



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 5 • May 2022

Dear Friends,

The Bible is full of good-byes. Abram says good-bye to his home and the land of his birth when God calls him to a new land and a new life (Genesis 12:1). The young prophet Elisha says a reluctant good-bye to his mentor, as the older prophet, Elijah, is taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2: 9 – 12). Jesus says good-bye to his disciples, after his resurrection, when he is lifted up to heaven in the Ascension (Acts 1: 9). When the apostle Paul bids a heartfelt good-bye to Timothy, his young partner in ministry, he says, “I am already being poured out like a sacrifice to God,* and the time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4: 6 – 7).

I have always had a hard time with good-byes. Perhaps because I experience God's love most powerfully in my relationships with other people, I have felt a lot of sadness when relationships changed or ended. In college, I was the student who didn't want to move out of the dorm at the end of the semester. Years later, I was the mother in tears at the bus stop when my oldest child, my daughter Amy, got on the bus for her first day in kindergarten.

At the same time, I believe that the best good-byes are painful ones. I hope all my good-byes are painful. If the good-bye isn't painful, it says the relationship didn't mean all that much. A painful goodbye, where the parting brings sadness, marks the end of a relationship that was loving and life-giving.

Good-byes, painful or not, mark an ending. As I write this letter, the season of our ministry together, in which we have served God as pastor and congregation, is coming to an end. It is hard to say goodbye, but we do so with confidence that we will all continue to participate in God's work. In a larger sense, our ministries will continue. You as a congregation will, with God's help, carry on your ministry in Millbury and beyond. By God's grace, you will move from strength to strength in a time of new leadership. Although I'm retiring from pastoral ministry, my ministry will continue in a new way, a way which will, by God's grace, allow me more time to spend in travel and with my family.

Abram went to his new land and founded a generation who became the people of Israel. Elisha, inspired by Elijah's spirit, became a bold prophet who fed the hungry, healed the sick, and raised the dead. Paul's words of good bye have strengthened ministers and missionaries for hundreds of years. And, as followers of Jesus, we know that Jesus is always with us, loving and guiding us every day. Goodbyes mark an ending, but they also open us to new ways of living and loving.

My last Sunday as your Pastor will be June 5. Over the next month, we will have time to say our goodbyes. My prayer is that while our good byes will be painful, they will also be filled with gratitude and the hope that we will discover new ways of being God's people.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ewa

*In Paul's time, wine was often poured out as a sacrifice to God.



4th Thomas Murphy
 5th Joan Greenwood
 6th Robert Jerszyk
 7th Pastor Elva Merry Pawle
 8th Christine Hamer
 9th Joseph Kosiba
 10th Terry Bickford
 15th Eva Aubin
 18th Jean Orrell
 23rd Karen Bickford
 24th Abigail Thurlow
 24th Cindy Bradway
 25th Joyce O'Connor
 26th John Davidson
 28th Michael Murray
 30th William Witter

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.

Thank You For Your Donations

For many weeks now, from our computer screens, phones and televisions, we have watched the horrors of the war in Ukraine. It is heartbreaking to see so much suffering and death. It can also bring feelings of helplessness. But we have been able to help, in a small way. Our church has collected a donation to help ease the suffering of the Ukrainian people. \$1230.00 has been received and sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Pastor Elva's Retirement Gathering



You are invited to attend a retirement gathering in honor of

Rev. Elva Pawle

June 5th
after church service.
in Fellowship Hall

Join us to honor
Pastor Elva
and celebrate her years
of dedicated service in
ministry.

On Teaching

The Prophet

by Kahlil Gibran

Then said a teacher, "Speak to us of Teaching."

And he said:

No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of our knowledge.

The teacher who walks in the shadow of the temple, among his followers, gives not of his wisdom but rather of his faith and his lovingness.

If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind.

The astronomer may speak to you of his understanding of space, but he cannot give you his understanding.

The musician may sing to you of the rhythm which is in all space, but he cannot give you the ear which arrests the rhythm nor the voice that echoes it.

And he who is versed in the science of numbers can tell of the regions of weight and measure, but he cannot conduct you thither.

For the vision of one man lends not its wings to another man.

And even as each one of you stands alone in God's knowledge, so must each one of you be alone in his knowledge of God and in his understanding of the earth.

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

~George Washington

YOGA CLASS

Starting on **Monday, April 4th, 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

Drop-in fee of \$8.00, \$5.00 for Seniors **No Registration Required**

Class is structured to make you feel revitalized in body and mind accessible to ALL Levels of fitness.

WHERE: First Congregational Church, 148 West Main St, Millbury, MA

Class will run every Monday, April 4th to May 23rd, 2022

Taught by Carol Dearborn Certified 200hr Yoga Instructor,
Group Exercise and Pilates Instructor

For more information 508-756-5478

***** WONDERFUL WAY TO START YOUR WEEK-
BREATH, STRETCH, AND RELAX*****



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

Address Correction Requested

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May



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 June
newsletter is May 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.



2022