



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 3 • March 2022

Dear Friends,

This year the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. From the earliest days of the church, this forty-day season before Easter has been set aside for reflection and self-examination. (Sundays are not included in the count, since Sunday is considered a “little Easter.”) The number of forty days is based on accounts in the gospels that after his baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where he remained for forty days. In the wilderness he was tempted to use his powers for worldly success, but he withstood the temptation and followed God’s call to humble service. Lent is a reenactment and remembrance of Jesus’ time in the wilderness.

The number forty is a significant number in the Bible. In the story of Noah, it rained for forty days (Genesis 7:17). When Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, they wandered in the wilderness for forty years. When Moses went up onto Mt. Sinai, where he received the Ten Commandments, he stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights (Exodus 32).

In the Bible, the number forty represents a period of testing, trial, and soul-searching. During Lent, some Christians practice self-discipline by giving up something, such as candy or dessert. Pastor Craig Gates offers an alternative to giving up taste treats. He has a list of nine attitudes or behaviors that we could give up during these forty days of self-examination:

1. GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, “in everything give thanks” (I Thessalonians 5: 18). A word or two of constructive criticism is OK, but “moaning, groaning, and complaining” are not Christian disciplines.
2. GIVE UP focusing on other people’s worst points. Instead, concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It’s a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.
3. GIVE UP speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?
4. GIVE UP hatred of anyone or anything. Instead, practice the discipline of love.
5. GIVE UP your worries and anxieties. Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and trust in God to take care of tomorrow.
6. GIVE UP TV one evening a week. Instead, visit someone who is lonely or sick, someone who is isolated by illness or old age. If it’s not possible to get out, you can always make a phone call. Give someone a precious gift: your time and attention.
7. (This one is especially hard for me!) GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed every day. Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study, and personal devotion.
8. GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself. Instead give the money to God. The money you would spend on luxuries could help someone else meet basic needs. This is a hard one, but remember that we’re called to be stewards of God’s gifts. We’re not called to acquire a lot of consumer goods.
9. Finally, GIVE UP judging by appearances and by the standards of the world. Instead, learn to give yourself up to God. There is only One who has the right to judge, and that is Jesus Christ.

May God strengthen you for your journey through Lent, and may these practices of self-discipline help you to grow in the spirit of Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elva



10th Mary Mousseau
 12th Carolyn Ball-Hanson
 14th Warren Hanson
 15th Duane Fortin
 19th Karen Assad
 19th Bobby Beauregard
 24th Susan Banach

Lenten Study Group to Start March 7

Pastor Elva will lead a Lenten Study Group Mondays on Zoom, from 6 - 7 pm. We will reflect together on the Bible passages for each Sunday in Lent. The last session will be April 4. If you're not familiar with Zoom, please speak to Pastor Elva. It's not hard; all you need is a computer and an internet connection.

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

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.

FLEA MARKET

Our church will be holding A Spring Flea Market on **Saturday, April 23rd from 9 am to 2 pm.**

Please gather your treasures and rent one of our inside tables for \$25. Call Jeri Stead (508~865~5371) to reserve a table. You can prepare your inside table on Friday night from 6 pm to 8 pm. If you want to chance the weather, the outside reservation is \$15 and you will need to provide a table.

Refreshments will be on sale for you to enjoy. We will have a variety of wrapped snacks and Ron's delicious Hot Dogs will be on the grill. There will also be a Church Flea Market Table and Bakery Table.

While gathering items for Flea Market Table, please keep in mind that we are unable to accept any T.V.'s, electronics, or clothes. If you have any questions about donating items, please contact Jim Mousseau. (508~865~8871).

Please set aside your favorite recipes. Janice Fortin and Linda Polissack will be giving you a call to ask for donations to the April Bakery Table.

Thank you so much for all your help.

Music for Inspiration

Florence Price (1887-1953) was born in Little Rock, Arkansas to a middle-class family, Her father was a dentist and her mother a music teacher.

She graduated from high school at age 14 and was top of her class. She had interest and aptitude in two career tracks becoming a physician or a musician.

Given the racial tensions, she knew she'd never be admitted to a medical school anywhere in the United States.

Her mother advised Florence to register at New England Conservatory as a "Mexican" and keep under wraps her African American heritage.

After graduating, Florence Price devoted herself to teaching and raising a family In Arkansas, and in 1910, became head of the University's music department and provided private instruction in organ, piano and violin.

Price's application for membership in the Arkansas State Music Teachers Assn. was rejected because of the color of her skin. So, she founded the Little Rock Club of Musicians and enabled herself to program and perform her own music.

In 1927, following lynching and escalating racial conflict, she moved with her family to Illinois where she pursue education in languages, art and music part of the Chicago Renaissance.

Price soon began receiving national recognition for her compositions and performances. In 1932, she received Wanamaker Foundation Awards for her *Symphony in E Minor and piano Sonata in E Minor*

Despite Florence Price's reputation as a credible composer well whose musical compositions were performed by symphony orchestras in Detroit and Chicago, Serge Koussevitzky, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra refused to play her works; rather, he championed another American composer, Aaron Copland.

In 1943 she wrote a now infamous letter to the conductor of the Boston Symphony, Dr. Koussevitsky, saying "To begin with I have two handicaps, that of sex and race. I am a woman and I have negro blood in my veins. Knowing the worst, would you be good enough to hold in check the inclination to regard a woman's composition as long on emotionalism and short on virility and thought content until you have examined some of my work?"

In 1937, Florence Price divorced her husband due to abuse and financial issues. Now a single mother, she supported her two daughters by working as an organist for silent film recordings and composing songs for radio ads under a pen name.

She moved in with her student and friend Margaret Bonds, also a black pianist and composer. Her friendship with Bonds led to connections with African American influential figures such as W.E. B. Dubois and Langston Hughes.

In 1939, Marian Anderson, the famous African American contralto singer, closed her historic concert at Lincoln Memorial with Price's arrangement of "*My Soul's Been Anchored in de Lord*"

In 2009, Vicki and Darrell Gatwood, of St. Anne, Illinois, were renovating an abandoned house, vandals had ransacked, and a fallen tree had torn a hole in its roof. The Gatwoods discovered piles of musical manuscripts with the name of Florence Price.

The dilapidated house had once been the summer home of Florence Price. Fortunately, the couple turned over the music and documents to University of Arkansas library archivists.

Douglas Shadle, musicologist, cited Florence Price as the first African American women classical composer. "Yet she is mentioned more often than she is heard." Not only did Price's compositions fail to enter the canon of classical music repertoire; a large quantity of music came perilously close to obliteration.

In celebration of Women's History month, Joyce Carpenter-Henderson, will be playing Florence Price's piano *Sonata in E Minor*.

On **March 6, 2022**, Joyce will be performing this African American composer's piece as **Music for Inspiration**. Please listen to the nuances of African American gospel music and motifs of African American spirituals.

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

Address Correction Requested

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March



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](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 April
newsletter is March 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.

MARCH
2022