



Buckland Public Hall Memory Garden
Photo taken 2019

**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 2021**

Loving God, Creator of all times and places, we thank you for the gift of summertime, the days of light, warmth and leisure. Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look: the multi-colored flowers, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the laughter of children at play, people strolling in parks, families gathered around picnic tables and the more time to spend with family and friends.
[from Faith at Marquette Unniversity]



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10:30 am	2 Happy Birthday Genevieve L.	3	4	5 Happy Birthday Tina P.	6 MONDAY NIGHTERS MTG 10:30 am AT CHURCH (on Friday!!)	7 Happy Birthday Erik L.
8 FINANCE COMMITTEE MTG AFTER CHURCH	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship 10:30 am WCC MTG AFTER CHURCH	16 Happy Birthday Helen S.	17	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:30 am	23	24	25	26	27 Happy Birthday Geri A.	28
29 Worship 10:30 am	30	31	 <p>This is your last chance to purchase tickets for the August Calendar Raffle Fundraiser. Tickets are \$5.00. Each ticket gives you 31 chances to win, as there is a different prize each day in the month of August. Call Sue at 413.768.2592 or Cyndie at 413.339.4321</p>			

Flowers for Worship

Aug – Sue Ath.

Sept – Luahn P.

Oct - Tina P.

Food Pantry Collections

Aug: Baking Ingredients

Sept: Cereal (cold & hot)

Oct: Pasta & sauce

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Food Pantry Pickup days:

Tues. 8/10 & 8/24 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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Monday Nighters

Fri. 8/6 10:30 am at church

Luahn hopes to have a Monday Nighters work group on Friday, August 6, 10:30am in the church so we can assess progress on our Dresden Plate pattern quilt. All friends of Monday Nighters welcome. Call Luahn with questions, 413.634.5451 or email luahn.page@gmail.com



AUGUST CALENDAR

RAFFLE

BUY YOUR TICKETS

NOW!



August is coming fast!! Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets for the August Calendar raffle fundraiser. It's still not too late to get your calendar as there are 31 days of prizes to be raffled. Sue and Cyndie will be drawing names and letting folks know if they won. Thanks also to those who donated items for the calendar. We have some great prizes and hope all of you are winners!! It's wonderful that so many of you who participated have helped with the funding of our Mary Lyon Church, this fundraiser will benefit the general fund for the church.

For more information or to reserve your ticket(s) make arrangements with

Cyndie Stetson

413-339-4321 or

Sue Annear

413-768-2592.

GOOD LUCK!

BUY YOURS NOW!

Pastor's Message

From Cultivating Inner Peace by Paul Fleischman

pages 18-19:

The Universe is filled with secret messengers. They arrive instantaneously anywhere through the cosmic ray of gratitude. They enter our homes at night through doorways in galaxies that open when we forgive someone... Raindrops carry to our roof the same poetry of surcease and patience that Noah must have heard. If we prepare for it, our bodies may open at the right moment like the Red Sea to make way for the incomprehensible magnitude beyond the material world... The rocks themselves will break open, and every molecule will speak the same truth to you in your native tongue. Peace is always present, hovering, invisible. Occasionally, we dare to divest ourselves of personal worry and turn to peace... Peace is when your brain makes way for the color of eternity. Then each cricket, your spouse, your child, every leaf calls out for your very personal hand.

*Blessings,
Pastor Rich*

Are you comfortable using a lap top computer?
Do you attend Sun. services in our church building?

If you answered yes to these questions, we would welcome you as a volunteer to facilitate the Zoom Service on Sunday mornings. Instructions and training will be provided. Please, contact Annie Stephany or Judy Willis for more details.

Worship offered in the church building and via Zoom online

Worship is offered in the church on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. as well as being broadcast on Zoom. The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee insure all state and local guidelines are followed. If you have questions about attending in-person worship, call Worship & Spiritual Life Committee member Anita at 413-625-6481 for more details or you can email us at info@marylyonchurch.org

Finance, Invested Funds and Properties Committee
NEXT MEETING

Sunday 8/8

in person, after church service

If folks have any questions or concerns related to the church budget/expenses, don't hesitate to contact the Finance Committee - please let chairperson Ken W.

know 508-529-3973 or be in touch with any member of the committee: Ken W., Eric T., Luahn P., Paul W. or Doug M.

