



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 11 • November 2021

Dear Friends,

The disciples must have been flabbergasted when Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection. He had directed them to meet him on a mountaintop in Galilee, but still they must have been surprised. And he didn't just appear. He gave them a job to do. He told them, "Go...and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28: 19 & 20).

This promise to be with them always is Jesus' last word, but it is not an afterthought. He knew the work he was calling them to do - sharing the gospel message with all the world - would not be easy at times. They would need help: his help. So he assured them he would be with them always. Always.

Throughout the history of the church, it has been difficult at times to make disciples, to live out Jesus' call to love our enemies, to nurture communities that walk in God's ways. It began in the book of Acts, with the very early church, and it is still challenging today. The church today struggles to minister to the needs of a troubled world when our resources seem to be shrinking. Church leaders get discouraged and fearful about the future. Sometimes we get so bogged down in our difficulties that we risk forgetting what Jesus said: he will be with us always.

Pastor Rick Floyd recalls one church meeting where despair was in the air. Weary of the pessimistic tone of the meeting, he blurted out, "Our United Church of Christ Constitution declares that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. But the way you are talking, you'd think it was Chicken Little!" That "Chicken Little" speech was a welcome touch of humor that lightened the mood and renewed hopes for the church's ministry. *

Sometimes it does seem as if the challenges we face are insurmountable. At those times we need to remember Jesus' promise to be with us always. Always means *always*, not just when things are good. Always means he is with us when we want to leap for joy, and when our feet grow weary. He is with us when the Sunday School is bursting at the seams, and when the rooms are empty. He is with us in boom times and recession times, in the warmth of community spirit and the chill of disagreement.

We need not be afraid; we can take Jesus at his word. He will be with us always.

Rev. Richard L. Floyd, *Stillspeaking Devotional*, October 16, 2013, ucc.org.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Elva



November

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

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.
- † We celebrate with Don and Jean Orrell their new baby great-grandson, Tristan Cledanord Benjamin Pierre, adopted by Jessica and Schlegel Pierre in August, and pray God's blessing on this new family.

"It is not how much we have,

but

how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."

-Charles Spurgeon

Advent Study Group Tuesdays 6 PM on Zoom

Starting later this month, Pastor Elva will lead a study group on Zoom, where we will reflect on the themes of Advent. The group will meet Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 PM on Zoom. If you're not familiar with Zoom, she can help! It is not difficult. The group will meet on the following dates:

November 23 & 30
December 7 & 21



Annual Turkey Raffle

Our Church will be holding the Annual Turkey Raffle on **Friday, November 19th 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.
- ⇒ 2nd Prize-” 50 inch Toshiba Smart TV
- ⇒ 3rd Prize-Case of Assorted Wines
- ⇒ 4th 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 19th.

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 Gorette's on October 26th, October 30th, and Nov. 2nd.



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

Address Correction Requested

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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 November
newsletter is November
21st. 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