



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 32 Issue 9 • September 2020

Dear Friends,

For me, the beginning of September has always meant returning to routine. It has felt like an end to the spontaneity of summer, with trips to the beach or the mountains, and all sorts of fun in the sun, and the beginning of a more normal schedule. But as this September begins, life feels far from normal. Instead of moving into college dormitories, many students will be sitting at their parents' kitchen tables, beginning courses on line. Instead of lining up for the school bus, girls and boys will be learning at home, at least some of the time. The corona virus pandemic has thrown our lives out of our usual routines. Life is unpredictable.

At such a time as this, it's more important than ever for us to rely on the steadfast presence of God. When times are unpredictable, we can rest in the assurance that God is with us no matter what. We can trust God to bring us through fearful times and uncertainty. A poem that expresses this beautifully is "The Marshes of Glynn," by Sydney Lanier. Lanier was a poet who lived in Georgia in the 1800s. He loved watching the birds on the vast marshes near his home. I offer some words from the poem to remind us of the beauty of creation and the greatness of God:

Ye marshes, how candid and simple and nothing-withholding and free

Ye publish yourselves to the sky and offer yourselves to the sea!

Tolerant plains, that suffer the sea and the rains and the sun,

Ye spread like the catholic* man who hath mightily won

God out of knowledge and good out of infinite pain

And sight out of blindness and purity out of a stain.

As the marsh-hen secretly builds on the watery sod,

Behold, I will build me a nest on the greatness of God:

I will fly in the greatness of God as the marsh-hen flies

In the freedom that fills all the space twixt the marsh and the skies:

By so many roots as the marsh-grass sends in the sod

I will heartily lay me a-hold of the greatness of God.

O, like the greatness of God is the greatness within

The range of the marshes, the liberal marshes of Glynn.

Let us also build our nests on God's greatness, and trust in God to be with us at all times.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Elva

*With a small "c," catholic means "broad in sympathies, tastes, or understanding" (Webster).



- 1st Alicen Murray
- 5th Amanda Bradway
- 11th Joseph Kosinski
- 11th Jay Stockwell
- 14th Jerilyn Stead
- 16th Morgan Leveille
- 20th Maura O'Connor
- 20th George O'Connor
- 23rd Kay Lachance
- 26th Roland Lachance
- 27th Dirk Enthoven
- 27th Kristy Richards



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

Mr. Jay Stockwell
110 Hartness Road
Sutton, MA 01590

Chris Rudge
8 Carlstrom Lane
Millbury, Ma 01527

Bill 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
- † Health care workers and essential workers, providing care and support for those with COVID 19.



Deacons Fund

On Communion Sunday at First Church, the first Sunday of the month, the Deacons take a special offering for the Deacons Fund, which is a fund to provide assistance to members in need. Envelopes marked DEACONS FUND are in your bulletin. Donations may also be made using the envelope any other Sunday.

Thank you for your generosity.

From
"A Servant's Hands"
by Marian J. Go Sam

*"...Oh Lord, please fill our empty hearts, with love enough to share,
 And fill our empty hands with good, deeds to show others that we care.*

*Help us to help our neighbor, and to truly understand
 That we cannot love with an empty heart, or give with an empty hand."*

Drive-By Donations for Food Bank at Senior Center held at Millbury First Congregational Church

The Millbury First Congregational Church, at 148 West Main St. is inviting people to bring donations of **Food, Personal Hygiene Items, or Gorette's Gift Certificates** to the church parking lot on Saturday, **October 3, from 11 am to 2 pm.** All donations will be taken to the Millbury Senior Center. A wide row of tables will be set up so that you can drive on either side, and you can put your donation on the table, or stay in your car, pop your trunk or hatch back and we'll remove your donation. Please **Enter** from West Main Street and **Exit** to Beach Street.

Please join us in celebrating the blessing of being able to help those in need.



The painting and restoration project on our church building has begun. Here are some photos showing the progress



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

Address Correction Requested

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September



**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.

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Deadline for **October**
September 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.

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