Crafts for 2021 Bazaar
Save the date 11/20/2021

The Silver Bell Bazaar is on!!!!
Saturday,
Nov. 20, 2021.



The plans for our Silver Bell Bazaar are underway. There will be crafts, plants, jewelry, the bag raffle, silent auction and much more. If you would like to donate to any of the items listed or if you have a new idea for the bazaar, please contact Cyndie at 413-339-4231. Also, thanks to those folks who have already come forward to help out at the bazaar. Please let Cyndie know if you, too, are available to help even for just a couple of hours. It would be greatly appreciated.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles... Isaiah 40:31

Thank You for Your Continued Support

Offerings and weekly donations payable to the Mary Lyon Church can be sent 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. This money goes to church expenses like utilities, insurance, pastor salary, etc.

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WCC Meeting 8/15
at church
following worship
STILL COLLECTING
PENNIES & COINS

The stained glass window restoration capital campaign committee will meet on Sunday August 15 following the church service. We will discuss the issue of protection for the street side windows as well as a couple upcoming concerts that were postponed last year due to the Covid19 pandemic.

We will also talk about having a rededication of the windows.



We are continuing to collect pennies and all coins for the window capital campaign if anyone wishes to contribute. Please contact chairperson Cyndie Stetson 413-339-4321 if you have questions about WCC or would like to dispose of those pennies floating around your homes. Arrangements will be made with committee members to pickup.

Thanks always for your continued support.

Thank You
from Alex Lilly &
her mom Cathy Lilly

Cathy is a regular helper at our Church Suppers. Her daughter Alex went on a Christian missions trip in July to Puerto Rico. They send us their gratitude:

Thanks to the generous donations from the folks at Mary Lyon Church, we were able to purchase 1,000 individually wrapped sanitizing wipes, two crank radios and a solar powered cell phone charger.

Alex also received a bag with wipes, masks, gloves and sanitizer, in addition to school supplies to donate.

Alex was receiving quite a bit of money so we asked the program director how the money could be spent to do the most good, and she said Wal Mart gift cards - Alex was able to purchase 16 each \$25.00 gift cards for a total of \$400.00!!

~Cathy & Alex



Continuation of
Jan. 2021 Annual
Meeting was held
Sunday July 18th
after church

Part II of this year's annual meeting, abbreviated from January 2021 due to the pandemic, was attended by about two dozen church members. Those present reviewed the reports for the 2020 year while enjoying a delicious coffee hour filled with food and fellowship. The tabled agenda items from January (various committee reports) were voted upon and accepted as submitted. The Nominating Committee motion to have **Annie Stephanie join the Buckland Public Hall Committee** was approved as was a vote to **welcome new members Jody S., Gail A., and Larry L. WELCOME!!** We are so glad you feel called to join us as official members. We are looking forward to welcoming you during a worship service dedicated to you in the very near future. Official minutes of the meeting will be made available to all in the future. If you have questions about the meeting, contact Clerk Sue Annear at 413-768-2592 or Moderator Paul W. 413-625-2649.



The Buckland Public Hall
(Grange No. 87 former hall)

In honor and celebration of church member Barb Scott, who is retiring from the Hall Committee after serving more than 20 years, we will be featuring stories of the Hall in this newsletter over the next several months. What are your memories of the many community gatherings held here over the years?

Share your memories with Tina - call 413-625-9629 info@marylyonchurch.org, or drop her a note in the mail to P.O. Box 1005, Buckland, MA 01338.



*There is a past which is
gone forever,
but there is a future,
which is still our own.*

*~Jan. 5, 1916 Lecturer's Program
of Buckland Grange No. 87*

In December 2010 there was a furnace malfunction at our church sending soot throughout the entire building. For several weeks we met in the Public Hall for our Sunday worship services. The photo at right shows our dedicated and talented choir practicing near the piano before the service.



