



Spring is coming!

**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](http://www.marylyonchurch.org)  
[info@marylyonchurch.org](mailto:info@marylyonchurch.org)  
**March 2022**

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.**  
**Romans 12:12**

		 <b>Mardi Gras</b>	 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>			<b>Remembering Paul Sampley on his birthday</b>
6 Worship 10:30am Happy Birthday Judy W.	7	8	9	10 Happy Birthday Sarah F.-S.	11 Happy Birthday Marge S.	12 Change Cloaks Ahead 
13 Worship 10:30am	14	15	16 Happy Birthday Cyndie S.	17 	18	19
20 Worship 10:30am First Day of Spring	21 Happy Birthday Matt V.	22 Happy Birthday Jill J.	23	24 Happy Birthday Don W.	25	26
27 Worship 10:30am	28	29	30	31	<b>God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.</b> Psalm 46	

**Flowers for Worship.****Mar. - Gail A.**

April – Palm Sunday &amp; Easter (The Choir)

May: Anita

**Food Pantry Collections****Mar: Canned meats**

Apr: Pasta &amp; Sauce

May: Canned Fruits &amp; Vegetables

**Food Pantry Pickup days: Tues. 3/1, 3/15 & 3/29 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.

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**Monday Nighters**

Monday Nighters have some of their great 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. The group is getting excited to display their latest quilt, a variation of the Dresden Quilt pattern. Besides beginning to assemble the quilt they are finishing other projects like a baby quilt and a table runner. Fingers crossed that the quilt will be completed by Easter. Raffle tickets will be available then.

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**Finance, Invested Funds and Properties Committee****NEXT MEETING Sunday March 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., Janet G., Luahn P., Paul W. or Doug M.

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**Thank You for Your Continued Support**

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

**No Bake Bake Sale**

It's not too late to donate to our *No Bake Bake Sale*, an annual fund raiser to help cover our general expenses. 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.



**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](mailto:info@marylyonchurch.org)

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**CHURCH CLEANING STILL NEEDED WEEKLY**

Our church cleaner completed her last month with us in September 2021. Volunteers have cleaned the church since then. It takes 1 to 2 hours per week and the rate of pay is currently \$14.00 per hour. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in the job or volunteering to clean the church, **even for one week? There is a calendar in the kitchen to sign up. Feel free to contact Judy Willis 413.625.2649 or Luahn Page 413.634.5451 for more information. They will answer all your questions.**

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The Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc., (the organization whose clothing shed is on the east side of the building), sent the Mary Lyon Church a letter recently thanking us for allowing them to put their clothing shed here at our church. In 2021 they collected a total of over 40 million pounds of clothing from all of their sheds.

10,032 pounds of clothing were donated to our shed alone, which was enough to clothe an estimated 1,848 people all over the world. The Missions Committee received \$401 for contributions to our shed. So, keep cleaning out your closets and filling our shed! Many people benefit from your no longer needed clothing, shoes/sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys

## **Two years of the COVID Pandemic**

*March 2022 marks two years since the COVID Pandemic took over our lives and changed the world. Our Mary Lyon Church's updated website, [www.marylyonchurch.org](http://www.marylyonchurch.org), had just gone live with local provider Montague Webworks in Greenfield. Thank God for His timing as we were able to keep in touch with many of our friends and members - but there are many who have limited access or none at all. Our church building was closed to all use. Zoom worship would begin in April 2020, in time for Easter. We continue to do our very best to keep in touch with everyone. (If we are not doing a good job, we'd like to hear from you!) Your editor thought you might be interested in reading prayers offered at that time by two very special pastors:*

03/18/2020 A message from Rev. Rich Fournier, our pastor

Dear brothers and sisters,

Here is a prayer for the times we are going through and a reminder to try to not lose sight of the graciousness and beauty and love that still surrounds us.

