

# The Steeple

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

September 2024

Volume 9 No. 2024



*~From Pastor  
Rev. Greta MacRae*

“And don’t forget the foreigner who is not a member of your people Israel but has come from a far country because of your reputation. People are going to be attracted by your great reputation, your wonder working power, who come to pray at this Temple.” 1 Kings 8:41-43

“Prayers for our precious students and teachers and for the nested congregations as they go back to school because it will feel differently for them.” Barbara Low Clerk of Frist Congregational Church of Milford.

My Dear Congregation,

Barbara lifted the prayer above this past Sunday in worship. Her prayer could not have been timelier. Monday evening the pastors of two of our nesting churches gathered. We usually meet every month to keep communication and relationship growing between the churches. Jeff Kroesen, Jim Stoney, and I met with Pastor Euclides Anjos and Pastor Carlos Jerez who was representing Pastor Melchor Guacho, with the hope that we could all talk about the current campaign to fund the boiler repair as well as some house-keeping issues. What we experienced was something far different.

As we put forward our request for help, Pastor Euclides, whom some of you know as Angel, shared the heartbreaking challenges his congregation is facing. Three families from the Brazilian church have received deportation notices and are now preparing to be sent back to Brazil. This means that every bit of their resources is being saved for their departure and to get them settled as they return to Brazil. None of those families choose this return. They are never sure when ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) might come to their homes and take them into custody. The reason we were meeting very quickly shifted to one of listening. Pastor Carlos shared that the Ecuadorian congregation is experiencing much the same. Pastor Euclides told us, “(Deportation) is the ghost we fight every day.”

After the meeting, Jeff and Jim and I stood in the hallway in a kind of stunned silence. The boiler fell down the ladder of things we thought of as important. It is still something we need to address and to pay for. However, when we began the transition from the idea of being just landlords to the idea of being friends in Christ who share the same building, the shift was towards relationship building. Now we know the names and faces of individual people, and we are getting to know families and three vastly different cultures.

What we can do right now is to hold these congregations in our prayers and to ask God for hearts soft enough to see their pain. For some, this will seem like a political issue. I do not see it that way. I see this as an opportunity to keep learning how the love of Christ might be lived out in the community of Milford which has, from its beginning, been a town where people from far away have chosen to settle and build a new life.

*Praying for new life in Christ.*

*Pastor Greta*

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

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

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

[milfordcongregational@gmail.com](mailto:milfordcongregational@gmail.com)

[milfordcongregational.org](http://milfordcongregational.org)

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

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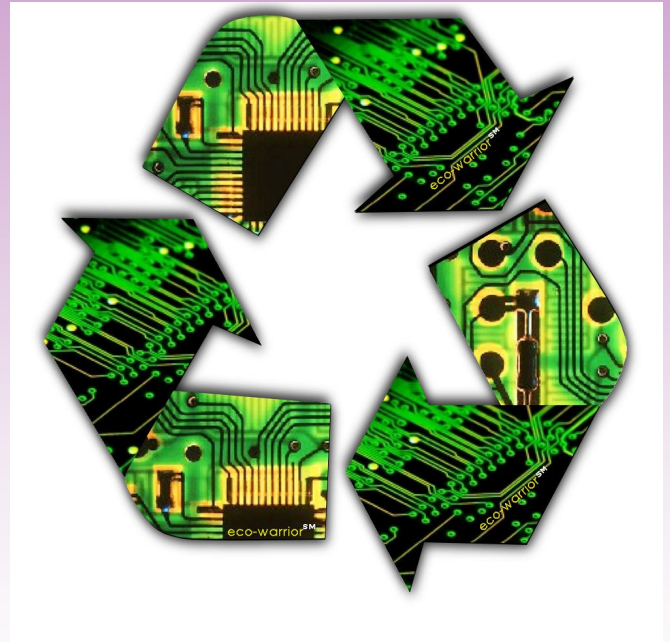
**Worship Service at 10:30am will return  
to meeting in the Sanctuary on  
September 8th**

