



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 10 • October 2019

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As a local church pastor, when I design our worship services, I always designate the last Sunday of October as Reformation Sunday. I believe it's important for us, as members of the congregational tradition, to remember the ideas of the Protestant reformers. It's important for us to know what makes us different from other branches of Christianity, such as the Roman Catholic or Orthodox.

The last Sunday of October marks the anniversary of October 31, 1517, when, as Protestant tradition tells it, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther walked up to the door of the Castle Church in the German city of Wittenberg. Luther nailed a piece of paper to the church door. In those days, this was like sending out a blast on social media. On the paper Luther had written 95 theses, contending that the church had fallen far short of its mission to bring the good news of Jesus to the world. These 95 theses were the spark that ignited the movement that burst into flame all over Europe: the movement that came to be known as the Protestant Reformation.

Luther proposed a number of changes. For now, I'll focus on just one. Luther understood faith as a matter of individual conscience. He believed that each person could turn to God, without need for an intermediary. There was no need for clergy as the church had instituted them, no need for go-betweens between believers and God. Luther believed that each person had the right and the responsibility to read for himself the words of Scripture. He believed that everyone who wanted to follow in the way of Jesus should be able to interpret the Bible for herself. He translated the Bible into German, the language that ordinary people in his country could understand.

As Protestants, we have a right and a responsibility. We have the right to turn to God directly, in prayer or Bible reading. We also have the responsibility to serve God actively, by participating in the work of our church, by serving those in need in our community. We can't be passive Protestants, simply receiving the faith that's been handed down to us. We're called to roll up our sleeves and work to make God's love known in our world today.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Elva

Summary of Church Council Meetings Summary of Church Council Meeting - Sunday September 8, 2019

On September 8, 2019 six members of the council were present for the meeting, which took place after the church service. Several members of the congregation were also present.

TREASURER: The August report and a corrected July report were accepted. The August expenses include a building inspection by the town.

(Continued on page 2)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: The Sheriff's department will send a crew of inmates to paint in the downstairs coat room area and up the stairs. A CO2 detector will be installed once the fire department indicates the correct location. A leak in the copy room is being monitored and may require some work on the roof in that area. There are 3 church members who have ServSafe certification for serving food at church events.

DEACONS: The Firefighter's service is coming up on Sept 29. There was a request for members to assist with handing out bulletins, offering, joys and concerns on Sunday morning.

MUSIC: Hannah M. is scheduled to play trumpet at Christmas Eve service, and Violinist Jagan Nath Khalsa is scheduled to play Palm Sunday, they will each be paid \$150.00 each. In response to a question, Joyce indicated that the chimes on the organ do work and can be used from time to time on Sundays.

PASTOR: We need to look at updating bylaws – some grammatical corrections, there are some areas that may need update due to smaller congregation, Clerk and Pastor will review bylaws and suggest updates to council, then bring to congregation for vote. We need a written Safe Church Policy – we have practices in place, but nothing in writing. Pastor Elva is half way through her 2 year designated term as pastor. We need to begin focus on future accomplishments. The last Open and Affirming discussion was on August 18. A draft covenant was distributed and discussed. No suggestions for changes have been received by the pastor. Copies of the O&A covenant were distributed at the council meeting. It was suggested we schedule a Congregational Meeting to vote on acceptance of the covenant.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday October 13, 2019 (Columbus Day weekend) following worship service. **Congregational Meeting will follow the Council Meeting.** Pastor Elva will compose a letter to be mailed to all active members to notify them of the meeting. It will also be posted on the web site. Notice must also be read from pulpit for two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting, and posted in the church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Bickford, Clerk

Congregation to Vote on Becoming an Open and Affirming Church*

After many conversations and meetings, much study, and a lot of prayer, our congregation will gather in meeting on **October 13**. At this meeting, we will vote on the Covenant that will make us an Open and Affirming church. The meeting will be in Fellowship Hall, after the worship service and the Church Council meeting. Here is the Covenant:

We, the members of First Congregational Church of Millbury, openly affirm that all people are created in the image of God. Without exception, we welcome, celebrate, and include people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, physical, cognitive, or emotional abilities, education, spiritual and religious traditions, and those with no religious background.

All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and mission of this church, as we seek to grow together with open minds. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

Furthermore, we commit ourselves and our deepening faith to being an Open and Affirming congregation, and to working for the day when all people will know God’s unconditional love.

*Churches that are Open and Affirming welcome into their full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.



October

- 1st Christine Rudge
- 2nd Alan Marble
- 8th Janice Fortin
- 10th Robert Sims
- 12th Susan Sims
- 21st Ronald Stead
- 27th Lauren Kosiba
- 28th John Thurlow
- 31st Hannah Mejaour
- 31st Candance Adams

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



Prayers & Concerns

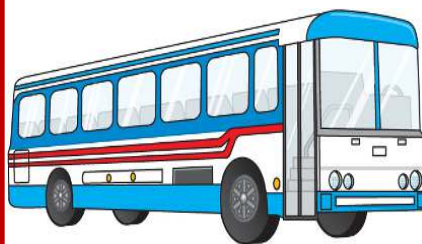
- † Our Community
- † Our Country
- † Our World
- † All Military Men and Women
- † All First Responders
- † Our Church and our Ministry in Millbury and beyond
- † Ron Stead's sister in law Kathie Stead

Mission Corner

The Knitting and Crocheting Mission Group will be meeting on the **1st and 3rd MONDAY** of each month.

We have plenty of yarn, knitting and crochet needles available for anyone interested in learning to make hats, mittens or scarfs. Some people enjoy learning how to use a knitting loom.

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.

Everyone is welcome to join us, bring along your own craft project if you like or join us just for some socializing.

We meet in the Classroom or Kitchen at 6:30 pm.



WILDLIFE CONTROL

Wayne Witkowski

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Bats, Mice, Snakes, Birds, etc. All Insects

www.WildlifeControlMA.com (508) 892-1967



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, Damase Olsson, 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.

Linda Pollisack and Heather Beauregard had a successful day selling raffle tickets for our upcoming Turkey Raffle on November 22 at the Senior Center.

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 Paul Fortin's help in putting away all the tables and chairs and then sweeping up the left overs.

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 we were so glad that Pastor Elva could join us on this beautiful Saturday. Due to the generous donations by our members and friends, our grand total was \$1497.

Thank you all,
Jeri



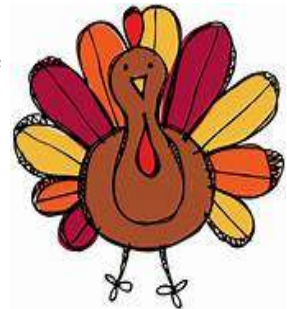
28th Annual Turkey Raffle

Our Church will be holding the 28th Annual Turkey Raffle on **Friday, November 22nd 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" Samsung HD TV
- ⇒ 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 22nd.



For Raffle tickets and information please contact:

Linda Polissack at 508 598 7968 or Email polissackdogranch@gmail.com or call Janice Fortin at 508 826 6381 or Email jrfortin@charter.net. Raffle tickets will be on sale at Goretti's on October 12th and November 16th.

Help on November 22nd at the Senior Center:

Raffle items need to be brought to Senior Center at 3 pm. We then need to set up tables, chairs, and organize raffle items. Later we need help with cleanup. Please contact Deanna Murray if you can help.

If you see Judy O'Connor around town, please thank her for her generous invitation to have our Turkey Raffle at the Senior Center.

**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 November
newsletter is **October 20th**.
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