O God, we awaken to you. We lift our hands and hearts in celebration for the gift of life. We thank you for all of this that you have entrusted to us: for the earth that feeds us, and the air that fills us, for the sun that gives us life, and the water that overflows our cups. We thank you for the resurrection that is today. And for the new covenant that you have written upon our hearts— an inside-out love which nobody need teach us— and for wisdom inscribed on the sacred scroll of our souls. During these trying and sometimes fearful times, help us to remember all the goodness around us that we so often take for granted. Simple reminders will do. They are everywhere we turn through the creativity of the Christ Spirit, and throughout wondrous universe— everybody and everything is a Post-it Note calling us back to Your ubiquitous covenant of love. Thank you for being there, and there, and there. . .

Amen

03/15/2020 A message from our dear friend, the late Rev. J. Paul Sampley

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. Yes, it is no doubt smart to close down the community worship, but 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."

*Don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.*

*- Matthew 6:34*

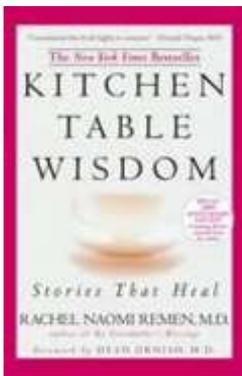
## **SUPER SATURDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> [Registration Deadline: March 13, 2022]**

### **“A Future With Hope: Relevant, Prophetic and Transformative”**

Southern New England United Church of Christ annual Super Saturday worship and classes will be held virtually (online only) on Saturday, March 19, 2022. This event offers worship and 1 hour, standard 1.5 hour and extended workshops for attendees who want to be busy all day. Sign up for as many or as few as you like. Most events offered cost \$15 each. For more information visit the website: <https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/super-saturday-15280214> or email Andrea Bellarosa at bellarosaa@sneucc.org

### **Book Nook**

*Pastor Rich referred to these books by Rachel Naomi Remen in a recent sermon:*

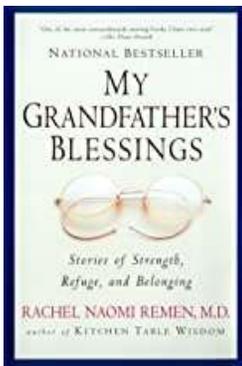


#### **Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories That Heal**

by Rachel Naomi Remen

"Despite the awesome powers of technology, many of us still do not live very well," says Dr. Rachel Remen. "We may need to listen to one another's stories again." Dr. Remen, whose unique perspective on healing comes from her background as a physician, a professor of medicine, a therapist, and a long-term survivor of chronic illness, invites us to listen from the soul.

This remarkable collection of true stories draws on the concept of "kitchen table wisdom"-- the human tradition of shared experience that shows us life in all its power and mystery and reminds us that the things we cannot measure may be the things that ultimately sustain and enrich our lives.



#### **My Grandfather's Blessings**

By Rachel Naomi Remen

Dr. Rachel Remen, a cancer physician and master storyteller, uses her luminous stories to remind us of the power of our kindness and the joy of being alive.

Dr. Remen's grandfather, an orthodox rabbi and scholar of the Kabbalah, saw life as a web of connection and knew that everyone belonged to him, and that he belonged to everyone. He taught her that blessing one another is what fills our emptiness, heals our loneliness, and connects us more deeply to life.

Life has given us many more blessings than we have allowed ourselves to receive. My Grandfather's Blessings is about how we can recognize and receive our blessings and bless the life in others. Serving others heals us. Through our service we will discover our own wholeness—and the way to restore hidden wholeness in the world.

[descriptions above from amazon.com]

*Pastor Rich has been talking about the stories of our lives over the last couple of months in his Sunday messages. He has said we can learn from each others' stories and he has talked about the value of sharing stories with each other. Church member and good friend, G. Abbott, had sent this story to your editor last month but I ran out of room so delayed the story til this month. It seems very fitting that this piece be included here. What stories do you have to share with our Mary Lyon Church community? This newsletter is an opportunity for you to share. Get in touch with me by email or phone. – your editor, tina*

## **DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS**

By G. Abbott January 2022

My notes from Pastor Rich's September [2021] sermon are a bit sketchy, but I think he referred to more gentle listening, seeing, seeing everyone, not just through your prejudices but through *their* eyes. This is a high bar, but it reminded me of a time last summer when I was on vacation at a beach.

