road
New Milford, CT 06776
www.newmilfordumc.org
860-354-4596

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor
Sandy Lybe, Music Minister
Brinna Kolitz, Youth Pastor
Emily Nixon, Open Door Band Leader

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Blended Service — Sunday, August 3, 2014 at 10:00 am

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We especially welcome every visitor today. We are very glad you came. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

Prelude

Announcements

Hymn 145 "Morning Has Broken" BUNESSAN

Call to Worship

Come, all who are hungry and thirsty.

The Lord will provide for our needs.

Come this day to the table of the Lord.

Here we will find welcome and sustenance.

Come to this time of gathering and praise.

Lord, we come with open hearts and spirits to receive your gracious gift of love. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God,

in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard;

in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;

and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown.

Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip

Meetings & Opportunities this week:

Mon., Aug. 4 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
at 6:00 pm Open Door Band in Sanctuary
at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in Fellowship Hall
Tues., Aug. 5 at 7:00 pm Finance Committee in Fellowship Hall
Thurs., Aug. 7 at 3:00 pm "Our Daily Bread" in Food Barn
Sat., Aug. 9 at 2:00 pm New Member Orientation in Fellowship Hall
Sun., Aug. 10 at 8:30 am Chapel in the Pines Worship Service
at 10:00 am Blended Service in Sanctuary
at 2:30 pm Youth Group

Monday—Friday 5:30—7:30 p.m. VBS

Monday - Friday at noon AA meeting in Fellowship Hall

socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, ‘Let me go, for the day is breaking.’ But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go, unless you bless me.’ So he said to him, ‘What is your name?’ And he said, ‘Jacob.’ Then the man said, ‘You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.’ Then Jacob asked him, ‘Please tell me your name.’ But he said, ‘Why is it that you ask my name?’ And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.’ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Gospel Matthew 14:13-21
Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ Jesus said to them, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

The children are invited to come forward and sit at the chancel with the pastor as the congregation sings the first verse of Hymn 191, “Jesus Loves Me.”

Children’s Sermon

Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Please stand for the Doxology

Presentation

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

All Sit.

Prayer

Lord, we come to you this day in the midst of our summer months. For many this is a time of relaxation; but for others, the burdens, worries, and cares continue to weigh them down. Be with each of us as we open our ears to hear your words, our hearts to feel your presence, and our spirits to receive your healing touch. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. **Amen.**

RESPONSES

Please stand if you are able to sing the song.

Song 13 “Above All”

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Please end your prayer with: **This is my prayer,**

The congregation may respond: **This is our prayer.**

Pastoral Prayer

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the rainbow, you made a covenant with all creatures, promising life and hope. God of pathways, you show us how we should walk. Yet we forget our connection with one another and think that we are the center of the universe. We wander from your paths of truth into paths of deceit and pride. Forgive us and lead us back into the arms of your love. Amen.

God is merciful and full of steadfast love. God will not forget us. God will wash us clean, and lead us on paths of steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

Greet each other with the Peace of Christ.

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

Rev. Greg Dell

Let’s be clear. It is Christ who is host at this table. It is God who provides the elements. When we understand that truth we understand who is to be included at this meal. Any child of God – anyone who has known the power of brokenness and the hope of new life – that person is invited. No church or authority dare deny access to one of God’s children. Every expression of the diverse image of God created in humanity – every age, every size, every color, every sex, every gender, every sexual orientation – is welcome here. You don’t qualify because you understand. Who really understands this mystery? You qualify because you

choose to respond, not because you belong to a particular church or have a particular understanding. Come to the Feast!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Even from the scriptural accounts, it doesn’t seem like Jesus wanted to start a new religious ritual when he first lifted the bread and cup. It’s more like he wanted to help his friends understand something about what was going to happen the next day, something about life beyond that next day, something about all of life, and something about God.

He lifted the Bread.

That normal, most basic of foods – he held it up in order that all those sisters and brothers who had followed him off and on for the three years of his ministry might see. He wanted them to see the beauty of the bread. Bread in its wholeness is beautiful. It is an expression of the harmony of a wonderfully diverse creation coming together like a symphony. It is sunlight and rain, seed and soil, patience, impatience, human sweat and toil, an oven’s searing heat, and nature’s cooling breezes – all working, playing together. It is a wonder.

And then he broke it.

He tore it apart to say, “This is the way it is, the way it has been, the way it will be. The beauty that God creates is broken. It will be broken on that cross tomorrow but it is broken again and again in your lives and in history. Every injustice, every act of bigotry, every rampaging disease, every famine, every abuse of human life or creation’s balance is the brokenness of my body, this loaf, all of the cosmos, again and again.”

And then he said, “Take and eat.”

That’s right, eat. Know that you can eat; you can be fed, even when you’re broken, even when the world is broken. God set it up that way. You’re not alone, not even there. You don’t need to run from the brokenness; you can enter it, you can live even here. Take, receive, eat. We hold that brokenness, weep over it, rage at it. And even as we do, Jesus lifts the cup as if to say,

“This is the way it can be”

This is the cup of the new covenant, a new promise. It is my very life energy – my blood, and it is poured out for you!”

Why?

Because God won’t let the brokenness have the last word. The wild, intoxicating cup of life has the last word: resurrection not crucifixion. See how, even now – as you dip the jagged edges of that morsel of bread into the cup – the healing begins. The promise surrounds and begins the transformation of the wounds. Take and drink this cup poured out for you and for many for the healing of the brokenness which is what the forgiveness of sin is really all about.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us is mystery. Amen