



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 27 Issue 6 • June 2016

Sowing Seeds...

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-5a, New Revised Standard Version)

Dear Friends,

June is quite a season, full as it is of not only flowers and vacations, but graduations, weddings, moves into new jobs, new apartments, new cities, new lives. For many people at various places in their lives, it is a time of transition--transitions to be celebrated, but which may cause a tear or two to be shed as well. Saying "hello" to something new almost always also involves saying "good bye" to something familiar, be it youth, single living, or home itself. Things are not necessarily as clearly defined as the author of Ecclesiastes would have us believe: We may well find ourselves weeping, mourning, laughing, and dancing all at the same time!

That said, we look forward to many joyful, tearful celebrations at our church this month, including the honoring of our high school, college, and grad school graduates on June 12 and the confirmation of three of our teens—Abby, Laura, and Megan—on June 26. All of these young people have already learned and achieved so much, and we are so very proud of them. Many of us have fond memories of them as young children and can't help but wonder where the years have gone. Yet we eagerly anticipate what the future holds for each one of them and will continue to hold them in our hearts and prayers throughout their life and spiritual journeys, wherever they may take them.

Celebrating landmark events like these can't help but remind us of our own life passages, however many years ago they occurred. They can conjure up all sorts of memories and perhaps some wistfulness and longing for days gone by. However, they can also motivate and inspire us. As the prophet Isaiah said, "A little child shall lead them," and, indeed, we have much to learn *from* our young people, whose life experiences as millennials are in many ways so different from our own. We can also learn *with* them. One of my co-teachers recently remarked at how much *she* had learned in and through the confirmation lessons. Truth be told, the more we learn, the more we tend to realize there is to learn. We can be confirmed and/or graduate from any number of experiences or institutions, and there will still be more that God is seeking to teach us in our lives. I bet the 80- and 90-Somethings we'll be celebrating on June 5 would tell us much the same thing. Transitions, learning, and growing, these are lifelong endeavors.

For now, though, we celebrate and enjoy this stage of the journey, right here, right now. Truly, we are blessed!

Gratitude and Abundant Blessings to each one of you,

"Pastor Carol

Coming Up in Worship

June 5 Communion Sunday Worship at 10 am Birthday Bash for Octogenarians and Nonagenarians at 11 am

Scripture Reading: Psalm 146

It will be a day of festivity as together we celebrate communion and our church's elders. Join us!

June 12 Graduate Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-8:3

Join us as we honor and hear from our 2016 high school, college, and grad school graduates!

June 19 Father's Day Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am

Scripture Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

June 26 Confirmation Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Scripture Readings: Various

It will be an extra special day in the life of our church as our three confirmands share with us some favorite words of scripture and reflection before confirming the baptismal promises made on their behalf and joining us as full-fledged members of the congregation. Special music will be provided by Tim Scanlon's band.

July 3 Independence Day and Communion Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Scripture Reading: Galatians 6:1-16

Keeping an open mind

I keep the telephone of my mind open to peace, harmony, health, love and abundance. Then whenever doubt, anxiety or fear try to call me, they keep getting a busy signal and they'll soon forget my number.



Edith Armstrong
The Newsletter, Newsletter June 1997

"Coming This Summer" Worship Time Crafts for Kids!

We look forward to welcoming our young families off and on throughout the summer and to keeping the kids occupied while they're on vacation from Sunday school. Helpers are welcome too! Please see Linda Polissack for details.



Have you seen...?

We are missing hearing assistance devices, large print hymnals and black wooden book stand? If so, could you please kindly return them to the sanctuary?

Thank you.



Happy Birthday

7th Marilyn Crandell
15th Melissa Fortin
16th Alexis Murray
18th Berkeley Gobron
20th William West
21st Ryan Demers
25th Amy West
27th Deborah Mejaour
30th Mohamed Mejaour
30th John Pearson



Joys, Congratulations & Thanksgiving

Congratulations to **Hunter and Joan**, who recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary!

