



The Beacon

First Congregational Church of Millbury, United Church of Christ

Our Mission: To welcome and inspire ALL through faith, love,
and fellowship according to Christ's example.

Volume 25 Issue 10 • October 2015

Sowing Seeds

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us...

(John 17:20-21a, New Revised Standard Version)

Dear Friends,

The scripture above is part of a prayer Jesus said for his disciples just before he ascended into heaven. One of the remarkable things about it is how Jesus is clearly praying not only for the remaining eleven men we typically think of as his disciples, but “also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word.” In other words, Jesus was looking into the future and praying also for **us here in Millbury in the year 2015** (among others)! How cool is that?

This week, along with churches all over the globe, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday, drawing attention to the oneness for which Jesus prayed in a very real and sacramental way. Yet World Communion Sunday isn't our only opportunity to celebrate, recognize, or work on our unity as Christians and, indeed, human beings. Ecumenical and interfaith cooperation are almost always possible. In fact, with all the strife and division that currently exist in our world, such cooperation is not only possible but essential. We *need* each other.

Last week's visit from Pope Francis showed us one way of living that out. The Pope came to our country to speak not only to Roman Catholics, but to all Americans. His speech to Congress called all of us to look at our relationships to money, to the poor, to the imprisoned, to the earth; and to respond from our core religious values, as well as the deeply held values into which the founding fathers planted the seeds of our contemporary democracy. The Pope lifted up to us, mirrored to us, the greatness for which we stand, and invited us to continue to live into it in some very real and life giving ways. So poignant and relevant were his words that he had at least one politician in tears through much of his talk.

One of the core values of the United Church of Christ is to be *united and uniting*. It is part of our very creation story: Two churches that had been created out of what were originally four denominations came together as one (the UCC) and vowed to continue to find ways to promote and live into Christian unity. Over the summer, we became that much more *united and uniting* as our denomination and the United Church of Canada reached an historic decision to enter into full communion with one another. (Full communion is an agreement for two or more churches to recognize each others' sacraments and the ordination of ministers, allowing them to be called by congregations of either denomination.) This is the UCC's fourth such agreement. We also have full communion with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); a four-way Formula of Agreement with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and a *Kirchengemeinschaft* with the Union of Evangelical Churches in Germany (UEK).

These values are also being lived out closer to home in at least a couple of ways: The Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences of the UCC have just announced a season of discernment during which we will find more and more ways to cooperate in ministry and ponder how God might be calling us to federate or even merge. As with all things UCC, this agreement asks us not to abandon what makes each of

our conferences and congregations unique, but to acknowledge our interdependence and consider how it might serve us and our ministries better were we to strive to do more and more of our work together.

Even right here in our own backyard these *united and uniting* values are bearing some beautiful fruit. Recently the Millbury/Sutton ecumenical clergy group was pleased to welcome Millbury and Sutton Roman Catholic priests into the group, and we were energized by the many proposals they made about ways our congregations might worship and be together as one greater Christian community. The first of those proposals is coming up very soon: This year's annual Thanksgiving service will be held at Assumption Church.

We are better together, whether that means in a single congregation of individuals with diverse ideas, skills, and beliefs or in a community or a world of people striving together for the Common Good. I pray that the words of the Pope and of our spiritual and political ancestors may continue to guide and inspire us along the way.

Grace and Peace to each one of you,

Pastor Carol

P.S. To date I have received just a couple of sermon topic requests. I am currently considering where they will fit best on the calendar. Stay tuned about that and, if you have other suggestions, please feel free to share them with me. Thanks!

Coming Up in Worship

October 4 World Communion Sunday Worship at 10:00 am
Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:18-24
 We celebrate our oneness with all Christians everywhere on this day when churches around the globe gather around the table to receive communion. Annual stewardship campaign also kicks off.
Animal Blessing Service at 3:00 pm
 In honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, we offer a service of gratitude and blessing for our animal companions and the important role they play in our lives. You may

bring your pet or a photo or stuffed animal representing your pet to be individually blessed as part of the service.

October 11 Access Sunday & Disabilities Awareness Week Worship at 10:00 am
Scripture Reading: Psalm 22:1-15
 We join with other UCC congregations in celebrating the gifts of persons with disabilities, as well as the strides that the church has made--becoming more whole by being more accessible. It is also a day that we, the Church, acknowledge the journey yet to be taken with our sisters and brothers with disabilities.

