



Photo by Pamela White Sand

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





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June 2020



Take time to claim your strengths; they are gifts of God
Take time to have fun; it's God's way of teaching you your strengths
Take time to grow yourself; only you can grow you
Take time to trust yourself; God trusts you
Take time to be self-reliant; it is better than being dependent
Take time to share with others; they will bless you and you will bless them

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|--|---------------------------------|--|---|
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Happy Birthday Sarah V. | 5 | 6  6 JUNE 1944 D-DAY ANNIVERSARY |
| 7 Worship 10:30 am Happy Birthday Ken W.. | 8 | 9 | 10 Happy Birthday Gail T. | 11 Happy Birthday Josh S. | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Worship 10:30 am  FLAG DAY | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Happy Birthday Barb S. TOMORROW--> | 20  Summer Begins |
| 21 Worship 10:30 am FATHER'S DAY | 22 | 23 | 24 Happy 100th Birthday Alta C. | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Worship 10:30 am | 29 | 30 | Jesus, thank you for Summer. Thank you for light and warmth. Thank you for the sun. Thank you for the gifts of nature and for the annual cycles and seasons. Today, give us that grace again, to see you as the Creator, the One who lifts us up to be with you forever, even now. | | | |

Food Pantry Collections

June: Jelly/Jam; Condiments (ketchup, relish, mayo, mustard, steak/BBQ sauce, dressings, pickles, olives, etc.)

July: Soup & Crackers

Aug: Baking ingredients

Pickup days:

Tues. 6/2, 6/16, & 6/30 from 3 to 6 pm at Ashfield Congo. Church on Rt. 116 in Ashfield.

Update on Hilltown Churches Food Pantry:

We checked in with the leadership of the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. They tell us:

Thanks to the amazing generosity of so many community members we are in a good place for good distribution. We have had 20 new families sign up over the last 3 distributions so the need has increased but the Food Bank has been able to increase our food allotment to compensate for this. We are good at the moment. If there is someone who wants to donate food, they can call 413-625-0020 and arrange either a pick it or meet them 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.

Pastor's Message:

Dear members and friends, This coming Sunday, May 31st is Pentecost which culminates the Easter season and is often considered the "Birthday of the Church" because it transformed Jesus' followers from fearful people into spirit empowered people who went out into the world and spread the "Good News" around the whole Mediterranean area. It combines Jesus' Ascension with the Holy Spirit's descending. Pentecost Sunday celebrates the many and varied expressions of God's love and wisdom. The divine dancer moves through all creation bringing forth life and love and inspiration. Fire and wind are everywhere. Inspiration and revelation are just a moment away and can come either by surprise or as a result of the interplay of God's wisdom and our intentional spiritual practices. The spirit blows where it wills, in all directions, and embracing all peoples.

The word "Pentecost" comes from the Greek and means "fifty." That is 50 days after the resurrection. But the origins of Pentecost derive from our

Jewish sisters and brothers, where it was traditionally observed as an agricultural festival, and later it was used to commemorate the giving of the Law (torah) to Moses on Mount Sinai. (I'm indebted to John Pilch for much of this information).

The Scriptures readings this Sunday and the pastor's message will hopefully shed more illumination on this important event in Christian history.

If you are planning to join us via Zoom, I invite you to share a tradition with us, which is to wear something red, which symbolizes the Holy Spirit and the "tongues of fire" that appeared over the head of Jesus' disciples. I hope many of you can join us in worship and celebration of Pentecost, which I believe is not over yet!

With Love and Blessings,

Pastor Rich

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June CANCELLATIONS due to COVID-19:

- Church Strawberry Supper
- Annual Lavender Festival at Johnson Farm, Buckland
- 25th Annual Franklin County Relay for Life
- Cathedral in the Light Sunday services on Greenfield common.
- Buckland Historical Society Annual Program & Pie Social

Flowers for Worship

June Barb S.

July Cyndie S.

Aug Sue A.



