



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 8 • August 2021

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the Center for Disease Control has just made a new recommendation. Because COVID 19 continues to rage around the world, spreading faster in the Delta variant, the CDC recommends that vaccinated people, as well as those who are not vaccinated, once again wear masks indoors in areas with a lot of COVID cases.

I find myself reacting to this recommendation with mixed emotions. Of course I want to do everything I can to stop the spread of this horrible virus. And I know the CDC and other health services are deeply committed to ending the pandemic. Since it's a new disease, nobody knows the best way to fight it. Scientists are learning new things about the virus every day. Sometimes changes have to be made, based on new information.

Still I also have a feeling of what you might call whiplash. For months, I wore a mask wherever masks were recommended. When the vaccine was available, like millions of others, I got the shot. After waiting a couple of weeks for the vaccine to take full effect, I thought it was OK to stop wearing a mask. Now the guidance has changed.

It's difficult to experience these changes, especially when a potentially deadly disease is involved. But life is full of changes. We often feel a sense of whiplash. Sometimes the changes are minor, like having to cancel the picnic because of rain. Sometimes the changes are major, like missing months of work because of an accident, or losing your job altogether.

You and I can go through these changes in the faith that we are blessed by the companionship of Jesus, God's love come to dwell among us. We are blessed that, in the midst of changes, Jesus "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13: 8). If you're feeling a sense of whiplash, I recommend the following hymn for your reflection. Written by Edward Hopper, it's one of my favorites:

Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
Chart and compass come from thee,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boisterous waves obey thy will
When thou sayest to them, "Be Still."
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

In the midst of life's changes, may you always feel the steady hand of our Savior guiding you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elva



August

- 2nd Beverly Stockwell
- 14th Emileigh Beauregard
- 14th Ann Thurlow
- 25th Patty Nyberg
- 27th Noah Mejaour
- 29th Robert Pearson
- 30th Linda Lachance

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.

**Holy Spirit, think through me
till your ideas are my ideas.**

~Amy Carmichael
The Newsletter Newsletter 6/2001

**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
- † Elizabeth Armstrong, Pastor Elva's sister in law, in treatment for multiple myeloma.



On Sunday August 1st, our Deacons and helpers moved boxes of clothing from the Millbury Baptist Church to our Fellowship Hall. The Baptist Church is closing their Grace's Garments shop, and we will be helping them by distributing the clothing to people in need. Left to right in photo are:

Paul and Janice Fortin, Steve and Heather Beauregard, Karen Bickford, Audrey Rossow, Jeri Stead, and Linda Polissack.

May 22nd Flea Market a Success

I want to thank all those who contributed items and attended the Flea Market. I appreciate all the hours that the various teams spent preparing for this event. Damase Olsson and Heather Beauregard arranged all the treasures on The Church Flea Market Table. They really looked inviting! They had a very successful day on Saturday selling many items. We thank Heather for taking our left over treasures to Savers. That is such a help to 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. Lots of calls were made to our members and thank you all for baking your specialties! Thank you Shanna Greiner for picking in on Saturday at the Bakery Table.

We appreciate that you all pitched in to help with the clean up.

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 \$1444!

Thank you all,
Jeri

Fall Flea Market September 11th

Our Church is sponsoring the Annual Flea Market on Saturday September 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to reserve table space, please call Jeri Stead (508-865-5371). The \$25 inside area consists of a large supper table, plus a card table. An outside 10 foot plot reservation is \$20 and you will need to provide you own table.

“The Kitchen” will be serving coffee and muffins, and at lunch time, Ron’s hot dogs will be served. There will also be a “Bakery Table”, (please gather your favorite recipes) and a “Church Flea Market Table”. You can begin putting items on the stage after August 29th.



It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.

~George Washington

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

Address Correction Requested

The Beacon

August



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 September
newsletter is August 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.



2021