October 18 Invite-a-Friend Sunday Worship at 10:00 am
Scripture Reading: Job 38:1-7, 34-41
 Today will be a day of especially extravagant welcome, as we invite friends old and new to join us in worship and celebrate the sacrament of baptism, formally receiving and welcoming **Abbey Graveson** into the Body of Christ. Invitations for you to send to friends will be available on the table at the back of the sanctuary in the weeks leading up to this service.

October 25 Halloween & Reformation Sunday Worship at 10:00 am
Scripture Reading: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Mark 10:46-52
Children and adults are welcome to wear a Halloween mask or costume!
 A service of healing and reformation, as we laugh, sing, play, pray, and remove the masks and other disguises we hide behind and allow God to touch and transform the broken places in our lives, our spirits, and our relationships.

November 1 All Saints Day, Anniversary, & Communion Sunday Worship at 10:00 am
Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1-6a
 We will remember and honor the saints who have passed before us, as well as celebrate those still among us by recognizing our membership anniversaries.

Have you seen...?

Our missing hearing assistance devices, large print Hymnals and black wooden book stand? If so, could you please kindly return them to the sanctuary? Many thanks.

Joys, Congratulations & Thanksgiving

A big thank you to **Janice** and **Christine H.** for the help and hospitality they offered around Judy Concemi's recent funeral at the church.

Many thanks also to **Janice** for her donation of new storage containers for the pew cushions, which are currently placed at the feet of the balcony stairs. Not only do they look both subtle and sharp, but they prevent the existing storage baskets behind the pews from overflowing!

Thanks to **Rev. Donna Muise** for preaching and leading worship while Pastor Carol was on vacation August 30. And blessings and congratulations to her and her new congregation First Congregational Church, Croyden, NH, where she began a new call on September 13.

We are grateful to **Jim F.** for taking on leadership of this year's **Turkey Raffle** (and to all who have joined that team, offered expertise from many years' of experience, etc.), as well as to **Amy W., Amy P.,** and others in the knitting ministry group for tackling the Chain of Lights with new energy, ideas, and commitment to bring it back home to the church this year!

We rejoice with **Cheryl S.** on the expansion of her job at Dauphinis Concrete into a full time position. Blessings and congratulations!

We share in **Cheryl O's** and **Bob L's** joy that grandson Ethan is finally able to live with his dad Tim.

We are also extremely grateful to **Cheryl** and **Bob** for all they did to organize and purchase food for our recent Worcester

Fellowship Sunday, as well as to everyone who donated food or money, helped prepare lunches, and/or ventured to Worcester to serve, eat, and worship with the outdoor congregation.

We very much appreciate the fund raising **Amy W.** has done on behalf of the church via her recent Tastefully Simple gathering. Stay tuned for details about the next one!

Blessings and congratulations to our newest member, **Mary Riley!** Welcome to our First Church Family! We are so happy to have you!

And many thanks to **Jeri** and **Fran** for their assistance with the New Members/Inquirers Class, where they shared their knowledge of First Church's history and structure.

We celebrate with **Cindy** the return of her son-in-law **Matt** from his most recent military service in the Middle East.

Remember our shut-ins with a note or a card.....

Mrs. Charlotte Stockwell
395 West Main Street
Millbury, MA 01527

Mr. Jay Stockwell
110 Hartness Road
Sutton, MA 01590

Mr. Jack Swedburg
58 Carleton Rd.
P.O. Box 34
West Millbury, Ma. 01527

Mrs. Thelma Swedburg
St. Camillus Nursing Home
447 Hill St.
Whitinsville, Ma. 01588

Mrs. Betty Stockwell
c/o Jerszyk
3 Herrick Lane
Millbury, Ma. 01527

Prayers & Concerns

- † Jay S. and his family
- † Betty S.
- † Joan & Hunter
- † Nicholas M.
- † Joanne
- † Julie
- † Jim P.
- † Debbie
- † Gail and her family
- † Sandra and Paul
- † Ann
- † Ronnie
- † Thelma, Jack & Family
- † Ethan and Tim
- † Paul on the loss of Judy
- † Jeri's & Ron's cousin Everett
- † Bob L's cousin Diane
- † Cindy C. and Linda A.
- † Jake, who has been re-deployed to Afghanistan
- † Fran's mom and aunt
- † Richard H.
- † The Ellsessar Family
- † Robert Rudge, who has just been placed on hospice, and his family
- † First Congregational, Sutton
- † The Rev. Victoria Snow's father
- † Anna Marie, Dirk E.'s mother
- † Cassidy's friend Anthony, who has cancer
- † Our Church and Local Community
- † Our Returning Veterans
- † The Women of Rhodes House
- † AA Members who meet weekly in our hall
- † Worcester Fellowship Pastors & People
- † The homeless in Worcester and beyond





1st Christina Rudge
 1st Rachel Wall
 2nd Frances Pearson
 8th Janice Fortin
 15th Timothy Scanlon
 20th Betty Ann Hedlund
 21st Ronald Stead
 23rd Katelyn Frankian
 23rd Scott Rudge
 25th Kara Wahlstom
 27th Lauren Kosiba
 28th Dean Peterson
 28th John Thurlow
 29th Kristen Orrell
 29th Greg Orrell
 31st Hannah Mejaour
 31st Candace Adams

Sunday School Celebration

Sunday School started on September 20th with great enthusiasm.

