



**"My Lord, What a morning!"**

sunrise over Ashfield Lake 12/15/2021 photo by Gail Abbott

**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**

**January 2022**

"Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness." — Lamentations 3:22-23




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Heavenly Father, we thank You for the year that has passed and the many blessings You have showered upon us. We beg your pardon in our many failings and trespasses. Make the new year a more fruitful and blessed one.

<https://christianstt.com/prayer-for-the-new-year/>



2 Worship 10:30am	3	4	5 Epiphany 	6	7	8 Happy Birthday Lois H.
9 Worship 10:30am	10 Happy Birthday Sandy C.	11	12	13	14	15 Happy Birthday Sally S.
16 Worship 10:30a Happy Birthday Carl N. & Joyce F.	17 Martin Luther King Holiday Happy Birthday Janet G.	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship & Annual Meeting to be advised	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship 10:30a	31	Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19				

**Flowers for Worship.**

Jan. – Margaret “Bunny” D.

Feb. – Penny M.

Mar. - Gail A.

**Food Pantry Collections**

Jan: Soup &amp; Crackers

Feb: Baking Ingredients

Mar: Canned meats

The annual 2022 schedule of who has signed up for flowers each month and the monthly food pantry collections available: handouts are at church, or call Tina or please email us at [info@marylyonchurch.org](mailto:info@marylyonchurch.org)

**Food Pantry Pickup days: Tues. 1/11 & 1/25 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. *FYI, the Pantry's usual January Annual Meeting is postponed until sometime this summer due to risks of the pandemic.*

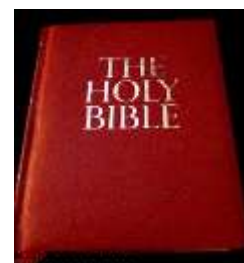
**Annual Church Reports Reminder****Annual Meeting Sunday January 23, 2022**

It's time to celebrate all we have accomplished in spite of the pandemic. **Committees' and Officers' written reports for the year 2021 are due by Sun., Jan. 9, 2022 so they can be distributed to all on Sun., Jan. 16th.**

Reports may be left at the church on the table in the entryway, on Willis's porch, or emailed to Judy Willis at [judywillis56@gmail.com](mailto:judywillis56@gmail.com). Copies of reports will be available to members on January 16th. The Meeting is scheduled for Sunday Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, details to follow soon. Watch for future announcements. If you have questions about the Annual Meeting, please contact our church moderator, Paul Willis, at 413-625-2649.

**THANK YOU!**

The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped pay for all of the new pew Bibles that they recently purchased for the Church. The support was overwhelming, and all of the Bibles have been reserved in memory or honor of someone. The Committee hopes to have the book plates filled out and placed in the Bibles soon, so they can be distributed among the pews. Many thanks to all!

**Monday Nighters**

Monday Nighters group is on hiatus however, 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 (pictured) in their homes, near and far! Our plan is to have it ready in the spring.



## **Pastor's Message from the past**

*Pastor Rich wrote this for our January 2017 calendar and your editor thought it might be worth repeating:*

The center that holds in me is God, and God's presence in Christ and the Spirit with us all.

What helps me hold the center is seeing you all shining forth with the presence yourselves...

Is seeing you all growing and living in the fruits of the Spirit. We are going to need each other and our common Center in order to have a place to stand when the winds of change come blowing.

It was into just such a time in the world as this that the Christ Child was born, and Christ will come again through all the people of goodwill that are willing to open themselves to bear the Christ spirit (however named) in the womb of their own hearts and souls.

Wishing you a centered New Year with love and conviction,

**Rich**

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### **First Snow**

G.Abbott December 9, 2021

I am grateful for the snow  
And for the sun that make it glow.  
A glimmer, a shimmer,  
Flakes of hope  
For brighter days.  
Diamonds shine on pure white ground.  
Shadows stretch blue  
And all feels new.  
Now the birds come for seed.  
Flutter of wing, color of cardinal.  
Thank you, God, for the snow  
And for the sun that makes it glow.

