

The Mary Lyon Church
First Congregational Church
of Buckland
17 Upper Street
P.O.Box 87
Buckland MA 01338
Church 413-625-9440
Pastor 413-634-5451
www.marylyonchurch.org
info@marylyonchurch.org
April 2020





painting by Antoinette "Toni" Spicer Kendrick (1916-2014) of Shelburne, MA



The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he is risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."
 Matthew 28:5-6



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS		Happy Birthday Luahn P-F		POSTPONED Brass Choir Concert	
Palm Sunday ⁵ Church Bldg Closed POSTPONED Singing Trooper Concert	Happy Birthday Lisa T ⁶			Maudy Thursday ⁹ Worship, Church Bldg Closed, Service TBA	Good Friday ¹⁰	
Easter Sunday ¹² Church Bldg Closed, Services To be advised			Happy Birthday Bunny D ¹⁵	Happy Birthday Betsey C ¹⁶		CANCELLED ¹⁸ Yankee Pot Roast 6 pm
Church Bldg Closed, Services To be advised ¹⁹	Happy Birthday Adam G ²⁰		Earth Day ²²			Historical Society Contra Dance ? 7p to 9:30p ²⁵
Church Bldg Closed, Services To be advised ²⁶		Remembering ²⁸ Dr. Mark Purinton on his birthday		Happy Birthday Jasmine S ³⁰		

Dear members and friends of Mary Lyon Church,

April 2020

What a surprisingly wonderful time we had on Sunday, March 29th, gathering together via Zoom conferencing through our computers and telephones. Over 30 members and friends of Mary Lyon Church participated from all over the county and all over the country - Florida, Arizona, California, Cape Cod, etc.

For me it felt so good to see faces and hear voices that I've really missed. I'm grateful for Annie's initiative and suggestions. I'm grateful for all the wonderful folks we have on various committees who helped spread the word, and thankful for the website folks for keeping everything moving and keeping folks informed, and thanks to Luahn for her encouragement and keeping my spirits up as I entered the brave new world of online tech existence.

We got a lot of positive feedback and constructive comments to help make our next one even better. We welcome everyone's ideas as we head toward Palm Sunday (next Sunday April 5th), Holy Week and Easter. We will find our way to worship, although not physically together.

The biggest takeaway for me was the love and spirit that was palpably present and circulating among us, reminding us who we are and what we are to and for one another. Thank you all for that blessing.

Please keep safe and healthy. I know that you are all precious in God's sight, and I want you to know that you are all precious in my heart.

Be filled with the fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy Peace, Patience, Kindness, understanding, compassion, forgiveness, gentleness, faith, etc. God be with you 'til we meet again.....



Your Pastor, *Rich Fournier*

A note from your editor:

Dear friends,

This April 2020 calendar looks a lot different than normal - just like our world is very different than what it was like a month ago.

Because we are all practicing "social distancing," distribution of this newsletter will be exclusively by U.S. Postal Service and email. In order to be sensitive to everyone's personal identity and contact information on the internet, I've deliberately omitted last names, phone numbers, and email addresses. Some of you will think this is an appropriate action and others may think it not necessary. It is what I am most comfortable with. I'd rather be conservative than to be responsible for a flood of telemarketers calling you and/or spam flooding your email.

Most of you reading this have a copy of the latest 2019 church directory which lists the personal information I have omitted here. If not, please call the church 413-625-9440 and leave a message or send us an email at info@marylyonchurch.org. We will promptly get back to you and give you the info you are looking for.

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Deadline May Newsletter

Wednesday 4/22 Noon

Distribution will be Sun. 4/26

Call or email Tina or email info@marylyonchurch.org

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HISTORIC NEWS

First "Virtual" Worship

Service held Sunday

3/29/2020 via Zoom

Zoom provides a remote conferencing service that combines video conferencing, online meetings, chat, and telephone and mobile phone collaboration. This means whether you have a computer internet connection or a telephone, we can join together at the same time to hear each other from the safety of our own homes. Some of us can actually see each other via our computers.

We are very grateful to our friend and neighbor Ann S., Pastor Rich, and everyone else who were instrumental in making this "gathering" possible. More than 30 folks joined the service.

To submit feedback or ideas for future services and/or to make contributions of pictures or music videos, send an email to info@marylyonchurch.org, or call Pastor Rich or any member of the Worship & Spiritual Life Committee.

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UPDATED WEBSITE

www.marylyonchurch.org

We went live with our new and improved website on 3/12/2020. It is full of pictures and news of the church. We are constantly updating info. If you have not yet checked it out - please do! And be sure to go to the "Contact" page and sign up to receive email from the church. Our email is info@marylyonchurch.org

NEWS FLASH

FROM THE FINANCE, INVESTED FUNDS, AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

For those of you who wonder what to do about your weekly financial offering, we have the answer! Mail it! Send your offering check payable to the Mary Lyon Church to our church collector, Vi S. Vi's address is listed in the directory with her phone number. Or mail to the church to Vi's attention at Mary Lyon Church, P.O.Box 87, Buckland, MA 01338.

