



# 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 31 Issue 2 • February 2019**

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## From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

The Bible's book of Deuteronomy offers guidance for the Hebrew people, about how they are to live as God's people. This guidance is given by Moses, who is the main character of the book. Toward the end of the book, Moses says, "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30: 19).

You and I, in the living of our days, have many opportunities to choose between the ways of life and the ways of death. It might seem obvious that, of course, we would choose life over death. But it's not always that simple.

Rev. Martin Copenhaver reflects on a time that choice was not so obvious. He uses the example of a choice made by a family in his neighborhood:

"When I was a young boy, our neighbors dug a hole in their backyard for a swimming pool. The whole neighborhood was crackling with anticipation.

Then came the Cuban missile crisis. The neighbors began to rethink their plans. Should they build a bomb shelter instead of a swimming pool? Should they trade in their dream of frolicking in the sun for the assurance of safety underground? And which conclusion would be choosing life?"

Eventually they decided to use the hole in their back yard to build a bomb shelter. They thought that, in making this decision, they were choosing life. In retrospect it seems clear that they gave death the upper hand. Fear can do that (Copenhaver, UCC Still Speaking Daily Devotional, May 23, 2014).

God urges each of us to choose life. When we choose life, we live our days in trust and confidence. We trust that we do not need to be fearful. We trust that God will protect us and provide what we need. May we be open to God's guidance in the days ahead.

Yours in Christ,

***Pastor Elva***

### SNOW CANCELLATION

From Pastor Elva



If a Sunday worship service has to be cancelled because of inclement weather, notice will be put on the answering machine message and will be posted on Channel 5 (ABC WCVB-TV).



**ANNUAL MEETING  
February 10th  
after worship**



## February Birthdays

8th Phyllis Fairbanks  
 9th Deanna Murray  
 13th Adam Majaour  
 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



## Annual Flea Market April 27th 9 am to 2 pm.

Please gather your treasures and rent one of our inside tables for \$20. Call Jeri Stead to reserve a table.

Inside table set-up will be **Friday, April 26th from 6pm to 8 pm**. If you want to chance the weather, the outside reservation is \$10 and you will need to provide a table.

Refreshments will be on sale for you to enjoy. We will have a variety of muffins available and Ron's delicious Hot dogs will be on the grill.

## Prayers & Concerns

- † Our Community
- † Our Country
- † Our World
- † All Military Men and Women
- † All First Responders
- † Our Church and our Ministry in Millbury and beyond
- † Pastor Elva's brother Mike in California in treatment for an acoustic neuroma
- † Janice Fortin's friend, Nancy
- † Janice Fortin's friend Charlotte
- † Leah Murphy's friend Tina
- † Amy Peterson's great grandson Emmett
- † Karen Bickford's cousin Elaine



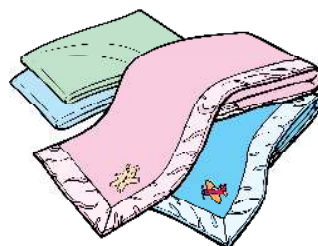
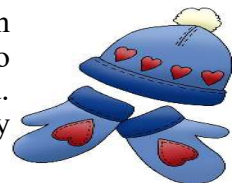
## Mission Corner

Our knitting/crocheting/loom group will meet once a month on the third Tuesday of the month (of course you are encouraged to work on your projects at home as well). We will meet at the church at 6:30pm.

This year we will continue to make hats for the children in need at Elmwood St. School. We will also be making hats and scarves for the homeless people that attend Worcester Fellowship.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to help those who are in need of warmth. Please contact Deanna Murray at 508-865-6069 or email me with questions at [murrayapplegang@aol.com](mailto:murrayapplegang@aol.com)

**Did you know...**Our knitting/crocheting/loom group provided 19 hats and 6 pairs of mittens to Elmwood St. School for children in need. Elmwood St. School as always is very appreciative.



We also provided 23 baby blankets and 19 baby hats to Visitation House for the babies residing there. Visitation House sent a heartfelt thank you to our church. Both are very worthy causes that really help in the community and our very much appreciated.

**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](mailto: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 March  
newsletter is February 17th.  
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.



**2019**