



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 5• May2016

Sowing Seeds...

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

(Matthew 11:28, New Revised Standard Version)

Dear Friends,

As we are approaching Pentecost—the church’s birthday—on May 15, we are also entering Mental Health Month. It doesn’t always happen this way, but I think it is a good thing for us to have these events alongside one another like this. It presents us with an opportunity to ponder more intentionally the presence of mental illness in our congregations and local communities, as well as the church’s role in creating sanctuary for and ministering to and with persons with mental illnesses. This is particularly important for us to do because for so long our society has made it hard for individuals and families to talk openly about their challenges. There has been a stigma attached to mental illness, which has often isolated people and, in some cases, prevented them from finding care, solace, or healing. In the gospels we see Jesus doing just the opposite: acknowledging and releasing people from the internal demons that haunted them, then reuniting them with their communities. What would Jesus have us to do?

We will observe our annual Mental Health Sunday in worship on May 22. However, before that, our confirmands Abby A., Megan, and Laura have a related event planned: As their joint service project, they will be participating in the 13th annual NAMI Walks walkathon sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Brighton on Saturday, May 14. In their middle school universe, these young women have already recognized that teen depression and self-harm are on the rise, and they want to do something to help and to encourage us to help. They have formed a team on line and would like to invite the congregation to participate as fellow walkers, as pledgers, and/or as financial donators to the cause. You will see their information table set up at the back of the sanctuary, but I have also included some details in this newsletter, both about the cause and about the walkathon itself. The girls will also be sharing in worship so that we adults can become involved too. I hope that we will all do our parts to show them that we and they can make a difference in the world as individuals and the church, as followers and imitators of Christ. It is a wonderful learning opportunity for them and for us, on so many different levels.

I thank you in advance for your prayerful and practical support of our confirmands and this cause and mission to which they feel called. Being the church is what it’s all about. I trust we will have much to lift up and celebrate in this meaning filled month of May.

Gratitude, Grace, Peace, and Blessings to each one of you,
Pastor Carol

Coming Up in Worship

- May 1 Children's & Communion Sunday Worship Service and Baptism of Natalie Richards at 10:00 am**
Scripture Readings: Mark 1:4-11, Mark 14:22-25
 Join us for a joyful celebration of Natalie and the rest of our Sunday school kids and teachers!
- May 8 Mother's Day Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am**
Scripture Readings: John 17:20-26
Special Music by Kathy Shepard
- May 15 Pentecost Sunday Worship, 10:00 am**
Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21
 Please remember to wear red as we celebrate the Holy Spirit's arrival and the Church's birthday!
- May 22 Mental Health & Trinity Sunday Worship at 10:00 am**
Scripture Reading: Luke 8:26-39
- May 29 Memorial Day Sunday Worship at 10:00 am**
Scripture Reading: I Kings 18:20-39
- June 5 Communion Sunday Worship at 10 am**
Birthday Bash for Octogenarians and Nonagenarians at 11 am
Scripture Reading: I Kings 17:8-24
 It will be a day of festivity as first we celebrate communion and then our church's elders together. Join us!

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.

Helpful religion



Religion is not a nagging parent, nor is it a report card keeping track of our achievements and failures and grading us for our performance. Religion is a refining fire, helping us get rid of everything that is not us, everything that distorts, dilutes, or compromises the persons we really want to be, until only or authentic selves remain.

~Harold Kushner



- 1st Forest White
- 4th Thomas Murphy
- 5th Joan Greenwood
- 6th Robert Jerszuk
- 6th Lauren White
- 8th Debra Grandone
- 8th Christine Hamer
- 9th Joseph Kosiba
- 10th Terry Bickford
- 10th Martin Jenkel
- 10th Jim Fairbanks
- 11th Robert Larose
- 15th Ava Aubin
- 18th Jean Orrell
- 18th Erik Wahlstrom
- 23rd Karen Bickford
- 24th Abigail Thurlow
- 24th Cindy Bradway
- 25th Joyce O'Connor
- 25th Naomi Swanson
- 27th Cristie Adams
- 27th Colin Minor
- 28th Danielle Demers
- 28th Michael Murray
- 29th Kimberly Rudge
- 30th William Witter



Joys, Congratulations & Thanksgiving

Happy Birthday to Dave S., who recently celebrated his 80th!

Congratulations to Patty C., who was recently married to Paul F.!

Congratulations to Richard H. on his recent retirement!

We are pleased to welcome Fran back safe and sound from an exciting business trip to China.