Send it monthly or weekly. You can even send your offering with a nice message for Vi! She will be thrilled to receive your note rather than junk mail and the church will be thrilled to receive your financial donation.

\$\$\$ Thanks to everyone! As you can imagine, the expenses continue to flow in every month while income has stalled.

note from the editor:
our Public Suppers usually earn us \$1,000 a month, we've cancelled two so far...you do the math...

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A Prayer without Ceasing:

**O God, come to my
assistance.
Lord, make haste to
help me.**

*Pastor Rich shared the above
prayer with us 3/29/2020*

Activities at our church building
thru the end of April are
Cancelled or Postponed
due to COVID-19 Virus

Monday Nighters Mtgs CANCELLED

Our sewing and quilting group have suspended their meetings; however, they are still actively assembling a new quilt!

Luahn says, "We are at the fun stage (aren't they all fun!?) of assembling the various squares that create the overall pattern of this year's quilt, "Shakespeare in the Park." Anyone who has completed quilt kits can mail them back to Sue or drop them off at Atherton Farm."

Also, the Monday Nighters have lots of scrap fabric we can share if people are sewing protective masks or other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care professionals. We can figure out a way to get the fabric to you. It would be a fabulous way to use the fabric we've accumulated over the years! Call or email Sue A. or Luahn P.-F. for more info.

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Craft Club Mtgs CANCELLED

The craft club makes items for the November Silver Bell Bazaar. Their April meeting is cancelled. Hoping folks will continue to work on items at home. Contact Cyndie S. with questions and your ideas.

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April Church Public Supper
CANCELLED

Our usual 3rd Sat. of the month public supper is cancelled.

POSTPONED

Brass Choir Concert

The Benefit Brass Ensemble Concert to benefit the stained-glass window restoration fund will be held in the future

POSTPONED

SINGING TROOPER
CONCERT

We have postponed our plan for "Singing Trooper", Daniel Clark and his wife, Mary, to perform a concert of Spiritual and Inspirational music to benefit our Windows Capital Campaign.

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SPRING GATHERING OF
THE FRANKLIN ASSOC. OF

UCC CANCELLED

We are one of 18 churches in the Franklin Assoc. of UCC which is part of the newly formed Southern New England Conf. of the United Church of Christ, a joining of the Mass., Conn., and R.I. Conferences. Our plan was to host a gathering at our church on 4/26.

Buckland Union
Cemetery Assoc.

Spring Clean Up CANCELLED

BUCA takes care of Upper City, Center, Trow, and Taylor Cemeteries. Call President Laurie B. or write to them at P.O.Box 69, Buckland MA 01338-0069

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Buckland Public Library is

CLOSED, NO ACCESS

All inter-library loan has been suspended. All fines will be waived. Please do not drop books at the library, hold til they reopen. Community Room is locked

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(photo by Imogene Litchfield c.1970's)

Palm Sunday,
Maundy Thursday, &
Easter Services will
not be what we are
used to. We will not
be meeting together
personally.

We are finding new ways of worshiping together in this time. We are planning more "virtual" services so you can join us by phone or computer. We will be in touch with everyone to let you know our plans. If

you have ideas or suggestions, please call or email
Pastor Rich
413-634-5451
rtfournier@aol.com



Buckland Historical Society

Contra Dance Sat. 4/25

7pm to 9:30 pm

**at the Buckland Public Hall
behind the church**

Beginner & Family friendly
\$10 adults, kids 12 & under free

*Contact the Buckland
Historical Society for status
on whether this event will
happen or not 413-522-3320
or showland@mac.com*

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SAVE YOUR PENNIES

During this time of Social
Distancing, please continue to
collect pennies. We'll be collecting
them again when worship resumes!
Every cent will go to the Windows
Capital Campaign. Thanks!

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Flowers for Worship

May Sally L.

June Barbara S

July Cyndie S.

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Food Pantry Collections:

May Canned fruits & Veggies

June Jelly/Jam, condiments

July Soup & Crackers

Hill Town Churches

Food Pantry News

April Pickups are scheduled for
Tues. 4/7 & Tues 4/21 from 3 to
6 pm at Ashfield Congo. Church
on Rt. 116 in Ashfield.

