



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 6 • June 2020

Dear Friends,

As I write this, in the third week of May, Governor Baker has just announced his guidelines for non essential businesses and places of worship to reopen. There will be four phases of gradually increasing economic and social activity, with at least three weeks between phases. The start date of each phase depends on infections of the virus continuing to trend downward. In my opinion it's a well-designed plan for keeping us safe in an uncertain situation.

At church, we are beginning to talk about what we can do, so that we can worship together in our sanctuary again. The governor's guidelines require churches to take many steps for the sake of safety. The Deacons and I are planning what we will have to do to follow these steps.

As we think, and pray, and talk about our life together in a pandemic, as we work to find ways to be church in these uncertain times, different thoughts are swirling in my mind. In some ways, the guidelines for worship contradict some of our cherished customs. We have always said, "We welcome all." Now we'll be saying, "We welcome all, but please put on a face mask and stay six feet apart." We have always shared food and drink at coffee hour. Now, for the foreseeable future, we won't be having coffee hour. We have always tried to follow Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor, sharing handshakes and hugs. Now loving our neighbor means keeping our distance, covering our noses and mouths to protect our neighbor from the virus we may have without knowing it.

These are uncertain times. As my thoughts continued to swirl, images of ocean waves came to mind. As a child, I was blessed to spend summers in Massachusetts: in Duxbury, near the Cape. My family and I spent many happy hours in our small sailboat, sailing the waters of Duxbury Bay. If you know about sailing, you know that sailors don't always sail in a straight line to get to their destination. Sometimes, because of the direction of the wind, they have to do something called tacking. Tacking is zig-zagging back and forth, holding the sails close to the wind. Each time you tack, or turn, you get a little closer to your destination. It takes patience and skill.

As we move into the next phase of the coronavirus pandemic, our church may be doing some tacking. We may head in one direction for a while, but have to adjust our sails and turn when conditions change. We will have to pay attention to wind shifts and ocean currents. We will listen to Jesus, our Savior, who calmed the stormy seas and the disciples' fears. In time, by the grace of God our Pilot, we will arrive at a safe harbor.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Elva



Congratulations to our graduates!



Mitchell McMonigle, grandson of Joan and Hunter Greenwood, graduated from the University of Louisville with a degree in Business.

Zoe Greenwood, Joan and Hunter's granddaughter, graduated from Boston College. Zoe was awarded the Bourneuf Award, which is given to the top major in economics who has also written an outstanding thesis.

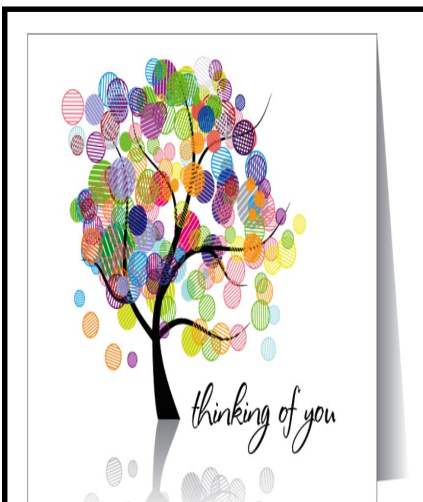
Abigail Assad, graduating from Milbury High School, attending University of New Hampshire. Abigail is the daughter of Karen and Fran Assad and granddaughter of Jeri and Ron Stead.

Noelle Stockwell, graduating from Bryn Mawr College. Noelle is the daughter of Jay and Charlene Stockwell.

Riley Nicholson, graduating from Leicester High School. Riley is the granddaughter of Sue and Bill Witter.

We celebrate these graduates' achievements, and pray for their success as they pursue more education or seek jobs.

15th Melissa Fortin
16th Alexis Murray
25th Amy West
27th Deborah Mejaour
30th Mohammed Mejaour



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

Bill Crandell
Care One at Millbury
312 Millbury Ave
Millbury, Ma 01527

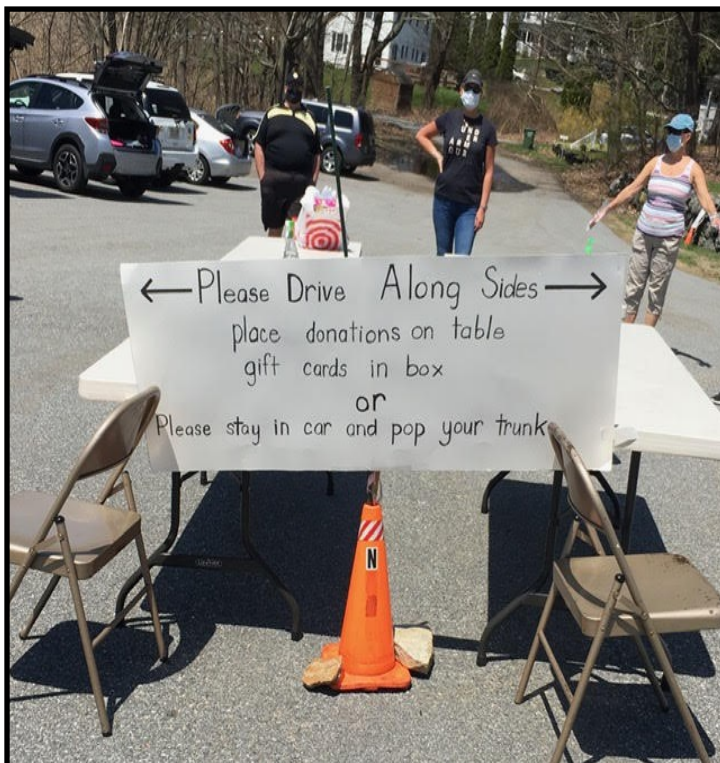
Prayers & Concerns

- † 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
- † Audrey Rossow's friend Michael Luchini
- † Steven and James MacArthur and their families, on the death of their father Steven MacArthur Sr. Steven MacArthur Sr. is the ex husband of Jim Mousseau's wife Mary.
- † Cheryl, Roland and Kay Lachance's niece, recovering from surgery.
- † Amy Peterson and family, on the death of David Stowe from COVID - 19. David was the first cousin of Amy's father, George Stowe.
- † Karen O'Donnell's mother, Irene Pojani, recovering from surgery
- † Karen's father, Christie Pojani, prayers for calmness and peace in the nursing home
- † Health care workers and first responders, caring for those with COVID 19



Successful Food Drive for Millbury Senior Center

The generous Citizens of Millbury did it again! On Sunday May 3rd members of the Millbury First Congregational Church at 148 West Main Street conducted a SAFE Food Drive to benefit the Food Bank at the Millbury Senior Center. Our kind citizens donated items that filled two cars! There were also generous donations of Gorette's Gift Cards, as well as cash for those in need. As Anne Lane said in the Telegram & Gazette, "Human kindness cannot be detained".



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

Address Correction Requested

The Beacon

**June
2020**



**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 July/August
June 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.**



June 2020