It was so good to see Sandye H. in church recently. We have missed you! It was also a pleasure to welcome Phil and Patty back from Colorado in mid-April.

Many thanks to Amy W. for coordinating and setting up the Easter flowers in the sanctuary once again this year. They were just beautiful and really added to the joyful atmosphere!

Thanks also to Noah, Megan, and Laura for performing with the choir on Easter Sunday, as well as to Joyce C-H, who envisioned and coordinated their involvement, working with Noah to have an arrangement of "Jesus Loves Me" created for the girls to play on their respective instruments. Kudos to all!

Thanks to Don and Justin for setting up the cross on the church front lawn and to all who helped change the different colored cloths as Holy Week progressed.

Many thanks to the Deacons for their fine and dedicated

work in setting the stage for the annual Maundy Thursday service, then greeting people and washing their hands, serving communion, reading, covering the communion table and bible at the appropriate moment. Thanks also to the rest of our readers, to Rev. Cliff Davis; as well as to Bill W. for dimming the lights during the service. It truly takes a village!

Many thanks to our prayer shawl crafters, including Deanna, Cindy B., and Karen B's mother Marion. Their labors of love are infused with their and all of our love and prayers and are now holding some of our dearest members close in that very warmth and divine intention.

Many thanks to Jeri for preaching about West Millbury's history in Pastor Carol's absence on 4/3, and to Don for serving as her liturgist. We regret that the weather prevented so many from coming, but Jeri has offered to do a redux at a later date!

Kathy A.'s help filling in as confirmation co-teacher with while Pastor Carol and then Fran were away is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the Rev. Dr. Bill Imes for recently sharing his historical knowledge with us, as well as to Rev. Janet Leighninger and the members of the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale who shared the experience with us.

Thank you to Amy W. for setting up our 4/24 fund raiser at Uno's!

We are all pencils in the hand of a writing God, who is sending love letters to the world.

Mother Teresa

Prayers & Concerns

- † Jay S. and his family
- † Joan & Hunter
- † Ronnie
- † Thelma, Jack & Family
- † Ethan and Tim
- † Jeri's & Ron's cousin Everett
- † 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
- † Bob's mother
- † 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
- † Fran's mom, whose sister recently passed away.
- † Brian F.
- † Our Confirmands: Abby, Megan & Laura
- † Our Sunday School Superintendent, Teachers, and Students
- † 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 May 6th - 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 May 6th dinner. We need salad, Italian bread and desserts to accompany the chop suey Cheryl is preparing for the women.

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.



Mark Your Calendar



Quarterly Meeting

You asked for it; we heard you!
Quarterly congregational meetings return to First Church after worship on Sunday, May 22nd.

Young People's Concert



Featuring
Noah Mejaour, piano
Austin Hartshorn, bass
Tyler Whiterell, sax

Sunday, May 22nd at 4 p.m.

First Congregational Church of
Millbury, UCC
148 West Main Street
Millbury, MA 01527

Contact person: Joyce
jsbach12@comcast.net



Join Us For A Barbeque



For our first ever fund raiser at the Publick House on July 11! Stay tuned! Tickets and publicity materials to come as the day approaches.

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

FROM THE ORGANIST

*“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly,
and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that by always
having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

II Corinthians 9:6-8

We have sown abundantly rather than sparingly. As a result of our collective efforts, First Congregational of Millbury is now graced by a magnificent grand piano, a vision of hope for our music ministry.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our piano fund. Our 1997 Boston Steinway is an instrument of deep resonance and marvelous sustainability. This piano will serve as an accompanying instrument and as a recital instrument for many years to come.

Our Boston Steinway piano is just a perfect fit for First Congregational of Millbury’s meeting house acoustics. Our 6’4” grand piano’s resounding beauty is evident in its exquisite tonal quality and dynamic expressiveness.

This Boston Steinway piano provides the foundation and support for First Congregational of Millbury’s in-reach ministry of our weekly adult choir during worship services. As Music Director, I do hope and envision a youth instrumental ensemble shall perform occasionally at our worship services and at our afternoon concerts.

It is my hope-filled vision that our beloved grand piano shall enhance an outreach ministry featuring children, youth and adult musicians from the greater Millbury community and Worcester county. As Music Director, I do anticipate future concert programs shall attract an intergenerational audience devoted to music education and the transcendent spirituality of fine music.

