



# 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 30 Issue 2 • February 2018**

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## **Church Council Meeting January 14, 2018**

The Church Council meeting took place after refreshments were served following this week's Church service.

Present: Ron Stead, Joan Greenwood, Jim Mousseau, Linda Pollisack, Amy Peterson, Dave Sauer, Bill & Sue Witter, Roland, Kay & Linda Lachance, Janice Fortin, Don & Jean Orrell, Leah Murphy, Heather Beauregard, Jeri Stead, Ray Carlson, Richard Chesnis, John Davidson, Guest Minister Reverend Vicki Hammel, Organist Joyce Carpenter-Henderson, and Audrey Rossow.

Pastor Vicki opened the meeting with a prayer.

Joan Greenwood presented the Treasurer's Report:

Incoming: \$ 5,379  
Outgoing: \$ 4,324  
Net Change: \$ 1,055

Amy Peterson gave an update on the Deacons who will start meeting to develop a profile for pastoral candidates.

Janice Fortin talked about increasing communication for the church. Peter Boll has done some work on the Church's website and has received payment through February. He will continue to work on the website updates. His fee could be \$100 - \$200. Karin Assad will consider helping out on this also. Audrey Rossow said she can help out also and will contact Peter. It will have to be determined what content for the website will be needed.

Jim Mousseau gave an update on Buildings & Grounds. The parsonage heating system failed during the recent cold spell and everything is frozen. Utilities except electricity are shut off. Joan Greenwood contacted the insurance company. The furnace repair will not be covered. There is also a \$1,000 deductible for other damage. Ron said he was concerned about the furnace inspection by the town after the furnace was installed. He mentioned how he recalled there was a concern about the water pipes not being the proper size for the parsonage.

Joyce Carpenter-Henderson said Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 1. She asked if people would like to hire a trumpeter as has been done in the past. The estimated fee is \$150. Leah Murphy will call the high school & Shaw Middle School to see if a music student would be willing to play at the Easter service at a reduced fee. Joyce also stated she would like to see more people participate in the choir as currently Leah Murphy and Dave Sauer are the only 2 members.

The Church's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11.

Amy Peterson also requested members to submit more material for the Beacon.

Ron Stead thanked people who have taken on additional job responsibilities especially Joan Greenwood and Leah Murphy.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Lachance*



8th Phyllis Fairbanks  
 9th Deanna Murray  
 13th Adam Mejaour  
 13th Brittany Pearson  
 13th Jason Wall  
 15th Francis Assad  
 15th Wendy Scanlon  
 17th Sarah Demers  
 17th Matthew Murray  
 19th Albert Graves  
 24th Jake Leveille  
 24th Sukie Roberts  
 27th William Crandell



**We are handicapped accessible!**

## Reflection

From Amy Peterson

Our annual Christmas Eve service was a glorious occasion. The church looked very festive decorated with lights, wreaths and poinsettias. Pastor Vicki read beautiful passages for the season and the music we heard was amazing. Besides Leah and Dave's blended voices, Jack Bower ( Vicki's son-in-law) was our guest soloist. Jack has a tremendously powerful voice. Noah Mejaour played his saxophone and Hannah Mejaour played her trumpet. The music certainly made us feel like rejoicing. Leah, Tom and Justin lit the Advent candles and Ron and Jeri lit the Christ candle. During the singing of Silent Night the congregation formed a circle around the church interior and we all passed the flame to light our individual candles. It was a very merry time with family and friends to prepare for the birth of Baby Jesus.

On January 7th Pastor Vicki held a communion service of reconciliation for all members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Millbury. It was a way for people to both forgive and ask for forgiveness for the trials and tribulations that we have endured in the past year. All were invited to attend our service along with Kelly Gallagher as a representative of the United Church of Christ. Kelly spoke very graciously and we were all grateful for the words she said to us. It was a service of prayerful healing, and acceptance of the tough times.

