



photo by Dick Gerry

**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**




**OCTOBER 2021**

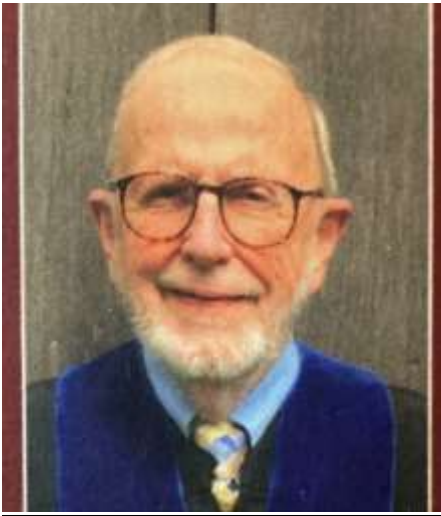
*I know it's hard on that little loving community, but love will always find a way--if we pay attention and keep our eyes of faith wide open to recognize that way. ... nobody can close down God's love. Seems like Paul (the first) said something along that line at the end of Romans 8. Sally and I are with you all even though we are thousands of miles away. We give thanks to God for everyone of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are there and who today must meet "in Spirit."*

[J. Paul Sampley, from March 2020]

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Romans 8:38-39 King James Version

						1 Happy Birthday Tammy C.	2
3 WORSHIP 10:30 AM		4	5 Happy Birthday Evelyn K.	6	7 Happy Birthday Atticus DeJ.	8 On Sat. >>>>>> Happy Birthday Laura McD. & Emma G	9 SAT, SUN, MON 9AM - 4 PM 
10 On Mon. >>>> Happy Birthday Larry L. & Annie S.	11  Columbus Day	12 Happy Birthday Helen W.	13	14	15	16	
17 WORSHIP 10:30 AM	18 Happy Birthday Lydia M.	19	20	21 Happy Birthday Pamela DuP. & Kara C.	22	23	
24 WORSHIP 10:30 AM	25	26	27	28 Happy Birthday Premier DeJ.	29	30	
31 WORSHIP 10:30 AM 	<p>Your editor would like a bit of a break. She's more than willing to do this front page each month. She is seeking others to help with the rest of the newsletter. It's done in standard "word.doc or dox" format, 3-columns, then saved as a PDF. If you are interested in compiling the remaining pages a few months each year, please contact Tina at <a href="mailto:info@marylyonchurch.org">info@marylyonchurch.org</a>. She would welcome your assistance.</p>						



**IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF REV. J. PAUL**

**SAMPLEY**

Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Christian Origins at Boston University

[Photo from book: Walking in Love: Moral Progress and Spiritual Growth with the Apostle Paul

Published by Fortress Press  
February 1, 2016]

Our church community was tearful during Sunday worship (9/26) when we learned that our dear and much beloved friend, Paul, had died. Paul and his wife Sally were present many Sundays in our church. Paul was kind, gentle, and he freely shared love and joy to all those he encountered.

It was Paul who married Pastor Rich & Luahn. That day Paul's wife Sally read about love from the Corinthian scriptures.

He included our church in the dedication of the book mentioned above. He will be forever remembered.

Sally, we love you and you have our heartfelt sympathies.

**Flowers for Worship.**

Oct - Tina P.  
Nov. - Sandy C.  
Dec. - Pat C.  
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**Food Pantry Collections**

Oct: Pasta & sauce  
Nov: Canned Meats  
Dec: Peanut Butter & Jelly/jam  
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**Food Pantry Pickup days:**

**Tues. 10/5 & 10/19  
from 3 pm to 5 pm  
(New Time)**

at Ashfield Congo Church  
on Rt. 116 in Ashfield.

If you want to donate food, bring to our church or 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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**Labor Day Tag Sale  
Thank you**

Thank you everyone who organized, donated, shopped and worked our recent church tag sale. Special thanks to the Willis family for hosting, to the Purinton family for tents, and to Cyndie S. and the WWC Committee for organizing the event.

