

April 2020 – Abridged Edition

## *A Word from the Pastor...*

# The **Messenger**

*“Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”*

*(Ps 16:1)*

As I sit here today, almost at the end of March, I see things are quite different than they were only a few short weeks ago. The president of our country, and the governor of our state are working with all officials at all levels, to advise us on how to avoid getting sick from a new virus that is exploding all over the world. This disease is killing many who have lived long among us and have conditions that contribute to overall weakness in the ability to fend it off. The government is advising all who are over 60 and especially those who have the underlying conditions to separate from others who might carry it to them. The isolation and distance from one another is crushing the spirit of many. The former days of fellowship in church, of singing and praising God together, has been changed for the moment. We have not been able to meet as the body of Christ in person, but we are

learning that technology has some ability to make that happen remotely, while we are comfortable in our own homes. I am looking forward to exploring the possibilities of bringing us closer while being physically apart from one another.

In the last couple of weeks I have been experimenting with Facebook and delivering sermons on that platform. For those who cannot access Facebook, I have been mailing hard copies of my sermons by email and snail mail to all in the congregation of Milford FUMC. I hope those mailings have given you some connection to our fellowship. I hope I can find a way to broadcast some semblance of a service from our sanctuary in the near future. I am missing the fellowship of our Bible Studies, and am looking to a meeting program called Zoom as a way to reignite the studies.

Our ministries have taken on new forms in these days, but we are finding ways to pray together through email, and our updated lists are now being sent out with the prayers and sermons so you can participate at home in that way. All of our in-person ministries are suffering as a result of this personal distancing, and will continue to wait for such a time as we are once again able to meet together.

I am trying in these days to maintain a phone contact with all the congregation. I am no longer able to maintain my office hours in the church during the week per the guidance of our bishop. But I am available on Sunday mornings to answer any questions you may have about the sermon. We have also made available a delivery

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service for groceries and prescriptions in emergency situations only, thanks to several volunteer drivers and the coordination of Kathy in her remote office. Please call the church number if you need anything along those lines. And as always, please call my cell for any need from your pastor.

These are frightening days we're living in. Our most important relationship is the one with our Lord and Savior. I think we can relate to the Psalmist in the verse quoted above in his need for refuge. We need God's comforting presence in these times of uncertainty. We need to know who God is and who we are in relationship to him. Let us take a deep breath and rest in God's goodness. May we all know the refuge that God gives in these times.

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## News & Notes

### Facebook Update:

We have created a FB page for our church. Please LIKE the page for the First United Methodist Church of Milford, MA.

<https://www.facebook.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Milford-MA-111786740475867/>

The page will be updated regularly to include news, prayers, and live & prerecorded videos.

Thank you for your continued support!

*Blessings in Christ...*

*Pastor Dan*

## Ministry of Care...

During these difficult times, if you find yourself in need of assistance, please reach out to our church community and we will do our best to help. You can leave a message on our main number (508-473-4252) or send an email to [fumcmilford@gmail.com](mailto:fumcmilford@gmail.com) to access our Ministry of Care volunteers.

Wishing you all health and peace!



# Shared in Prayer...

*During these difficult days, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar and the members of the Extended Cabinet are sharing a daily prayer based on the Revised Common Lectionary for the week. We will be sharing some of these in our Newsletter and on our Facebook page...*

Be gracious to me, O God, for I am in distress:

Financial resources are depleting, and grocery shelves are bare.

Some jobs are closing, while others are forced to work in unsafe environments exposed to the virus.

Children are out of school.

Loved ones are ill and I cannot visit them at the hospital.

Loved ones have died and we cannot schedule the funerals.

Be gracious to me, O God, for I am in distress:

But I trust in you, O God;

The sun will continue to rise and set.

Helpers will care for the most

vulnerable: the elderly, the immunocompromised, the homeless, the undocumented and recent immigrants.

You call us each your beloved child.

I trust in you, O God.

I say, "You are my God."

Even when we cannot worship together in the sanctuary.

Even when we are not allowed out of our residences.

Even when the world seems to ignore you.

You are my God.

Save me in your steadfast love (*hesed*\*).

Forgive my rebellious nature, forgive my trespasses.

You have been with me at my best and you are with me at my worst.

You are the God who hears and responds with *hesed*.

I place all my confidence in your steadfast love.

Save me in your steadfast love.

*By Rev. Megan Stowe, Central Massachusetts District Superintendent*

*Scripture: Psalm 31:9-16*

*\*hesed: (Hebrew) that can be translated as mercy, compassion, steadfast love, faithfulness or grace.*

*During the time we're not able to go to the church, Kathy will be checking the church voicemail and email throughout the week. Sending you all our very best!*



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

The **Messenger** • April 2020

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**APRIL**

- 5 N/A
- 12 N/A
- 19 N/A
- 26 N/A

**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

**JUNE**

- 7 Arthur & Hollyanne Knust Graichen
- 14 Malcolm Butters, Gio Cicconi
- 21 Teri Creber, David Probert
- 28 Marsha Hastings, Cyndee McGovern

**~~~ READERS ~~~**

**APRIL**

- 5 N/A
- 12 N/A
- 19 N/A
- 26 N/A

**MAY**

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

**JUNE**

- 7 Gail Perry
- 14 Brian Richter
- 21 Bill Eltzroth
- 28 Cheryl Creber



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

**May – Finance**  
**June – Trustees**