



# 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 5 • May 2019**

---

## From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Every year, Mother's Day is a chance to show appreciation to our mothers. In 1914, the U.S. Congress designated the second Sunday in May as a day to honor mothers and thank them for everything they do to raise up the next generation with patience and love. Since Mother's Day was first instituted, the role of mothers has changed in some ways. Many mothers now work outside the home while raising their families. Many fathers I know now take on tasks that used to be "women's work," like laundry and cooking.

Mother's Day can be a time to reflect more broadly on family life. What are the values that create and sustain healthy, loving, life-giving families? The love that builds up families is not a sentimental, greeting-card kind of love, but a strong, faith-filled love that encourages each person to grow into the unique person God created them to be. For your Mother's Day reflection, I offer the following "Decalogue\* for the Family" that a friend posted on his office wall:

1. Thou shalt love and respect thyself as a personality, that thy family and friends may respect thee, and themselves as well.
2. Thou shalt not "play God" with thy family and friends, nor even with thyself, setting thyself up as omnipotent, omniscient, and infallible in thy household.
3. Honor thy marriage and thy mate, that thy home may be a bedrock of love and security beneath thy children's feet, and a shining beacon to thy friends and thy community.
4. Thou shalt not judge people according to thine own pattern, nor try to make thy children over in thine own image, nor avenge upon them the sins of thine own parents against thee.
5. Thou shalt give thyself, thy spouse, and thy children freedom to grow, but shall exact responsible behavior as its incorruptible price.
6. Thou shalt not enslave thy children through "smother-love," nor purchase subservience with money or with other goods, or even with sentiments.
7. Thou shalt not create anxiety needlessly in thy house, in thy workplace, or in thy community, nor permit trivial worries to sour the daily bread of loved ones.
8. Thou shalt not push thy spouse, thy coworkers, thy children, or thyself to achieve the impossible goal of perfection, but shall patiently foster the goal of little successes, day by day.
9. Thou shalt cultivate thy children's conscience as the flower and shield of life's truest values, but shall free them progressively from the protective prohibitions which thou hast imposed in childhood, so that those prohibitions may not become the prisons of their maturity.
10. Thou shalt not covet the talents, the beauty, the physical grace, the grades, nor the possessions of thy neighbor's children, but shall accept thine own children for what they are, and help them to be themselves.

Yours in Christ,  
**Pastor Elva**

*\*Decalogue means Ten Commandments.*

## March 31 “Growing in the Spirit” Gathering Highlights Our Experiences and Hopes for Our Church

On March 31, about 20 of us met after worship for a simple lunch and some conversation, as part of our “Growing in the Spirit” program. This was the second gathering; the first was in January. We shared our thoughts and ideas about Millbury First Church, guided by the following questions:

What warms your heart about First Church? What keeps you coming back? What images come to mind when you think about the church? What difference would it make if the church were no longer here?

As best as I could record them, here are the responses to those questions. To save space, I’ve put them in paragraphs instead of lists.

### **What warms your heart about First Church?**

The love - the people - the perseverance of us - the appreciation of music - to welcome new people - to see smiling faces after our long haul - Friendly church – lots of love - caring for each other - Joys and Concerns help us know about each other’s concerns – Church is low key: no pressure to think in a certain way - knowing other people care about you

### **What keeps you coming back?**

Our church family and friendships - memories from the past - Pastor Elva’s sermons - sense of community - House of God - we need to connect with something bigger than ourselves - a chance to experience our memories – a place of hope, not like the horror and heartache of the world - a sense of safety – we can be ourselves - Cheers us up!

### **What images come to mind when you think about the church?**

Growing up here as a child - people who have come and gone: remembering them - the beauty of the church and the history behind it - the group pictures from the past - the deacons and choir all in robes - Lawn Party - the faces of children in the Sunday School - taking care of our church home - struggle to establish ourselves as a church in the early days - simplicity of the sanctuary.

### **What difference would it make if the church were no longer here?**

It would be a struggle to find a church and church family to equal what we have now! - loss of church family friendships - Our organ would need to be on the auction block - would miss our social events - AA and Girl Scouts would need to find a new home - we’d be lost – would miss the encouragement we find here every week - Town and community would miss us - we’d mourn the loss of our heritage - what would happen to our organ? - we’d miss Pastor Elva’s spiritual leadership - we’d lose regular contact with one another.

Next fall, we’ll have another gathering, where we’ll focus on steps we might take to prepare for our future life as a congregation. In the meantime, please keep the church in your prayers. Ask God to guide us in the way God wants us to go, and help us to be faithful to God’s purposes.

With you on the journey,  
*Pastor Elva*



## Sprucing Up the Church

We cleaned and organized areas upstairs and downstairs on Jesus with Jeans Sunday.

