

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451

Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor

Sandy Carter - Organist / Pianist

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves....What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation." by Catherine Doherty

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "What Wondrous Love Is This" - American Folk Hymn

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: For the greening of trees and the gentling of friends,

ALL: We thank you God.

Pastor: For the brightness of field and warmth of the sun,

ALL: We thank you God.

Pastor: For work to be done and laughter to share,

ALL: We thank you God.

ALL: Yes, we thank you and know that through struggle and pain in the slippery path of new birth, Hope will be born and all shall be well!

***HYMN** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" No. 75 (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, how greatly you respect us, that you offer us yourself in love, but do not force yourself upon us. Life with all its challenges, is open wide before us; we are free to love, and free to refuse love; free to give, and free to seek only for ourselves. Breathe your Spirit upon us in all the choices we face; may we never run from love in fear, but freely risk giving that love which alone brings life. We ask

this in the name of Christ's Spirit who came that we might have life in all its beauty and abundance. Amen

***GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 575

FIRST SCRIPTURE Luke 15: 1-10 page 850

CHOIR ANTHEM "Let Us Walk This Road Together" -
Mary Kay Beall & John Carter

PRAYER REQUESTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

PRAYER RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" No. 585

OFFERTORY (We request that you leave your contributions in the basket on your way out or mail them to Vi Scott.)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15: 11-32 page 850 - 851

MESSAGE "Lost.....yet Loved" - Rich Fournier

***HYMN** "Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound" No. 288

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

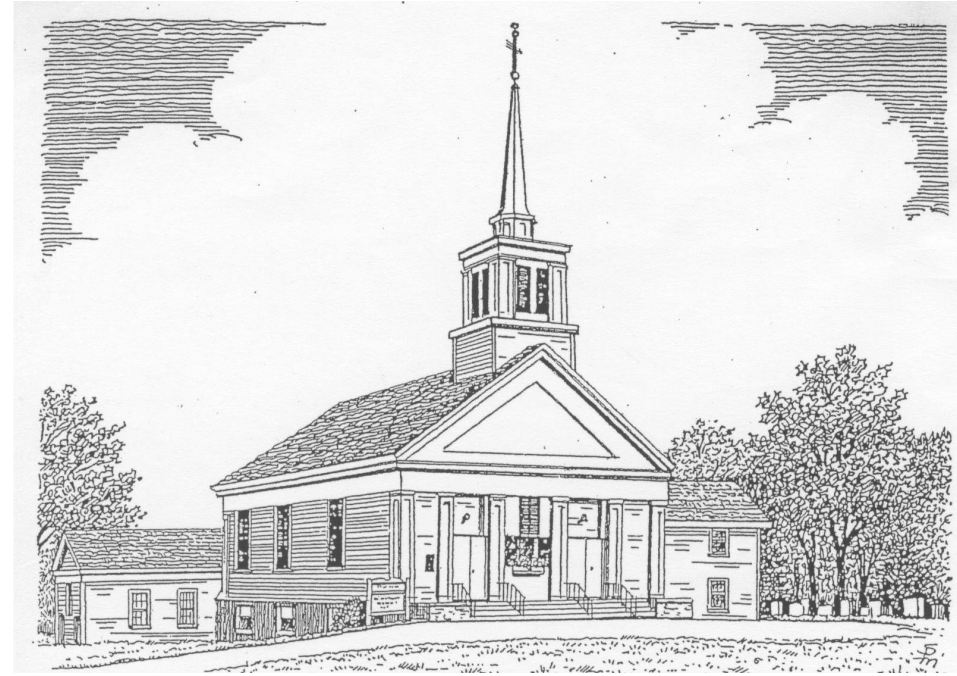
*=All who are able, are invited to stand.

Announcements

A reminder that we are still collecting food for the Hilltown Food Pantry. For the month of March we are focusing on collecting cereals, especially hot choices: oatmeal, cream of wheat, etc.

We are looking for additional volunteers to facilitate the Zoom Service in church Sunday mornings. We'd love to have at least three or four individuals who could share this responsibility. Instructions and training will be provided. If you are able to help out, please contact Annie Stephany or Judy Willis.

The church directory is in the process of being updated and will hopefully be ready to print and be distributed in April. Jill is the contact person for updates and changes that need to be made. Jill's correct phone number is 413- 625-8109. The number was incorrect in the newsletter.



Mary Lyon Church

First Congregational Church of Buckland

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