

The Steeple

A monthly publication of
The First
Congregational Church
of Milford,
Massachusetts.
A member of the United
Church of Christ.

August 2024

Volume 8 No. 2024



~From Pastor
Rev. Greta MacRae

“I give myself to you to be your partner. I promise to love and sustain you from this day forward, in sickness and in health, in plenty or in want, in joy and in sorrow...”
Liz and Dave’s Wedding

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
First Thessalonians 5:16-17

Happy last days of Just Rest July,

I performed a wedding last weekend and the vows have been in my head since then because it struck me that they are good promises to make in loving relationships. Marriage is one kind of loving relationship. The commitment between two people is most often very sweet and hopeful at the beginning, and yet, there are times when there is more sickness, more want and more sorrow than health, plenty, and joy. We hope for more of the sweet but there are seasons of bitterness. When that happens, it can take us by surprise but if we have formed a Plan P we can cope.

When I am asked to marry people, we spend some time before the wedding day working on the marriage. We talk about strengths and growing edges. We talk about debt and ways of looking at money. We talk about past traumas, about how two people can comfort and sustain one another and how it will not always work out 50/50. We usually laugh a lot and I always give them homework and that is to take some time each day to pray with one another. I call this Plan P. I start them off with one-word prayers to be said for their partner.

Prayer homework has become the topic of much conversation. Couples who had been reluctant about doing it come back to me and say, “This praying together works!” As people who choose to marry, couples share most everything- bodies, money, homes, secrets. It’s amazing to me how very rarely people talk about a shared spiritual life.

Being a part of a spiritual community is another loving kind of relationship. Imagine feeling this way about our church. Imagine promising to love and sustain the church in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, and in joy or in sorrow. Imagine being so comfortable praying with one another that each of us can volunteer to take a turn without any kind of embarrassment or feeling that we won’t do it right. Imagine yourself as a newly minted prayer- a child- risking everything without fear.

As we ease into Awesome August and begin to power back up towards fall, let’s begin to experiment with prayer. Choose someone to pray with and try one-word prayers of what you hope for them. For those who may live alone, place a picture of someone you love or have loved and pray with them. It will become easier the more you do it.

Thursday mornings at 10:00, beginning August 1, I will gather with anyone who would like to begin to pray together. We’ll pray as church for anything anyone brings forward.

August is going to be awesome!

Peace and prayers, Pastor Greta

**Doing God’s work by filling needs in
our community.**

**Office Hours
9am-12pm Mon.-Wed.**

First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
4 Congress Street, P.O. Box 344,
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-5259

milfordcongregational@gmail.com

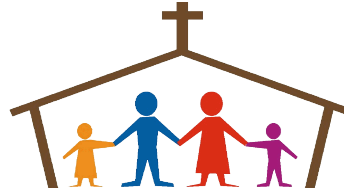
milfordcongregational.org

<https://www.facebook.com/church.milford>

Pastor: Rev. Greta MacRae
Gretamacrae1@verizon.net
508-816-6866

**Summer Worship Service 10:30am
In the High School Classroom**





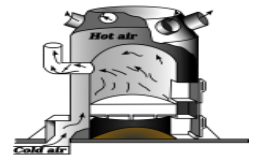
Other Fun Stuff

Listen in as we begin to read ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*** by C. S. Lewis. Find the recordings on our Facebook page beginning August 1.

Come to worship August 4 for communion and to see the newly **tie-dyed altar clothe!** As we continue through the summer, we will bring **flowers** from our gardens for the glory of God. Let me know if you'd like to contribute.



The boiler repair has been approved by the congregation with 26 votes in favor and 1 opposed. The quorum of 10% of membership was satisfied. Thank you for the prompt response to this urgent matter!



Boiler Questions:

How will we pay for this?

We have begun to ask for donations towards the \$21,000 cost of the repair. We'll see how these come in before we decide if we will seek a loan. The Cornerstone Fund through the United Church of Christ is one avenue we have for a loan.

When will the repair happen?

The last week of August repairs will begin.

Who will do it?

We have a long-time contract with Wilkinson Company. In Al Crawford's long and loving time caring for the boiler he made it clear that they knew the boiler inside and out. (And he made us promise not to change vendors.)

How old is the boiler anyway?

The boiler is around 15 years old. It was replaced when the Frost wing was built. (According to Al Crawford)

What's wrong with it?

There are two circuits that have been malfunctioning. This means that when the heat goes on it heats the entire older part of the church, sanctuary, and fellowship hall which wastes a huge amount of energy. The repair should save us money as there will be two zones that function independently of each other after the repair.

Will the other churches help?

We have asked for their help, and they are praying about how and how much.

If you have other questions just ask!



[Special Offering Update](#)

We are off to a great start with donations to benefit the repair of the church boiler and heating system. We have collected \$4,225 to date and are that much closer to our \$21,000 target! As stated previously, we are aiming to offset the cost with donations from all of the churches that use the building and from you, the congregation. It is our hope that everyone will participate. Any offering you can make will help us to complete the necessary repairs for the boiler. Thank you for your support and generosity!

You can mail your donation to the church at "First Congregational Church, PO Box 344, Milford, MA 01757" or drop it in the plate at Sunday worship.

Please note "Church Furnace" on the memo line of your check



Daily Bread Food Pantry Collection



We will be collecting food for the Daily Bread Food Pantry on **the first Sunday of the month**. We know you may have multiple opportunities to support our local food bank. If you have donations, you are welcome to drop off any donations at the church on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays between 9am & 12pm.