Now we are very optimistic for the recovery that will lead us to fresh steps down a new path for our congregation. A new beginning for all those of us who have been bound together in the love of our church and the love of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness and reconciliation are powerful things. The past is now behind us and we can move forward to a bright and shining future for our church and for us all. Let our work begin! **Glory be to God!**

## Prayers & Concerns

† Marilyn and Bill Crandall  
 † Mary Riley 's sister Susan  
 † Concern for Hailey in Haiti  
 † Karen B and her mom  
 † Roger after foot surgery  
 † The Orrell family  
 † Pastor Vicki's nephew Jullian  
 † Cindy Cardone  
 † Sonja having surgery  
 † Janice 's friend Claudia  
 † Janice 's brother-in-law Roger  
 † Larry and Rose Bernard in hospital  
 † Jay and family  
 † Chris Rudge  
 † The 13 Turpin children held captive by their parents  
 † Our Government  
 † Our Nation  
 † Our Church  
 † All men and women in the Military  
 † All who struggle with addiction  
 † All who are homeless

**Just a reminder to all those who have not yet returned their pledge card for 2018. Please mail your pledge to 1st Church or place in the offering plate on any Sunday morning. Remember that we all need to be generous in our efforts to keep our church alive and healthy so that we can continue to preach God's word and do God's work.**



## History of Millbury First Congregational Church

Our church just celebrated our 270 Anniversary! In 1740, we had to travel a great distance to church by wagon or on foot, so we wanted a church close to our farms. Our forefathers, living in the Northern part of Sutton, submitted a petition to build our own church. The church leaders in Sutton Center said “No”. After waiting a while, a second petition was submitted. The answer again was “No”. Our forefathers then took the petition to the General Court in Boston, which had authority over the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Pastor and the Sutton church leaders went to Boston to denounce our request. A committee was sent to Sutton by the General Court. They reported back to the General Court that those living in the Northern Part of Sutton should be allowed to build their own church and the General Court instructed Sutton to mark off a section and to call it North Parish. We built our first meetinghouse and called it “The Lord’s Barn.” In 1747 we hired our first minister, James Wellman. He served for 13 years. Rev. Ebenezer Chaplin and Rev. Joseph Goffe served as pastors during the 30 years that we worshiped in the “Lord’s Barn”.

In 1800 two prominent members of our church thought we should have a proper church with a steeple, bell, and clock. They were given permission to design the church and gather funds to build it. Caleb Burbank, whose father was asked to produce paper for all of Worcester County, and Elijah Waters of the well know Gun Manufacturing family took charge and the church was completed by 1804. They asked if some of the Sutton Town Meetings could be held in their new Meeting House, but Sutton leaders again said “No”.

Later our forefathers asked to become a town. Then Sutton leaders said, “you can have 1/3 of the town meetings in your new meetinghouse if you **stop** asking to become a town! After a few years, members of the North Parish went back to the General Court and asked for permission become our own town and we were granted permission. At the first meeting of our new town in 1813, Caleb Burbank suggested Millbury as a name for our town. At that meeting, our church became the **Millbury First Congregation Church**.

The church was located at “The Old Common”. In 1835 many of our members moved from their farms in “Old Common” to work in the mills along Singletary Stream. They wanted their church to be close to where they lived. A Committee made up of 4 ministers and a lawyer decided the church should be taken apart and moved to Bramanville, a section of Millbury close to the mills. This is where it stands today.

Through the years we have had 22 settled pastors. 7 retired from our church. Only 6 were with us less than 5 years.

As our pastor, Rev. George Putnam, who was with us for 38 years said, “It is not what we have done, but what God has done for us; not what we have, but what we owe, unto God belongeth all honor. We need to remember our blessings, such inheritance commands us to move forward. Many generations are looking down upon us. See that we hold our inheritance fast, so that we can pass it on to generations that follow us.”