Many thanks to **everyone who helped make the Annual Flea Market happen**, whether by contributing treasures, baking, (wo)manning a table, grilling hot dogs, organizing, publicizing, etc. Special thanks to **Jeri** for pulling it all together and to **Dennis Knight** for offering up his silver appraisal services. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised over \$1300 for the church's general fund!

A big thank you to **Deanna** for her loving care of the church's gardens

Thanks to **Joyce C-H and all who have helped her publicize** our 5/22 Jazz Concert featuring Noah.

Thank you to **all the kids who participated in the Children's Day service** greeting, ushering, reading scriptures, and helping with communion. Each of you did an awesome job!

Congratulations to **Abby A., Julia F., and Cassidy**, all of whom made Millbury Junior/Senior High School's 3rd Quarter honor roll; as well as to **Megan and Laura**, who made high honors at Sutton Middle School, and **Alexis** who made honors at Sutton Memorial High School. Way to go!

Congratulations also to our friend and substitute organist **Susan Wildman**, who was recently named a Difference

Maker in the Sutton Public Schools!

Congratulations to **Abby, Laura, Megan, Steph, Karin, and Jeri**; all of whom completed the NAMI Walks walkathon in Boston on May 14. A big thank you to them and to **all who contributed**. More than \$600 was collected to support care and advocacy for persons with mental illnesses and their families!

Many thanks to **everyone who helped recent Rhodes House graduate Effie** furnish hers and her daughter Lilly's first shared apartment home in Webster. Below is a note she recently emailed Pastor Carol and agreed to allow her to share:

I wanted to say thank you for all your help. I'm almost done moving, and I have everything I need. The apartment is beautiful, and my daughter loves it. Thank you so much.

*When I have it all decorated I'm going to send you a picture
Sincerely grateful,
Effie*

The Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.



Prayers & Concerns

- † Jay S. and his family
- † Joan & Hunter
- † Ronnie
- † Thelma, Jack & Family
- † Ethan and Tim
- † Ron's brother Peter
- † Anna Marie, Dirk E.'s mother
- † Cassidy's friend Anthony, who has cancer
- † Elisa and Mason
- † Margaret G.
- † Joann S.
- † Cheryl's cousin Alana
- † Linda P's niece Tamara
- † Sandra
- † Sukie's father Gurdip Singh Bansai
- † Marilyn E. and her family, including daughter Kathy A.
- † Marie's daughter Hannah
- † Mary's sister Susan
- † Abbey G.
- † 3rd grader Emma Grace, who has leukemia
- † Brian F.
- † Jeri, Ron & family on the loss of his cousin Everett
- † Our Confirmands
- † Our Church Leadership
- † All Members and Friends of Our Congregation and the Local Community
- † Our Returning Veterans
- † The Women of Rhodes House
- † AA Members who meet weekly in our hall
- † All who struggle with mental illness, addiction, or incarceration
- † Worcester Fellowship Pastors & People
- † The homeless in Worcester and beyond



Rhodes House Dinner June 3rd - 5 pm



If you would like to be part of this important ministry please contact Cheryl Ordway to help support women in recovery at Rhodes House by joining us and/or contributing to the June 3rd dinner.

cherylminnie@charter.net

Deacons Fund

Are you or someone you know in the community experiencing a financial or other emergency? Please see the pastor or a deacon about whether the First Church Deacons Fund might be able to help.



**Spring being a
tough act to follow,
God created June.**



Flea Market Success

Our Flea Market was a great success due to all the devoted members who helped out in various ways. Our church members donated baked goods and numerous items for the Church Flea Market Table.

Jan Fortin's Flea Market Table Committee (Karen B., Cindy B., Christine H., Cheryl S., Richard H., Mary R., and Linda P.) put in many hours pricing and organizing items.

Amy Peterson's Bakery Committee (Deanna M., and Amy W.) did a fantastic job, and the Kitchen Committee (Candace A., Linda A., Cindy C., Ron and I) had a good time serving our hungry customers.

