

A summer evening 2020 photo by Ann Stephany

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
September 2020

Show us, O Lord, your face of light in the coldness of morning, in the song of the stream, in the beckoning of autumn. Make shine, O Lord, your face of fire, on the mist of the lakes, on the trunks of the trees, on the crust of the rocks. Bring forth, O Lord, your face of peace, through the murmur of things, through the music of silence, through the smile of words...Jacques Gauthier



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<p>"What we have once enjoyed deeply we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes part of us." - Helen Keller</p>		1	2	3	4	5
				Happy Birthday Mark P.		
6 Worship 10:30	7 CELEBRATE LABOR DAY	8 Happy Birthday Tedd W.	9	10	11 9-11 PATRIOT DAY	12
13 Worship 10:30	14	15	16	17	18 Happy Birthday Jalila S.	19
20 Worship 10:30	21	22 Fall begins	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 10:30 Happy Birthday Herbie H.	28	29 Happy Birthday Pat W.	30	9-11 Patriot Day - A moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. Remembering the day in 2001 when nearly 3,000 people died in the Twin Towers in NYC, many more still suffer from the terror and loss. We especially send out our love and prayers to our church friends who lost their loved ones.		



CLOTHING SHED **CLOSED**

Our clothing shed was closed in August by St. Pauly Textile, Inc. the organization we partner with to collect clothing, shoes, linens, and blankets for distribution across the USA and around the world. The church's Missions Committee receives a stipend for hosting the shed based on the amount of weight of items donated. The Missions Committee uses the funds to help lots of different local charities and needs. Because of the COVID19 pandemic, St. Pauly is not able to store collections. International borders are still closed and many of the sorting, distributing and storage facilities remain closed. We received a letter explaining the situation. It is hoped collections will resume in the future. We will keep you posted.

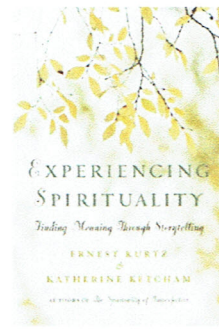
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GOD
is
LOVE

Pastor's Message

Here's a story from the book **EXPERIENCING SPIRITUALITY: Finding Meaning**

through Storytelling
by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham.



Since themes over the next couple of weeks will be Virtues and Fruits of the spirit, I thought about this story. Virtue responds not to exposition but to story, and story connects memory and hope...

The Story

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten year old wolfhound named Belker.

The dog's owners, Ron and his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, the parent thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe. They thought Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar lump in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting his beloved dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We all sat together for awhile after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly piped up, "I know why."

Started, we all looked at him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I've never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try to live.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life – like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Peace and Blessings,

Rich

Worship offered in the church building and via Zoom online

The Worship & Spiritual Life Committee and the Building & Finance Committee have been meeting jointly each week since the pandemic began. 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. Their findings were discussed at a special outside Congregational meeting held on Aug. 9th. Since then worship is being offered in the church on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. as well as being broadcast on Zoom.

Unfortunately, there is no highspeed internet available from the church. It was hoped that Annie's AT&T cell phone signal would work but it is not strong enough. The quality of the audio visual of the last two weeks of Zoom services has been poor. Church leadership is discussing the options and the associated costs.

Because of state and local guidelines dictating the number of people allowed to gather in our building, *reservations are required for those wishing to attend in person worship.* **For more information or to make a reservation, call Pat at 413-634-5046.**

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.

Flowers for Worship



Sept Luahn

Oct Tina

Nov Sandy

BOOK NOOK

What are you reading?

Flash

By Rachel Anne Ridge

Tyndall House Publishers, 2015

Years back Edie, Vi, and

Janet encouraged Luahn to read the book Flash.

