

March 2020

## A Word from the Pastor...

# The Messenger

*“It is written...”*

*(Matthew 4, Jesus’ response to the temptations of the devil)*

We have entered the season of Lent already. It really seemed to come fast this year. I guess that means an early Easter. But before we reach that glorious day, we must trudge through this season of self-reflection and reorientation. We need to take stock of where we are in relation to God, if we have moved to a place more distant from his great care in our minds or in our actions. And when we have discovered our place, we turn our lives around to close any gap we have perceived between us and God. The primary way we look to evaluate our distance or closeness to God is the way we conform to the scriptural requirements of life in relationship to God. And that really starts with our perception of who God really is to us. Is God the great creator who made all things seen and unseen in this world we live in? Is God the great giver of gifts and supplier of all we ask in prayer? Is God resident in the Bible that sits on our shelf all week, or is God present with us in all the things we do or think or say? Who does God say he is in his word?

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?” (Job 38:2). “Or who shut in the sea with doors?” (Job 38:8a). “Have you entered the storehouses of the

snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail? (Job 38:22). “Can you bind the chains of Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion?” (Job 38:31). “Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind?” (Job 38:36). “Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions?” (Job 38:39). “Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer?” (Job 39:1). The book of Job goes on and on in describing the attributes and knowledge of God, how God is intimately involved in all the aspects of life on earth and in the heavens. And especially in the lives of the people who inhabit the earth. He cares so deeply for us that he works all the natural elements to supply our needs. God weaves the things of the world into a delicate and intricate pattern to provide for us. As the Psalm says: “The cattle on a thousand hills are his.” (Ps 50:10). God has no need for us to bless him in material ways. God owns and manipulates all of nature for us. The Psalmist says in another place, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them?” (8:4a). And man’s response to the God who gives all things is given later in

that Psalm, “O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth.” (8:9). Our response is praise, pure and unadulterated praise. We can’t begin to understand the One who could manage all this work and still be present with each one of us in this vast network of creation. So we express our awe and joy in praise to the God who could, and honor God with obedience to the ways of God.

It is good to take inventory occasionally of our lives, and especially for the care that God takes of us. I would invite you to read the last 5 chapters of Job to understand the self-description of God our creator. And during this time of Lent, read some of the instructions of Paul to the churches in his care, and learn how he teaches the people of those churches to view the Lord and treat one another. We can all use a refresher course in love. I pray it will be a blessing to you in the coming weeks. God bless you all.

***Blessings in Christ...***

***Pastor Dan***

# News & Notes

## Happy Birthday!



## Inviting all women!

### SEEKERS

## Monday, March 9th at 7:15 PM

Seekers will **Monday, March 9th** at the home of Chris Beattie, 146 Hayward Street in Hopkinton, MA at 7:15 PM. We will begin reading our next book, Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. All women are welcome! Please RSVP to Chris at 508-544-1556.

### March Meetings:

SPRC – Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2PM

Trustees – Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30PM

Church Council – Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30AM

To my wonderful church family,  
My wife and I want to thank you all for your generosity and well-wishes for the holidays and our recent anniversary. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated and your love hit the core of our being.  
~Pastor Dan & Janet



The Higher Education Committee wants to thank everyone who donated items or contributed funds towards the Care Packages that were sent to our college students and military. Your generosity and commitment to our youth is sincerely appreciated!

# Sunday School Happenings...



Our Sunday School students, teachers and volunteers participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring by collecting cans of soup, dry goods and cash to support the Milford Food Pantry. They also prepared homemade soups, bread and refreshments which were shared with the congregation after Worship Service. Thank you to all who supported this worthy endeavor!



## The Living Cross

Dear Church Family...I would love to have some help from ALL of you. I would love to resurrect the "Living Cross". I'm asking all of you, family, friends, neighbors, all of the people of the church and community to celebrate the Risen Christ.

On Easter morning there will be a wooden cross leaning against the tree and I'm asking all of you to bring flowers to place on the cross. The goal will be to cover the entire cross with beautiful flowers.

Thank you to everyone in advance!  
Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

~Cheryl Creber



# Guess Who's Coming to Dinner???

Guess who is coming to dinner is just what it is. A chance to meet some new people, reacquaint with others or enjoy time with old friends. Fellowship, stress free, good food and exciting.

If you sign up to be a Host for x (for example 8) people, then a max of 8 people are going to show up at your door with yummy food to eat. You will have no idea who is coming and all you need to do is be the Host, no cooking just beverages!

If you sign up to be a guest and offer to bring a main dish, side dish or dessert then you will be notified to make enough for x # of people and be given an address to go to, on that Saturday. You may or may not know where you are going, but you will be surprised to see who else shows up!

**Saturday  
March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**5:30PM with a plan  
to eat at 6PM**

**Come on and let's have some fun!!  
Email, text or call Laurie to sign  
up. 508-309-5001 or  
llovell98@verizon.net**



## Special Multi-Sensory Service

**Sunday, March 8th  
6PM**

**\*No April Special Service.  
Next Service is May 10<sup>th</sup>\***

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

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

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

# News & Notes

## A Few Important Reminders...

- April 5<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday – 9:30AM Draper Park  
10AM Morning Worship**
- April 9<sup>th</sup>: Maundy Thursday Service, 7PM (Passion Play)**
- April 12<sup>th</sup>: Easter Sunday Service 10AM**

**\*\*There will be NO SPECIAL MULTI-SENSORY SERVICE in April as the date coincides with Easter Sunday. Service will resume on May 10<sup>th</sup>\*\***



**Thursday, March 26<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 if you are able to help out. Thank you!

Our **Water Bottle Ministry** is in need of volunteers to distribute water and hot chocolate to members of our community receiving assistance from the food pantry next door. If you are able to help, please contact Jane Benson at 508-478-3033 or [janey149.jeb@gmail.com](mailto:janey149.jeb@gmail.com). Thank you!



- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 ½ skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup thinly slice shallots
- 4 cups reduced sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup diced cooked ham
- 8 oz. asparagus spears, trimmed and cut into pieces
- 1 ½ cups shredded Gruyere or Swiss cheese (6oz)
- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 8.8 oz. pouch cooked long grain rice
- 1 Tbsp. dijon style mustard
- 1 cup croutons, coarsely crushed.

## Chicken Cordon Bleu Soup



*Start to finish* 40 minutes



1. In a 5-to 6-qt. Dutch oven heat oil over medium-high. Add half of the chicken and shallots; cook and stir 2 to 3 minutes or until chicken is browned. Remove from pan. Repeat with remaining chicken and shallots. Return all of the chicken mixture to pan. Stir in broth and ham.
2. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer 5 minutes. Add asparagus; simmer 5 minutes more. In a small bowl combine 1 cup of the cheese and the flour. Gradually add cheese mixture to soup, stirring until melted. Stir in rice and mustard; heat through. Top servings with remaining ½ cup cheese and croutons.

Makes 6 servings of 1 ½ cups each.

Per Serving: 433 cal, 19g fat (7g sat. fat), 123mg chol., 987mg sodium, 23g carb., 2g fiber, 2g sugars, 43g pro.

~ Milford Day ~  
Saturday, May 16th,  
2020

**SAVE THE DATE**

Volunteers needed for set up, representing our church and break down. Please see Pastor Dan if you're able to help.



*Congratulations to Pastor Dan & Janet Stone as they celebrated 40 years of marriage!*



It's time to update our Church Directory! We are asking for our members to provide the following:

Home Address

Mailing Address (if different than home address)

Home Phone Number

Cell Phone Number

Email

A Current Picture

\*We will not be hiring a photographer. Candid pictures are welcome! Kathy and Cyndee are happy to take a picture to be included. You can stop by the church office at your convenience or call in advance to set up a time that works for you.

A Directory information Form will be emailed to the address we have on file. In addition, hard copies will be available in Fellowship Hall.

The goal is to have  
100% participation!

Participants, their caregivers and volunteers celebrating our February Special Multi-Sensory Service together. We are so privileged to offer this opportunity for everyone to enjoy worship service and sincerely appreciate the efforts of all those who work to create such a warm, welcoming atmosphere.



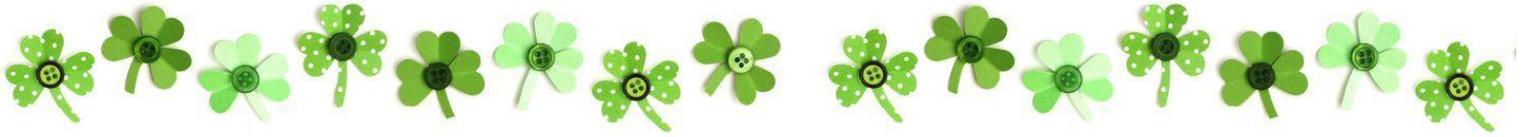
## Valentine's Day Breakfast February 2020

Thank you to Barbara Eltzroth for organizing this fun annual tradition!



# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10a Worship Service Communion 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship </p>	<p>2</p> <p>11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7p Bible Study </p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal </p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal </p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10a Worship Service 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship </p> <p>6p Special Multi Sensory Service </p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:15p Seekers </p>	<p>10</p> <p>11a Bible Study 2p SPRC 5p Water Bottle Ministry</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7p Bible Study </p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal </p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10a Worship Service 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship </p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Min. 7:30p Trustees </p>	<p>18</p> <p>7p Bible Study </p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal </p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10a Worship Service 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship </p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Min.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7p Bible Study </p>	<p>26</p> <p>4p Community Meal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal </p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10a Worship Service <b>Easter Cantata</b> 11a Coffee &amp; Fellowship </p> <p>11:30a Church Council </p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11a Bible Study 5p Water Bottle Ministry</p>				



# Thank you to our generous community supporters!



## 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.



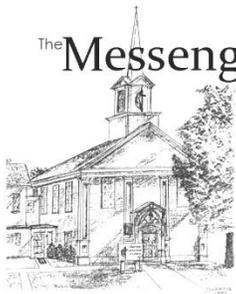
## Watson Colonial Funeral Home

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.



The **Messenger**

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

The **Messenger** • March 2020

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**MARCH**

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

**APRIL**

- 5 Malcolm Butters, Bill Eltzroth
- 12 Gio Cicconi, Joe Salisbury
- 19 Teri Creber, Cyndee McGovern
- 26 John Lemon, David Probert

**MAY**

- 3 Karen Grand Pre', Marsha Hastings
- 10 Larry & Betty Milo
- 17 Darrell Bird, Bill Eltzroth
- 24 Paula Malnati, Joe Salisbury
- 31 Dennis Kling, TBD

**~~~ READERS ~~~**

**MARCH**

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

**APRIL**

- 5 Gail Perry
- 12 Brian Richter
- 19 Janet Stone
- 26 Bill Eltzroth

**MAY**

- 3 David Probert
- 10 Cheryl Creber
- 17 Pam Rao
- 24 John Lemon
- 31 Jeff Lovell



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

**Mar – Christian Ed  
Apr – Outreach**

**May – Finance  
June – Trustees**