At left - a photo of church member Bruce Tease playing the banjo at the Hall a couple years ago during a fund raiser for the Buckland Historical Society Wilder farm barn. Bruce says, *"It was such a great experience being able to play with great musicians in front of an awesome audience. Jody was the MC. All thanks to the Hall!"*

PHOTO BY SHELBURNE FALLS WEST COUNTY INDEPENDENT

From Laurie Benoit: I remember the Buckland Public Hall from my childhood growing up on Upper Street. Back then (50s and 60s), it was called the Grange Hall, and there was always a Grange Fair held in the Hall and on the Common in late summer. My mother, an avid vegetable gardener who raised almost all the food we ate, competed in the exhibits that were on display in the Hall. She submitted fresh veggies (corn, string beans, beets, tomatoes, peas, etc.) for the judging in hopes of winning a blue ribbon, which she often did. She also submitted home canned goods (jams, pickles, vegetables, and pastries). I recall it being very competitive among the women who entered their wares.

As kids, we loved the games that were held on the Common during the fair – 3-legged race, egg spoon race, red rover, etc., in which the winners won prizes. The Grange ladies always had tables full of goodies for sale, which was another highlight. I specifically remember having a crush on the boy who did the 3-legged race with me, and I remember feeling very nervous. That could be why we lost the race.

My most favorite memory of all is the rides that Grandpa "Charlie" Trow gave on his workhorse, Chubby, whose back was so wide that my legs were barely long enough to hang down over Chubby's sides. Chubby and Grandpa Trow lived right across the street from the Common in the house adjacent to the Historical Society Museum.

From your editor: I had the pleasure of visiting with Barb Scott recently to review lots of documents about the hall she has for her more than 20 years on the Hall committee – More next month. Below is part one of a piece that appeared in the Shelburne Falls West County News on Feb 7, 1997. Written by yours truly in June 1996, it's a creative rendition of the history of the Buckland Public Hall. Watch for part two in next month's church newsletter/calendar:

The White Elephant on Minister's Hill

According to the New Book of Knowledge Encyclopedia, "*white elephant*" is explained as "a term for some object no longer of value to the owner, but expensive or worrisome to maintain." The definition continues, "According to one story, the King of Siam gave a white elephant to a courtier he disliked and the cost of feeding the animal brought the courtier to financial ruin..."

This would explain why I've never once seen a table, shaped like an elephant, painted white, at the church bazaars and community fairs which advertise *white elephant* tables. I long ago deduced that a *white elephant* was something no one knows what to do with. Did you know an elephant can stand 10 feet tall at the shoulders and weigh as much as 5 metric tons (11,000 lbs. if my math is right)? Their young are 200 to 300 lbs. at birth. I would think this kind of mass could be considered worrisome and the bill for 150 to 500 lbs. of hay and feed per day would fall in the expensive to maintain category.

The building which sits behind the Mary Lyon Church at the top of minister's hill in Buckland Center has been referred to as a white elephant several times over the last 146 years [that's 171 years now in 2021]. By the above definition, perhaps rightfully so. But, I'm sure the Methodist Episcopal Society of Buckland and Ashfield represented by Jonathan Howes, Peter Butler, Andrew Butler and Samuel Ward, along with the communicants, saw this building as a vision, a place to come together for worship and fellowship. A place for the church family to call home. In 1850 their dream became a reality in this Greek Revival style meeting house built on land leased from Josiah W. Griswold located where the Buckland Public Library now stands.

We can only imagine the church happenings over the next 37 years: births, deaths, weddings, baptisms, revivals, prayer meetings, a place to read the town warrants, a sanctuary for celebration and solace. Prior to the late 1870's nearly fifty (50) businesses were listed in Upper Buckland. While no all existed at the same time, it was quite the Center of the community. By 1879 all that remained were a machine shop, a cutlery, a file shop, two cider mills, two sawmills and three gristmills – a mere fifth of what had been.

Perhaps this was the beginning of the end of the Methodist Society. Their numbers greatly depleted; services ceased in 1887. Perhaps this was when the *white elephant* phrase first reared its ugly trunk, I mean head, and the worries and expense of maintenance began.

The Society sold their beloved Meeting House to the citizens of Buckland to use as a Public Hall for an unknown sum of money. The Buckland Public Hall Association was formed to oversee the upkeep. About this same time the members of the Congregational Church [Mary Lyon church] down the road, lead by Rev. Alpheus C. Hodges, E. C. Maynard and A.C. Hawks were making plans for the Buckland Public Library...

~to be continued in September issue~