




Photo by Laurie Benoit

**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
 May 2022**

"The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land." from General John Logan, GAR, Civil War



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----|---|---|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1 Worship 10:30am | 2 Happy Birthday Marilyn B. | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Happy Birthday Anita U. |
| 8 Worship 10:30am Happy Mothers' Day | 9 | 10 | 11 Happy Birthday Kingston DeJ. | 12 Happy Birthday Vi S. | 13 | 14 Happy Birthday Sue S. |
| 15 Worship 10:30am BHS P.O.Display 11:45 am | 16 BHS P.O.Display 7:00 pm | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Armed Forces Day |
| 22 Worship 10:30am P.O.Display 11:45 Happy Birthday Penny M. | 23 Happy Birthday Roxana R. | 24 | 25 | 26  Ascension | 27 | 28 Happy Birthday Bev P. |
| 29 Worship 10:30am | 30 Memorial Day Holiday | 31 | To those who now serve or have served in the United States Armed Forces, thank you. To those who love a service member, thank you. And to Gold Star families, thank you for your sacrifice and service. We will never forget. | | | |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Flowers for Worship.</u> | <u>Food Pantry Collections</u> |
| May: Anita U. | May: Canned Fruits & Vegetables |
| June: Barb S. | June: Jelly/Jam & Condiments |
| July: Cyndie S. | July: Soup & Crackers |

Food Pantry Pickup days: Tues. 5/10 and 5/24 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.

Pastor's Message

The Spring Equinox has come and gone and the sacred celebrations of Easter and Passover have gone as well, But the Easter Season still goes on for several weeks as we move toward Pentecost and the coming of the holy Spirit the Comforter that Jesus promised would be with us forever, there is a knowing in the spirit of our Mother earth that opens flowers in their time and greens the grasses and buds the trees. That gives us strength to grow. The Wisdom of this primal source is always ours to tap for we are one with all and all is ours to feel and know.

This week there were angels in the morning mists, and as the sun breaks through, are kissed with light, and the geese return with their haunting call, and Bitterns too, the rarest of all. Within this morning stirs the constant movement of our breath, the in-breath of our life - force which draws the world to us. As the out- breath streams from us, we share our life force with others.

As the Spring spirt comes more and more alive, let us stay awake, aware and alive to the growing mystery and majesty of the various life forms around us, and of the various mysteries within us.

With Blessings and Love,
Your Pastor Rich

Monday Nighters

The Monday Nighter's Dresden Quilt made its debut appearance at the fabulous Brass Ensemble Concert on April 23rd. Raffle tickets for the Quilt and for our second prize, a framed print by Cyndie Stetson entitled "The Old Mill" and third prize, Decorative Bird House, by Larry Lesure are now available.

Tickets can be purchased from Luahn Page, Judy Willis or Sue Atherton.

Finance, Invested Funds and Properties Committee

NEXT MEETING Sunday May 1st 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 Wood know by calling him at 508-529-3973, or be in touch with any member of the committee: Ken Wood, Janet Gerry, Luahn Page, Paul Willis or Doug Mollison.

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.

**

Installation of Rev. James Koyama as the settled pastor Montague Congregational Church 4 North St., Montague, Mass. Sunday May 15 at 2:00 pm – in person and via Zoom

Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration of the calling and installation of Rev. James Koyama at Montague Congregational. You may know James from his service with Heath Union Church prior to his call in Montague. An offering will be taken to benefit the Franklin Association Scholarship Fund which supports students of any age pursuing theology and ordination. Clergy are invited to robe and are encourage to wear red. Zoom link to be advised.



**

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 mask mandate for the Town of Buckland has been lifted; therefore, it is now up to each of you to make our own decision about whether or not to continue wearing a mask. It is important that we respect everyone's choice in this matter, while continuing to strive to keep everyone safe. The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee and the Finance, Invested Funds and Properties Committee will continue to insure all state and local guidelines are followed. If you have questions about attending in-person worship, call Worship & Spiritual Life Committee chairperson "Bunny" Doneilo 413-772-6684 or Properties Committee chairperson Ken W. 508-529-3973 for more details. Your feedback is welcome! You can email us at info@marylyonchurch.org

Thanks to Jody Scalise for sharing his talents with us of photography and art in this wonderful rendering of this year's Easter Sunday flowers



***BUCKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT:
"YOU'VE GOT MAIL"***

May 15th and 22nd at 11:45 am AND at 7:00 pm on Monday May 16th

Downstairs at the Mary Lyon Church

The principal furnishings from the former Buckland Post Office, which were donated by Arnie Purinton as well as the Mollison family to the Buckland Historical Society, were lovingly stored under plastic in the Society's Wilder Homestead hay loft for years and are now going to be brought out into the open as a temporary display in the Mary Lyon Church basement. Everyone is invited to come share your remembrances about Buckland's olde Post Office as we recall the days of Post Masters and longtime church members Rose Mollison and Betty Purinton. The Buckland Historical Society is looking forward to recording your Post Office remembrances. Please come and share or just be a part of the audience. Gifted or loaned post office memorabilia is most welcome to add to the collection. Call Historical Society trustee Mike McCusker at 413-834-3477.

