



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 6 • June 2019

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

A few months ago, I made the decision to move from my house in West Springfield, across the Connecticut River to the Sixteen Acres neighborhood of Springfield. I wanted to move to a smaller home, a ranch-style house where I wouldn't have to climb the stairs so much. I also wanted to live in a more ethnically and racially diverse neighborhood, and to be closer to my daughter Amy and her two daughters, Lucy and Nancy, who live in East Longmeadow. On May 16, I moved in to my new home.

Psychologists have included the experience of moving among the most stressful experiences a person can have. My move was not especially stressful. I had a number of reasons for gratitude. For one thing, I was not forced to leave my home as so many are forced today by war, civil strife, famine, and other disasters. Also, I was not forced to move by economic necessity or foreclosure. My move was voluntary. My new home will improve my quality of life. For many, in our own country and all over the world, moving is a result of calamities over which they have no control. For many, moving results in a worse situation, worse quality of life.

Even though my move was about as stress-free as moving can be, I felt anxious some of the time. I wasn't certain that I would like my new surroundings. As I packed, I had to ask myself some hard questions, such as, "Will I ever use this [pottery bowl, pillow, manual typewriter - any number of items] again?" My new house was smaller. I had to let go of some things.

As I pondered those questions, I asked God to be present in my decisions, to help with my anxiety about the new place, and to help me let go when I needed to. Faith reminded me that we sometimes have to let go of something to make room for the new life God wants to bring to us. Faith reminded me that God is always with us, especially in the midst of change. I remembered the words of Psalm 121: "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on, and forevermore" (Psalm 121: 8, New Revised Standard Version).

The past few weeks have brought a lot of going out and coming in. With God's help, I got through it. For all of us, those "going out – coming in" times in our lives can be stressful, but God can also use those times to make space for new horizons.

May God bless you in all your going out and coming in.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elva

**"The Lord will keep your going out and your
coming in from this time on, and forevermore"**

Psalm 121: 8 (NRSV)



June Birthdays

7th Marilyn Crandell
 15th Melissa Fortin
 16th Alexis Murray
 18th Berkeley Gobron
 20th William West
 21st Ryan Demers
 25th Amy West
 27th Deborah Mejaour
 30th Mohammed Mejaour
 30th John Pearson



CONGRATULATIONS

Julia Rose Fortin will be graduating with honors from Millbury Memorial High School in June. She will begin classes in the Fall at Cosmix School of Beauty Sciences to pursue a license to become an aesthetician.



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.

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
- † Prayers for Heather Beauregard, on the death of her mother



There is no key to happiness
 The door is always open.

Our Church to Discuss the Open and Affirming Process in Our Congregation

On **Sunday, June 9**, all are invited to the Church Council meeting following worship. At the meeting, we will discuss how our congregation will proceed with the process of becoming Open and Affirming. Open and Affirming churches welcome into their full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to Pastor Elva.

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**.



Watch The Garden Grow

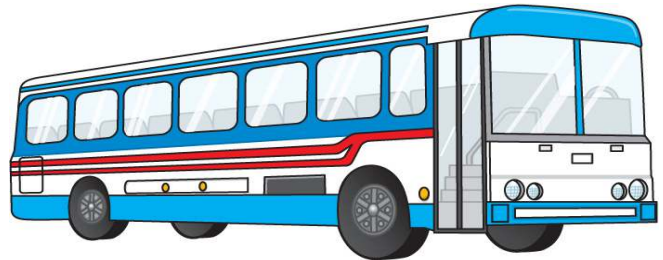
The Girl Scout Troop that meets on Thursday nights at our church is creating a Community Garden on the front lawn of the church. They will be growing vegetables that will be donated to the Food Bank at the Millbury Senior Center. The frames are in and a Rain Barrel is on the side of the church.

Enjoy watching their progress and don't be afraid to pull a weed if you see one! We are providing the much needed water for the project.



BUS TOUR DAY TRIPS

Trinity Lutheran Church of Worcester has extended an invitation to members and friends of Millbury First Congregational Church to join their Trinity Travel Club. All tours depart from Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvard Street side. A list of the trips has been posted in Fellowship Hall along with flyers for upcoming trips. Contact information for the tour guides will be on the flyers and you may speak with Janice Fortin for more information.



Children and Youth Piano Recital

Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 4:00 pm

featuring piano students of Joyce Carpenter-Henderson

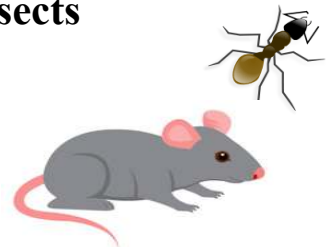
First Congregational Church, UCC
148 West Main Street
Millbury, MA 01527



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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 July
newsletter is **June 16th**. 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.

June

2019