



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 11 • November 2020

Dear Friends,

Every day, an avalanche of news comes at us from our radios, computers, phones, and newspapers. Most of it is bad news. But is all that bad news an accurate reflection of what's happening in the world? Last week I heard that question in an interview with psychologist Steven Pinker. His answer made a lot of sense to me.

Pinker points out that it is the nature of news to highlight dramatic, sometimes dangerous incidents and ignore quieter, slower trends. For example, around the world, hundreds of people are pulled out of poverty every year, but we don't hear much about it. Millions of people are living happy, fulfilled lives, and living longer than our grandparents, but that fact doesn't make headlines.

Whether it's on social media or more traditional news outlets, what the news reports tends to be skewed to the more alarming things that happen. This isn't the same as what's sometimes called "fake news." That's another thing altogether. What I'm talking about here is the news most of us receive every day. That news often calls our attention to what's going wrong. We don't hear as much about what's going right. The danger here is that we become so preoccupied with the problems around us that our view of world is clouded with negativity.

November is a great month to focus on the things that are good in the world, to cultivate a sense of gratitude. Veterans' Day calls us to reflect with gratitude on the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. Thanksgiving invites us to thank God for the many blessings we enjoy.

When we focus on gratitude, we don't forget about the very real problems in our society. Racism continues to plague our common life and our institutions. COVID 19 continues to ravage families and communities. Climate change threatens life as we have known it on this planet.

Many brilliant, gifted people are working to solve these problems. As people of faith, we will also work to be part of the solution to the problems we face. But as people of faith, we will also be aware of all the good things that are happening. We will pay attention to the progress that is made in education, science, engineering, and medicine. Most of all, we will give thanks to God for the amazing gift of life.

As the dark days of November unfold, we will be spending more time indoors. It's tempting to turn on the TV, to let the news fill up those hours of darkness. This year, I'm encouraging all of us to pursue some indoor activities that *don't* involve listening to the news for hours. For example, you might try:

A jigsaw puzzle

A musical instrument (ukulele, anyone?)

Online instruction in a foreign language

I also encourage us to take to heart what the apostle Paul writes:

"Rejoice in our God always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all. The LORD is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 4: 1 – 7

May we be people of gratitude and people of peace.

Pastor Elva



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 6th Leah Murphy
- 7th Joyce Carpenter
Henderson
- 13th Stephen Beauregard
- 14th Marie Rochon
- 14th Kent Stowe
- 15th Dianne Enthoven
- 27th Candance Scanlon
- 28th James Mousseau
- 29th Phyllis Kaseta



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

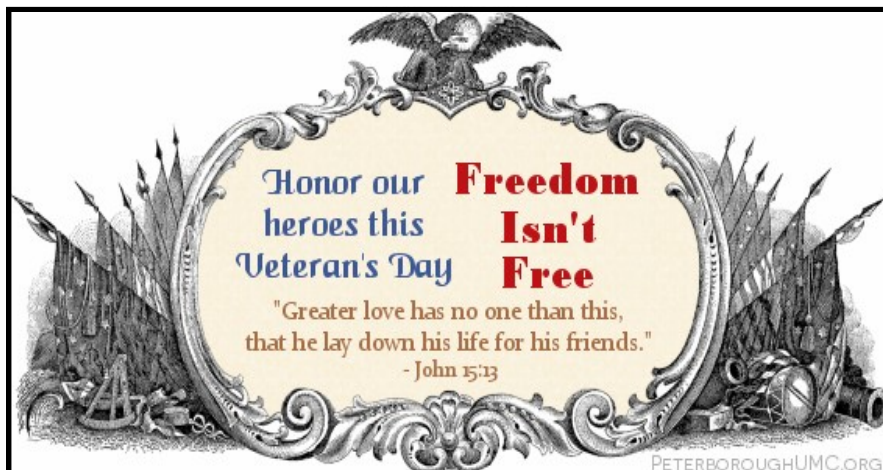
- † Our Community
- † Our Country
- † Our World
- † All Military Men and Women
- † All First Responders
- † Our Church and our Ministry
in Millbury and beyond
- † Ron Stead's sister in law
Kathie Stead
- † Health care workers and
essential workers, providing
care and support for those
with COVID 19.



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.



Sunday, November 1st, "Jesus in Jeans" Sunday

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!" Psalm 84: 1

For the last few months, our usual church cleaners have not been coming because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

As winter approaches, it is time for cleaning and sprucing up! On November 1st, we will gather for a brief worship service, then roll up our sleeves and clean up around our church building. If weather permits, we may do some outside projects. Some of our projects would be cleaning the copier room, the stairs, and the balcony, and vacuuming the sanctuary. Other projects may arise as we go!

You do not need any special training – just willing hands and a cheerful spirit. If possible, wear jeans and bring gloves and cleaning supplies.



Communion Service

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** the following **Sunday, November 8th**. For further information, please speak to any of the Deacons or Pastor Elva.



HARVEST ALTAR

Thanksgiving fruits and vegetables needed for our Harvest Altar on Sunday **November 22nd**. Help needy families enjoy a bountiful Thanksgiving meal by donating fruits or vegetables for our Harvest Altar. All donations will be added to Millbury Federated Church's Thanksgiving Meals for Millbury residents. Donations can be dropped off in the grey bin upstairs at the back of the sanctuary by Saturday Nov 21st. If you can't get to church and would like to donate, a pick up can be arranged by calling Heather Beauregard at 774-287-5540. Thank you for your support!



*"It is not how much we have,
but how much we enjoy,
that makes happiness."*

-Charles Spurgeon

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

Address Correction Requested

The Beacon
November



**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 **December**
November 15th. 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.



2020