I am happy to announce that we have a new curriculum that incorporates short video lessons with songs/singing and sometimes dancing. There are 2 classes this year and the activities continue to suit the age group.

If you have not registered your child- IT IS NOT TOO LATE! Please join us for a wonderful year of learning the beloved Bible Stories.



We have a few things planned this year with the Mission Committee as we try to get the kids involved in helping those less fortunate.

And lastly, I would like to say thank you to Jim Mousseau, Amy Peterson and Andrea Place for helping me redecorate the class rooms. Both class rooms have been spruced up and re-organized for a fresh new start~ Thank you, Leah Murphy

Coming Soon...

If you have agreed to serve as an usher, scripture reader, or hospitality person in the past, you may be receiving a call or an mail from our office manager Marie Rochon asking whether you can commit to serve in these roles on particular dates in coming months.

In order to lighten the load a bit for our deacons and to live into our identity as the priesthood of all believers, we are seeking to create a rotation that includes yet extends beyond the deacons. If you don't hear from Marie but would be interested in participating, please just let a deacon or Pastor Carol know.

Do you like to knit or crochet?

Are you interested in learning or refreshing some rusty skills? Our group continues to meet most Monday evenings in the church nursery, all are welcome to participate; men and women, young and old, experienced and first-timers. If interested contact Amy West or Deanna Murray for details.



25th Annual Turkey Raffle

Will be held on November 20, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Millbury Senior Center. Grand prizes this year will include an Ogunquit, Maine weekend Getaway, HD TV, Turkey with Food Basket, and a Case of Wine. Tickets will be available the week of September 27. Ticket prices are as follows: \$1.25 each or 6 for \$6.00. Tickets can be obtained from church members or contacting Jim Fairbanks or Alain Beret at 508-865-0617 or Amy West at 508-865-0652. Donations of turkeys and raffle prizes are being gathered and you can sign up to donate on the sheets located at the back of the church sanctuary. Thank you and hope to see you all there.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Mary Riley

Mary was born in Tokyo, Japan. Her family moved to the United States when she was about a year old. She was baptized a Catholic and attended parochial schools. Her father died of cancer on her Confirmation Day when she was twelve and her sister was eight. Mary was fortunate to have a strong mother and a wonderful, caring priest who was a great comfort in their time of sorrow. When he died, Mary gradually lost her sense of family with the church.

Watching her mother work so hard to make a living for herself and her two daughters, Mary was determined to go to college. "Studying hard" was always impressed upon her growing up. She graduated from Worcester State College with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a minor in Art. She was very proud to get a teaching job in Grafton, MA where she completed her student teaching.

While in college, Mary met Neal. They married ten years later and traveled internationally during the summers. Several years later, they had a son, Neal, and a daughter, Lani. They decided to raise Neal and Lani in the First Congregational Church. Mary was pleased with her husband's commitment to the church and felt in time she would join.

After being with Grafton Public Schools for 34 years, Mary retired in 2010 along with her husband, Neal. Since her retirement, Mary has been tutoring. The First Church has been a great support to Mary during her sister's cancer diagnosis. She greatly appreciates the kindness and prayers of the First Church community.

Returning to First Church Millbury October 16th All Levels Yoga Class in Fellowship Hall Fridays, 4:15-5:15 pm

We are so pleased to welcome back Carol Dearborn who will teach a weekly All Levels Yoga Class.

Carol has over 200 hour's experience of facilitating fitness classes, teaching yoga at Whitins Community Center for the Fallon Health Care Plan, the Silver Sneakers Program and is currently teaching various levels in several surrounding towns.

She has found yoga to be an ideal way to develop and maintain a healthier mind, body and spirit, and has found great fulfillment helping students of all ages build skills by sharing her passion for yoga and kindness. In her classes, participants will begin to discover the techniques of how to disengage from everyday stresses and distractions and focus internally on breathing and strengthening exercises, whilst being mindfully present to accept the moment.