**Buckland Public Hall  
Tag Sale**

***The Hall needs a new oil tank and has other maintenance expenses.***



**Columbus Day  
Weekend**

**Sat., Sun., Mon.  
10/9, 10, & 11**

**9 am to 4 pm daily**

**66 Upper Street**

**Across from Post Office**

**Donations wanted:** We would appreciate donations of household items, small to mid-sized furniture. lightly used clothing and other miscellaneous items! Large electronics and car seats canNOT be accepted. Donations can be dropped off by appointment between Sunday, Oct. 3rd, and Friday, Oct. 8th, at either the Public Hall or 66 Upper Street. Pick up can also be arranged in the Buckland area.

**Volunteers wanted:** Please contact us if you are willing to come and help with the Tag Sale,

**To volunteer and/or make an appointment for donations, please contact Annie Stephany at 413-320-1615 or email:**

**buckandpublichall@gmail.com.**

*Thanks so much for your support of the Public Hall!*

**COME SHOPPING!**

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## Monday Nighters RAFFLE

The Monday Nighters will have a Quilt Raffle this year on November 20, the day of the planned Silver Bell Bazaar. The group will have a table in the church of crafts, baked goods and Raffle items. First prize will be an



antique quilt from Barb Scott.

The top was made by Barb's maternal grandmother, Lillian "Lilla" (Bliss) Hilliard (1869-1943). Lilla cared for Barb and Barb's mother for many months early in Barb's life. The Monday Nighter's finished the piece.



Second prize will be "Autumn Barn", a

watercolor print painted by Cyndie Stetson, and third prize is a Christmas pillow made by the Monday Nighters.



Tickets are available at Atherton Farm, Rt. 112 Buckland, and by calling Luahn 413.634.5451 or email [luahn.page@gmail.com](mailto:luahn.page@gmail.com)



## Worship offered in the church building and via Zoom online

Worship is offered in the church building on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. as well as being broadcast on Zoom. The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee and the Finance, Invested Funds and Properties Committee insure all state and local guidelines are followed. If you have questions about attending in-person worship, call Worship & Spiritual Life Committee chairperson Anita at 413-625-6481 or Properties Committee chairperson Ken W. 508-529-3973 for more details or you can email us at [info@marylyonchurch.org](mailto:info@marylyonchurch.org)

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## Finance, Invested Funds and Properties Committee NEXT MEETING

### Sunday October 10th

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.

## BHS EVENTS CANCELLED

Buckland Historical Society Meeting & Program planned last month and the annual open house at the Wilder on Columbus Day weekend have been cancelled due to the pandemic. They look forward to future historical activities.

## Silver Bell Bazaar 9a to 3p Sat. 11/20/2021

The Silver Bell Bazaar is on!!!  
We have crafts,



plants, including house plants and amaryllis bulbs, books, jewelry, birdhouses, raffles, silent auction, watercolor paintings and prints, Christmas items, Coffee Hour Cookbooks, and so much more. Please call Cyndie at 339-4231 if you can spare a few hours to help with the bazaar.

We are planning to have a bake sale so please let Cyndie know if you can bake something for the sale. Since the bazaar is right before Thanksgiving, pies and breads are very popular.

Also, if you have an item for the bag raffle or silent auction, that would be wonderful. Thank you all for participating in our bazaar.

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## 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.

## **BOOK NOOK**

### **PIGLET: The Unexpected Life of a Deaf, Blind, Pink**



#### **Puppy and His Family**

by Melissa

Shapiro DMV

recommended by

Janet G.:

*"I stumbled across*

*this book about a little puppy (a dachshund-chihuahua mix), who, through irresponsible cross breeding, was born white (with pink skin), deaf, and blind. So sad... but he was rescued from a hoarding situation in Georgia, and adopted by a wonderful family in CT who have other rescue dogs. His mom (author Melissa) and his "Favorite Dad" taught him commands by touch, and Piglet has turned into a happy, energetic, and wildly popular dog who has gone viral on the internet. I think every Piglet book should come with a package of Kleenex, because you will cry but, this inveterate cat person has gone nuts for this little dog. I am in love with Piglet (like thousands of others). His FaceBook page is perfect for a pick-me-up when you've had a hard day or just for a smile:*

<https://www.facebook.com/pinkpigletpuppy>.

