



# 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 10 • October 2021**

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Dear Friends,

An exhibit at the Tower of London recently displayed an artist's sculpture called "Harness Armour for Birds." The artist was Seamus Moran. His sculpture had been inspired by something he had seen on an earlier visit to the Tower. In an exhibit on medieval armor, Moran was disturbed to see of a suit of armor crafted for a child. Standing among rows of suits of armor for men and horses, this little metal suit got Moran's attention. The armor was probably intended only for ceremonial use, not for warfare. Still, Moran wondered, what sort of world glorifies war and violence so much that it would dress a child in metal so heavy he could barely have been able to move?

Moran's creation, armor for a bird, shows how ridiculous it is to craft protection so heavy it defeats the bird's purpose. Birds are created to fly; the armor weighs them down. As the Rev. Quinn Caldwell puts it, "At what point do you become so self-protected that you can no longer do the thing you were created to do? How much protection do you need? And how much can you bear before you stop being able to grow, or fly?"\*

In his letter to the young church at Rome, the apostle Paul urges those followers of Jesus not to put on the heavy armor of the world, but to put on the armor of light that Jesus provides:

*"Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13: 12 – 14).*

Quinn Caldwell goes on, "Jesus knew about burdens, the ones the world gives us and the ones we give ourselves. He knew about harnesses, and yokes. Don't put on the heavy armor, he said. Put on the light armor. Don't put on the armor that smells like grease and machines and war. It might protect you, but it will sink you to the ground. Instead, put on the armor that feels like feathers on the wind and smells like the sun on a child's skin. Don't put on the world, he said. Put on me."\*

As fall brings cooler temperatures, we will need to put on coats and jackets to protect us from the cold. But as followers of Jesus, may we lay aside the need to protect ourselves with cumbersome emotional defenses. May trust in God to protect us. May we loosen our grip on the defenses we cling to, and put on the light-as-a-feather armor of light that Jesus provides.

\* Rev. Quinn Caldwell, "Bird Armor." *UCC Daily Devotional*, Sept. 10, 2017

Yours in Christ,  
**Pastor Elva**



**October**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Christine Rudge
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Marble
- 8<sup>th</sup> Janice Fortin
- 10<sup>th</sup> Robert Sims
- 12<sup>th</sup> Susan Marshall
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tim Scanlon
- 21<sup>st</sup> Ronald Stead
- 27<sup>th</sup> Lauren Kosiba
- 28<sup>th</sup> Dean Peterson
- 28<sup>th</sup> John Thurlow
- 31<sup>st</sup> Hannah Mejaour
- 31<sup>st</sup> Candace Adams

**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

**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.

**Rhodes to Recovery Requests Donations of Bedding and Toiletries**

Just a few doors down from the church is Rhodes to Recovery, a residential treatment program for women in recovery. Here is how they describe their mission:

“Rhodes to Recovery is a 4 to 6 month program for women struggling with substance use. We offer our participants a safe haven while they regain their footing and access necessary resources. We help them develop healthy coping skills, and attain employment and housing.”

Rhodes to Recovery is reaching out to local churches with a request for donations of:

- ⇒ Pillows (new)
- ⇒ Bedding (used is OK)
- ⇒ Bathmats and towels (used is OK)
- ⇒ Shower Caddies
- ⇒ Laundry Baskets
- ⇒ Women’s Sanitary Products
- ⇒ Laundry soap
- ⇒ Women’s personal care products

During the next couple of months, you are asked to bring donations of these items to church and place in the designated container. For further information, please speak to Pastor Elva.

## Thank You

I'd like to express my gratitude to all those who kept me in their thoughts and prayers prior, during and after my recent back surgery. Your cards, contacts, errands, visits and other kindnesses were very much appreciated. My recuperation has been going very well. I'm so grateful to God and my lovely surgeon, Dr. Irene Say to be free of the sciatic pain that limited my functioning for so long.

Many thanks,  
Janice Fortin

Whatever you do, do it so well that people looking on will feel that the task was reserved especially for you by God himself.

Dr. Benjamin Mars  
The Newsletter Newsletter, September 1994

## Annual Turkey Raffle

Our Church will be holding the Annual Turkey Raffle on **Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 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-Escape Vacation, location of your choice. Gift Value: \$500.
- ⇒ 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize-" 50 inch Toshiba Smart TV
- ⇒ 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize-Case of Assorted Wines
- ⇒ 4<sup>th</sup> Prize- Thanksgiving Food Basket with Turkey

**In addition, numerous items on display will be raffled off during the evening.**

Please ask the stores and restaurants that you visit to please donate a gift certificate to be raffled off at our Turkey Raffle.

**There will be a signup sheet** for raffle donations and Turkey donations on the back table at church. Thank you for helping to make this a successful event.

Refreshments will be sold during the evening, including hot dogs and other delicious surprises. Please come early and enjoy the fun on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **For Raffle tickets and information please contact:**

Linda Polissack at 508-598-7968 for books of Raffle Tickets to sell. Raffle tickets will be on sale at Goretta's on October 26<sup>th</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.



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

Address Correction Requested

*The Beacon*

**October**



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 November  
newsletter is October 17th.  
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**