

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
May 2020



Photo by Laurie Benoît
 Memorial Day Parade at Taylor Cemetery






Mother's Day is a day dedicated to honoring and recognizing the sacrifices and accomplishments of mothers. Mothers are recognized by family and friends; regardless of whether they are biological or perceived maternal figures. It is a day to honor and respect mothers for their many sacrifices; a day to show them how important they are to us. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation recognizing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.
 [from www.wincalendar.com/Mothers-Day]



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Images on days within this calendar come from www.wincalendar.com

On 4/28/2020 Gov. Baker of Mass. announced that restrictions due to COVID19 virus will continue through at least Monday May 18th. No Public Supper this month. We hope you will join us for virtual services via Zoom each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. See inside for details.

						1 Happy Birthday Marilyn B.	2
3 Worship 10 am	4	5  CINCO DE MAYO	6  National NURSES DAY	7 Happy Birthday Anita U.	8	9	
10 Worship 10 am Happy Mothers' Day	11 Happy Birthday Kinston DeJ.	12 Happy Birthday Vi S.	13	14 Happy Birthday Sue S.	15	16  ARMED FORCES DAY	
17 Worship 10 am	18	19	20	21  Ascension	22 Happy Birthday Penny M.	23 Happy Birthday Rockie R.	
24 Worship 10 am	25  MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28 Happy Birthday Bev P.	29	30	



April 21st is Ascension which commemorates the day that Jesus ascended into heaven after spending 40 days appearing to his disciples after his resurrection. The disciples thought Jesus was going to restore the earth to the Kingdom of Heaven, but instead, as he promised to send the Holy Spirit to give them power, he ascended into Heaven and disappeared in a cloud. Acts 1:9-11



Worship Services
Continue Virtually
via Zoom

We do not know how many more days we will need to stay physically apart. We are planning Virtual Services via Zoom conferencing on computer video/audio and telephone every Sunday until further notice.

We recently learned that some of you calling in by your home "land line" telephone may incur long distance charges on your monthly phone bill. Long distance 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

Dear members and friends:

Last Sunday the Scriptures were about the disciples who confined themselves in an upper room, frightened and fearful after what happened to Jesus. It was the same upper room where they shared the last supper with Jesus. It was as if they wanted to go back and hold onto the image and presence of the One who changed their lives forever.

There's somewhat of a parallel with our situation today dealing with the Pandemic of Covid19. Many of us feel confined, our lives have been altered by fear of the invisible virus.

Many of us would like to go back to the way things were, but that's not really possible. We have to move forward, creatively, compassionately and with vision for a new world.

I see signs that this crisis is bringing people together, not physically, but spiritually, in that

we recognize our common humanity and vulnerability, and despite our differences reach

out to be helpful and comforting to those in need.

So many statistics cross our TV screens each day, we become mesmerized by numbers.

But behind each number lies the life story of a human being, embedded in a web of relationships interlaced with

love and struggle, with hopes and fears. We are the same. I believe our "confinement" time can be a time of incubation to bring about new possibilities and new ways of being in the world with one another, a birth of awareness and planetary consciousness that God needs us all to come together to bring about the "birth of the daughters and sons of God" and of all creation.

*Crises almost always precede transformation
Problems are "evolutionary Drivers"*

Nature takes jumps through greater synergy and cooperation within and among species

(Barbara Marx Hubbard)

I love the way our community understands this, and rallies their hearts and spirits to

help and support folks in need wherever they may be. Together with others we become "Universal humans" because we are connected through the heart to the whole of life. We are awakening from within with a desire to find greater life purpose, and are lit up with a mysterious sense of the future. This newness is moving toward Cosmic consciousness (Christ Consciousness), and an ever-deepening spirituality of oneness. (Barbara Marx Hubbard)

AS ONE

Love, *Rich Fournier*

FROM THE FINANCE, INVESTED FUNDS, AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