SAVE THE DATE  
Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 2018  
6:30 pm

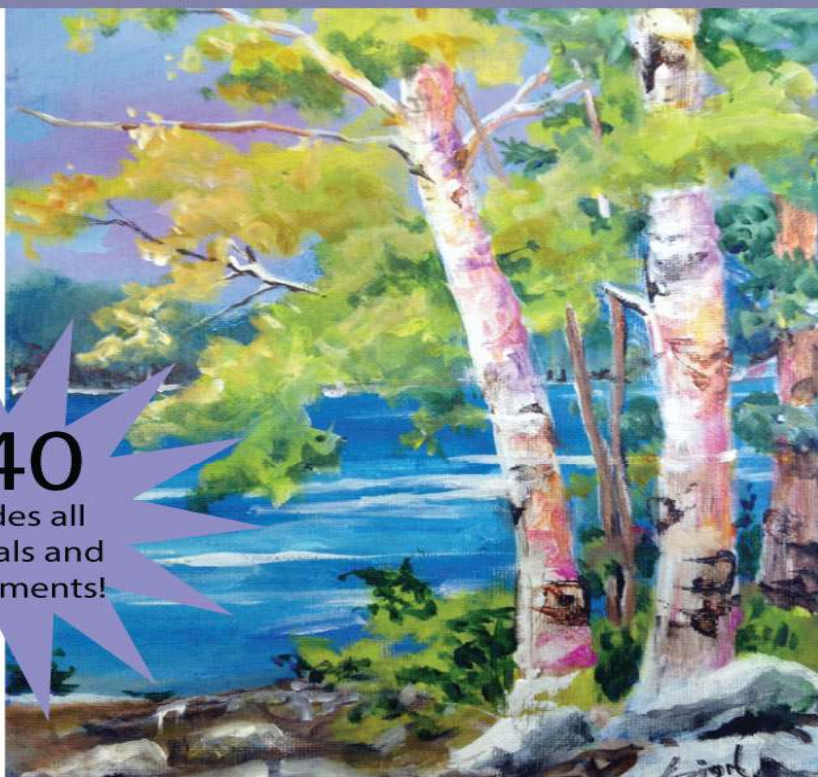
## Fund-Raiser Paint Night

Sue Dion of Inspired Painting & Instructions will be with us again. No experience is necessary. We will be painting on an 11"x14" canvas. The canvas and all supplies will be included as well as refreshments at break time for \$40.00. You will be returning home with your own personalized version of "Birches in Spring or Fall". Come and invite your friends, to support the church for a fun, informal night out.

**Sign up on line: [Suedionart.com](http://Suedionart.com) or by calling 508-278-2768**

If you have questions about Paint Night or would be willing to bake a little something for the "Break Table" please call Janice Fortin at 508-826-6381.

**Yes! You can paint this!**  
Tuesday, March 27 @ 6:30



**\$40**

includes all  
materials and  
refreshments!

Sign up online: [Suedionart.com](http://Suedionart.com)  
or by calling: 508- 278-2768

# Millbury First Cong. Church



# WILDLIFE CONTROL

**Wayne Witkowski**

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

[www.WildlifeControlMA.com](http://www.WildlifeControlMA.com) (508) 892-1967



## **Chair or Mat YOGA class**

**4:15 - 5:15 pm**

**Drop in fee of \$5.00**

**\$3.00 for Seniors**

**\*\*No registration Required**

## **Yogalates**

**(combines Yoga & Pilates)**

**5:30 - 6:45 pm**

**Drop in fee of \$8.00**

**\$5.00 for Seniors**

**\*\*No registration Required**

**Classes ongoing until the March 30th**

**Both Classes are structured to make you feel revitalized in body and mind and accessible to ALL Levels of fitness. For more information 508-756-5478.**

**First Congregational Church, 148 West Main St, Millbury, MA  
Both classes run every Friday.**

**\*\*Taught by Certified 200 hr Yoga Instructor**

**\*\*\*YOGA= Breath, Body, Awareness**

**\*\*\*A WONDERFUL WAY TO END YOUR WEEK- BREATH, STRETCH,  
AND RELAX\*\*\***

**First Congregational Church  
of Millbury, UCC**

148 West Main Street  
Millbury, MA 01527

Address Correction Requested

*The Beacon*

February



Worship and Church School: 10:00 a.m.  
Church Phone: 508-865-9737  
Email: [Millbury1stChurch@gmail.com](mailto:Millbury1stChurch@gmail.com)  
Web: <http://millburyfirstchurch.com>



**Resolve to  
make a  
difference  
in someone's life!**



2018

FEBRUARY



**The Beacon**

Deadline for MARCH newsletter is February 18th. 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.

*Valentine's Day*



To add an event, please email  
[Millbury1stchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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.