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### **A New Year's Wish**

*May we break down boundaries, tear down walls, and build on the foundation of goodness inside each of us. May we look past differences, gain understanding, and embrace acceptance. May we reach out to each other rather than resist. May we be better stewards of the earth, protecting, nurturing and replenishing the beauties of nature. May we practice gratitude for all we have, rather than complain about our needs May we seek cures for the sick, help with food for the hungry and love for the lonely. May we share our talents, give our time, and teach our children. May we hold hope for the future and love with our whole hearts. Blessings! Ken and Helen*

## **CHURCH CLEANING NEEDED WEEKLY**

We continue to seek your assistance in keeping our beloved building clean. Volunteers have cleaned the church each week since October. It takes 1 to 2 hours per week. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in volunteering or being paid for the job of cleaning the church, (pay is \$14.25 per hour), please call/refer them to Judy Willis at 413-625-2649. A list of duties will be provided. Judy can answer any questions you may have.

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## **Finance, Invested Funds and Properties Committee** **NEXT MEETING Sunday Jan 9 th after church service**

*Meeting may be held at the church or via Zoom or a combo of both*

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., Eric T., Luahn P., Paul W. or Doug M. The 2022 budget will be available with annual reports due 1/9 to be distributed 1/16/2022 at church or by email upon request.

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## **Thank You for Your Continued Financial Support**

Offerings and weekly donations payable to the Mary Lyon Church can be sent to the church at Mary Lyon Church, P.O. Box 87, Buckland, MA 01338. This money goes to church expenses like heat, electricity, snow removal, insurance, pastor salary, etc.

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## **Postage for this Newsletter/Calendar**

Each month we need about 35 first class stamps to mail this calendar. If you'd like to help with this endeavor - you can mail stamps directly to Tina at P.O.Box 1005, Buckland MA 01338 OR you can send your financial donation payable to the Mary Lyon Church, Attn. Missions, P.O.Box 87, Buckland, MA 01338 with "Missions" listed on the memo line. Our Missions Committee supports our newsletter by paying for postage, paper, labels, and envelopes. Supplies and postage are often donated, however, we'll need postage in the coming months. This publication is our way to stay connected with our church members and friends near and far who are not always able to pick up the calendar in person or access it on the internet. Hoping you find it meaningful and valuable. Thank you!



## **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. We are doing our best to keep everyone together however they are comfortable during this pandemic. 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 also email us at [info@marylyonchurch.org](mailto:info@marylyonchurch.org)

## **Afghan Refugee Crisis: How You Can Help**

*[Thanks to MLC member Gail A. for sending along these resources and wanting to highlight the plight of our brothers and sisters from Afghanistan. How can we at MLC help? - Editor]*

### **Temple Israel of Greenfield**

<https://templeisraelgreenfield.org/justice-work/refugee-support-project/>

According to their website, Temple Israel's Refugee Support Project was preparing to be the support team for an Afghan family who would be settling in Turners Falls arriving sometime in late December 2021.

They expected that two families would be placed in Turners and they will have charge of one of them. Arrival would be on short notice without details as to number, gender et al. Prospective donors are welcome to register their offerings with Rabbi Andrea or the office. They are keeping a list of donors and using Moishe's List to request donations as well. Contact info: Temple Israel of Greenfield, 27 Pierce Street, Greenfield, MA 01301, 413-773-5884 [office@templeisraelgreenfield.org](mailto:office@templeisraelgreenfield.org)

### **Welcome.us**

<https://welcome.us/>

Welcome.us is a movement formed by a coalition of international leaders, national and local non-profits, businesses, and philanthropies to help with the Afghanistan crisis.

