



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 10 • October 2018

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

In the ancient world, marauding invaders conquered every city at one time or another, except one. The city of Constantinople, known today as Istanbul, never fell to an invading army. Although it was besieged seven times, even surrounded by land and sea for over a year, the city was never forced to surrender. Constantinople survived because there was a cavern beneath it. The cavern had been carved out of rock in about 100 B.C.E.* When it rained, water flowed into the cavern and provided a supply of fresh water, always available to the city, but invisible to attackers. The city had a constant source of renewal from within.

As we begin our ministry together, I pray that a source of spiritual renewal from within will flow here at First Congregational Church. I am writing this letter after our first service of worship together. At that service I could sense a spirit of deep caring among you: caring for God and caring for one another. Already I have seen members and friends of our church give of their time, talents, and treasure to support our church in our ministry of sharing the good news of God's love for all humanity.

As a church, we will face challenges. But in our faith, we find a limitless source of renewal from within. If we nurture our spiritual life through prayer, worship, and fellowship, we will be continually renewed by an inner wellspring, a refreshing stream we can draw from in difficult times. In the days to come, may each of us attend to our inner life of faith, that our life together as a congregation might be constantly renewed. May we also remember to thank God for what we have in this church: a vibrant community where we can worship God and draw strength from one another.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elva

*Before the Common Era



October

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

- † Those who are hungry and homeless
- † Those who live with despair
- † Those struggling with addiction

Joys and Celebrations

- † Pastor Alva's new granddaughter, Nancy
- † Linda's friend John on his marriage
- † Pastor Shirley visited 1st Church
- † Cindy rescued 2 ponies and 1 llama
- † Robert and Susan were married

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the gracious welcome you gave me on September 9, my first Sunday as your Designated Term Pastor. The cake was delicious, and the flowers have been a beautiful touch for my home.

I am so glad to be called into ministry with you, and I look forward to getting to know you, as we worship God together and seek to be loving and faithful in the coming years.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Elva

Prayers & Concerns

- † Hunter continuing to recover
- † Robert's young friend
- † Linda's friend Michelle, on the loss of her mother
- † Kay's brother Ed passed away
- † The family of Sen. John McCain
- † The family of Dennis Leonard
- † The family of Robert Hines
- † Everyone affected by the hurricane
- † Our Church
- † Our Community
- † Our Country
- † Our World
- † All Military Men and Woman
- † All First Responders



Mission Corner

Just a reminder that our knitting/crocheting/loom group is in full swing as fall/winter comes upon us. We are always looking for new people to join our group. We are working on baby hats and blankets for Visitation House in Worcester and winter hats for Elmwood St School children in need. Both Visitation House and Elmwood St. School are worthy causes and the items we make are greatly appreciated. Please join us on **Tuesday evenings** at our church **6:30pm**. We have supplies for your use. Please let me know if you are interested. Deanna Murray 508-865-6069 or murrayapplegang@aol.com.

A Note From Rev. Vicki.....

Jeremiah 31:3-4...the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built....

Dear Ones,

I write to you with gratitude and deep love for this place, for each of you, and for the time I have been blessed to be with you. Thank you to Joyce Henderson, whose deep faith, love of music, and generous heart has been an inspiration to this church, and to me. Thank you to Marie, whose patience and guidance are gratefully appreciated.

Thank you to the Deacons for their care and support, for their faithful and constant ministry of healing that has been part of leading you forward. Their faithful search for new and permanent pastoral leadership has opened the way for the next part of the journey.

Thank you to each of you, who were willing to do the hard work of forgiveness, of letting go, and of moving forward to something new. The faith, hope, love and courage were awesome reminders in a time of despair that God works all things together for good.