Thank you so much for making the difference in terms of in-reach and outreach music ministry. Truly, the Lord loves a cheerful giver who gives from the heart without reservation. It is a blessing for us to share a piano of this magnitude.

Organist/Music Director Joyce Carpenter-Henderson
and the First Congregational of Millbury Choir

Addendum: If you contributed to the piano fund, and did not receive this letter please contact Joyce Carpenter-Henderson at 774 551-6839 or jsbach12@comcast.net



Summary of March Council Meeting

Creating a Healthier Church book discussion -- Group discussed Chapters 1 & 2, which showed how people's emotional lives affect lives in church. Looked at emotional health of congregation as important component of being able to move the church's mission forward.

Council Chair -- Kathy Adams elected as new chair. Minutes will be taken by Jim Fairbanks as part of his Clerk duties.

Financial/Stewardship update/Blackrock update

- **Treasurer Transition**-Cheryl is looking to make the system work smoother. Our version of Quickbooks is strictly an expense sheet system, not a balance sheet or a budgeting system. Cheryl may reach out to consultant CPA who helped set up our system.
- **Budget, Deficit**, etc. -- Need to continue to be transparent with the congregation: We have 2 and a half years left of finances to keep us going if we continue to run a deficit of \$24,000 each year. The cell tower is critical in lowering deficit.

Cheryl will be on vacation August 14-21.

Building & Grounds

- **Parsonage Heating System** – Jim M. is trying to follow up with the plumber Greg Gauthier about warranty reimbursement for the repair. Fran re-sent information for Alain via Jim F. concerning contacting the installing plumber to seek restitution.
- **Facilities Rental** -- Responsibilities have been handed off to Jim M. (facilities contact) and Marie (calendar).
- **Elevator and Gas Meter Inspections** -- Jim M. is also managing.
- **Air Filtration System Reimbursement** -- Promissory Note for Kathy was drawn up by Cheryl and signed. Council approved.

Pastor Update

- **Death & Dying Workshop** has concluded. Great feedback from participants and encouragement to do it at Brierly Pond again next year. The hospice chaplain suggested she and Pastor Carol do a workshop to train other pastors to do something similar.
- **Rev. Dr. William Imes** will be here on April 10th for a theology lecture and conversation. Potluck after our service with Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale invited.
- **2 Piano Recitals** are being organized by Joyce. Council approved May 22nd and June 26th at 4 pm with receptions to follow each.

Pastor Carol's summer vacation: August 8th to August 16th.

Income Opportunities

- **Uno's Fundraiser** – Attempting to change date to 4/24 so doesn't conflict with 4/10 theological discussion.
- **Cell Phone Tower** -- Jim M is awaiting a response from the cell phone tower contact Pastor Carol provided, who said he'd drive by the building and get back to Jim, as well as from the B&G person at Shrewsbury FCC Joyce provided. They are also willing to help us around the topic of cell phone towers.
- **Additional Fall Yoga Classes** Carol Dearborn has received Council's approval of her renting Fellowship Hall for an additional slot. We are awaiting her decision.

13th Annual

 National Alliance on Mental Illness

Saturday, May 14th, 2016

Where: DCR's Artesani Park, 1255 Soldiers Field Rd, Brighton MA
When: Saturday, May 14th, 2016 (9:00am Registration, 11:00am Start)
Why: To raise awareness about mental health and combat stigma
 Register online today! www.namiwalks.org/massachusetts



NAMI Mass provides education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illness and for their families.

✦ **celebrate hope,
 resiliency, and recovery** ✦

"Seeing that many people walking gives you hope; you know that you're not alone...no one is there judging you."

For more information, to register for the walk, or to make a donation visit
www.namiwalks.org/massachusetts

**Contact Deputy Director Karen Gromis at kgromis@namimass.org or
 617.580.8541**


 National Alliance on Mental Illness
 Massachusetts

How We Put Your NAMIWalks Mass Dollars to Work

To learn more about each of our programs, please visit our website at www.namimass.org

NAMIWalks Mass is our primary fundraiser, and the revenue represents **40% of our budget**. In 2015, 87% of our income went back into programming while only 13% was spent on fundraising and general/administrative costs.

The Walk is a community event that educates the public about mental health issues and celebrates dignity, resilience and respect. It is a **stigma-free zone** where individuals affected by mental illness do NOT feel ashamed, fearful or discriminated against.