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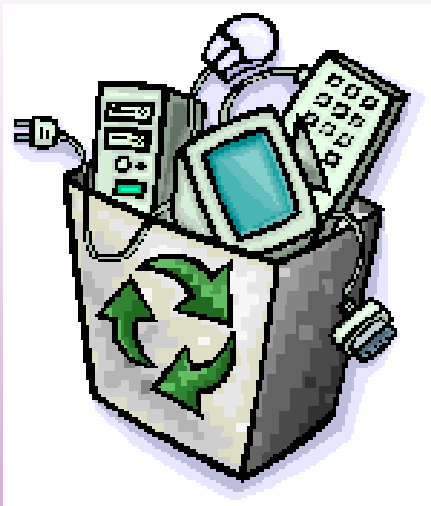


# Electronics Recycling Day 8am to Noon

**September 7, 2024**  
**4 Congress Street,**  
**Milford, MA**



All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TV's can be recycled. Recycling fees range from \$5 to \$45 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them. The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost.



Drop off in the church parking lot at  
4 Congress Street, Milford.  
(Opposite Draper Park, next to the Post  
Office)

**CASH PAYMENTS ONLY,  
PLEASE.**

**\*\*Call 508-473-5259 with any questions\*\***

## Food Pantry Donations

### 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.



### Back to School

**Time to Learn:**  
Healthy snacks such as -  
Packaged pretzels, nuts,  
popcorn, dried fruit etc.  
Lunch bags & packaged  
hand wipes.

### **Additional Items Always Needed:**

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



### **Sunday School Registration Day**



Registration day for 2024—2025 Sunday School year will be September 29th. Students will enjoy an activity downstairs in the large vestry with the teachers during the worship service. After the service, the fun will continue with games and a special snack for them. Sunday School registration forms will be available at that time for parents to fill out.

We are in need of teachers and substitutes for the Sunday School program. If you can give of your time and knowledge to enlighten our children, please contact one of the members of our Christian Education Team. Thank you!

### *Christian Education Team*

Helen Thibeault—[hthibeault@milfordma.com](mailto:hthibeault@milfordma.com)

Joan Eaton—[joanapesoul@aol.com](mailto:joanapesoul@aol.com)

Darlene Crawford—[darlenecrawford@comcast.net](mailto:darlenecrawford@comcast.net)



# Special Offering



We are continuing to ask for donations to benefit the repair of the church boiler and heating system. 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.**

Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile, and a grateful heart.

Zig Ziglar  
PhotoBonto.com

## Self-Care September 2024

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential     | 2 Notice the things you do well, however small           | 3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly         | 4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it             | 5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes  | 6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time | 7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'                            |
| 8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed | 9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect             | 10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok     | 11 Make time to do something you really enjoy                      | 12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost | 13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one           | 14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break       |
| 15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low       | 16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly | 17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself | 18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you | 19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement             | 20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories                 | 21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside |
| 22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still      | 23 Let go of other people's expectations of you          | 24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love     | 25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing             | 26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents         | 27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans             | 28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn         |



29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself

30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Pastor Greta's installation service will be held on **October 20<sup>th</sup>** at 3pm. There will be a collation (party!) after the service. Would you put this on your calendars please!

## ***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.

### **Buma-Sargeant Funeral Home**

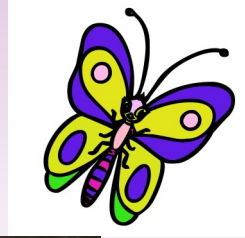
42 Congress Street  
Milford, MA 01757  
(508) 473-5511  
[www.bumafuneralhome.com](http://www.bumafuneralhome.com)

### **Watson Colonial Funeral Home**

Dwight L. Watson, Funeral Director  
24 Congress Street  
Milford, MA 01757  
(508) 473-0282  
[www.watsoncolonialfuneralhome.com](http://www.watsoncolonialfuneralhome.com)

### **Whitinsville Monumental Works**

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



## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3 Jane Metzger  
3 Lilly Yuknis  
7 Ginny Davis  
10 Thomas McSweeney  
10 Emmett Sawyer  
11 Debbie Spencer  
11 Kim Stover  
11 Mary Ann Ellis Calcagno  
14 Karen Homer  
16 Katelin Rouleau

16 Suzanne Davis  
20 Ed Dillon  
21 Vicki Nelsen  
22 Mark Crawford  
26 Lilly Spratt  
26 Jim Sabo  
26 Jim Stoney  
27 Matthew Spencer  
28 Maureen Spratt



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

# SEPTEMBER 2024

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