







Thanks to Jody Scalise for sharing his wonderful photo art of our church

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
February 2021

On Jan. 19, 2021 - thanks to Paul & Judy, the Mary Lyon Church rang our bell on Upper Street 95 times to remember those who had died as of that date of the COVID-19 pandemic in Franklin County. We joined with churches across the county and our country at exactly 5:30 pm in an old-fashioned bell system - with one rope and some muscle - to sound out our love for our neighbors. As a symbol of our love and our faith as "a light in the world," a heart of luminaries was placed on the front steps of the church.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	1	2 Happy Birthday Nathalie McC.	3	4 Happy Birthday Barb S.	5	6
7 Worship 10:30 am Communion Sunday have bread & drink available with you in church or at home	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship 10:30 am Happy Valentine's Day	15 Happy Birthday Doug M.  Presidents Day	16  Mardi Gras	17  ASH WEDNESDAY	18	19	20 Happy Birthday Joanie D.
21 Worship 10:30 am	22	23 Happy Birthday Pat C.	24	25	26	27 Happy Birthday Bruce T.
28 Worship 10:30 am	<p>"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... It's about learning to dance in the rain." by Vivian Greene</p>					

Worship offered in the church building and via Zoom online

Since August 2020, worship has been offered in the church on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. as well as being broadcast on Zoom.

We are following all state and local guidelines which dictate the number of people allowed, social distancing, cleaning requirements, etc.

If you have questions about attending in-person worship, please call Worship & Spiritual Life Committee member Anita U. 625-6481

WiFi Internet Service is at the Church Building

Thanks to the generous financial donations of our friends and members, WiFi with Comcast was installed Oct. 1st at the Mary Lyon Church building. Since then, our online internet Zoom services have improved each week thanks to purchases and donations of equipment and constant "tweaking" of placement and settings. Your technology committee is grateful to all for making this technology possible. It keeps us connected to our friends and members who live near and far. For those of you in the church building, thank you for allowing the distraction of additional microphones and wires. ALL feedback on how this is going is appreciated and sought! Your Technology Committee is Carl, Annie, Judy and Tina. Reach us by calling any of us directly, leaving a message on church phone or by email: info@marylyonchurch.org

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Flowers for Worship

Feb. Penny M.

Mar Tina P.

Apr Vi S.



Highlights of

Annual Mtg Jan. 24th

An abbreviated Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 24th, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning church service. The meeting was held socially distanced in-person and was broadcast via Zoom. The only two items reviewed and voted on were the 2021 Budget and the 2021 List of Officers and Committees. All other Committee and Officer Reports were voted to be tabled until it is either safe to meet in person or the weather is such that an outdoor, socially distanced meeting is possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Moderator Paul Willis at 413-625-2649. Extra copies of reports are available at the church on the table in the entryway, or in the box on Willis's porch. Reports are also available to members upon request – you can email Judy Willis judywillis56@gmail.com

Thank You for Your Continued Support

Thank you to all who send in donations and offerings! Your generosity helps 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

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Food Pantry Collections
Feb: Baking Ingredients (flour, sugar, salt baking soda/powder, spices, corn starch, ect.)

Mar: Cereal

April: Pasta & Sauce

Food Pantry Pickup days:

Tues. 2/9 & 2/23 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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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

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.

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Crafts for 2021 Bazaar

No doubt our Silver Bell Bazaar will be bigger and better than ever in 2021.

Making crafts have been a great way to pass the time during our 2021 winter with its cold and snow. If you can't think of anything to



make, there are so many ideas online. We have several different tables to display our crafts including the plant table, the kitchen table, kids table, pets - dogs and cats, the bird lovers table and more. If you have any questions or have a craft for this year's Silver Bell Bazaar, contact Cyndie at 339-4231 and let her know what your expertise has been.

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THANK YOU!!!

It takes so many people to keep our church's "faith in the community." To everyone who has served on a committee and to everyone who has agreed to serve in the coming year – your service is so very much appreciated !!!



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Window Capital Campaign

WCC Chairperson Cyndie Stetson writes:

I am so excited that we are very close to our Capital Campaign stained glass window restoration goal. Even with the pandemic this year and the fact that we weren't able to have any fundraisers, our members, friends, and neighbors have supported this effort and I am forever grateful. Any extra that we may receive will help with purchasing protection for the windows. Thank you all for your generous donations. Hopefully in the near future, we will be able to have a dedication for our beautiful windows. We're almost there! Thank you very much.

Still Collecting Pennies

Even though we're not out shopping much these days and getting change back from our purchases, the stained-glass window capital campaign continues to collect pennies. So please save those pennies (and maybe other change too) so that when we're all back together, we can count those coins and put them toward our campaign. Thanks to everyone!

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Monday Nighters

The Monday Nighter's are on a break. Activities will resume in the near future.



Save the dates "Lenten series"

Wed. Feb 24th, Thurs. March 11th and Thurs. March 25th all from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm via special Zoom link on line (Zoom details to be advised)

An online opportunity to talk about love for all our neighbors...The first event will be a panel of people of color who live in Franklin County, talking about their experiences living in our towns. The second is a panel of people in inter-racial relationships or families. The third will be a panel of people in our county doing anti-racism work.

Each panel will be about 4 people with time for questions. This is an opportunity to have a spiritual conversation about race and diversity.

Offered by The Franklin County Interfaith Council which seeks to promote understanding, support, and collaboration among different religions and traditions throughout Franklin County on both the individual and community level.

