



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
August 2020

SPECIAL MEETING: A church meeting is scheduled in place of the Zoom worship service on Sunday, August 9th, at 10:30a.m. The meeting will take place outside of the church on the common under a large tent(s) provided by the Purinton family. Masks and social distancing will assure the safety of those attending. Please come if you can!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Included in this newsletter is a page of daily scriptures for the days of August. During our recent worship services we have often shared how we are coping with all that is going on in the world. Suggestions have included making time for a routine of "listening to that still small voice," whether it be in nature, exercise, meditation, or reading. Hoping this listing of daily scriptures proves helpful, with a few more words from our friend Paul..

Worship 10:30 Happy Birthday Genevieve L.			Happy Birthday Tina P.		Happy Birthday Eric L.	Remembering Stef & Rockie's 50th Anniversary
Meeting @ Church 10:30 NO WORSHIP						
Worship 10:30 Happy Birthday Helen S.						Remembering Stef Racz on his 70th Birthday
Worship 10:30				Happy Birthday Gerri A.		
Worship 10:30			Stefan "Stef" George Racz (1950-2011) was a dear member and friend of this church and the greater Buckland community. This month we remember his shining light on what would have been his 50th Wedding Anniversary with his dear bride and soulmate, and what would have been his 70th Birthday. Still missing you, Stef. You were a great gift to us.			

**SPECIAL CHURCH
MEETING
ON THE COMMON
AT THE CHURCH
SUNDAY AUGUST 9TH
AT 10:30AM**

The Worship & Spiritual Life Committee and the Building & Finance Committee have been meeting jointly each week with input from others. The purpose is to determine when and how we can safely return to worship in the church building, understanding that the current Zoom church services are not meeting the needs of many in our church community. Inclusivity and the safety of our congregants is first and foremost in our hearts and minds. Many alternatives have been brainstormed, and with each there are logistical problems that will cause some congregants to be left out.

These two committees want input from members and friends of the church who regularly attended worship services at the church before the closure of the church building in March due to the Pandemic or who regularly attend Zoom services now. A survey is being mailed to help gather information. There will also be a formal church meeting with open

discussion regarding the issue of returning to worship in the church building.

A church meeting is scheduled in place of the Zoom worship service on Sunday, August 9th, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting will take place outside of the church on the common under a large tent(s) provided by the Purinton family. Masks and social distancing will assure the safety of those attending.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and possibly vote on how to proceed in the future regarding Sunday morning worship. Any other business of the church may be brought up for discussion or voted upon at this meeting.

Telephone Charges & Zoom

If you call in to Zoom via your home "land line" telephone, you may incur long distance charges on your monthly phone bill. Charges depend on your own personal long-distance plan. The area code 929 used to call into our Zoom worship is actually New York City. We regret if coming to church with us is costing you a higher telephone bill. Please don't stop joining us because of the cost of the phone call – we can work out the cost together! There are options for you to join us! Reach out to us via calling the pastor at 413-625-5451. Your name will be kept in complete confidence.

Pastor's Message



It's almost a week later, but I still feel the surprise, joy and glow of love (not to mention the horn honking!) that enveloped me last Friday as a birthday gift and celebration. The car parade and the presence of so many welcome faces and happy birthday wishes went deep into my heart. I really want to thank all of you who participated in any way. You were all much cuter in person (safely in your cars and behind masks!) than you seem on a little square in Zoom. I know it won't surprise you to know that it brought tears to my eyes, Luahn's too. Thank you all for the wonderful cards which adorn our living room mantle, and hanging on a string across the fire place. God has blessed my life with you all, and each of you is precious in my sight, and I trust in God's sight as well. It really felt like getting a booster shot of Spirit to help me get through these strange times. I hope to be able to share, instill and enlarge that same Spirit in you in the precious time we have together.