Wake-Up Call!

Get Up....Get Moving:
Canned coffee, creamer, box cereal, oatmeal, tea bags, pancake / waffle mix, muffins, etc.

Additional Items Always Needed:

- ♥ Dish Soap
- ♥ Baby Wipes
- ♥ *Diapers*: Especially sizes 4, 5, and 6 (generic is fine)



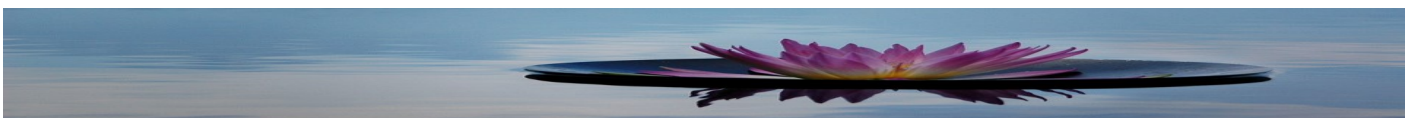
Kundalini Yoga Summer Series



Sunday morning yoga classes are cancelled for the summer.

Classes will continue to meet on Thursday nights from 6:30pm to 8:15pm either in person or via Zoom. If you want the Zoom link, please contact Joan Eaton at joancapesoul@aol.com. The cost is \$10 per class.

There will be NO CLASS held on August 29th.



Altruistic August 2024

MONDAY



5 Spend time wishing for other people to be happy and well

TUESDAY



6 Smile and be friendly to the people you see today

WEDNESDAY



7 Give time to help a project or cause you care about

THURSDAY

1 Set an intention to be kind to others (and yourself) this month

FRIDAY

2 Send an uplifting message to someone you can't be with

SATURDAY

3 Be kind and supportive to everyone you interact with

SUNDAY

4 Ask someone how they feel and really listen to their reply

12 Contact a friend to let them know you're thinking of them

13 No plans day! Be kind to yourself so you can be kind to others too

14 Take an action to be kind to nature and care for our planet

15 If someone annoys you, be kind. Imagine how they may be feeling

16 Make a thoughtful gift as a surprise for someone

17 Be kind online. Share positive and supportive comments

18 Today do something to make life easier for someone else

19 Be thankful for your food and the people who made it possible

20 Look for the good in everyone you meet today

21 Donate unused items, clothes or food to help a local charity

22 Give people the gift of your full attention

23 Share an article, book or podcast you found helpful

24 Forgive someone who hurt you in the past

25 Give your time, energy or attention to help someone in need



26 Find a way to 'pay it forward' or support a good cause

27 Notice when someone is down and try to brighten their day

28 Have a friendly chat with someone you don't know very well

29 Do something kind to help in your local community

30 Give away something to help those who don't have as much as you

31 Share Action for Happiness with other people today



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Coming September 7, 2024

Electronics Recycling Day

8am to Noon

(Details Provided at a Later Date)



Member Owned Businesses

We thank the following member-owned local businesses who contribute each year in support of the Church. If you are a business owner who would like to contribute, please contact the Church office.

Tamagni Wealth Advisors LLC
Buma-Sargeant Funeral Home
 42 Congress Street
 Milford, MA 01757
 (508) 473-5511
www.bumafuneralhome.com

Watson Colonial Funeral Home
 Dwight L. Watson, Funeral Director
 24 Congress Street
 Milford, MA 01757
 (508) 473-0282
www.watsoncolonialfuneralhome.com

Whitinsville Monumental Works
 1312 Providence Road, Rte. 122
 Whitinsville, MA 01588
 Thomas C. Delfanti, Proprietor
 Mary Delfanti, Manager



8/3 Henry Zyskowski
 8/6 Heather MacKenzie
 8/8 Lisa Doyle
 8/11 Lacey Lewis
 8/11 Gabriel Lanciano
 8/16 Benjamin Miano

8/18 Jason Rose
 8/23 Erin Rouleau
 8/25 Kailyn Gibson
 8/26 Dot Besozzi
 8/26 Jillian Paccico
 8/30 Nara Paccico

Happy Birthday

If your birthday isn't listed and you'd like it to be included, please notify the Church Office at milfordcongregational@gmail.com.

AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>* AOG = Assembly of God Church * INE = Iglesia Nueva Ecuadorian Church</p>				<p>1 -8-10am AA -6:30-8:15pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>2 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>3 -6am-9pm AOG (Pastor Angel)</p>
<p>4 -10:30am Worship -8-10:15am Ecuadorian -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>5 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE</p>	<p>6 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>7 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>8 -8-10am AA -6:30-8:15pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>9 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>10 -6am-9pm AOG (Pastor Val)</p>
<p>11 -10:30am Worship -8-10:15am Ecuadorian -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>12 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE</p>	<p>13 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>14 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>15 -8-10am AA -6:30-8:15pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>16 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>17 -6am-9pm AOG (Pastor Angel)</p>
<p>18 -10:30am Worship -11:30am Sharing Coffee Hour -8-10:15am Ecuadorian -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>19 -8-10am AA -7pm Governing Board -6-9:30pm INE</p>	<p>20 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>21 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>22 -8-10am AA -6:30-8:15pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>23 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>24 -6am-9pm AOG (Pastor Val)</p>
<p>25 -10:30am Worship -8-10:15am Ecuadorian -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>26 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE</p>	<p>27 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>28 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>29 -8-10am AA -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>30 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>31</p>