Sue Witter helped me with Table Reservations. We earned over \$1300 due to the generous donations of all members of our congregation.

We appreciated Rev. Dennis Knight's offering to enlighten our visitors as to the value of antique Silver items.

Pastor Carol greeted those who brought their treasures to be evaluated.

Ron and I extend our heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the Flea Market.



Join Us For A Barbeque



For our first ever fund raiser at the Publick House on July 11! Advance tickets are now available for purchase from Council members.

Classic Barbeque: All under the tent!
Pulled Pork, Baked Beans.

Cash Donation to benefit our church.
Adults \$14 / Children \$5 (4-12 yrs.)

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET!

Held in Paige Hall
or under the tent where noted.

Seating One: 4:30-6:15 pm
Seating Two: 6:30-7:30 pm

*Open Seating *Casual Dinner
*No Reservations

Summary of April 21st Council Meeting

Topics discussed

Congregational Coaching sessions

- ◆ Next full congregational session is May 1. Pastor Charlotte will help us craft a behavioral covenant.
- ◆ We discussed “What is the vision we have for our church?” as it still not defined. Group thought that maybe a vision of “healing” could help provide new direction. Question arose are we supporting new members and what they want to do?
- ◆ We discussed and decided a quarterly meeting schedule should be re-implemented.

Creating a Healthier Church

- ◆ Council continued to read ‘*Creating a Healthier Church*, ’and discussed Chapter 3 *What Unbalances the System?* There was some agreement that our church tends to have a higher level of anxiety. Chapter 4 will be read and discussed for our next meeting.

Building & Grounds

- ◆ **Pest Control** – The Pest Control Company will send a contract for two buildings. They ask that their ad be put in the Beacon each month as part of the contract. We agreed to move forward on this. Carol will follow up.
- ◆ **Parsonage Heating** -- Jim followed up with plumber Greg Gauthier about warranty reimbursement for repair. Greg needs to get into parsonage again to research more info. Jim will ask him to call Pastor Carol to move this along. Fran re-sent information to Alain via Jim F. about contacting the installing plumber to seek restitution.
- ◆ **Elevator & Gas Inspections** - Checks went out and were cashed for the inspections.
- ◆ **Lawn Care** - Jim will follow up on a possible lawn care contact, possibly Tim Scanlon. We will likely need to pay more than we have in the past.

Income Opportunities

- ◆ Uno’s Fundraiser – All day on April 24th. Please share coupons with friends, family, etc.
- ◆ Flea Market April 30th. Donations are coming in. All inside and some outside tables are rented. Ads have been placed in multiple newspapers. Ron took paperwork for kitchen license so that we should be all set for another year. He will fill them out.
- ◆ Jim M is still awaiting a response from the cell phone tower contact Pastor Carol provided. However, Chris Williams from Shrewsbury FCC is helping Jim M investigate. This is an important option for us as it could help balance the budget.
- ◆ Fran is awaiting Carol Dearborn’s decision in regards to the Yoga rental opportunity. Hence this topic was not discussed this time.
- ◆ Jim M. and Marie are now responsible for the rental of Fellowship hall. Pastor Carol should be contacted for all weddings and funerals.

Sunday School

- ◆ Reviewed Leah’s write up about how this past year had gone. Attendance remains light despite all the hard work put into new curriculum and other changes.

Finance

- ◆ **Treasurer Transition**- Cheryl continues to try to streamline the system. Challenging because our version of Quickbooks is strictly an expense sheet system with no balance sheet system or budgeting functions.

