



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 4 • April 2019

From the Pastor

Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick was our nation's most noted preacher during his twenty years at Riverside Church in New York City from 1925 - 1946. An entire generation of preachers attempted to fashion themselves after Fosdick. But for all of his greatness, his tremendous gifts and strength, there was one turning point in Fosdick's life that is much less known. It happened during his first year at Union Seminary. Although he was engaged, excited, and committed to the Christian ministry, Fosdick suffered an emotional collapse. In his autobiography, *The Living of These Days*, he describes it:

“For the first time in my life I faced, at wit's end, a situation too much for me to handle. I went down into the depths where self-confidence becomes ludicrous. The harder I struggled, the worse I was. I, who had thought myself strong, found myself beaten, unable to cope. In that experience I learned things about religion that seminaries do not teach. I learned to pray. I learned that God, much more than a theological proposition, is an immediately available resource; that just as around our bodies is a physical universe from which we draw all our physical energy, so around our spirit is a spiritual presence with whom we can find sustaining strength... This whole horrid experience was one of the most important factors in preparation for the ministry.”

Fosdick's ordeal only confirms what you and I know in our innermost hearts: trauma is nothing new – it is how we respond to that trauma that matters! Many very talented and successful people have come close to the brink of despair, but did not let despair get the better of them. Mark Twain, at the age of thirty, put a loaded pistol to his head but could not pull the trigger. Jesus, facing a deaf and blind world, might never have gone through the torment of the cross if he had not heard, “my beloved Son.” But Fosdick's anguish was transformed into incredible spirited insight, Twain's moment of spiritual darkness sparked some of the greatest American literature, and Jesus' suffering makes possible our redemption and opens the way to abundant life.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will walk with Jesus in the shadow of the cross. At the Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae, we will hear of the betrayal, suffering, and death that he endured. We will be reminded that anguish and doubt are part of our human experience. The larger lesson we experience, though, is this: great insight - even salvation - can come from adversity. The horrifying “no” of the cross is beautifully overcome by the death-defying “yes” of Easter morning.

Easter is God's tender and triumphant “yes” to the “no” that we experience in our struggles, our traumas, our moments of despair. Easter is disciples, fresh from the touch and sight of the risen Christ, ready to take on the wounds of the world. Easter invites you and me to become people whose attitude toward life is “yes” rather than “no;” people convinced that with God's help we get through times of trial, and emerge into a larger reality: the surrounding and sustaining presence of the living God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elva



Dear Friends,

Thank you for everything you did on February 24th, to make the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of my ordination such a special Sunday. The beautiful dish garden, the delicious cake, and most of all your enthusiasm made it a great occasion. I give thanks to God every day for calling us into ministry together.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Elva

Our Growing in the Spirit Journey Continues!

As this issue of the Beacon goes to press, we don't yet know what happened at our most recent gathering, scheduled for

March 31. But the questions that guided our conversation were:

- ⇒ What has Millbury First Church meant to you on your journey of faith?
- ⇒ What keeps you coming back, Sunday after Sunday?
- ⇒ What images come to mind when you think about the church?
- ⇒ What would happen if, for some reason, this church wasn't here anymore? What difference would it make?

Our hope is that these conversations, and more in the months to come, will bring us to an understanding of who we are as God's people and who God is calling us to become as we move into the future.



Easter Flowers

We will again be ordering flowers to brighten our sanctuary for the Easter Sunday service. You may order a plant in a celebration of a loved one or memory of a loved one. The names will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Please make checks out to *The First Congregational Church of Millbury*, and mail to Deanna Murray, 14 Stowe Rd., Millbury Ma. 01527 (note that it is for Easter flowers).

Questions contact Deanna at 508-865-6069 or murrayapplegang@aol.com

Cash or check accepted. **Please print name(s) as you would like them to appear in the bulletin:**



In celebration of: _____

In memory of: _____

\$12.50 Lily	_____	Number of Lily Plant(s)	Amount Enclosed \$ _____
\$11.00 Tulip	_____	Number of Tulip Plant(s)	
	_____	Total of Plant(s)	

**All orders must be in on April 10th
Please take flowers you purchased home with you after the Easter service.**



April Birthdays

5th Karen Kosiba
 5th Donald Orrell
 6th Sandye Hemans
 8th David Sauer
 9th Julia Fortin
 11th Abigail Assad
 11th Ryan O'Donnell
 16th Dylan Enthoven
 16th Donald Enthoven
 21st Sara Jenkel
 21st Paul Fortin
 23rd Lynn Thurlow
 28th Donna Elie
 28th Susan Witter
 30th Charlotte Stockwell

Remember our shut-ins with a note or a card.....

Mrs. Charlotte Stockwell
 Auburn Life Care
 Auburn, Ma 01501

Mr. Jay Stockwell
 110 Hartness Road
 Sutton, MA 01590

Chris Rudge
 8 Carlstrom Lane
 Millbury, Ma 01527

Bill and Marilyn Crandell
 Care One at Millbury
 312 Millbury Ave
 Millbury, Ma 01527



Lent and Easter Services

April 14th
 10 am
 Palm Sunday

April 18th
 7:30 pm
 Ecumenical Maundy Service

April 21st
 10 am
 Easter Family Service

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
 † 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
 † Linda Polissack, recovering from surgery
 † Heather Beauregard and her family, Heather's mom, Callie is in Hospice Care.



Mission Corner



Our knitting and crocheting 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**.

Grace's Garments

On **Palm Sunday, April 14**, as has been our tradition, we are once again asking our parishioners to bring gently used coats and jackets on that day to be donated to Grace's Garments. The clothing will be brought forward to the altar and Pastor Elva will bless them. This is symbolizing Jesus' ride into Jerusalem when the crowd laid down their cloaks as He rode into the city on the donkey.

The coats will then be taken to Grace's Garments for people less fortunate than ourselves.



**ELECTRONICS
RECYCLING EVENT**
SATURDAY, April 6th, at the church
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Accepting: Any and all electronics and appliances, including TV's, monitors, computers, printers, microwaves, AC's, washers, dryers, lawn mowers and any item that has a plug.

Our Costs:

- \$5 each — Computers, DVD players, Laptops, Misc., Electronics, etc.
- \$10 each — Microwaves & Small Appliances, Exercise Equipment,
- Grills, Lawn Mowers & Snow Blowers (gas removed)
- \$15 each — Computer Monitors, AC's, Dehumidifiers, TV's under 19"
- \$20 each — Washing machines, Dryers, Stoves, Large appliances,
- TV's between 19" and 26"
- \$25 each — TV's between 27" and 32", Large Refrigerators
- \$30 each — TV's between 32" and 35"
- \$35 each — TV's over 36"
- \$40 each — Projection TV's
- NO CHARGE: Cell Phones, Bikes, Car or Truck Batteries

RAIN OR SHINE, CASH OR CHECK, ZERO LANDFILL
Questions? Contact Jim Wood
J.wood36@yahoo.com

**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 and baked goods available at our Bake Table and Ron's delicious Hot Dogs will be on the grill.



Items for the Church Flea Market Table may be put on the stage beginning April 1st

WILDLIFE CONTROL

Wayne Witkowski

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



www.WildlifeControlMA.com
(508) 892-1967

**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 May
newsletter is April 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.



2019