Because we are not going to
church on Sundays, donations of
food have temporarily stopped.
HOWEVER, the Hill Town
Churches' Pantry is doing well
right now under the
circumstances. Church member
and volunteer, Marjorie S.,

reports that the pantry still has a
sufficient amount of food and
they are purchasing what they
need from the Food Bank. They
have set up a "drive thru" pickup
wherein bags are prepacked and
handed out to folks in their cars.
Marj described the process as
"very well organized." A limited
number of volunteers spent
several hours Monday packing
100 bags. On Tuesday families
were not allowed to enter the
building. They drove up to a
window at the church and gave
their name then drove around to
the other side door and were
given their bag(s) with fresh
produce, bread, and perishables
added. Eight new families signed
up at this past week. You can
send financial contributions to:
Hilltown Churches Food Pantry,
c/o First Congregational Church,
Main St. Rt. 116 P.O. Box 161
Ashfield, Ma. 01330

More Food News

Our Church Missions Committee
recently donated money to The
Mary Lyon Foundation who, in
partnership with the Mohawk
Trail Regional School District, is
organizing efforts to provide
groceries to families with children
in the school district community
during the mandated school
closure which will last 'til at least
May 4th. Families can register by
contacting Sue Mitchell, District
Nurse smitchell@mtrsd.org or
(413) 522-9618. Families need to
register each week in order to
receive groceries. Food
distribution is at Buckland-
Shelburne Elementary in
Shelburne Falls on Fridays from
4PM-7PM. Grocery bags are
packed with essential dry staples

such as peanut butter and jelly,
spaghetti, fresh food, and milk as
available. Bags are delivered in a
"grab and go" style right to the car
in the circle in front of the school.

WINDOWS UPDATE

As of 03/23/2020 Stained Glass
Resources reported there are four
windows completed and installed into
their frames. One window is
completed and ready to be installed
into its frame. They have begun leading the last panel.

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Some notes from church member Doug M.

We received a quarterly newsletter
from NYSEA (New York Steam
Engine Assoc.) that we have been
members of for 25 years. It's an
association of people that enjoy
seeing and working with old ageless
iron i.e. steam engines, tractors, and
an endless array of one lung engines
etc. In the newsletter was this short
poem of unknown origin that has a
lot to think about:

*When you were born, you were
crying and everyone around you
was smiling.*

*Live your life so that when you die,
you're the one that is smiling and
everyone around you is crying.
Every path has a few puddles.
Don't cry, they'll dry.*

Our puddles may seem endless at
this time but with GOD'S shining
light the puddles will dry and our
paths will be green again.

In my own mind I
wouldn't be
surprised that this
poem might have
been written by someone from a
farming community.



A bright shining future...

I cannot always remember the words to some of our old favorite hymns or the new ones, but I can't help but think of these words from one of my favorite hymns:



*When through
the woods and
forest glades I
wander and
hear the birds
sing sweetly in*

the trees,

*When I look down from lofty
mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the
gentle breeze.*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior
God;*

*How great Thou art, how great
Thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior
God to Thee;*

*How great Thy art, how great
Thou art!*

My mind quickly turns to
another song:

*My eyes have seen the glory of
the coming of the Lord---In the
beauty of the lilies Christ was
born across the sea,*

*With a glory in his bosom that
transfigures you and me;*

*As He died to make us holy, let
us live to make all free,*

"Our God is marching on."

In my blindness I hope and pray
that everyone can see a bright
shining future for all of us. I
know that my faith and trust in
God will see me through.

'til we meet again, *Doug*

A Thank You Note Received

The shed
pictured is
located on
the east
side of the



church. Our church Missions
Committee manages this
project in collaboration with
St. Pauly Textile, Inc. who
collects clothing, shoes, linens,
and blankets for distribution
across the USA and around
the world. The church
receives a stipend for hosting
the shed based on the amount
of weight of items donated.

We received a thank you note
from St. Pauly last week, they
are so very grateful for our
participating.

They reported that for the
year 2019 our church donated
1,383 garments which is
enough to clothe
approximately 168 people
around the world. These
donations generated \$403 for
our Mary Lyon Church
Missions Committee who in
turn spent that money on
many local charities.

What to Drop-off: Used
Clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts,
purses, linens, pillowcases,
blankets, curtains, and stuffed
animals.

What NOT to Drop-off:
Furniture, electronics,
household items, books, toys,
garbage, pillows, rags, and fabric
scraps. Please do not put these
items in the shed! If you do it will
COST US money to get rid of it.
Thank you!

IN MEMORY OF Dr. Mark "Doc" Purinton April 28, 1926 - March 4, 2020



Our dear friend and neighbor,
"Dr. Mark," died peacefully at
home as he slept. His loving wife
of 70 years, Barbara, and his
daughter Laurel were by his side.
He was 93 years old. For more
than 40 years Dr. Mark practiced
medicine and surgery just down
the street from the church.

A long-time church member,
Dr. Mark served on the
Buckland Public Hall
Committee for many years.

Each year the starting point for
our Buckland center Memorial
Day parade has been at his
home.

Dr. Mark's autobiography can
be found online at
RobertStrongWoodward.com
Dr. Mark created the RSW
website to honor the life and
works of landscape artist Robert
Strong Woodward.

Our condolences to all the
members of the Purinton family
and to friends and neighbors.

In lieu of flowers, the family
asked that donations in Dr.
Mark's honor be made to our
Mary Lyon Church Window
Capital Campaign, P.O.Box 87,
Buckland MA 01338