I saw fairly near me a tall, somewhat gangly woman walking alone. She had a somewhat strange gait and at times picked up a shell or piece of driftwood and appeared to be talking to herself. Her outfit was not like many others on the beach but not totally bizarre and perhaps even practical. She wore a sunhat, striped sun shirt and swim shorts. Something about her caused me to avoid her, and to give her a wide berth, as they say.

When she went into the ocean, she would hold onto a boogie board, not to ride the waves, but just to glide on. One day a friend joined her. Her friend got dumped by a small wave and she inquired after her, "Are you alright?" Looking back on it, I think seeing her with a friend made me feel less wary of her. But really the word is fearful.

What did I fear? I feared MYSELF! She was, like me, a lone older woman, sitting away from the happy family groups and friends. To be honest, we were two peas in a pod – or out of a pod!

I, too, often travel alone and I definitely know I talk to myself.

Then I thought, have other people avoided me because I am alone and a lone older woman?

Sometimes I have not avoided strangers but talked to them. Some welcomed my intrusion but others clearly rejected it. I am too forward and too giddy for some and at other times guarded and removed.

On my last day at the beach, knowing I was leaving the next morning, I ventured to smile at the woman.

She smiled back.

I believe I was smiling at myself and giving us both permission to be ourselves.

In light of the current COVID crisis, we are all fearful. If we smile under our masks, it eases the tension and our eyes shine with acceptances of others. When our spirits are open, our bodies relax and that smile may just save us from sickness, if not Covid, of the soul.

***Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.***

Hebrews 13:2 King James Version

2022 - 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Discussion Series - 2022

## Anchors in the Storm: Getting through Difficult Times



### March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ash Wednesday

All are invited to join the Whately Congregational Church for a worship service at 7PM. Rev. Linda Rhinehart Neas message: "Ask and You Shall Receive, But What Will You Find?"

### March 9<sup>th</sup>

First session at the Hatfield Congregational Church at 7PM. Offered by Rev. Sherril Willis Bridge Pastor of the Conway Congregational Church, UCC  
Session Title: Help, My Anchor Is Too Small!

### March 16<sup>th</sup>

Second session hosted by the Conway Congregational Church at 7PM at the Conway Elementary School. Offered by Rev. David Jones pastor of the Ashfield Congregational Church, UCC  
Session Title: Climbing (Up and Down) the Sycamore Tree Today

### March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Third session at the Sunderland Congregational Church at 7PM. Offered by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Crosson-Harrington pastor of the Whately Congregational Church, UCC  
Session Title: One Soul --- In Need of Repair

### March 30<sup>th</sup>

Fourth session at the Montague Congregational Church at 7PM. Offered by Rev. Randy Calvo pastor of the Hatfield & Sunderland Congregational Churches, UCC  
Session Title: "Repent and believe in the good news"

### April 6<sup>th</sup>

Fifth session at the Ashfield Congregational Church at 7PM. Offered by Rev. James Koyama pastor of the Montague Congregational Church, UCC  
Session Title: Paul in Prison

Due to the continuing pandemic, all sessions will be offered live-streamed and in-person if possible at the location listed above. These are discussions in all sorts of formats that begin with prayer and center on a religious/Lenten topic, but not in a worship format. EVERYONE IS WELCOME! Please send an email Rev. Randy Calvo of the Hatfield and Sunderland churches at [randyc1897@gmail.com](mailto:randyc1897@gmail.com) for EACH week's unique Zoom login link.



**KEYS TO THE CHURCH.**

If you have any keys to the church building that you no longer need – please return to a member of the Building and Finance Committee:  
Ken W., Janet G., Luahn P., Paul W. or Doug M.  
Thanks!



“You know what’s deep is that God gave us 12 notes. It’s the same 12 notes Duke Ellington had, Bach had...Nina Simone...I’m just thankful to God for those 12 notes.”

Jon Batiste, Oscar co-winner for best original score for animated movie *Soul* –  
Guideposts Feb/Mar 2022 pg 13.

**Looking Forward to APRIL**

Our wonderful church Choir members will be arranging for flowers each Sunday in our sanctuary during the month of April. We will celebrate spring and the Easter holy days.

Watch for more details in our April newsletter on how to have your plants and flowers included.