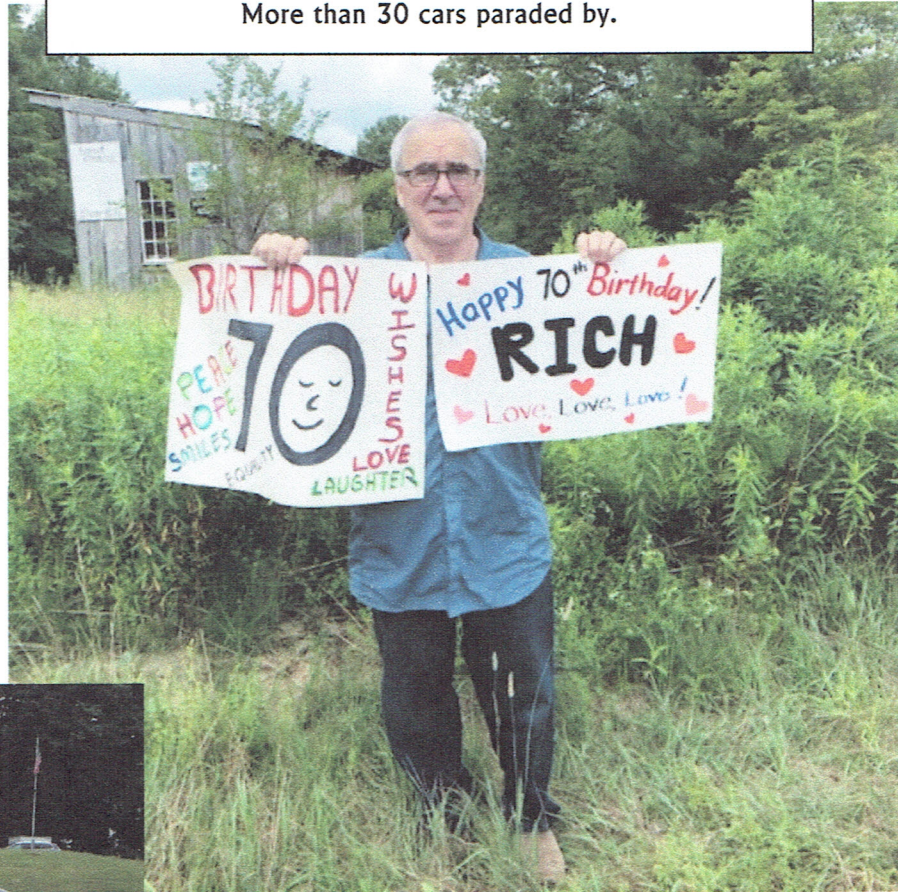
*Sending you thanks, blessings,
light and love,
Pastor Rich*

[On Fri 7/17 about 30 cars drove by Pastor Rich's home honking horns and shouting best wishes for his BIG birthday on 7/18 – see separate page in this newsletter with pictures]



Pat & Tom Clark were in one of the many cars that drove by Pastor Rich honking horns and shouting birthday greetings.

Pastor Rich had a very special surprise Friday 7/17/2020 when somehow his wife got him out to the street. More than 30 cars paraded by.



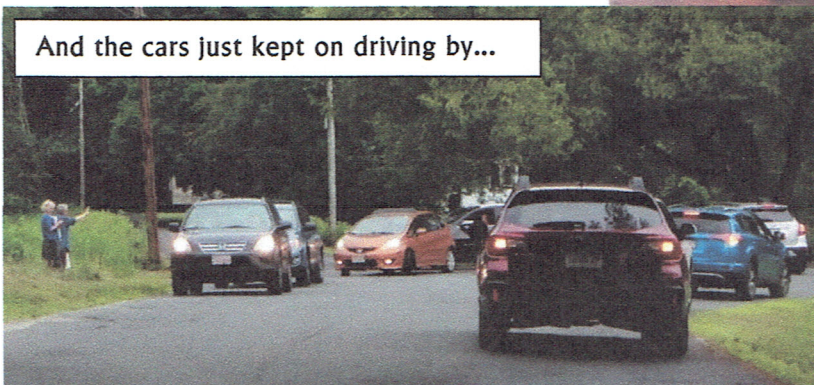
Lisa and her grandsons made an outstanding entrance! Best mask ever!!