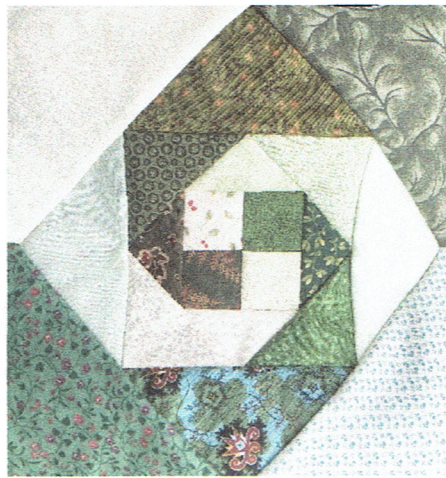
The church's monthly income has been drastically reduced since COVID-19 mandated isolation has closed us down. We are no longer bringing in over \$1,000 a month profit from our monthly public suppers. Weekly offerings are being mailed in by several regular attendees but overall our offering income is lower than usual.

Even though the building is not being used, monthly bills are still due. Whether the building is being used or not we must still pay expenses such as utilities, heat, insurance, and our pastor's salary. These expenses amount to nearly \$5,000 each month. We need your financial support now more than ever.

Please consider mailing your offerings/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 contact the Finance, Invested Funds, and Properties Committee. Send an email to info@marylyonchurch.org or call the church and leave a message at 413-625-9440.

Monday Nighters



Our sewing and quilting group has suspended their meetings but work on this year's "Shakespeare in the Park" continues. The quilt top is 95% complete. The next step is to tie the quilt and we are hoping to be able to do that with proper social distancing.

Call Sue A. or Luahn P.-F. for more information.

Craft Club

The craft club is postponing its craft sessions until further notice due to continued social distancing. Although with everyone being in a creative frenzy, chairperson Cyndie S. is hoping we're all being creative and making items for the November Silver Bell Bazaar. It's never too early to think about crafting for our bazaar, so let's put our heads together, virtually of course, and begin stockpiling crafts for November. Thanks so much.

Thanks from WWC & MLC

The stained glass window restoration committee and Mary Lyon Church would like to acknowledge the many generous campaign donations that were given in memory of our church member, neighbor, and friend, Dr. Mark Purinton who passed away recently. We thank the members of Dr. Mark's family for including the Mary Lyon church for these contributions. We also thank everyone who donated in his memory. Your thoughts and support are greatly appreciated.

Food Pantry Collections

May: canned fruits & veggies

June: Jelly/Jam; Condiments

Pickup days:

Tues. 5/5 & 5/19 from 3 to 6 pm
at Ashfield Congo. Church on
Rt. 116 in Ashfield, MA

You can send financial contributions to our church, Attn: Missions or directly to: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry, c/o First Congregational Church, Main St. Rt. 116 P.O. Box 161 Ashfield, Ma. 01330

Flowers for Worship

May Vi S.

June Barb S.

July Cyndie S.

Thanks from Crop Walk

We received a thankyou on 4/18 from the Franklin County CROP Hunger Walk which we supported in October 2019. Our church donated \$266.00 to local and international hunger fighting agencies. The total donation from Franklin County was \$19,329.00. The 2020 walk will be held Sun. Oct. 4 at Central Congregational Church of New Salem.

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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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BOOK CLUB

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

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Cathedral in The Light

on the Town Common Greenfield CANCELLED

Usually Sundays at 2 p.m.
Rain or Shine

Community Worship followed by a meal

We are invited to join other Franklin Assoc. UCC churches to provide food and/or help serve the meal in June and in September

SAVE YOUR PENNIES

Pennies will be collected the 3rd Sunday of every month during church worship with every cent going to the Window Capital Campaign.

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Memorial Day Parade

With COVID19 restrictions, we cannot predict what our world will be like on Memorial Day 5/25. The plan is to hold this event unless the law says we cannot.



As usual, Veterans are invited to meet at 43 Upper Street at 7:45 am to line up. The parade starts at 8:00 am walking north on Upper St. to the church, then west on Charlemont Rd. to Taylor Cemetery, returning to the Veterans' Memorial Monument on the lawn of the Buckland Historical Society Museum. Spectators are invited to park at the church and join in the walk when the procession arrives.