(Continued on page 6)

- ◆ **Budget Deficit** – 2-1/2 years of funds left if we continue to run a \$24,000/year deficit. There is very little room to cut the budget. The need to raise money is a critical issue, and we'll need to discuss this with the congregation. The Cell tower is critical in lowering our deficit. There has also been some talk about doing the Chicken Barbeque this year. Other fund raising/community outreach ideas are ham and bean suppers with part of funds donated to a community need, Community Garden on front lawn, sell pumpkins. Discussed the need for a Fundraising Committee and an Outreach Committee.
- ◆ **Investment Team/Blackrock transfer** – Overall investment strategy may need to change in light of Chris's suggestion that, based on the church's current financial position, we may want to consider pulling out of the stock market altogether. Chris G., Kathy A., Alain B., Cheryl S., Linda P. are the finance committee and need to look at bylaws to be sure it functions properly. Chris is to schedule a meeting after a Sunday church service. Chris reported that there is still some trustees' and congregational money comingled in the Blackrock account that needs to be separated. He is working on this with Jeri.
- ◆ Cheryl will be on vacation August 14-21.

A NOTE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

Thank you for your interest and participation in the quarterly congregational meeting on May 22.

Following a summary of our current financial position, many good, heartfelt thoughts and ideas were expressed concerning our congregation's ongoing purpose and how or if we want to move forward with the challenging work of church revitalization. It was a difficult discussion, and we very much appreciate the willingness of so many of you to be part of it.

In an ongoing effort to hear from as many voices as possible, we Council members and church officers would like to extend an invitation to church members and friends to meet with us informally in small groups after worship on Sundays over the summer. There will be 2-3 of us available in Fellowship Hall each Sunday, and beverages will be provided. The purpose of these listening sessions is to help us to discern our future direction as a congregation. Questions we all need to be exploring are: What is God calling First Church to be and to do in the 21st Century? What are we passionate about? Who are we called to serve? What are the needs of our neighbors? What do we have the energy and the resources to do?

We hope that you will come share with us and that you will hold our congregation and its leadership in your prayers as we seek to guide the church through a challenging time in our history and that of churches in general. The culture has changed around us. How will we respond?

Kathy Adams, Council Chair
Chris Gobron, Financial Secretary
Ron Stead, Moderator

Alain Beret
Jim Mousseau
Cheryl Storer, Treasurer

Jim Fairbanks, Clerk
Linda Polissack
Amy West

**Live so that if people get to know you,
they will get to know Christ better.**



For the months of July and August

It's Summertime, and You Get to Choose the Music! Do you have a favorite hymn you'd like to sing? Please use the form below to write out the title, hymn number, and hymnal; and drop it in the fishbowl on the table at the back of the sanctuary. One Sunday this summer, we will sing it!

If you have a favorite piece that's not in one of our hymnals, feel free to give that a try as well. We now subscribe to a music licensing service and may still be able to access the music.

HYMN NAME

HYMNAL

HYMN NUMBER



WILDLIFE CONTROL



Wayne Witkowski

Skunks, Squirrels, Raccoons, Bats, Mice, Rats, Snakes, Birds, etc. All Insects

www.WildlifeControlMA.com (508) 892-1967



Association, Conference and Other Events

Francis St. Coffee House

*Friday, June 4, 2016, 6:00 PM
Greendale Peoples Church, 25 Francis Street, Worcester*

Musicians from Greendale Peoples Church and Cana Community Church with special guests will perform live music while artist share their artwork. Come join us for a night of lively entertainment, great coffee and homemade baked goods.

You Are Invited

What: To a piano recital featuring the students of Joyce Carpenter Henderson playing our new 1997 Boston Steinway grand piano, followed by a reception where you can enjoy refreshments and meet the young performers and their families

When: 4:00 pm on Sunday, June 26

Where: First Church's Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Who: Everyone is welcome!



Love in Action

Love that is not expressed in loving action does not really exist, just as talent that does not express itself in creative works does not exist; neither of these is a state of mind or a feeling, but an activity—not a myth.

Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
Saratoga, CA

**First Congregational Church
of Millbury, UCC**

148 West Main Street
Millbury, MA 01527

Address Correction Requested

The Beacon

**June
2016**



Worship and Church School: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Carol Reynolds, Pastor
Church Phone: 508-865-9737
Email: Millbury1stChurch@gmail.com
Web: <http://millburyfirstchurch.com>



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).



To add an event, please email Millbury1stchurch@gmail.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 July/August issue is **June 15th**. 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.

**June
2016**