



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 11 • November 2018

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

The twentieth century theologian Karl Barth used to say that the Christian life should be lived “with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.” As followers of Jesus, we are called to be in touch with God and God’s purposes for us. At the same time, as people who minister in Jesus’ name, we are called to be aware of the world around us. These days Barth might say that we should live with the Bible in one hand and the smart phone in the other. The newspaper isn’t the only way to get the news anymore. We have many ways of learning the news of the world: TV and radio, along with a host of websites, and social media posts.

How do we stay up to date with what’s happening in the world? How do we understand it? And how do we live out God’s love as Christians in these conflicted and confusing times?

Many of us read the news from our phones, like one of my clergy colleagues who wrote recently about what she called her “news habit.” Every morning, just after waking up, she would reach for her phone. She would read the latest updates on world events and political developments. Before long, as she puts it, “My body was filled with toxic anxiety and anger. It’s a great way to start the day!”

We may have different views on world events and politics, but I think we can agree that toxic anxiety and anger are not a healthy way to start the day. Those feelings are especially unhealthy for our spiritual lives.

But it’s important to know what’s happening in the world around us. For clergy, to do our work in ministry, it’s vital to stay informed about events in our community, our country, and our world. So my colleague didn’t want to avoid the news entirely. But, to escape all that toxic anxiety and anger, she made a change in her news habit.

She writes, “I haven’t quit my news-in-bed obsession, but I’m trying to make it a spiritual exercise by praying my way through the news instead of simply gorging on it.

“First, I breathe in deeply, and breathe out deeply. I read. And as I read, I feel God beside me. I ask God to enter the situation I’m reading about, to live deeply in all parties, and speak to them.

“I pray for the outcome I want – I’m not worried that God is going to revoke my non-profit status if I am partisan. But then I ask God to give me a wider perspective. I think of who are the most vulnerable people in each situation I am reading about, and ask God to strengthen them and send angels to their aid – one of whom might be me. Praying in this way may not change the situation, but ... it changes me.”*

Whether we’re praying while reading the news, or praying in church or before we go to bed at night, prayer has the power to change us, to shape us into the loving, faithful people God created us to be.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elva



- 2nd Charles Adams
- 6th Leah Murphy
- 7th Alain Beret
- 8th Frances Graveson
- 9th Oliver Bartelloni
- 13th Patricia Bartelloni-Covel
- 13th Stephen Beauregard
- 14th Marie Rochon
- 15th Kianne Enthoven
- 16th Brian Elie
- 17th Hector Diaz
- 21st Christopher Gobron
- 27th Candance Scanlon
- 28th James Mousseau
- 29h Phyllis Kaseta
- 29th Donald Scanlon
- 30th Nicholas Swanson

Prayers & Concerns

- † Our Community
- † Our Country
- † Our World
- † All Military Men and Woman
- † All First Responders
- † Our Church and our Ministry in Millbury and beyond
- † Everyone affected by the hurricane in Florida
- † Christine Hamer and her family on the death of Christine's brother in lay John Morris
- † Pastor Elva's brother Mike in California in treatment for an acoustic neuroma
- † Janice Fortin's friend, Nancy
- † Family of Lois Warren on her passing

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



**November 20th
7 pm**

**Millbury Federated
Church
Main St.
Millbury, Ma.**

All Our Welcome.
Pastor Elva will be given the message.

Words to live by

If you want to leave your footprints in the sands of time...

...wear work boots.

~author unknown
"Words to Live By" 1990



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.

Meet Our Designated Team Minister

On September 9, 2018 we welcomed our new Designated Term Minister, **Elva Merry Pawle**.

We celebrated the start of our journey together as a church family during fellowship after a wonderful sermon.

Pastor Elva has served churches in eastern and western Massachusetts for almost 20 years.

Her first month has been filled with getting to know the members and our community by attending our Fall Flea Market, the Asa Waters Fall Festival. In the future she will be meeting other Millbury Clergy and plans to introduce herself to the area schools.

Her ministry is deeply grounded in the workings of God, that we are made in his image. We reflect his image by making connections with one another and sharing love and compassion with each other.

Elva has definitely hit the ground running for our church family, we are so happy and lucky to have her!

October Paint Night

We had a good turnout for October Paint Night. There were over twenty people painting. For some it was their very first time painting! Sue Dion did double duty this time, allowing us to choose from 2 pumpkin paintings.

Over 20 people attended from teen to seniors and made we made \$357.00. It was an enjoyable evening.

A big thank you to everyone who helped out, Paul for setup and takedown, Jeri, Amy P. and Leah for providing snacks and doing kitchen duty. Thanks to Justin and everyone else you helped Sue pack up her supplies. Sue has offered to return in January or February for another Fundraiser, so watch for that date on Church Facebook and the Website.

Even if you're not a painter you might enjoy checking out Facebook to see pictures of the finished paintings.

Blessing to all,
Janice



White Gift Service

Our annual **White Gift Service** will be on **Sunday December 9th**.

I have been in contact with Elmwood St. school again this year regarding helping out with the children in need. I will be receiving a wish list for 5-6 children on November 19th.

Tags with items the children would like for Christmas will be made out and hung on a Christmas tree at the back of the church on November 25th for you to choose and then bring the item wrapped in white tissue paper on December 9th for the White Gift service. There will also be tags for Gorette's gift cards for the Millbury Senior Center to hand out to those seniors in need.

Blessings,
Deanna Murray



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 until 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.

Chain of Lights

**December 2nd
11:00AM to 4:30PM.**

Judy O'Connor has offered our church table space at the Millbury Senior Center during the event. The plan to date is to have Bake Goods and some Christmas Crafts for sale.

So far some of us have worked on refrigerator magnets. Many people enjoyed working on these surprisingly simple crafts that yield quick results. Between now and December 2nd if **anyone** is interested in working on more magnets we will be doing them on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm in the church kitchen at the same time as the Knitting Ministry. Please bring a pair of scissors and a pen. All other materials will be supplied.

Someone will be calling to ask you to bake for the table and let you know when and where to drop your items off.

We will also have a signup sheet at church for anyone willing to volunteer to cover our church table for an hour or two so everyone will have the opportunity to travels to other venues during the Chain of Lights.

Thank you in advance for your support and participation.

Please call Janice at 508-826-6381 if you have any questions.

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



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

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 December
newsletter is November
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.



**November
2018**