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Helen (Hicks) Vight

1926-2020

Longtime Buckland Friend

Helen died on the 25th of January this year. Helen's grandparents, William and Berth (Boyd) Barnes, had

owned what is known today as the Atherton Farm. Records show that Helen's mom, Christine Barnes, joined our church 1923.

Seventy years ago this month, in May of 1950, Helen married Eugene "Gene" Vight of Ashfield and together they had lived in Buckland for many years on Ashfield Road (Route 112) just south of the church.

Helen was best friend of the late Mildred "Millie" E. (O'Hara) Willis of the Clesson Valley Dairy Farm. Helen had many friends connected to our neighborhood and church community. She was a very special lady and will be sorely missed.

Because of COVID-19 her graveside service held last month at Leavitt Cemetery had to be private. The family will hold a celebration of life at the Hicks farm on Burrington Rd. in Charlemont later this year and everyone who knew her is invited to attend. We'll be sure to let you all know when.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations in Helen's memory be made to the Charlemont Federated Church, P.O. Box 248, Charlemont, MA 01339

Windows Restoration Update

The windows are almost completed. We received a call from Stained Glass Resources on 4/20/2020. They are putting the last glass panel in the last frame this week. They still have to put frames and sashes together, do a bit of painting, and then some final clean up. Hoping by our next calendar an install date will be available! 😊

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A Buckland Mother's Day

more than 60 years ago:

Editor's note:

An interesting newspaper clipping was found in the belongings of Helen Vight. The paper is not dated but based on clues within the article, this event would have taken place in the May of 1953 or 1954. The headline reads:

Buckland Ladies **Recall "Young"** **Club of 1899**

BUCKLAND – The Young Ladies Club of 1899 and later years was recalled Thursday when the present-day Ladies Club, no longer having the "young" in its name,

entertained special guests with a turkey dinner and program under the title, "Mother's Day Dinner and Birthday Party," omitting the usual work projects.

Two of the original members, Mrs. Edith Bronson and Mrs. Mary Griswold, with Mrs. Myrtle Lilly, Mrs. Atella Wells, Mrs. Bertha Wilder, Mrs. Lillian Hartwell, Mrs. Lillian Goodnow, Miss Etta Howes, Mrs. Gertrude Goddard of Sunderland and Mrs. Dorothy Geiger, daughter of a first member, who later showed pictures of the south, were seated at the table of honor.

Candles on the triple-tiered birthday cake made by Mrs. Carrie Cass and decorated by Mrs. Imogene Litchfield were blown out by Mrs. Bertha Wilder, 87, who was the only one with a May birthday present. "Auld Lang Syne" was sung.

Reminiscences by Mrs. Mary Griswold were followed by comments from the others, recalling the start of the club as "literary," its sewing for victims of several fires to give them clothes and bedding, its meetings sometimes at the Library, the vestry, the "Red School House," and at various homes. Quilts were tied; jolly sleighrides took them

as far as Williamsburg, where they had an oyster supper at the home of the former Harriet Wilder, who had married Dwight Clark and lived at the Williamsburg Creamery, where Clark was butter maker. Miss Etta Howes recited the poem "Mother." Another sleighride was remembered for the superlative cookies made by "Edith Wiley's mother." A bouquet of white and red carnations given by Mrs. Gertrude Goddard in memory of those who have gone, was divided between Mrs. Bronson and Mrs. Griswold. Present were 42, including Mrs. Luna Scott. A [sic] special guests had corsages.

Mrs. Pauline Atherton, Mrs. Jennie Cooper, Mrs. Virginia Scott, Mrs. Carrie Cass, Mrs. Elsie Warfield and Mrs. Lila Nadeau were committee for the turkey dinner. The eight original members of the club, according to memory, were: Mary Aste, Cora Warfield, Mabelle Bradford, Mary Bradford, Florence Taylor, Irma Taylor, Edith Wiley and May Hawkes.