Dozens of Happy Birthday and Best Wishes cards were mailed to Rich from friends and family near and far.

Happy Birthday



And the cars just kept on driving by...



Flowers for Worship

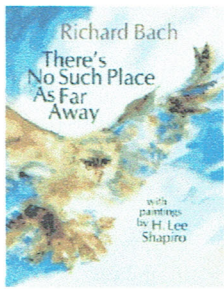
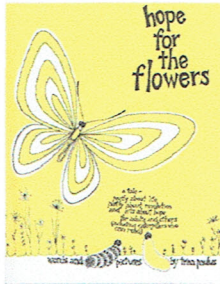


Aug Sue A.
Sept Luahn
Oct Tina

BOOK NOOK

What are you reading?

During a recent sermon, Pastor Rich quoted from the book, "Hope for the Flowers" by Trina Paulus. Hope's theme of life, moving through seeming death to a new and more beautiful life, has touched the hearts of millions of people. Published in 1973, there are two million copies in print.



Hearing about the Hope for Flowers book, Tina was reminded of a favorite of hers:

There's No Such Place as Far Away by Richard Bach who is the author of Jonathan Livingston Seagull. *There's No Such Place* has touched the hearts of thousands of readers since its first publication in 1979. It's described on amazon.com as "inspiring, now-classic tale is a profound reminder that miles cannot truly separate us from friends...that those we love are always with us--every moment of the infinite celebration we call life." While we have been miles from each other due to COVID-19, it really hits home. Share your book recommendations with us. Call or email Luahn.

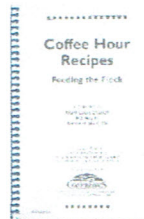
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FROM THE FINANCE, INVESTED FUNDS, AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who have sent in weekly offerings! Your generosity will keep us keep up with church expenses. Please continue to mail your donations payable to the Mary Lyon Church to our church collector, Vi S. whose address is in our directory or mail to the church to Vi's attention at Mary Lyon Church, P.O. Box 87, Buckland, MA 01338

If you would like more details or have questions about our church's budget, please send an email to info@marylyonchurch.org or call the church and leave a message at 413-625-9440.

CHURCH COOKBOOKS FOR SALE



\$12.00 each

includes postage

We'll mail to you!

Email your order to info@marylyonchurch.org

Or call (413) 339-4231

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Window Images Greeting Cards For Sale

in packs of six for \$15.00

You pick images



Price includes postage.
Email info@marylyonchurch.org
or call Tina.

Food Pantry Collections

Aug: Baking ingredients

Sept: Cereal/oatmeal

Oct: Pasta & Sauce

Pickup days:

Tues. 8/11 & 8/25 from 3 pm to 6 pm at Ashfield Congo Church on Rt. 116 in Ashfield.

If you want to donate food, call 413-625-0020 and arrange either a pick up at your home or meet time at the church in Ashfield.

Should you wish to send a financial donation directly, mail to: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry, c/o First Congregational Church, Main St. Rt. 116 P.O. Box 161 Ashfield, Ma. 01330 **OR** send to our church attn Missions, put Food Pantry on the memo line.

Update from the Windows Capital

Campaign Committee

Donations are still very welcome for our stained-glass window restoration project. Our current receipts are now over \$80,000. We are very close to our goal of \$90,000 although, if we are able to collect above our goal, we could obtain the protective covering for our windows.



We hope folks are still saving their pennies. Sooner or later, we'll be able to collect our pennies, count them, and add them to our total. Thanks so much for all contributions!