Carol holds a degree in Business Administration with a minor in Health Education through Worcester University and is certified in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED, AFAA Group Exercise, Senior Wellness, AAA/ISMA Pilates Mat II & III, Total Barre, and De-Stress Yoga 200-hr training.

Carol is able to provide yoga mats for those who do not own one and can readily adapt her techniques to accommodate seniors and others who need to remain seated in a chair.

Drop-In Fee is **\$5.00 per class, \$3.00 for seniors.**

Proceeds will benefit the Church.

Classes begin on Friday, October 16th, 2015 at 4:15pm at the First Congregational Church, 148 West Main Street, Millbury, MA.

After 6 weeks, Carol will evaluate to determine whether there is sufficient interest to continue offering classes at the church.

EVERYONE is welcome!

For more information you can contact **Janice Fortin** at 508-826-6381.



Summary of August Council Meeting

The Church Council met August 20th. The following summary gives a brief overview of the topics that had a new discussion, gave an update, or received a decision.

Topics discussed

* **Conflict Transformation Proposal**

The proposal from Kelly Gallagher, Associate Minister of the Central Association, was reviewed in detail. The proposal includes 6-8 two hour sessions, comprising of 2-3 training classes, 2-3 conversational classes and possibly 2 further individual classes. Each class would be for the full congregation, with possibly 1-2 classes for the minister and church leadership. The price of the training seminar is \$2000; however, the Conference will offer a scholarship which covers 50% of this cost. The council discussed the possibility of paying on a per session basis, with the idea favored of raising funds via a special collection.

* **Reflections on Kelly Gallagher Associate Conference Minister Notes**

The notes, provided by Kelly after her visit, were reviewed in detail. No follow up questions arose. Overall there was positive feedback regarding her visit and that we wish we had more time with her.

* **Building & Grounds/Filtration/Pest Control Updates**

Building & Grounds

- * Thank you to Leah, Jim & Amy for painting the Sunday school stage and room floors. Jim will be painting the front door threshold of the church.
- * The gutters at the parsonage were discussed. Bluebird Guttering Company will be contacted for an estimate.
- * Paul Gibree examined the front door of the parsonage and made recommendations for restoration. Fran will forward his recommendations to Jim.

Filtration

- * The council has received references from the filtration company. Jim and/or other Council members will call them.

Pest control

- * Deb has scheduled a second Pest Control Company to visit and give an estimate. Our current Pest Control Company will service both buildings for \$950 a year if we place an advertisement for them in our newsletter.

* **Church Activities**

Pastor Carol has forwarded the block party information to the welcoming team. Additional income opportunities were discussed, these included cell phone towers, solar panels, renting the sanctuary to another church during off hours or days. The council is looking for someone to

(Continued on page 7)

research these ideas. In addition, a Fall Fun Event for the whole congregation was discussed. Ideas included Apple Picking, a fire pit for socializing and 'smores, pumpkin painting for kids and adults. The council is seeking a leader to head this up.

Fran & Pastor Carol will be meeting with confirmands and their parents on September 20th. This year's confirmation curriculum will be "*Confirm not Conform.*"

* **Sanctuary Sound System**

Volunteers are being organized to monitor the sound board each Sunday. Adjusting the soundboard is helping to ensure mikes are working. The Council is seeking someone who would like to do more research on the lapel and wireless mikes.

**In Recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month
First Congregational Church of Millbury is Pleased to Present:**

“A Pink Tea Party”



**Thursday, October 22nd 2015
6:00pm-8:00pm
Fellowship Hall**

Every woman should know about breast health, cancer prevention and the importance of early detection. We are delighted to be able to offer you a wonderful learning opportunity while enjoying tea and refreshments.

Guest Speaker:

Kimberly Maurer RN, BSN Nurse Navigator for “The Breast Center” at Milford Regional Medical Center

Risk Factors for Breast Cancer
Breast Cancer Signs & Symptoms
How to Perform a Breast Self-Examination

Opportunities for Question and Answers will follow the presentation
Admission is free, although a donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated.

**Please contact Sukie Roberts for further
information and to RSVP .**

508 414 3476



Association, Conference and Other Events

Weekend of Spirit: Embracing Harmony in our Lives



Open Spirit: A Place of Hope, Health, & Harmony
39 Edwards Street, Framingham
Friday-Sunday, October 2-4

We will explore the theme, "Embracing Harmony in our Lives," from a wide range of perspectives, drawing upon many faith and spiritual traditions. Please see the events flyer at <http://files.ctctcdn.com/44d9d514001/04293574-2c49-4fb9-9a88-406d9b6a652d.pdf>, call 508-877-8162 or visit www.openspiritcenter.org for more information or to register.

