

January 2020

## A Word from the Pastor...

## The Messenger

*"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart."*

*Ps 90:1-2, 12 NRSV*

Where did 2019 go? I'm sitting here wondering how we got here so fast. In just a few short days we'll be entering another year, and another decade. When God says he marks the days with the arc of the sun and the nights by the phases of the moon, he doesn't tell us that they all run together like a rushing stream down a mountain. Days, weeks, months and years rush so quickly we can't keep track of all that happens, never mind plan for what to do next. But we approach another time of resolutions and promises with all kinds of hopes and dreams for success. What is truly important in this time? Is it not a relationship to the God who created all of this for us?

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, was one who found he had to check himself every so often, to see how he was doing in his service to his Lord Jesus Christ. Every year, he embarked on a journey to find out whether he had been faithful to God, or whether he had let some or another sin into his life. In the Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church there is a service of Covenant Renewal, written by Mr. Wesley himself. In it we find these words.

"Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray: **Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place of work. **Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid**

**aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal."** (p 291 BOW)

The service is most used at this time of year, when the Christmas season yields to Epiphany and the calendar on the wall needs to be replaced with a new one. We take stock of our own relationship with Jesus Christ, and yield again to his control over our lives. Yielding control over ourselves to another, even to God, is not a popular idea in the world around us, but the world does not know God as we who already know Christ do. God's plan for us is perfect, and yielding to the perfect plan of God for us is all that God requires. I pray God's blessings on all, and Happy New Year.

*Blessings in Christ...*

*Pastor Dan*



# News & Notes



## Inviting all women! *SEEKERS*

Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at  
7:15 PM

Seekers will Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at the home of Chris Beattie, 146 Hayward Street in Hopkinton, MA at 7:15 PM. We will start our next book, Irena's Children by Tilar J. Mazzeo. All women are welcome! Please RSVP to Chris at 508-544-1556.

**Below:** On December 4<sup>th</sup> our Seekers celebrated the season with a Christmas Potluck at the home of Jeannie Prickett. Members brought a wrapped ornament to swap and a dish to share. A wonderful time was had by all!



## JANUARY MEETINGS:

**SPRC** – Tuesday, 1/14 @2:00PM (after Bible Study)

**TRUSTEES** – Tuesday, 1/14 @ 7:30PM

**CHURCH COUNCIL & FINANCE** – Sunday, 1/26 @ 11:30AM



Many thanks to our members who have volunteered to serve as Readers and Ushers for 2020! Your service to our congregation is greatly appreciated. Updated schedules have been emailed to all volunteers. If you're unable to serve on your scheduled date, please contact the office and we will find a replacement.



# Sunday School Happenings...



## How Did They Know?



### Characters:

Narrator – Kara

Wise Men 3 – Celeste, Hannah

King Herod – Cam

Chief Priests & Teachers of the Law – Mark

Balaam – Hannah

Balak – Cam

Micah – Cam

Mary – Celeste

Angel Gabriel – Mark

Joseph (Non - Speaking) – Cam

Angel 1 – Hannah

Isaiah – Celeste

Luke 2 Reader – Cam

Angels – All Kids

On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> our Sunday School students performed the Christmas Pageant "How Did They Know". The pageant was written and directed by our very own Rosalie Kimba. It is the story of how the people of Israel knew that Jesus was the Messiah from his birth alone. Congratulations to our talented students and dedicated teachers for their outstanding performance!



# Special Multi-Sensory Service

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>  
6PM

What to expect: Lots of music, joyful singing, interactive style, short message & prayer, 45 minutes with a full meal. Dessert & fellowship to follow.

Designed to include those with developmental challenges, their family, friends and caregivers.

First United Methodist Church  
39 Exchange Street, Milford Fellowship Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Accessible to most wheelchairs

Attendees of December's Special Multi-Sensory Service enjoyed an evening filled with Christmas delight! Jeff and Barbara provided festive music, while individuals, caregivers and families enjoyed yummy food, fellowship and fun. Everyone felt truly blessed to share this special night together.





Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>  
Trinity Episcopal Church

Volunteers are needed for Food Prep (12:30 – 1pm), Servers (3 – 6pm) and **especially Clean Up (5:30 – 7pm)**. Sign Up in Fellowship Hall or speak to Jane Benson or Elaine Quinn if you are able to help out. Thank you!

Congratulations to the Kling and Canali families on the birth of baby Dominic Francis. Dominic was born December 10th, 2019 weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Mom Stephanie, Dad Matt and baby Dominic are all doing well.

I want to thank everyone who helped contribute the bears for this year's Teddy Bear Christmas Tree. I was able to deliver 40 stuffed animals to the Children's Hospital in Boston this year! ~ Cheryl



"We can BEARLY wait for the sermon..."



## Save the Date: Valentine's Day breakfast

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

9AM

Lowell's Restaurant, Mendon MA



Cost: \$19 per person. Includes Family Style breakfast, juice, coffee, tax and gratuity.

Please RSVP to Barbara Eltzroth at 508-883-4063 if you're able to participate in this fun (and popular!) tradition.



