

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 2022

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them

1 John 4:16



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**Love is more than flowers
or words on a fancy card.**
Love is a verb.
 Jeanette Levellie

		1 Groundhog Day Happy Birthday Nathalie McC.	2	3	4 Happy Birthday Barbara S.	5
6 Worship 10:30am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship 10:30am	14 Valentine's Day	15 Happy Birthday Douglas M.	16	17	18	19
20 Worship 10:30am Happy Birthday Joanie D.	21 Presidents Day	22	23 Happy Birthday Pat C.	24	25	26
27 Worship 10:30am Happy Birthday Bruce T.	28	<p>Your editor has had fun with the theme of love this month but let us not forget the loves lost to time and changes in the journeys of our lives...folks who are grieving right now...and let us not forget that God loves us through all of it and carries us when we are too weary to walk on our own. Grab hold of the love and hold on!</p>				

<u>Flowers for Worship.</u> Feb. – Penny M. Mar. - Gail A. April – “pot luck” Palm Sunday & Easter	<u>Food Pantry Collections</u> Feb: Baking Ingredients Mar: Canned meats Apr: Pasta & Sauce
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Food Pantry Pickup days: Tues. 2/01 & 2/14 from 3 pm to 5 pm
at Ashfield Congregational 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 Ashfield church. Should you wish to send a financial donation directly, mail to: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry, c/o First Congregational Church, Main Street, Rt. 116, P.O. Box 161 Ashfield, MA. 01330 OR send to our church attn Missions, put Food Pantry on the memo line.

Monday Nighters

Monday Nighters group is on hiatus. Some of our creations such as potholders, jar openers and balsam bags can be found at the Atherton Farm Stand, Rt.112, Buckland just down the road from the church. Some Monday Nighters and friends are continuing to work on our Dresden Plate pattern quilt in their homes, near and far! Our plan is to have it ready in the spring and they are starting a new one!



A few Monday Nighters are heading off to The Textile store in Greenfield this week to purchase the backing for our next quilt. It's shaping up to be one of our most beautiful albeit most challenging quilts!

Your editor cannot wait to hear more about the new quilt!

Finance, Invested Funds and Properties Committee **NEXT MEETING: Sunday Feb 6th in person** **at church 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 by calling him at 508-529-3973, or be in touch with any member of the committee: Ken W., Luahn P., Paul W., Doug M. (and expected to be voted in Janet G. on 1/30 after this publication). Special thanks to Eric T. for his years of service, his term on the committee is ending.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

Offerings and weekly donations payable to the Mary Lyon Church can be sent to Mary Lyon Church, P.O. Box 87, Buckland, MA 01338 with “general donation” or “weekly offering” on the memo line. This money goes to church expenses like utilities, plowing, sanding, insurance, pastor salary, etc.

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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. Your feedback is welcome! You can email us at info@marylyonchurch.org

An announcement from the Building and Finance Committee:

We have not been able to hire another church cleaner, therefore, a few volunteers have been cleaning the building each week. It would be very helpful if we had one or 2 volunteers to clean each month. It takes about 1-1/2 hours each week. Please let Luahn Page (luahn.page@gmail.com, 413.634.5451) or Judy Willis, 413.625.2649 know if you would be willing to share this task. Thank you!

“Be The Church”

A note from Luahn



On my regular visits to see my mother in her Westborough nursing home, I drive past the Westborough Congregational Church. I always take a quick look to see what's happening there and to receive a boost from our common purpose to face life's challenges with Love. This trip there was a simple three word phrase on their outside sign, "Be the Church". My strong and immediate response was "YES!". Yes, I want to be the best self that my Faith calls me to be. Yes, I want this for my own church community and beyond. Yes, this is how positive change happens. And, Yes, wouldn't this be a wonderful theme for 2022 that Rich asked us to create early in January? Be the Church!

[photo from the church in Westborough on facebook]

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Those who walk with God always reach their
destination.

