



# 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 33 Issue 5 • May 2021**

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Dear Friends,

Near the end of the movie, “Son of God,” after the resurrection, Jesus meets his disciples on a rocky hillside in Galilee. They watch in amazement as he ascends into heaven in a blaze of light. This awe-inspiring ascent to heaven is described in Acts 1: 6 – 11 and celebrated by the church every year, this year on May 13. After Jesus is gone from their sight, the disciples turn to one another. From that day on, they work together to spread the good news of God’s Kingdom that Jesus had made known to them.

The men and women who start the movement that was to become the Christian church are a ragtag bunch. There are no great orators among them, no flashy “rock star” types. But the good news they bring catches fire and spreads from Galilee all over the Middle East, to Europe, and eventually all over the world. People all over the world find joy and strength and courage in the message of Jesus. They follow his call to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and set free the oppressed.

If we look around our world today, much remains to be done. Many are still hungry. Many are in need of homes and medicine and education. Many are still oppressed. But we do not lose heart. We take the long view.

We can see the long view in the perspective of an elderly man who plants an apple tree in his garden. He knows he will not live long enough to eat the fruit of that tree. But he plants the tree in faith and hope that, in the days to come, people will enjoy the apples.

We can take the long view in looking to the future, like that man who plants the tree. We can also take the long view in looking back, to the past. We can see ourselves as part of a movement that began with a disorganized, disheveled group on a rocky hillside, a movement that has inspired countless acts of generosity and justice, a movement that has inspired the creation of universities and hospitals and soaring cathedrals.

Taking the long view, forward and back, does not give us an excuse to rest on our laurels. We continue to work to bring the blessings of God’s Kingdom to earth. We do not sit back and do nothing, but we also do not give in to despair. Sometimes, in the moment, the coming of God’s kingdom looks very far off. But we remember that we belong to a movement that began centuries ago, and will continue long after our days on earth have come to an end. As theologian Reinhold Niebuhr said, “Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope.”

Like those first disciples, we are people of hope. We take the long view. As he assured them, Christ assures us, “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28: 20b).

Yours in Christ,  
***Pastor Elva***



- 4<sup>th</sup> Thomas Murphy
- 5<sup>th</sup> Joan Greenwood
- 6<sup>th</sup> Robert Jerszyk
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pastor Elva Merry Pawle
- 8<sup>th</sup> Christine Hamer
- 9<sup>th</sup> Joseph Kosiba
- 10<sup>th</sup> Terry Bickford
- 15<sup>th</sup> Eva Aubin
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jean Orrell
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Karen Bickford
- 24<sup>th</sup> Abigail Thurlow
- 24<sup>th</sup> Cindy Bradway
- 25<sup>th</sup> Joyce O'Connor
- 26<sup>th</sup> John Davidson
- 28<sup>th</sup> Michael Murray
- 30<sup>th</sup> William Witter

**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**

**Kathleen (Chase) Rozenas**  
**102 Hayden Pond Road**  
**Dudley, MA 01571**

**Beverly Stockwell**  
**8 Colonial Drive Apt C**  
**Millbury, MA 01527**

**Mrs. Kay Lachance**  
**32 Davis Rd.**  
**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
- † All who are suffering from COVID 19 and their families
- † Health care workers and essential workers, providing care and support for those with COVID 19.
- † Christine Hamer's brother Bill, in a long term care facility in Pennsylvania
- † Helen Beauregard, Steve's mother, receiving skilled nursing care in Florida.



**Wear Red Pentecost Sunday**  
**May 23**

On Sunday, May 23, we will celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to the apostles in a mighty wind and tongues of fire. Empowered by this vibrant energy, they went on to start the church! Since the color for Pentecost is red, we're invited to wear that color.





**Annual Church Flea Market is Returning!**  
**May 22nd**  
**9 am to 2 pm**

Our church will hold our Annual Flea Market **Outside** on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm. Please organize your treasures and Call Jeri Stead (508 865 5371) for a reservation. A reservation will be a 10 feet square plot on the lawn. You will need to provide your own tables, **Wearing a Mask** is required, **6 feet of Physical Distancing**, and **Hand Sanitizer** needs to be available. A reservation will cost \$20.

Unfortunately, our usual hot dogs will not be available, but we will have a **Bakery Table** of well wrapped items for sale. Please get out your favorite recipes for the Bakery Table. Wrap items or place in zip-lock baggies.

The **Church Flea Market Table** will be the only table inside, so beginning May 1, items can be placed on the stage. We continue to be unable to accept any TV's, Computers, clothing, or large pieces of furniture.

**In Flanders Fields, by John McCrae**



In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses, row on row,  
 That mark our place; and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
 To you from failing hands we throw  
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
 If ye break faith with us who die  
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
 In Flanders fields.

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

Address Correction Requested

*The Beacon*

**May**



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 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.

The word "may" is written in a large, green, lowercase font. It is surrounded by several red flowers with green stems and leaves. Below the word "may" is the year "2021" in a green, bold, sans-serif font.

**2021**