Piglet's success has grown into free educational programs to all. On the internet visit:

<https://www.pigletmindset.org/educational-outreach-program/>

Piglet is an adorable little dog who acts as a vehicle to engage children and adults as he faces his challenges with a positive attitude.

Our online educational materials illustrate how Piglet uses the 3 senses he has to live a happy, meaningful, productive life despite his disabilities. Piglet and his amazing supportive 6-pack of rescued dogs set an extraordinary example of Acceptance, Inclusion, Empathy, and Kindness regardless of looks, abilities, and disabilities.

## **INVITATION TO AN ORDINATION IN CHARLEMONT**

**SUN. 10/10 at 3 pm**

**Ordination - Julia Khan**

Julia is the newly called Pastor of Charlemont Federated Church on Rt. 2 in Charlemont. Part of our UCC Franklin Association, members of the Hampshire Association will be leading the festivities. All area churches and members are encouraged to attend!

There will be an in-person portion for a limited number of people and also a tent outside at the Charlemont Federated Church with the ability to hear the service. Or join in by attending via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85821305727?pwd=Z0N6cmpacWptRGYzMGpEYUIGODYoQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 2130 5727

Passcode: 486082

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### **Ashfield Churches Plan Public Witness for Climate Justice**

**Sun. 10/17 at 11 am**

In anticipation of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26) that begins on October 31 in Glasgow, Scotland, *Faiths 4 Climate Justice* has invited houses of faith all over the world to take some action over the weekend of October 17. In response to this call for global action, Ashfield's two churches,

First Congregational and St. John's Episcopal, will offer a brief joint service for climate justice on Ashfield's Town Common. Congregants from the churches will meet on the

Town Common at 11 AM where the Rev. Vicki Ix, Vicar of St. John's, and Rev. David Jones, minister at the First Church will lead a 15-20 minute service of prayer, poetry and song. ALL are Welcome! Bring banners and signs of support for climate justice.

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### **Elders need volunteers to deliver their meals**

Make a big difference in an elder's day by delivering a hot noontime meal and making a wellness check in your own community! LifePath Inc. is seeking volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers for Athol, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leverett, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Sunderland, and Turners Falls. Other routes are possible. Hours are late mornings. Stipends and mileage reimbursements are available. Please call 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259, Ext. 2216, or visit our website [lifepathma.org](http://lifepathma.org) to apply.

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### **CHURCH COOKBOOKS FOR SALE**

\$12.00 each includes

postage We'll mail to you!

Full of recipes from church members and friends

Email your order to [info@marylyonchurch.org](mailto:info@marylyonchurch.org)

Or call Cyndie S. at (413) 339-4231



## The White Elephant on Minister's Hill Part III (continued from September issue)

From your editor: This is the final installment of our White Elephant story - this is part three of a piece that appeared in the Shelburne Falls West County News on Feb 7, 1997. In part one we learned the early history of the Hall as a Methodist Episcopal Society meeting house. The Society disbanded and sold the building to the citizens of Buckland about the same time plans were being made for a new library. In part two the hall was moved to its current location in 1890 to make room for the new Buckland Library. The Hall was used for "various entertainments," then in 1903 became Grange No. 87's Hall. Grange members upgraded the building and the Hall thrived for over six decades with the Grange and wider community holding all kinds of events. By 1968 the Grange organization ceased to exist due to "lack of interest - we just could not get people to go." The church purchased the building for \$1.00 (one dollar). For awhile the Hall was used by local youth and their parents for a variety of activities including basket ball, ping pong and volleyball.

For many years there was this 11,000 lb., 20 foot high, 60 ft. long white elephant (looking might gray) on the hill behind the church. It appeared like a huge monster of a job - expensive and worrisome to maintain. Until 1993, that is, the the object was reviewed by its owner [the church] for the value that it is.

That value is not in dollars. It is in the resource, the asset to the entire community to have a place to go for personal or public activities. This was the decision of the church members and this was the beginning of the end of neglect.

