



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 32 Issue 1 • January 2020

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

How do you celebrate the beginning of a new year? Do you watch the ball drop in Times Square on TV? Do you gather with friends to watch football? All over the world, people welcome the New Year in different ways. Some like to bring in the New Year with laughter. That seems to be the idea behind a New Year's Eve custom in Spain. It's customary there to mark the occasion by eating twelve grapes. People sit together at midnight, listening as the clock begins to chime (preferably the clock from Puerta del Sol in Madrid). Every time the clock chimes, each person puts a grape in his or her mouth. By the time the clock has finished chiming, everyone is supposed to have chewed and swallowed their grapes, but you can imagine how difficult that would be.

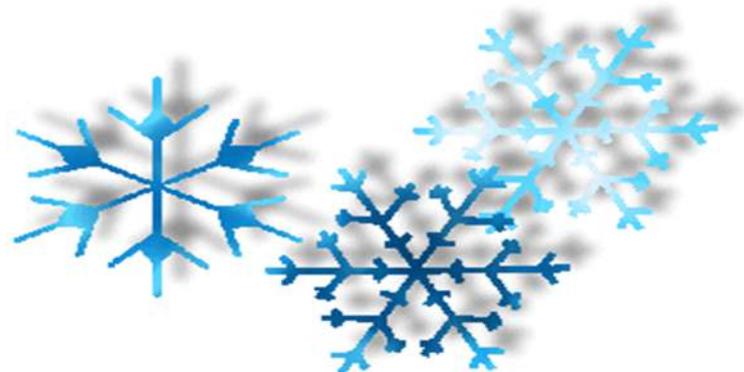
So, as the New Year begins, they sit looking at one another. Everyone has a mouthful of grapes. As you might expect, it's hard to keep a straight face in that situation! Everyone starts to laugh. Laughing, of course, makes it even harder to swallow the grapes, so it gets funnier, and messier, from there.

A good laugh might be a great way to start off a new year. On the other hand, if you want a more serious approach, you might be interested in a custom from the southern part of this country: eating black eyed peas. On New Year's Day, black eyed peas are served with turnip greens, another southern favorite. The peas represent copper, and the greens represent dollars. Southerners say each pea you eat equals one dollar's worth of earning, and each portion of turnip greens equals \$1,000. Eating black eyed peas and turnip greens is a good way to wish for prosperity in the year ahead.

However you celebrate the beginning of 2020: with friends and family, with laughter, or wishes for prosperity, may you feel God's guiding hand upon you in the year ahead. May you be ever grateful for the blessings God has given you, and may you follow Jesus in sharing those blessings with others. Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ's love,

Pastor Elva





4th Neal Riley
 7th Philip Nyberg
 16th Richard Harrington

Remember our shut-ins with a note or a card.....

Mrs. Charlotte Stockwell
 Auburn Life Care
 Auburn, Ma 01501

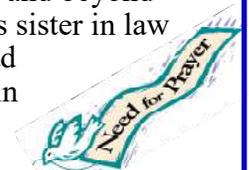
Mr. Jay Stockwell
 110 Hartness Road
 Sutton, MA 01590

Chris Rudge
 8 Carlstrom Lane
 Millbury, Ma 01527

Bill Crandell
 Care One at Millbury
 312 Millbury Ave
 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
- † Janice Fortin



Graces Garments

Winter has arrived so please remember Graces Garments if you have any gently used winter clothes, coats, boots that you no longer wear. They are always in need of clothes especially with the change of seasons. Graces Garments greatly appreciates all donations.



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 you hear when you call the church.

Cancellation notice will be posted on WCVB TV Channel 5.



Knitting/Crocheting

The Knitting and Crocheting Mission Group meets on the **1st and 3rd MONDAY** of each month.

We have plenty of yarn, knitting and crochet needles available for anyone interested in learning to make hats, mittens or scarfs. Some people enjoy learning how to use a knitting loom.

Everyone is welcome to join us, bring along your own craft project if you like or join us just for some socializing.

We meet in the Classroom or Kitchen at 6:30 pm.



THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your kindness in remembering me with such a generous gift this Christmas.

I am so grateful to God for calling us into ministry together, and I look forward to working together in the New Year!

New Year's blessings,
 Pastor Elva

THANK YOU

Thanks to all my friends at First Church for your prayers, cards, emails, texts and phone calls.

My recuperation from the total knee replacement surgery I had on December 19th has been slow but steady. Thanks for keeping my spirits up during the rough spots.

God Bless,
 Janice

God will never lead you where his strength cannot keep you.

**~Barbara Johnson
 The Newsletter Newsletter
 January 2003**

PAINT CLASS FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020
1:00 pm.**

Once again we will be hosting a fundraising paint activity sponsored by Sue Dion of Inspired Painting and Instructions she will be teaching us to paint an 11" X 14" Acrylic Painting, "HOME FIRES BURNING".

NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.

The \$40.00 fee included 11"x 14" canvas, all supplies needed and complimentary refreshments.

Come join us to support the church and enjoy a fun, informal afternoon.

Fellowship Hall is accessible to all and there is handicapped parking available.

Register on line: Suedionart.com

If you have any questions about "Paint Night" please contact Janice Fortin at 508-826-6381.



Janice Fortin Visits a Childhood Friend

Pastor Elva and I recently had the opportunity to visit my childhood friend Kathleen Chase Rozenas.

We lived on Burbank Hill across the street from each other. Kathleen has lived in Dudley for many years with her husband Ray before his passing and now lives upstairs from her son Bill and his wife Karen. We had a wonderful time visiting with Kathleen and her little rescue dog Bella.



Kathleen and Bella



Kathleen and Pastor Elva

Sock Drive

Pastor Elva and I have been discussing how to help the homeless of Worcester Fellowship.

We do have many crochet/knit hats and scarfs from our knitting group which will be delivered at the end of January.

We also would like to do a white sock drive to deliver with the hats/scarfs. We will collect new white socks during January. Please bring socks in to church and give to Deanna Murray.

Delivery date to Worcester Fellowship still to be determined. Thank you in advance for your support.



Deanna

White Gift Service a Success



The White Gift Service was a great success again this year! I delivered crocheted/knitted hats from our knitting group. I also delivered numerous pairs of mittens made by Mary Mousseau.

Elmwood St. school staff was so very appreciative of our gifts for our assigned family and the hats and mittens.

The Senior Center was very thankful for the Gorette's gift cards. They will be put to good use by the seniors who received them.

I want to thank everyone who participated in our white gift service. It is so important to give back to our community. I really appreciate our generous congregation!!

The Visitation House received 3 bags of baby hats and blankets. They were so happy for the donations for the babies. Thank you to those who crochet/knit for the Visitation House. I appreciate your time spent making the items.

Deanna

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

Address Correction Requested



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 February
January 19th. 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.

January

2020