Ideas for a permanent display are also being sought.



Betty Purinton



1940's image of olde Buckland Post Office



Rose Mollison



All photos courtesy of the
Buckland Historical Society

Thank You

Thanks to all who brought flowers to decorate the church for Easter. It was beautiful.
[photo thanks to Sandy Carter]



Thanks so much to all who helped with the spring cleanup in the church building last month. It looks fantastic!

Tina sends her heartfelt thanks for your prayers and the many cards and calls she received during her recent illness. Special thanks to Judy for taking over the church weekly emailing, website updates, and the April newsletter.

Thanks to the eleven talented musicians and the 100+ folks who attended the Brass Ensemble Concert held on April 23rd in our sanctuary. Donations tallied in at \$2,093.00! Special thanks to Melissa Griffin and friends for donating their time and efforts to share their talent with us, and to Cyndie Stetson and church friends for spearheading this event!

[photo thanks to Cyndie Stetson]



August Calendar Fundraiser

Sue and Cyndie are reaching out to our members and friends to see if all of you can please solicit a gift item or gift certificate from your favorite business or restaurant for the 2022 August Calendar fundraiser. Or, maybe you have a craft or new item at home that you can contribute.

They are hoping to have the calendar ready for June to begin the selling process. They will sell calendars for only \$5.00 each, during the Shelburne Falls Military Band concerts and Buckland Day. And they are counting on all of you to help sell calendars as well to your family, friends, and co-workers. Purchasers of the calendar are eligible to win for each of the 31 days of August. Please contact Sue 413-768-2592 or Cyndie 413-339-4321 with your contributions or if you have any questions.

Thanks for your participation in this fundraiser.

Book Nook

From Annie's "Uncle Ted," the Rev. Edwin Anderson. Uncle Ted joins us each Sunday via Zoom from Canada:

Dark Valley Joy: No matter the challenge, find Joy in your life!

by Mary Lynne Potma-Cameron, M.Div.

Overwhelmed by challenges, or maybe bad habits? This guide will help you work towards a less-stressed life. Optional faith exercises have been included and while they come from the Bible, they can be followed by any type of faith including none at all. Mary Lynne Potma-Cameron - terminally ill, but still full of joy. Either insane or has some biblical wisdom. Her seminary professors (from her M.Div. at TyndaleSeminary in Toronto) loved her, even years later. Her husband, kids and dog loved her, too! Having been a missionary in Japan before over-qualified staff at a church has given her unexpected wisdom. Read and see how what she has learned can help you dig out of darkness and find joy.

A friend of Uncle Ted's, the author passed away peacefully at The Carpenter Hospice in Burlington Ontario on July 16, 2018 at the age of 48 after an almost 7-year courageous battle with cancer. She finished this book in her last year. She hoped that it would change the perspective of many who read it. The family has made copies available to Uncle Ted to share at no cost. There are several on the window sill in the church entry way. More can be made available to our church community upon request. Contact Tina. This work is also available on Amazon.

**



Moms come in all ages, shapes, genders and sizes. Sometimes they are aunts, grandmas or grandpas, friends, teachers, or just some person God put in our lives who loves us unconditionally.

**

SAVE THE DATE – Sunday June 12th

Save the Date! The Missions Committee has invited Michael Lundquist, Director of Polus Center, to speak at church on Sunday, June 12. Mary Lyon Church has been supporting the work of Polus Center by sponsoring Pastor Rich's travels on behalf the Center and with financial donations. Their work helps the victims of land mines and other consequences of war and natural disasters. More information will be available in June's newsletter. From their website (www.poluscenter.org): *The Polus Center for Social & Economic Development, Inc. is an international non-governmental organization based in Massachusetts that has worked since 1979 to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our international efforts have included the development of prosthetics clinics, physical rehabilitation programs, vocational training, psycho-social trauma counseling, agricultural and agronomical assistance to coffee farmers. In the U.S., the Polus Center designs and implements innovative, person-centered work readiness and job-driven employment initiatives for adults and young people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.*