Multi-Cultural Concert

First Church in Marlborough, 37 High Street
Saturday, October 10th, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Come see Samuel Bakkabulindi (BAKKA), Ungandan Master Percussionist, Singer, Songwriter, and Choreographer.
 Free Will Donation

Rally Turkey Dinner

First Congregational Church in Worcester, 1070 Pleasant St.
Friday, October 16th, 6:30PM

A long-standing tradition from our church's past. This is the next event in FCC's 300th Celebration! We are encouraging all to look to the 40s and 50s for attire that evening to bring a little extra flavor to the event. Come join us for a fun filled evening of food, music, and fellowship!

Super Saturday Registration Now Open

Keefe Tech. Regional HS, Framingham
Saturday, October 17th, 8:00 AM - 3:45 PM

The Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ present Super Saturday, a day of worship, workshops, and networking. All are welcome!

Don't miss the opportunity to hear Dr. Marcia McFee. Marcia is an author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher and artist. Her engaging and interactive style has been called "refreshing", "inspiring", and "unforgettable".

<http://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/487028?month=10&year=2015&day=1&display=m>

Subverting the Gospel of Guns

Andover Newton Theological School
210 Herrick Road, Newton Centre
October 22-23, 2015

This gathering will focus on the response by people of faith to gun violence in our country and provide action steps for how we can all work together to change the culture of guns and violence in our communities.

Key note speakers include **Attorney General Maura Healey** (Commonwealth of Massachusetts) **Mayor Martin J. Walsh** (City of Boston) and panels will feature **over a dozen speakers** from law enforcement, religious and secular groups that are working to end the bloodshed in our neighborhoods.



Bread of Life

Edward's Church, 39 Edwards Street, Framingham
 Saturday, November 14th, 8:30AM - 3:00PM

The Mission Institute in collaboration with the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC offers Bread of Life. Building Community through Faith Based Food Programs. \$70.00 per person, \$140.00 for groups of 2-5 from the same program. Includes lunch and program fees.

Questions? Need a discounted rate? Email Liz at Imagill@eds.edu. Register at theMissionInstitute.org

Medical Mission Trip to La Romana, Dominican Republic

March 4-13, 2016

First Church in Sterling invites you to be part of this ecumenical mission. We will travel to the impoverished sugar cane villages, serving both the Haitian & Dominican poor. A diverse group of participants offer medical clinics & outreach and construction work at schools, the Good Samaritan Hospital, and/or water filter program among other possibilities. Medical providers, constructions workers (skilled & unskilled) and youth (16+ years old) are welcome.

Interested? The **2016 Orientation Guide Highlighted Updated 031315** and **2016-APPLICATION-medical-and-trip-release** can both be downloaded from the church website at www.fcsterling.org.

Thank You!

Dear Members of
 First Church,

This note is overdue, but I wanted to be sure I thanked you properly for the wonderful and generous send-off you gave me back in May. You are an amazing group of people, and it was so wonderful to worship with you each week. I felt so welcome and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many amazing people.

Thank you.
 Love,
 Brenda Salvi





The Books of the Bible Seek and Find
*All of the books of the Bible are hidden in this puzzle
 There are 39 from the Old Testament and 27 from the
 New Testament. Use your Bible to help you find the names.
 Circle each one. The names can go → ← ↓ ↑ ↘.*

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**First Congregational Church
of Millbury, UCC**

148 West Main Street
Millbury, MA 01527

Address Correction Requested

The Beacon

**October
2015**



Worship and Church School: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Carol Reynolds, Pastor
Church Phone: 508-865-9737
Email: Millbury1stChurch@verizon.net
Web: www.MillburyFirstChurch.org



OFFICE HOURS, ETC.

Rev. Carol Reynolds is available by phone at the parsonage at [\(508\) 581-4153](tel:5085814153) or by email at pastor.millbury1stchurch@verizon.net. Office hours are by appointment. Carol's normal work week is Wednesday through Sunday. In cases of emergency on her days off (Monday and Tuesday), please call her cell phone at [\(508\)-282-9511](tel:5082829511).



2015

The Church Calendar can be viewed at millburyfirstchurch.org. To add an event, please email either Millbury1stchurch@verizon.net or jalbert9@msn.com.

Remember to check us out on Facebook. **See all the photos.** It's a great way to introduce your friends to our Friendly Church on the Hill.

The Beacon

Deadline for the October issue is **October 18**. The BEACON is distributed by email or first class mail. It can also be downloaded from the church website. Copies are available at the back of the sanctuary.