Worship Services Continue Virtually via Zoom

On 5/18/2020 Gov. Baker lifted closure of church buildings to allow face to face worship provided the gatherings meet a number of requirements and guidelines. Members of the Worship & Spiritual Life and the Buildings & Grounds committees are meeting with Pastor Rich to determine next steps regarding in-person worship. There are many things to consider and many procedures to be put in place. More information will be shared with all of you as soon as available. **For now, we will continue with Zoom virtual worship.** We look forward to "seeing you," and hearing you on the telephone, on Zoom.

If you call in 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.

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY ALTA CLARK

Lifelong Buckland resident and church member Alta Clark turns 100 years old on the 24th. She received the distinction as Buckland's oldest resident in 2018 when she was awarded The Boston Post Silver Cane Award. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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BOOK NOOK

During a recent Sunday message, Pastor Rich quoted from a book: **CPR for the Soul: Reviving a Sense of the Sacred in Everyday Life** by Tom Stella. Here's a description of the book from amazon.com: Tom Stella's latest exploration into the life, death, and rebirth of the soul. In CPR for the Soul: Reviving a Sense of the Sacred, Stella shares the deep, eternal wisdom that knows the lines separating the sacred and the secular, time and eternity, humanity and divinity, are false. Or, at the very least, blurred. God, by whatever name, is found in the midst of everyday life, work, and relationships. All people, all creation, and all of life is holy ground.

What are you reading these days? Share your recommendations & quotes with us. Call or email Luahn.

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Quotes by Maya Angelou

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

"Lift up your hearts
Each new hour holds new chances
For new beginnings."

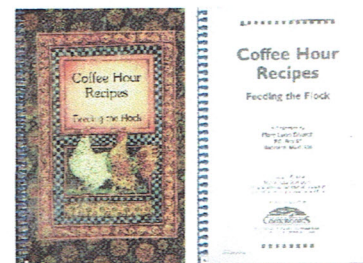
FROM THE FINANCE, INVESTED FUNDS, AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Even though the church building is not being used, monthly bills are still due. We must still pay expenses such as utilities, heat, insurance, and our pastor's salary. These expenses amount to nearly \$5,000 each month.

Thank you to all who have sent in offerings! Your generosity will keep us going. 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

NEW HALL SIGN



*Thank you, Larry Lesure,
for sharing your carpentry
gifts and talents with us!
Awesome job!*

Update from the Windows Capital Campaign Committee

Donations are still very welcome for our stained-glass window restoration project. Our current receipts are \$79,000. We are very close to our goal of \$90,000 although, if we are able to collect additional donations, we could obtain the protective covering for our windows. It hasn't even been a year and we've received tremendous support for this capital campaign event. Thanks so much for all contributions!

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WINDOWS WILL BE BACK MON. 6/1

**SGR will be on site in
our church in Buckland
to reinstall the windows!
We are so very excited!!**

**If you come to watch,
wear a mask and adhere
to social distance rules!**

Poem by Kitty O'Meara

*This poem has gone viral
on the world wide web:*

**And the people stayed
home.**

And read books, and
listened, and rested, and
exercised, and made art, and
played games, and learned
new ways of being, and were
still.

And listened more deeply.
Some meditated, some
prayed, some danced. Some
met their shadows.

And the people began to
think differently.

And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people
living in ignorant,
dangerous, mindless, and
heartless ways, the earth
began to heal.

And when the danger passed,
and the people joined
together again, they grieved
their losses, and made new
choices, and dreamed new
images, and created new
ways to live and heal the
earth fully, as they had been
healed.

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
June 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!

Monday Nighters

Our sewing and quilting
group has suspended their
meetings but work on this
year's "Shakespeare in the
Park" continues. This
year's quilt is about to be
placed on the quilt frame
and tied so it's getting close
to being finished! Some
Monday Nighters are
working on the next
project - baby quilts.

You can also
find an
assortment of
pot holders
for sale at
Atherton
Farm that are
handcrafted




with care by the Monday
Nighters. Call Sue at the
farm 413-625-2659 or
Luahn P.-F. for more
information.

