



# 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 34 Issue 2 • February 2022**

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Dear Friends,

When I taught confirmation class, I would always assign the Gospel of Luke to be read by confirmands and mentors. That's because Luke's gospel is the most readable for today's readers. Luke also gives colorful details about Jesus that make him come to life for people of all ages. This year, the Revised Common Lectionary recommends passages from Luke for pastors to preach on. We'll be reflecting on these during the month of February, as the season of Epiphany continues.

You may remember from your own Christian Education that both Matthew and Luke include a sermon where Jesus sets forth his beliefs about God and the life to which God calls us. Matthew calls this the Sermon on the Mount; for Luke it's the Sermon on the Plain. Another difference between the two is that Matthew gives us only the "blessed are you" proclamations of Jesus, traditionally called the Beatitudes, while Luke gives us proclamations of both "blessed are you" and "woe to you!"

Luke shows us a Jesus who calls us blessed, but also warns us that seeking the approval of others distracts us from serving God. In the spirit of continuing our Christian Education, I offer Luke's blessings and woes, in a fresh translation by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*:

"You're blessed when you've lost it all,  
God's Kingdom is there for the finding.  
You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry,  
Then you're ready for the Messianic\* meal.  
You're blessed when the tears flow freely,  
Joy comes with the morning.

"Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down or throws you out, every time someone smears or blackens your name to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens...for even though they don't like it, I do...and all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company; my preachers and witnesses have always been treated like this.

"But it's trouble ahead if you think you have it made;  
What you have is all you'll ever get.  
And it's trouble ahead if you're satisfied with yourself.  
Your *self* will not satisfy you for long.  
And it's trouble ahead if you think life is all fun and games.  
There's suffering to be met, and you're going to meet it.

"There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. Popularity contests are not truth contests...your task is to be true, not popular.

"To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst" (Luke 6: 20 -27).

Yours in Christ,

***Pastor Elva***

\*Jesus may be referring here to a Jewish tradition that looked forward to a banquet that God would prepare for all people, described in Isaiah 25:6:

"On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines."



- 9<sup>th</sup> Deanna Murray
- 13<sup>th</sup> Adam Mejaour
- 13<sup>th</sup> Paul Hedlund
- 15<sup>th</sup> Francis Assad
- 17<sup>th</sup> Mathew Murray
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jake Leveille

**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**  
 Summer Commons  
 21 June St.  
 Sanford, ME 04073

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

**Mrs. Kay Lachance**  
 32 Davis Rd.  
 Millbury, MA 01527

**Eva Aubin**  
 113 A.F Putnam Rd.  
 Charlton, MA 01507



**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
- † 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.

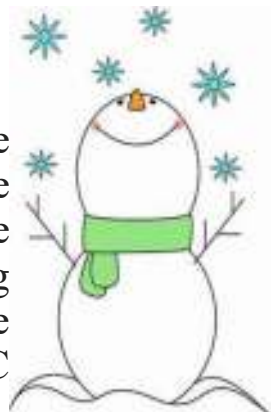
**Deacons Fund**

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.

**SNOW CANCELLATION**  
**From Pastor Elva**

If a Sunday worship service has to be cancelled because of inclement weather, notice will be put on the answering machine message and will be posted on Channel 5 (ABC WCVB-TV).



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

-Lamentations 3: 22-23

## Thank you

My Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift and the memories that come with it!

Are you all well? Hope Covid has passed you by? I've been diligent about safety measures. My family is well, and growing older(6 of 9) are in their 20's!

You remain a treasured part of my life. I thank God for you and pray continued blessings.

Fondly,  
**Shirley**

Dear One,

I keep you and the church in my prayers, and am so happy that Elva is there, and that the congregation continues to thrive and be strong. I loved my time there, and miss you all.

I moved in December from a large house to a small in-law apartment in my daughter's house. I found the transition easy to make, and especially with the past snow. I didn't have to think about shoveling the walks, or plowing the driveway. I love having a landlord!!!! Plus, I had way too much stuff, and while I found it a challenge to let some things go, I also don't have to worry about it anymore. My kids have taken things they wanted and so I don't have to worry about leaving too much for them to sort through when I shuffle off this mortal coil. My email and phone # are the same, but my address is new: 17 Spenser Circle, Marlborough, MA 01752.

Last week I received a lovely card from Audrey on behalf of the congregation. The card also included a check, which was a lovely surprise and greatly appreciated. Jeremiah wrote that God said "I have loved you with an everlasting love.." I have loved you all, deeply, everlasting in the love and joy the congregation has given me, and you especially for the friendship and kindness you have given me. Please let the congregation know that I'm grateful for the gift, but really the gift was the trust, love, and hope they continue to give to me.

I hope you have a fantastic year filled with love and with the peace that passes all understanding. Love and God bless.....**Vicki**

## Stewardship Update

It's not too late to submit your pledge card for 2022. To date we have received 19 pledges totaling \$39,302. If you haven't made a pledge yet, please consider doing so. If you have any questions about your pledge (either 2021 or 2022) please call or email me at:

Audrey Rossow

[arossowconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:arossowconsulting@gmail.com)

Ph: 508-808-5489

Mailing: 332 Putnam Hill Road, Sutton, MA 01590

And thank you!

Audrey Rossow, Treasurer



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

Address Correction Requested

*The Beacon*

**February**



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 March  
newsletter is February 20th  
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.



**2022**