For more info, visit their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/allarewelcomeatthistable/>



Church Directory Update

It has been nearly two years since our last church directory update. The directory is printed out and distributed to members and friends upon request – it is NOT published electronically on the internet; our list is not shared with any other organizations. The Directory includes our church members' and friends' addresses, phone, and email contact info as well as a monthly birthday list (no year). This is a handy tool to stay connected to one another, especially during the pandemic. Please check in with Jill at 413-625-9801 or email info@marylyonchurch.org to insure we have your information accurately.



Please excuse any typos and/or grammar errors found in this newsletter!

Your editor has been rushing to print pages, and get assembled, and mailed, and she has been a bit distracted by life!

Prayers and understanding are always welcome & appreciated



Book Nook

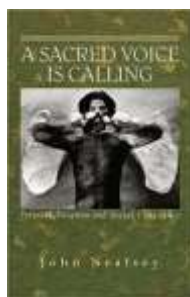
A Sacred Voice Is Calling: Personal Vocation And Social Conscience

By John
Neafsey

Pastor Rich talked about this book during a recent worship. What does it mean to find and follow our personal calling? How do we distinguish between the "still, small voice" of our authentic vocation and all of the other competing counterfeit voices in ourselves and in our culture? Specifically, how do we balance the inward listening to our hearts and the need to listen with our hearts to the realities and needs of our world? Drawing widely on the wisdom of saints, sages, and the traditions of spiritual direction, Neafsey describes a path to living in the place, as Frederick Buechner has put it, "where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

[from amazon.com]

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



On The Trail Of A True Human Being

By Landon B. Saunders

Thanks to Paul Sampley, your editor discovered "Landon" and signed up for his emailed messages. Each week I am inspired and lifted up. I'm so grateful to Landon and to Paul.

Here is today's message (1/27):

... the words of Johann Sebastian Bach, who discovered that his wife and two of their children had died while he was away on a trip. Bach sits down in the dampness and cold of his room and writes in his journal, "Dear Lord, may my joy not leave me."

And in his autobiography Bergman wrote, "All through my conscious life, I lived with what Bach calls 'his joy.' It carried me through crisis and misery and functioned as faithfully as my heart, sometimes overwhelming and difficult to handle, but never antagonistic or destructive. Bach called this state his joy." Life can do such numbers on us, and we lose our sense of direction. We lose our way on the trail of a true human being. There are all these things that happen to us that we do not choose—things that come out of nowhere. These things take our lives, and they redefine our lives, and sometimes they change our lives forever.

When it happens, you can't lose your life—it has so much value. When you are trying to emerge from the wilderness, invest in your life. Invest in your courage, your strength, and what it means to rise again, and again, and again to go on in this world, to finally walk all the way to the end, that trail of a true human being.



**Our very best wishes go out to church member
Sue Annear**

on her retirement after nearly 30 years of working in our local school system.
Enjoy & Best Wishes!!

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 2020

My Sisters and brothers, another year has gone by, and what a year it was! It began with plywood on the windows during Advent and Christmas and into the New Year. We took on the challenge of fundraising for repairing and restoring our amazing stained glass windows. Thanks for all of you who took on the challenge and leadership for the campaign and for arranging for the company who did such beautiful work.

It was a year dominated by the coronavirus pandemic which forced us into finding ways of worshipping together in the safest ways possibly. I was heartened by our ability to problem solve and figure out ways to have a form of worship that would meet the needs of our folks, and keeping us spiritually connected.

Installing WIFI in the church was really helpful and I am grateful for all the folks who make it become a reality.

I want to thank the Worship and Spiritual life Committee for all their help, ideas, dedication, and beautiful music.

I also want to thank Luahn for all her support and comfort and for her active participation in our community.

But mostly I want to express to you how much I enjoy serving the Mary Lyon Church and engaging with all the crazy, wonderful, loving people who compose it! We learn together, laugh together, cry together and make our way together in this chaotic world, growing closer to God, and becoming more truly ourselves. But this precious gift is not just for ourselves; it's for us to share it and radiate it to the wider world. The apostle Paul wrote to the people in Corinth, "You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts, to be known and read by all people; and as you show that you are a letter from Christ (by the way you live), written not with ink, but with the living Christ Spirit, not on tablets of stone but on "tablets of human hearts." (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

We who are blessed with such a richly complex and diverse community are called to continue to deepen it and, as far as we are willing and able, to share it in encouraging and uplifting ways with other people. I realize that 2021 has gotten off to an awful start, and my heart is sore and heavy, but there is still light and hope alive in there. Won't you join me in stirring up the gifts of God that are within us (2 Timothy 1:6)? Let our lives so shine that people catch the glimpse of that light which sets off a spark within them that glows and grows into the Living Christ Spirit of Love and all the fruits of the Spirit.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Rev. Rich Fournier

*(Annual Mtg - used
For Feb 2021 Calendar)*



The Annual No Bake, Bake Sale

Hosted by: Mary Lyon Church, Buckland, Ma.

Date: February 2021

Purpose: Fundraiser for the General Fund

Here's a plan we think is grand! It's that time again for our No Bake, Bake Sale to raise a little dough to make our treasury grow.

Without the fuss and the bother, saving your time, the cost of ingredients, heat, and oh those calories, too, we can give with good feelings of support.

So, please be generous. Send your No Bake, Bake Sale check made out to the Mary Lyon Church, P. O. Box 87, Buckland, Ma. 01338 during the month of February 2021.

We thank you sincerely for giving with a willing heart.