I thank you for inviting me to walk a ways with you on the Christian journey, and for trusting my leadership and coaching. I thank you for letting me walk with you in the wonderful ministry of this Beloved Community. I thank you for the gifts of watching you step out on faith, and embrace the future, despite your sorrow. I thank you for risking, for letting me see the Christ in you, and for the ways you shine into the world. I thank you for your laughter and joy. I thank for being light for my way, for seeing my light, and for shining your own light with such joy. I thank you for your generous farewell and celebration of my retirement; for the lovely signed book, the gorgeous plant, the delicious luncheon, for the platter and cup and for all that we've shared this past year. Please know that you are a gift to my life, and that I will always treasure the time I have been part of your ministries. You are entwined with me now, part of my heart, and I will always love and pray for you.

May your lives always be grounded in the love of God, and with all your heart and soul and mind may you harness for God the energies of Love in the service of your neighbors. May it be so in the strong and loving name of Jesus, our brother and friend the light of the world. God bless... *Vicki*

Thought for Reflection

Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.

~Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



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Birds, etc. All Insects



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27th Annual Turkey Raffle

Our Church will be holding the 27th Annual Turkey Raffle on Friday, November 16th at 6:30 pm. It will take place at the Millbury Senior Center, 1 River Street in Millbury.

The Top 4 Prizes will include:

- **Grand Prize-2 Night Escape Vacation at the Grand Hotel in Ogunquit, Maine**
- **2nd Prize-50" 2016p LED Sceptre Television**
- **3rd Prize-Case of Assorted Wines**
- **4th Prize- Thanksgiving Food Basket with Turkey**
- **In addition, numerous items on display will be raffled off during the evening.**

Refreshments will be sold during the event, including hot dogs and other delicious surprises. Please come early and enjoy the fun on November 16th.

For Raffle tickets and information please contact: Deanna Murray at 508-865-6069 or Email murrayapplegang@aol.com, or

Heather Beauregard at 508 791 0671 or Email heathershands731@gmail.com.

Yoga/Yogalates Classes

Carol Dearborn, Certified Yoga and Pilates instructor, will offer weekly Yoga classes for all levels and a Yogalates class, both classes will be held at the Church in the Fellowship Hall.

Classes will run every **Friday from October 12 to Nov.16.**

4:15-5:15 p.m., all levels of mat/chair Yoga will be offered for a drop-in fee of \$5, (\$3 for seniors).

5:30-6:45 p.m., Yogalates (combined Yoga and Pilates) will be offered for a drop-in fee of \$8, (\$5 for seniors).

Both classes are structured to make you feel revitalized in body and mind and is accessible for all levels of fitness.

For more information, contact Carol Dearborn at 508-756-5478 or CDearborn888@gmail.com.

Flea Market a Success

I want to thank all those who contributed to and attended the Flea Market. I appreciate all the hours that the various teams spent preparing for this event. Jim Mousseau and helpers, Cindy Bradway, Linda Polissack, Karen Bickford, and Christine Hamer organized the numerous items on the stage. On Saturday Jim Mousseau and Heather Beauregard sold the Flea Market treasures. We thank Linda LaChance for taking our left over treasures to Savers. That is such a help to us and helps others in need.

There was a wonderful display of baked goods on the Bakery Table due to the efforts of Linda Polissack. She made numerous phone calls to our members, and on Saturday, Audrey Rossow and Jan Fortin joined Linda to help sell the delicious donations. Audrey's donation of her garden grown Garlic was a fine addition.

A lovely hand knitted afghan was donated for us to raffle off. Christine Hamer willingly stepped in to sell the raffle tickets.

In the kitchen Candace Adams helped Ron and I feed all the dealers and guests.

All pitched in on the clean up, and we appreciate those who helped put away all the tables and chairs!

The greatest success of the Flea Market was that we had a good time meeting and visiting with citizens of Millbury and the wider community, and that we earned over \$1110!

Thanks again,
Jeri

Need Help

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

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

Address Correction Requested

The Beacon

**October
2018**



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



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



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.

The Beacon

Deadline for November
newsletter is **October 21st**.
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.



**October
2018**