~Henry Ford [thanks Sandy!]

Small Church Summit
Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022 9:00am to 3:00pm
Virtually (due to COVID) \$30.00 per person
by Reverend Liz Magill
Registration Deadline: Friday, February 18

Small congregations are beautiful! Is your small church ready to wake up and refresh its ministry?

We'll rise, shine, and give God the glory for opening worship and then breathe life into our definition of "church" during the Keynote by Rev. Elizabeth Mae Magill. Imagine how your congregation can resurrect your core identity as church in your specific town, at this specific time in history.

Rev. Liz has been leading small churches for twenty years, and has worked with a Lilly Endowment grant to research and support hundreds of small congregations throughout the United States and Canada (plus a few in Scotland!) She'll use stories of vital small and tiny congregations to help you imagine a vibrant future for your church. Take this rekindled sense of purpose with you as you choose two of five workshops.

The five workshops will awaken your church's ability to engage with your local community and with each other. They include (Select 2 – one morning, one afternoon):

- Design to Thrive, by Jeff MacDonald, offers three strategies for vitality with part-time ordained leadership. Jeff is the author of "Part-time is Plenty".
- Deborah Rundlett's Embracing Transformation uses a "two loops" process to honor the past, while aligning with emergence and growing your missional impact. Many small churches wonder how to use their building for maximum income and maximum ministry to the community.
- Bridget Johnson will share how to get started on Using Your Building for Financial Stability and Community Engagement.
- Looking inside our congregations, Cheryl Caronna rouses our instincts for Intergenerational Faith Formation throughout all the work of the church.
- Lay Worship Leadership with Elizabeth Mae Magill sparks our creative spirit for meaningful worship.

The summit closes with strategies for how to take this home to your congregation. Register for the Small Church Summit now. Consider bringing a team from your church for maximum impact.

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/15737690>

<https://sneucc-reg.brapp.com/SmallChurchSummit>

More info: Elisa M. Wilson Phone 1-860-553-5712 Email wilsone@sneucc.org

[your editor Tina has signed up for "Design to Thrive" & "Lay Worship Leadership"]

PASTOR's Message

Living the New Year with fullness of life

My sisters and brothers and friends,
As we have entered the New Year of 2022, we really don't know how things will play out in our lives and our world. That's beyond our control. But what's in our control is the quality of engagement with one another, our wider community and the world. We don't want to merely go with the flow of the times, its fears and chaos and uncertainty. We can choose to help shape the quality of our lives and the lives of others through caring and compassion, and learning to give and receive the blessings of the fruits of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self control. (Galatians 5:22-24) I hope we can be a community of giving and receiving blessings. Of radiating new ideas and visions of how we can experience the Fullness of life that Jesus said he came to bring, and live it in ourselves and inspire it in others.

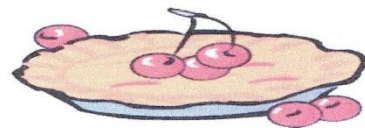
Wishing you the deep blessings of the Spirit, and the blessings we can be to one another,

Your Pastor, Rich



Give a little love...

Used Clothing Drop-off Shed located on the east side of the church accepting clothing, shoes/sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys



The Annual No Bake, Bake Sale

Hosted by: The First Congregational Church of
Buckland
The Mary Lyon Church

Date: February 2022

Purpose: Fundraiser for the church's
General Expenses 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, shopping for ingredients, heat, and oh those calories, too, we can give with good feelings of support.

So, please be generous ☺. Drop your donation in the offering plate at church during Sunday worship in an envelope marked "No Bake Bake Sale." Or, mail your check, made out to the Mary Lyon Church with "No Bake, Bake Sale" on the memo line - mail to Mary Lyon, P.O.Box 87, Buckland MA 01338 anytime during the month of February.

Thank you sincerely for giving with a willing heart!



The Annual No Bake, Bake Sale