### **Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Western Massachusetts**

<https://www.jfswm.org/new-americans/refugee-resettlement-integration/>

JFS resettles refugees fleeing their homelands in partnership with HIAS (see below, formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and the U.S. State Department. In the past five years JFS has resettled over 500 refugees from around the world to Western Mass—their new home. JFS's innovative programs and comprehensive services assist refugees in becoming engaged U.S. citizens. They work closely with the refugees to ensure that each individual achieves independence and is a productive member of our society. JFS helps refugees resettle here safely, learn English, gain employment and become valued, contributing members of our community. JFS Main Office 15 Lenox Street, Springfield, MA 01108 413-737-2601 [info@jfswm.org](mailto:info@jfswm.org)

### **HIAS**

<https://www.hias.org/afghan-refugee-crisis-how-you-can-help>

Over one hundred years ago, the Jewish community founded HIAS (originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) in New York City, the immigrant gateway to America. Drawing on Jewish values and history, HIAS provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world and advocates for their fundamental rights so they can rebuild their lives. HIAS stands for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and opportunity. HIAS is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) refugee protection organization based in Silver Spring, MD. HIAS does not favor or oppose any candidate for public office.

HIAS Headquarters: 1300 Spring Street, Suite 500 Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-844-7300 New York Office: 212-967-4100

## The Meaning of Epiphany Day January 6<sup>th</sup>

Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day" and "Twelfth Day," is a Christian holiday commemorated on January 6. It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas,



and for some denominations signals the conclusion of the Christmas season. The 12 days between Christmas and Epiphany are known as the "Twelve Days of Christmas." Though many different cultural and denominational customs are practiced, as a rule, the feast celebrates the manifestation of God to the world in the form of human flesh through Jesus Christ, his Son. It is a time for believers to consider how Jesus fulfilled his destiny and how Christians can fulfill their destiny too.

Epiphany originated in the East. In Eastern Christianity, Epiphany puts emphasis on the baptism of Jesus by John (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22), with Christ revealing himself to the world as God's own Son.

In the early days of church history before Christmas was observed, Christians celebrated both the birth of Jesus and his baptism on Epiphany. The feast of Epiphany proclaims to the world that a child was born. This infant would grow to adulthood and die as the sacrificial lamb. The season of Epiphany extends the message of Christmas by calling believers to manifest the gospel to the whole world.

Those who have grown up in a predominately Greek community like Tarpon Springs, Florida, are probably quite familiar with some of the unique cultural celebrations associated with Epiphany. On this ancient church holiday, large numbers of high school students will skip school each year on Epiphany to see many of their classmates — young men age 16 to 18 of the Greek Orthodox faith) — dive into the chilly waters of Spring Bayou to retrieve the cherished cross.

The "blessing of waters" and "diving for the cross" ceremonies are long-held traditions in Greek Orthodox communities. The one young man who has the honor of recovering the crucifix receives a traditional full year's blessing from the church, not to mention a good deal of fame in the community.

<https://www.learnreligions.com/what-is-epiphany-700440>

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### **Martin Luther King Day Monday January 17, 2022 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

For those of you who have internet service, there is a free special online service being offered by the Southern New England United Church of Christ (SNEUCC; our church is a member church) starting at 1:30 pm on the 17th. For a direct link to register, go to our [marylonchurch.org](http://marylonchurch.org) website calendar. Here's more info:

#### **Breaking Out of the Box: Called to Prophetic Action**

Join SNEUCC online for a time of worship, reflection, and facilitated conversation as we honor the life and teachings of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our holiday program will be led by Rev. Dr. Diane Schmitz.

Dr. Schmitz, ordained in the UCC, is one of the SNEUCC Theologians in Residence for 2022. Her primary focus is working with predominantly white communities to increase the awareness, knowledge, and skills needed to be effective partners in the dismantling racism efforts led by communities of color. She will engage us in dialogue, so that as individuals and congregations, we build skills for addressing racism

Registration is here: <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/MLK22>