Education Programs

Our education programs are offered free of charge to participants and offer up-to-date content aimed at different populations:

- **Family to Family (F2F)** for families, partners, and friends, taught by NAMI-trained family member volunteers
- **NAMI Basics:** for parents and other caregivers, taught by NAMI-trained parents of children/adolescents
- **In Our Own Voice (IOOV):** focuses on recovery and ending stigma, taught by NAMI-trained people living with mental illness
- **Peer-to-Peer:** focuses on recovery and wellness in response to mental health challenges, taught by NAMI-trained peers
- **Educating the Educators (ETE):** new Professional Development program aimed at K-12 teachers (small fee associated)
- **Criminal Justice Diversion Project (CJD):** aims to prevent the unnecessary arrest and incarceration of individuals with mental illness by supporting/educating police departments and other first responders

Support Groups

Our support groups are offered free of charge to participants and offer safe spaces for those impacted by mental illness to come together and learn from one another, build community, and seek support.

- **NAMI Family Support Groups:** regular meetings of family/caregivers of individuals with a mental health conditions
- **NAMI Connection:** 90-minute recovery support group facilitated by NAMI-trained peers for people living with mental illness

Advocacy

NAMI Mass advocacy activities seek to ensure quality care and community-based services for individuals with mental illness. To review our 2016 legislative priorities, visit <http://namimass.org/contact/advocacy>

Helpline and Website

The *NAMI Mass Compass** helpline receives thousands of calls yearly. We offer information and assistance navigating the state mental health system, including guidance on housing, employment, insurance, and discharge rights. Our comprehensive website had over 150,000 unique visitors in 2015.

NAMI Education and Support Group Trainings

Teachers/Presenters/Facilitators for our *F2F*, *IOOV*, *Peer-to-Peer*, *Basics*, *NAMI Connection* and *Family Support Groups* each go through a rigorous interview and training program through NAMI Mass in advance of teaching/presenting/facilitating.

Diversity and Inclusion Training

We are embracing multiculturalism by providing Diversity & Inclusion Training to our members to help all people achieve their fullest potential.

NAMI Mass State Office

Located in the Charlestown area of Boston, the state office employs 9 full-time and 5 part-time staff and 5 consultants to manage all NAMI Mass business. Established over 30 years ago, the mission of NAMI Mass is to improve the quality of life for both individuals with mental illness and their families.

NAMI Affiliates

NAMI Mass has 21 local chapters called Affiliates, statewide. They provide our education programs and support groups locally, within the communities they serve. Affiliates also advocate for people in their home towns and cities on mental health issues. In 2015, 18 of the 21 Affiliates participated in the Walk. The Affiliates keep 45% of what they raise for the Walk to further support their local work. In 2015, their share of income was over \$117,000. The Affiliates use these funds to support their local clubhouses and present educational seminars, among other things.

Association, Conference and Other Events

Spring German Supper and Fair

Saturday, May 7, 2016, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Trinity Congregational Church, 125 Rollstone Street, Fitchburg

A tradition in Fitchburg for generations. ALL YOU CAN EAT German meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, sauerkraut, German salad, and bread served family style. German pastry and coffee for desert. Take-out meals are also available. You'll get a terrific meal and have a terrific time, guaranteed! Silent Auction (new this year!), Lottery Tree, German pastry for sale. Walk in, or for reservations call 978-342-9489 or email thomasse@live.com

Bring Your Cup to Tea

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 2:00 PM

First Congregational Church in Worcester, 1070 Pleasant Street

The 300th Celebration Committee invites you to join them for a re-creation of the annual Spring Tea event in celebration of the church's 300th anniversary. The afternoon will include: Formal Tea Service - Wedding Memories - Fashion Show courtesy of "Gail's Fabulous Finds". A perfect "Ladies afternoon out"! You are encouraged to bring your favorite cup and saucer (and a few of your friends) to enjoy this amazing event. \$25.00 per person. Space is limited and reservations are required; please contact Linda Ann at 508-832-6785.

Arts on the Green

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 7:00 PM

First Congregational Church, 19 Church Road, Shrewsbury

Acclaimed pianists Paul Bisaccia and John Thomas perform exciting and epic American Music from the late 19th and early 20th century, including works of Louis Gottschalk, Eubie Blake, Irving Berling, George Gershwin, Scott Joplin, and John Philip Sousa as well as original music of John Thomas. Free admission, though donations are welcome!

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.

**First Congregational Church
of Millbury, UCC**

148 West Main Street
Millbury, MA 01527

Address Correction Requested

The Beacon

**May
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 June issue is May 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.

**May
2016**