When an elephant in a herd is hurt, other elephants will come and stand close on each side to help

the injured animal stay standing. This assistance allows the elephant to save its strength and heal. Elephants are hard to kill, they persevere, they are gentle giants.

Our white elephant is looking much better these days. We're all holding her up and feeding her, one peanut at a time. [ed.-end of the White Elephant story, but not the end of the work at BPH]

It was 1993/1994 that the church membership appointed a committee to examine the hall and make recommendations to the congregation on what to do with it. Your editor is still searching historical records for who served on that original committee with her and John Powell and Mr. Batchelder (What was his first name? "Mert" ?) After touring the hall, consulting with experts, contemplating and discussing the building's future at length, the committee recommended using volunteer labor and fund raising to save the structure and "bring it back to life." The church membership agreed to this HUGE plan!

Over the next eight years hundreds of hours of volunteer labor and thousands of dollars of donated materials and equipment went into the hall. Countless fundraisers were held. The interior plaster/horse hair walls were replaced with sheet rock, electrical was brought up to code and lights found in storage were hung from the ceiling, new sconces were put on the walls. The slate roof was repaired and all the windows were removed, repaired, and reinstalled. The late Dr. Mark Purinton pretty much single handedly arranged for the overhaul and repair of the entire basement. The heating system and the duct work was revamped. The late Walter Donelson rebuilt the doors and did other woodworking.

Our story of the Hall continues next month...there are still files of Barb Scott's 20 years of service to go through and your editor Tina has a few of her own 😊



The Hall pictured c. April 1995 prior to renovations. Lots of rot along the south side ground, lots of busted windows, no pavement up to both doors, no railings, slate roof needed repairs. The memory garden had not yet been planted. You should have seen the damage and repairs needed inside!

*From your editor: Our church is a member of the Southern New England Chapter of the United Church of Christ. We are part of the Franklin Association within the chapter's Northwest Region. Here is a message from our Area Minister from Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. This resonated with me – our small church supports our community in a BIG way. To learn more and/or to subscribe to a twice monthly newsletter, visit the website: <https://www.sneucc.org/>*



Dear Northwest Region,

I just came from the brown bag virtual luncheon on small churches that Litchfield North Association hosted for the Northwest Region. It was a wide-ranging conversation, covering the obstacles and gifts that small church life and ministry represents. I appreciated in particular presenter Rev. Liz Magill's measure of vitality (and I paraphrase):

Does the church spread the Good News in its town? Is it important to the community of which it is a part?

This gives a whole different measure of how healthy and vital a church is. It is then less about endowment size or numbers of people in the pews (or on zoom or social media), and more about how connected a church is with the needs of its community.

Some folks wanted to celebrate small churches' nimble ability to respond to local needs. Rev. Liz Goodman, pastor of both Church on the Hill in Lenox and Monterey UCC, told a story about how her church, at the close of the last school year, wrote handwritten thank you notes to the teachers, and how meaningful it was to those who received them.

Those churches who are in search and in the interim process will know that the guiding questions for writing the local church profile are:

Who are you now?

Who is your neighbor?

Who is God calling you to become?

The order of these questions implies that you cannot answer the last question without knowing the answers to the first two. Vitality means quitting our tents and going out to where the people are and listening for how we can be in relationship and of service. (And, Rev. Magill said, if you're small, pick one thing and do it well!) It means less hand-wringing about shrinking resources and attendance numbers, and more consideration of the needs of our communities.

Some churches are, admittedly, on the brink of closing or too mired in conflict to begin to be able to look outward. Those churches may need some help in discernment, and I am available as a conversation partner in those instances.

Yet the presentation today reminded us that churches that are small, but stable, can still be a beacon for Christ's light—one that is much needed in this time.

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?...

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)"

So be reminded, Northwest region, that you are salt and light. And to the best of your ability, share those gifts with those who vitally need you—no matter how small you feel, for you are needed, loved, blessed, and commissioned.

Blessings,

Rev. Terry Yasuko Ogawa  
Area Conference Minister, NW Region  
ogawaty@sneucc.org  
508-782-8593