Buckland Public Library is CLOSED, but they are offering services:

Call the library at
413-625-9412 or
visit their website
bucklandpubliclibrary.org
for details about ordering
books and other media for
curbside pickup and
about Free Book Fridays

KEEP SAVING YOUR PENNIES

Pennies will be 
collected the 3rd Sunday of
every month when we resume
in-church worship. Every cent
will go to the Window Capital
Campaign.

A Year Ago, We Voted...

A year ago, we voted on the Restoration of the Stained-Glass Windows. A meeting of the congregation was held after worship on Sunday June 30th. About 30 members and friends were in attendance. After hearing a thorough report from Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair Carl Nelke, and an hour of discussion, a motion was voted upon by written ballot. Twenty church members cast ballots unanimously to move forward with the repair with taking monies from invested funds if needed but also launching a capital campaign. Keep the donations coming!

'40 Days' shared by Doug M

(Editor's note: Doug sent this last month but I ran out of room so I'm including it now.) The official lockdown started March 23 and will likely end May 1st.

That is EXACTLY 40 days.

The Latin root of the word "quarantine" is "forty".

So, what does the Bible say about 40?

The flood lasted 40 days.

40 years Moses fled Egypt.

40 days Moses stayed on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments.

Exodus lasted 40 years.

Jesus fasted for 40 days.

40 days for a woman to rest after giving birth.

Optimum number of weeks for human gestation is 40.

A group of theologians thinks the number 40 represents

"change". It is the time of preparing a person, or people, to make a fundamental change. Something will happen after these 40 days. Just believe and pray. Remember, whenever the number 40 appears in the Bible, there is a "change".

Please know that during this "quarantine" rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air is becoming cleaner because of less pollution, there is less theft and murder, healing is happening, and most importantly, people are turning to Christ. The Earth is at rest for the first time in many years and hearts are truly transforming.

Remember we are in the year 2020, and $20 + 20 = 40$.

Also, 2020 is the year of the United States Census. Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, was born during a census.

Lastly, 2020 is perfect vision. May our sight focus on the Lord and living according to His perfect vision for us knowing He holds us in the palm of His hand.

May these days of "quarantine" bring spiritual liberation to our souls, our nation, and our world.

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CLOTHING SHED

The clothing shed on the east side of the church is open! Please continue to give the clothes and linens you are no longer using to this worthwhile endeavor that helps the church and those in need in our community and around the world. We accept clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals. The church's Mission Committee receives a stipend and uses the money locally.

MORE BOOK NOOK

Here's a book recommendation from Luahn.

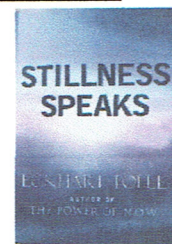
Stillness Speaks

takes the form of 200 individual entries, organized into 10 topic clusters that range from "Beyond the Thinking Mind" to "Suffering and the End of Suffering." Each entry is concise and complete in itself, but, read together, take on a transformative power. The power of now: When the pressures of future and past thinking disappear, fear and frustration also vanish, conquered by the moment.

From the introduction:

"A true spiritual teacher does not have anything to teach in the conventional sense of the word, does not have anything to give or add to you, such as new information, beliefs, or rules of conduct. The only function of such a leader is to help you remove that which separates you from the truth of who you already are and what you already know in the depth of your being. The spiritual teacher is there to uncover and reveal to you that dimension of inner depth that is also peace..."

If you have book recommendations or quotes that have inspired you, send them to us so we can share them with our community. Email to info@marylyonchurch.org or call Luahn or Tina.





On May 12th there was a very loud and long car parade in Hawley...



For my wonderful Church Family,

You do know how to make someone feel special!

Prior to my actual birthday, I was enjoying receiving cards and messages each day and thinking what a great way to become 90. I received 85 cards; WOW! How wonderful.

It was my birthday, so I was off to the mailbox to see if there were more cards. That's when I saw all these cars in the road, and I thought, "What is going on?" Then a light bulb lit up in my brain. "That's a parade!" A parade of my church friends and my Hawley neighbors. Not only a parade, but posters, balloons and flowers. A cake, too. All for me. I will never be able to live up to all the compliments and nice things everyone said of me.

I'm looking forward to our being together once again. I will try hard to be the person you think I am.

Vi