Some of our more talented artists recently spruced up the pews with fresh paint! Paul Fortin attacked the narthex, cleaning places we could never reach and freshening up the paint. He also removed the old speakers downstairs and we recycled them along with the huge TV!



Our next job is to touch up the brown paint on the pews and thresholds- among other projects!

Thank you all.

## SPRUCING UP FOR SPRING WORCESTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM

Our church recently had the opportunity to take advantage of a program run by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. The program provides an Inmate Community Service Team to complete labor at no cost by nonviolent, minimum security inmates with spotless records within 6 months of release. The Team completes various jobs like cleaning, painting, landscaping for local area schools, libraries, churches etc. We saw this as a cost saver and an opportunity to reach out to the community by supporting the transition of inmates preparing to return to the community.

During the month of March, Jim M., Jeri S., Amy P., Linda L. and I met with Officer Steve Salovardos. We completed a walkthrough, made a list of supplies needed, determined and prioritized area downstairs that needed cleaning and painting. The inmates with supervision by an officer were available for 5 days. Within that time, they were able to clean and paint the ceiling, trim, vent work, poles and doors in Fellowship Hall, parts of the Classroom, Choir Room and the storage area leading to the Restrooms.

The cost to the church included paint, supplies, daily lunch for the 4 inmates and a guard. Jim M. gathered the supplies, opened up each day and made arrangement for takeout lunch from A&D. Amy P. and I set up coffee and provided goodies for morning coffee break during the week. Check out the results the next time you're at church.

Thank you to Pastor Elva, Jim M., Jeri S., Amy P. and Linda L., church members and Church Council for supporting this project.

Janice

## New Cleaning Service - Open Sky

Open Sky, our cleaning service, is now holding craft and activity sessions on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 each week in the Fellowship Hall. These classes are open to everyone in our community and will be a fun time for all. Please join us for these activities.

Also, Open Sky is now arriving on Friday mornings to prepare our church for our Sunday service. This is their new day.



### May Birthdays

1st Forest White  
 4th Thomas Murphy  
 5th Joan Greenwood  
 6th Robert Jerszyk  
 6th Laura White  
 8th Debra Grandone  
 8th Christine Hamer  
 9th Joseph Kosiba  
 10th Terry Bickford  
 10th Martin Jenkel  
 10th Jim Fairbanks  
 11th Robert Larose  
 15th Ava Aubin  
 18th Jean Orrell  
 18th Erik Wahlstrom  
 23rd Karen Bickford  
 24th Abigail Thurlow  
 24th Cindy Bradway  
 25th Joyce O'Connor  
 25th Naomi Swanson  
 26th John Davidson  
 27th Cristie Adams  
 27th Colin Minor  
 28th Danielle Demers  
 28th Michael Murray  
 29th Kimberly Rudge  
 30th William Witter



### 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.

### The Work of Evangelism

Christianity is a house with many rooms—feeding the hungry, faith for our daily life, loving service to a hurting world, hope for the future, lifting up the oppressed, spiritual growth. When we help evangelism happen, we hold open a door that leads to all rooms. That is surely why Jesus began his ministry, by telling his disciples to become fishermen, and ended his ministry by telling them to go, make disciples.

Evangelism is not the only important work of the church, but it is the only work upon which all other work depends.

~Herb Miller

## 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.**



**Don't forget that maybe you are the lighthouse in someone else's storm.**



## 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 and Christine Hamer organized the numerous items on the stage. On Saturday Jim Mousseau and Damase Olsson sold the Flea Market treasures. We thank Linda LaChance for taking our left over treasures to Savers. That is such a help you us and helps others in need.

There was a wonderful display of baked goods and other tasty surprises on the Bakery Table due to the efforts of Linda Polissack, Janice Fortin and Audrey Rossow.

In the kitchen Candace Adams and Jody Stockwell Jerszyk 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, especially Paul Fortin and Jeff Polissack.

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 \$1050!

Thanks again,  
Jeri

## Thank You Father Time

Usually Father Time is not welcome at your door, but this time it was a **Blessing!** He is Jeff Dore, a most generous Bramanville neighbor. He noticed that our church clocks were not working and offered to take a look at them! He spent many hours **taking a look** and was able to get them all running. The next step was to get them to tell the correct time! He didn't give up and after many days was able to synchronize all four clocks so that now, no matter from which direction you approach the church, you can look up and see the correct time!



On Jeff's way out of the church one day he noticed that our Grandfather Clock downstairs in the entryway wasn't working, so Jeff took the mechanical parts home, restored them, and they now chime melodious tones again! Thank you Jeff for volunteering to help get our church **up and running**. Knowing Jeff, he probably has another miracle up his sleeve!

## WILDLIFE CONTROL

Wayne Witkowski

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



[www.WildlifeControlMA.com](http://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](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 June  
newsletter is May 19th. 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.



**May  
2019**