Luahn writes: I'm a slow reader so the pile on my bedside table was teetering and I never got around to it. Last year Vi lent me her copy as a suggestion for our Book Club. I added it to the bedside table book pile. Recently, I finally cracked open the cover and read it in basically one sitting! *Flash* is a gentle, friendly and encouraging read. The subtitle offers the gist, "The Homeless Donkey Who Taught Me about Life, Faith, and



Second Chances". Rachel and her husband, Tom, were financially strained during the Great Recession (of 2008 and beyond) with three children, juggling college tuition, rent and other normal everyday expenses to pay. One night returning home late from a long work day they find a bedraggled donkey in their driveway and here the tale, with its life lessons, begins. Rachel says, "I believe the story of Flash, my raggedy stray donkey, and of our family who took him in, is a story about God showing up in everyone's lives in unexpected ways." Rachel's manner of describing life events, both daily and extraordinary, and the family's response to them is totally relatable. She offers her hand of friendship as she explores life's big questions like faith and coping with day-to-day living. Always, Flash is there to put it all into perspective. The book is organized in chapters each describing an incident in which Rachel finds a life lesson with help from Flash. For example: "Know where to find true refuge. True sanctuary is found in God alone." At the end of the book Rachel is asked if she has a specific quote, thought or scripture that surfaced during this period of her life. Her answer:

*"Let the beauty of the LORD
our God be upon us,
And establish the work of
our hands for us;*

*Yes, establish the work of
our hands."*

Psalms 90:17 NKJV

Share your book recommendations with us. Call or email Luahn or info@marylyonchurch.org.

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.

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Food Pantry Collections

Sept: Cereal/oatmeal

Oct: Pasta & Sauce

Nov: Canned meats

Pickup days:

Tues. 9/8 & 9/22 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.

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Deadline for Oct.

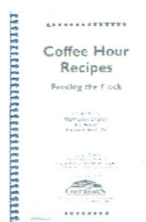
Newsletter

Wed. 9/23 by noon

Call Tina or email

info@marylyonchurch.org

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.

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!

HAPPY SEPTEMBER!

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. It's an 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 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.



Thank you to all who sent first-class stamps or financial support to the Missions Committee after last month's calendar. Your help to cover postage for our mailings of this newsletter in the coming months is much appreciated. If you would like to share some stamps, mail them to the church Attn: Newsletter. Or, send a \$ donation to Attn: Missions Committee.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

For more info: <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/SNEUCC2020GATHERING>

The Southern New England Conference will hold an online All-Conference Gathering. Clergy, delegates, and all those interested are welcome. This will be the first legal Annual Meeting of the new Conference, which was formally incorporated on Jan. 1, 2020. with the coming together of the historic Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences. The Conference comprises 615 churches, more than 1,600 authorized ministers and nearly 120,000 members. The Conference has been founded under a united covenant to Live the Love and Justice of Jesus. The Business Committee anticipates three items of business: adoption of modified Rules of Procedure appropriate to a remote meeting; election of directors and officers; and - most exiting - the election of an Executive Conference Minister!

Tentative Schedule

(participants are encouraged to connect with meeting no later than 8:15 AM)

8:30 Gathering and Welcome

8:35 Plenary Session I

Worship, part 1

Words from the Bridge Conference Ministers, Treasurer and Board Chair

Election of Directors and Officers

Speakouts

Worship, part 2

10:00 Networking Breakout Sessions

10:30 Break

10:45 Plenary Session II

Speakouts

Worship, part 3

Presentation and Action on Candidate for Executive Conference Minister

Worship, part 4

12:30 Adjourn

A Speakout is a 60-second opportunity for a delegate to address the Annual Meeting on a topic of their choice. All Speakouts must be pre-recorded by the speakers and emailed to Drew Page (paged@sneucc.org) no later than September 8th. Directions and tips will be provided.

Breakout sessions breakout rooms on topics related to our Vision. This is an opportunity to share your recent struggles and successes, build relationships, and remember that you and your church are not alone. Groups will choose their own facilitators, who will be provided with simple guidelines.

Ticket # _____ Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone #: _____	<p style="text-align: center;">Raffle</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>DRAWING</i> Ticket # _____ <i>Mary Lyon Church</i></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"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 tickets for \$5.00 **** 1 ticket for \$2.00</p>
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