~

How many of the names above do you recognize? More next month about these ladies 😊

A few months ago, we had some fun trying to identify Sunday school children pictured outside of the church. Can you help with these mystery photos? They both appear to have been taken in front of the church. Can anyone identify the individuals pictured? The occasions? Send your best guesses to info@marylyonchurch.org or call Tina. Your answers will appear in a future newsletter. (04/20)



Worshipping Together While We Are Apart – Churches In West County

During this pandemic, our West County churches experienced a loss. We were not able to come together in our annual Lenten Ecumenical Service. In some ways we “lost touch” with each other when we started to earnestly hunker down in, or actually out, of our local churches. But the truth is that of course, while our church buildings have been closed since the end of Lent, we are all continuing to gather spiritually. In this time of Covid-19, when we are called to stay at home, maybe we can use this time to connect ecumenically (experiencing the universal Church not just our own congregations.) While some of us have more time to travel on the world wide web, or to reach out on the telephone or use the postal service to connect, can we use this time to visit each other, lending our spiritual support, and alleviating our isolation? If you would like to join with other churches, either virtually or in any other physically distant way – here is some basic information about some, not all, of our neighboring churches. This is a time to pray for the Church, pray for the people, and pray for the planet.

Trinity Church in Shelburne Falls is worshipping online via we Sunday YouTube. You can access the service via the YouTube channel (Trinity Church Shelburne Falls MA) and on the church website trinityshelburnefalls.org. The Leadership Team and pastor are meeting weekly on Zoom. The church is also continuing to offer a weekly contemplative prayer group centered around the upcoming Sunday Gospel. The group is now meeting on Zoom. If you would like to join the group, you can call the church office to get an invitation. 625-2341. The pastor is also sending out a daily pray/poem. If you would like to receive these prayers, please call the church.

Shelburne Congregational Church is distributing weekly worship materials in the mail along with a mid-week video that is accessible to the public on the church website which is shelburnechurch.org

First Congregational Buckland (aka Mary Lyon Church) has been hosting virtual services via Zoom conferencing each Sunday at 10:30am. They are also regularly updating their website with messages from the pastor and have a "Messages of Hope" page which is frequently updated as members and friends send in words, music, video that they have found comforting. The church website is www.marylyonchurch.org. The “Messages of Hope” are on the “About Us” tab.

The Federated Church of Charlemont is sending out a Wednesday message and Sunday morning worship by email, using MailChimp. The service includes most of the usual elements; the hymns are linked to YouTube, and the interim pastors read the scriptures and give the benediction from home on their own YouTube channel. On Thursdays, a music video is also sent out to parishioners. The church website is charlemontfederatedchurch.org

The Heath Union Church has been holding services every Sunday morning at 9:00am via teleconference call. They have all learned to suppress their mute buttons during hymns so that they can sing together without the delay time creating a cacophony. They e-mail and deliver bulletins with all the words to everyone and to assign parts in a way that gives the service the feel of worship as a shared work.

St. John's Ashfield has “gathered” for Sunday worship at 10 AM via the Zoom platform. They have not shared the feed on social media to create space for virtual Coffee Hour afterward. One new thing is opening up break-out rooms during Coffee Hour so that folks can have a deeper conversation about how things are going. From Easter forward they are using a modified Service of the Word – the Sunday celebration up to the Prayers of the People, with blessing and dismissal. Other groups continue to meet via Zoom: Vestry Team, Tea & Empathy grief group, AA. A new experiment during the pandemic is a Thursday night Potluck Supper. Folks eat at their kitchen tables and chat for 45 minutes about anything and everything. At 6:45 PM they pray Compline together.

First Congregational Church of Ashfield is worshipping via a Sunday morning interactive service bulletin (text + audio recordings for music, sermon). They have been working as a congregation to get more comfortable with Zoom and hope to move primary worship to Zoom (on Sunday mornings at 10AM) in the next two or three weeks. They are also planning their May congregational meeting to be held via Zoom! Many members do not have adequate internet speed to manage Zoom calls. Sermons are making their way to the website <https://ashfielducc.org/sermons/> and they have begun recording video messages tailored to young people - like this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=km1kMOGshqw>

Updates as of 4/29/2020