Editor's Note: My dad, Charlie Raymond (1933-2021), kept everything and I am learning that his mother, Blanche Smith Raymond (1903-1982), did too. I recently found a yellowed typed paper in dad's things, presumably belonging to his mother: "With a Friend," was found on the body of an American boy killed in action on the other side. The Rev. Father Lucian Gallagher of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi had it printed, a copy falling into the hands of Ellen O'Grady, of 501 West 11th St., New York City, who sent it on to us. We thank her for it. So will you." As is usual based on your editor's findings in family files and lore, turns out the deceased veteran this was found on was not the author, but was one of hundreds of thousands of WWII soldiers who found the poem meaningful and carried it with them. Written by Miss Frances Angermayer (1907-1993), a receptionist in a Kansas City physician's office, she titled the poem "Conversation" when she wrote it on June 3, 1943. The poem was first published in "Our Sunday Visitor," a Catholic publication. Not long afterward, a copy was found on the body of a dead American soldier in Italy. From then on "Conversation" spread to every corner of the Earth. Tabulation of Miss Angermayer's correspondence indicates that at least six million copies had been printed and distributed.

This seemed a very fitting find to share with you all as we celebrate Memorial Day and honor those lost to war this month.

Conversion

[The Poem Heard 'round The World]

By Frances Angermayer

Look, God, I have never spoken to You.
But now -- I want to say, "how do you do?"
You see, God, they told me You didn't exist.
And like a fool -- I believed all of this.
Last night from a shell-hole I saw Your sky --
I figured right then they had told me a lie.
Had I taken time to see the things You made,
I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.
I wonder, God, if You'd shake my hand.
Somehow -- I feel that You will understand.
Funny, -- I had to come to this hellish place,
Before I had the time to see Your Face.
Well, I guess there isn't much more to say.
But I'm sure glad, God, I met You today.
I guess the "zero hour" will soon be here.
But I'm not afraid since I know You're near.
There's the signal -- I'll have to go.
I like You lots. -- This I want You to know.
Look, now -- this will be a horrible fight.
Who knows -- I may come to Your house tonight.
Though I wasn't friendly with You before,
I wonder, God -- if You'd wait at Your Door?
Look -- I'm crying! Me! -- Shedding tears!
I wish I'd known You these many years.
Well, I will have to go now, God -- goodbye.
Strange -- since I met You -- I'm not afraid to die.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON UPPER STREET

Details of the annual Memorial Day parade that has taken place in Buckland Center for decades will be made available soon. Watch for emails and announcements from the pulpit on Sunday mornings. The holiday is Monday May 30th.



St John's Episcopal Church • First Congregational Church/UCC

ASHFIELD CHURCHES TOGETHER

Deepening our shared commitment to the Gospel

Help Ashfield Churches Together raise \$25,000 for the Ahmadi Family from Afghanistan



Sayad Jafar, PhD, Zeinab Ahmadi and their three children, Alireza, Amir Hosain, and Fatima, (ages 12, 5, and 2) need our help.

In Kabul, they worked closely with American psychologists at Hunter College to train Afghan psychologists many of whom were women and/or ethnic minorities. Their research concerned mental health interventions for traumatized women and girls.

After Kabul fell, they left Afghanistan with nothing and escaped to Germany. Later in April, the Ahmadi family will arrive to start their new lives in the U.S. They are sponsored by an Ashfield family who asked the two Ashfield churches to help with their resettlement. They will not qualify for any U.S. Government assistance because of their refugee status.

Please join in raising start-up funds for this Afghan family of five.

Write checks to St. John's Episcopal Church of Ashfield with "for the Ahmadi family" written in the memo line and mail to St. John's at PO Box 253, Ashfield, MA 01330.

The Ahmadi family also needs a car. If you have a car that you don't need, or know of one that might be available, please contact Annie Cheatham at anniecheatham06@gmail.com.

BIG NEWS! Carter J. Carter tells us that the Ahmadi family will be arriving in early May 2022. In addition to raising funds for many needs, we have a list of items needed for the apartment near the college where Jafar will work. A crew will be transporting things around May 1. Sue Craft is running point for St. John's, so direct questions her way. And, let's thank God that the pieces are coming together for a new life here for the Ahmadis.

St. John's Episcopal Church
Main and South Street
PO Box 253
Ashfield, MA 01330
telephone: 413-628-4402