Monday Nighters

Our sewing and quilting group has suspended their meetings but work on this year's "Shakespeare in the Park" has been going along. Here's a picture from 7/4 on the frame at the church where social distancing is no problem sitting across the 83" by 100" Queen size quilt.

Call Sue at the Atherton Farm 413-625-2659 or Luahn P.-F. for more information.



We have included a full-size sheet of raffle tickets in this newsletter.

Drawing is planned for 12/20/2020. If you would like to purchase tickets, just cut out from the full sheet included. Fill in your info, and mail completed ticket(s) and your payment payable to the church - with "Raffle" on Memo line of your check. Mail to the church P.O.Box 87, Buckland MA 01338

If you would like more that the number of tickets included here, just let us know. We will also include a full sheet of tickets in our Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec newsletters.

A beautiful hand crafted piece for your home (great 2nd and 3rd prizes), a wonderful way to support the Monday Nighters and our Church.

Deadline for Sept.

Newsletter

Wed. 8/26 by noon

Call Tina or email

info@marylyonchurch.org

We could use some first-class stamps for our



mailings of this newsletter in the coming months. If you would like to share some stamps, mail them to the church Attn: Newsletter. Or, send a \$ donation to Attn: Missions to help cover the cost of postage.

THANKS SO VERY MUCH!!

Craft Club

Hope all of you who are crafty are crafting up a storm for the November Silver Bell Bazaar. We will again, postpone getting together in August until we can be comfortably able to make our crafts with each other.

Please let Chairperson Cyndie S. know what you will be adding to the wonderful collection of crafts for the bazaar. Thanks so much!

Do you have thoughts on the Bazaar and whether it should be held this year in light of COVID-19? Make your thoughts known at the 8/9 meeting and/or let Cyndie know your thoughts - email her at info@marylyonchurch.org put "Bazaar" in the subject line. THANKS!

The Buckland Union Cemetery Association

BUCA manages the Trow, Taylor and Buckland Center Cemeteries as well as Upper City Cemetery off Clesson Brook Road. Many of our friends, neighbors, church members and founders are buried in their hallowed grounds.

BUCA offers traditional, cremation, and green burials. For more information please contact Laurie Benoit at lbnoit@outlook.com or calling 413.625.8668.

Buckland Historical Society

Has Canceled

Annual Open Houses

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Buckland Historical Society's Open Houses usually held in August are canceled.

The Museum across from the church and the Wilder Homestead on Rt. 112 are open by appointment.

Call 413-625-9763

Buckland Public Library

The Library is offering curbside services to borrow books, CDs, and DVDs. Free journal packs avail. CWMARS has resumed inter-library circulation. For more information call 413-625-9412 or visit their website: bucklandpubliclibrary.org/

A new commandment:

Thou shalt wear a mask

HyGenesis 3:16



Encouragement from the Apostle Paul *from heidistjohn.com*. Daily readings in order - Each day in August read verses selected between commas: **Phil.** 1:3-7, 1:8-11, 1:12-18, 1:19-23, 1:24-30, 2:1-4, 2:5-11, 2:12-15, 2:16-18, 2:19-26, 2:27-30, 3:1-6, 3:7-11, 3:12-16, 3:17-21, 4:1-7, 4:8-13, 4:14-23 **Col.** 1:3-8, 1:9-14, 1:15-23, 1:24-29, 2:1-5, 2:6-15, 2:16-23, 3:1-11, 3:12-17, 3:18-25, **1st Thess.** 4:1-8, 4:9-17, 5:12-25.

*A message from Rev. J. Paul Sampley
Beloved friend of Mary Lyon Church*

Hello, dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Mary Lyon Church,

Tina has asked me to drop a few comments regarding the readings from Philippians, Colossians and 1 Thessalonians.