Mom and I had the pleasure of meeting Victory on December 23rd when we delivered the Teddy Bears to the Children's Hospital in Boston. We have been praying for Victory since she was born on July 19th. Many of you have asked to see pictures of Victory so here is one of the whole family. They expressed their thankfulness of the prayers our congregation have been offering up on a regular basis. Victory's had open heart surgery on January 2nd, to repair a large hole in her heart. Doctors were pleased with the results, but she remains in critical condition as she's slowly weaned off sedation. Please continue to pray! ~Teri Creber



## Winter Lay Servant Academy

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>: 9:30AM – 5PM

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>: 9:30AM – 4PM

Westford United Methodist Church  
10 Church Street, Westford MA

Courses offered: The Basic Lay Ministry Course, Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition, and Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders.

*Registration forms are due by Monday, January 13th to Beth Ferguson, 72 E Central St, #402, Franklin, MA 02038.*

# Thank you!

The staff of the First United Methodist Church would like to thank you for the generous Christmas Bonus we received. Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated by all of us. We are so fortunate to work with such a wonderful group of people.

~ Jeff, Barbara, Kathy Missy & Lucia



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**With the holidays around the corner,  
please keep our church in mind when  
you do your online shopping.**

The church continues to be listed on the Amazon Smile directory at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). If you go to the web link **smile.amazon.com** (a part of official Amazon.com) to make your routine Amazon purchases, Amazon will pay our church 0.5% of donations. That's \$5 for every \$1000 of shopping. It all adds up!

## Safe Sanctuary Policy Reminder...

**PLEASE**

**CHILDREN  
MUST BE  
SUPERVISED  
AT ALL TIMES**

*Thank You!*

As part of our Safe Sanctuary Policy, all underage children must be supervised by an adult until they are settled in

**Sunday School or the Nursery.**



## Watson Colonial Funeral Home

24 Congress Street, Milford, MA  
508-473-0282

Watson Colonial Funeral Home is dedicated to providing services to the families of Milford with care and compassion.

For over 150 years the Milford community has trusted Watson Colonial Funeral Home with helping them plan the celebrations of lives lived.

We serve every family in the community with great pride. We are able to offer a wide range of services to meet your families' needs and customs. We will listen to you and your wishes to help plan a celebration consistent with your expectations. We will take the time to plan every detail and help to relieve the burden on your family during your time of loss.

Our website contains information about our caring staff, our services and links to resources to help you get through this tough time. Please give us a call to see how we can help.



## Frank's Appliance

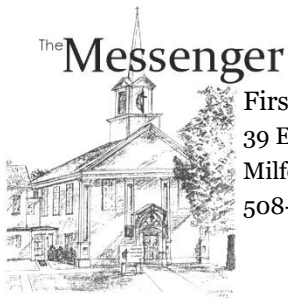
331 Main Street, Milford, MA  
508-473-1309

Frank's Appliance Service is a family-owned Appliances and Electronics store based in Milford, MA. Since 1970, Frank's Appliance Service has served customers in Milford, Hopedale, Mendon, Bellingham, Medway, Holliston, Hopkinton, Franklin, Uxbridge, Upton and Blackstone with low prices on Appliances and Electronics products and top notch customer service. Our knowledge on the Appliances and Electronics we sell sets us high above the competition. Frank's Appliance Service is an authorized dealer of such brands as Amana, Asko, Avanti, Bertazzoni, Blomberg Appliances, and more. We can help you select your new Appliances and Electronics purchase at any budget. We look forward to seeing you at Frank's Appliance Service, serving Milford, Hopedale, Mendon, Bellingham, Medway, Holliston, Hopkinton, Franklin, Uxbridge, Upton and Blackstone in Massachusetts since 1970.

# January

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5</p> <p>10a Worship Service Communion 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>10a Worship Service 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10a Clergy Breakfast 7p Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>10a Worship Service 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:15p Seekers</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11a Bible Study 2p SPRC 5p Water Bottle Ministry 7:30p Trustees</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7p Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>4p Girl Scout Weekend</p>
<p>10a Worship Service 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship 11:30a Church Council</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7p Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p>
			<p>28</p> <p>11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7p Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4p Community Meal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p>



First United Methodist Church  
39 Exchange Street  
Milford, MA 01757  
508-473-4252

The **Messenger** • January 2020

# USHERS

## JANUARY

- 5 Paula Malnati, Darrell Bird
- 12 Scott & Kathy Vanseth
- 19 Arthur & Hollyanne Knust Graichen
- 26 Dennis Kling, Bill Eltzroth

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Gio Cicconi, Malcolm Butters
- 9 Cyndee McGovern, Joe Salisbury
- 16 Teri Creber, John Lemon
- 23 David Probert, Karen Grand Pre

## MARCH

- 1 Larry & Betty Milo
- 8 Marsha Hastings, Dennis Kling
- 15 Paula Malnati, Darrell Bird
- 22 Scott & Kathy Vanseth
- 29 Arthur & Hollyanne Knust Graichen

## ~~~ READERS ~~~

## JANUARY

- 5 Cheryl Creber
- 12 Bill Eltzroth
- 19 Gail Perry
- 26 John Lemon

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Jeff Lovell
- 9 David Probert
- 16 Janet Stone
- 23 Brian Richter

## MARCH

- 1 Pam Rao
- 8 Cheryl Creber
- 15 Bill Eltzroth
- 22 John Lemon
- 29 Jeff Lovell



*Thank you to our generous*  
**Coffee Hour Hosts**

Jan – Trustees  
Feb – Stewardship

Mar – Christian Ed  
Apr – Outreach