First, the church at Philippi - of all Paul's churches, this is the most fully sympatico with him—and with one another inside the community of believers. They never have threatened to break up or had a splinter group that thought about breaking away from Paul (cf. Corinthian believers as seen in 1 and 2 Corinthians). No, from the very first of Paul's preaching to the Philippians they have joined in a partnership with him in advancing the gospel (Phil 4:15): he went about the Roman world preaching the gospel and they sent him aid and support in his missionizing. For Paul, we know that every one who is called by God becomes a child of God, a baby in the faith (Romans 8; Galatians 4). Paul's whole work with new believers, those babies in the faith, is to help them grow into being adults, fully formed after, that is, like Christ (2 Cor 3:18). That's why in Phil 3 Paul can speak of himself as their model, as one who is not already mature (forget about the translation "perfect" because you might confuse it with perfectionism, a "disease") (-: but "presses on" to become even more mature, more adult in the faith (Phil 3:12-4:1). In every Pauline letter, look for the thanksgiving ("I give thanks. . .") paragraph of the letter because in each thanksgiving Paul gives a clue about the purpose for writing the whole letter; it is as if he tips his hand to the real concern right way.

Colossians, if it is not written by Paul, is certainly by someone of his followers who understood him very well. In this thanksgiving Paul uses his beloved triad of faith, hope and love (cf. 1 Cor 13:13; Gal 5:5-6; 1 Thess 1:3 and 5:8). JPS def of faith for Paul: faith: trust, right relation to God (as distinguished from "what you believe"); hope, confidence toward the future based on what we already know about God, God's promises, etc.; love, the acts of caring and sharing that are produced as the fruit of one's faith, one's right relation to God (or the outpouring of the love of God through us to others whom God puts in our lives). When you get to Col 1:27 pay special attention to the expression "Christ in you, the hope of glory." When sin took control of our lives, we "fall short of, lack, lose the glory of God" (Rom 3:23; anytime you want to hear this, just ask Doug to recite Rom 3:23 to you; it's one of his favorite verses). But "in Christ" or "now that Christ is in us" (both phrases saying about the same thing for Paul; we are ever supposed to be becoming more Christ-like; cf. Rich on that.) Now, back to the passage in Col 1:27: because Christ is in us, we have hope (remember, confidence toward the future) that our lost glory that God had given us is being/will be completely restored, if we, like the Philippians keep pressing on to make it our own! Col 2:6-7 is another superb one-sentence pics of the life of faith, as Paul sees it. And in that verse is THE answer to the question "Why do you choose to do whatever it is that you choose?" In other words, what drives the believer to love? Answer, in one word: thankfulness (look ahead to 1 Thess 5:18). Thankfulness that God has chosen to love you and reclaim you no matter what a slob you have been. What else can you do but love when you have been loved so unconditionally?

Got to close this thing down; it's bidding to get me carried away. So, 1 Thessalonians. Written to a brand new church of new believers. Paul has come there to preach the gospel, but the neighbors get irritated and think Paul and this gospel of his is dangerous, so they prepare to go after him. He darts away before they can get to him, but he is beleaguered with concern for the new, baby believers he has had to leave behind. He's so much hoping that they can hold on in face of the persecution and opposition from their neighbors. He has sent Timothy (one of his beloved followers/agents) and Timothy has brought back a good report of how they are standing strong in their new faith (1 Thess 3:6-10). So Paul is encouraged and he hopes for a time when he can return and be with them. Stop, Paul (this one writing), stop!

Ticket # _____ Mary Lyon Church Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone #: _____	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Raffle</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>DRAWING</i> Ticket # _____ Mary Lyon Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Drawing December 20, 2020</p> <p>1st Prize: "Shakespeare in the Park" Quilt by the 'Monday Nighters' 2nd Prize: Watercolor Print "Milkweed" by Cyndie Stetson 3rd Prize: Set of 4 Handmade Placemats by the "Monday Nighters" 3 tickets for \$5.00 **** 1 ticket for \$2.00</p>
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