

The Steeple

February 2024

A monthly
publication of
The First
Congregational Church
of Milford,
Massachusetts.

February 2024

Volume 2 No. 2024



~From Pastor
Rev. Greta MacRae

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? Oh my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.”
Psalm 22

My Dear Congregation,

Jesus cried the first words from Psalm 22 when he was close to death on the cross. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? When things are bad or terrifying or when there is no other way to express the lack of hope we may be feeling there is Psalm 22. It seesaws back and forth between abject hopelessness and a deep faith the God is always present and will prevail.

While I was away on vacation in the sunny Florida Keys life still went on. War still happened in Gaza and Ukraine. People still perished from draught and starvation. The world is still plagued by climate changes that we human beings have caused. And God is still present.

I usually try to write something upbeat for the Steeple but this month could we pay attention to those things that are happening in the world and surround the suffering of people and places with our prayer? There is so much sorrow in the world. There are so many people who need. The earth itself is crying out.

Take a look at Psalm 22. Would you, for the next week, find a time to pray this psalm every day? I will pray with the early risers at 6:00. It won't take long. Light a candle for the world and sit in a comfy chair and just read the psalm slowly to yourself. Close your eyes for a few minutes and let any images that come into your mind sit with you. Pray for anyone or any situation that might make itself known. Be with those people and places in your mind. Know that our witness and presence are powerful things.

It may not seem like we are doing anything very much but to pray the world safe is a huge undertaking. Stay with it. The world needs your prayers.

*Praying with you,
Pastor Greta*



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

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

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(508) 473-5259

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milfordcongregational.org

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

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

**Worship Service 10:30 am
& Sunday School**



The February
memorial lighting
is given by
Marilyn Ellery in
loving memory of
Bill Ellery



2024 NOMINATING SLATE

Moderator: Dwight Watson
Clerk: Barbara Low
Treasurer: Jeff Kroesen
Asst. Treasurer: Jane Milani & Matt Yuknis
Collector: Jane Casey

Governing Board

- 1.(2024) Kevin Lewis
- 2.(2026) Aaron Spratt
- 3.(2026) Martha Ellis
4. TBD
5. TBD
1. Moderator: Dwight Watson
2. Clerk: Barbara Low
3. Treasurer: Jeff Kroesen
*Asst. Treasurers:
Jane Milani & Matt Yuknis
4. Pastor: Greta MacRae

Operational Teams

Property

- 1.(2024) Larry Spencer
- 2.(2025) Jim Stoney

Nominating

- 1.(2024) Jane Milani
- 2.(2024) Maureen Spratt

Finance

- 1.(2024) Susan Lewis
- 2.(2026) Jane Metzger
3. TBD

Ministry Teams

Missions

- 1.(2024) Nara Pacicco
- 2.(2024) Kim Stover
- 3.(2026) Kim Engblom

Christian Education

- 1.(2026) Darlene Crawford
2. TBD
3. TBD

Deacons

- 1.(2024) Allen Sawyer
- 2.(2026) Jane Schroeder
- 3.(2026) Maureen Spratt

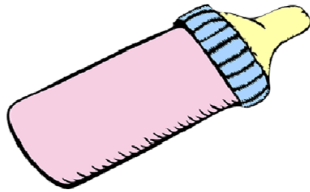
****Year in parenthesis is the full calendar year to be served.**

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.

Oh Baby!



For the Little Ones:

Diapers, wipes, formula, infant cereal, prepackaged toddler meals, juice boxes, finger snacks, etc.

Additional Items Always Needed:

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



Wednesday, February 28th, 10am — *Small Mercies*

Written by Dennis Lehane

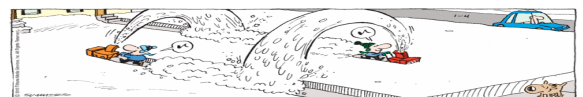
Contact Darlene Crawford at darcraw12@gmail.com for more information

"Souper" Bowl of Caring



We will gather to share soup, desserts, and fellowship on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th following worship. Bring your favorite soup, a dessert, or bring just your appetite! There will also be a good will offering collected to go to a recipient that will be determined later. Please **bring a canned good** to go to the Daily Bread Food Pantry as well. There will be lots of good soups to try and table fellowship to share. We'll see you there!

Inclement Weather Policy



Should Sunday morning worship need to be cancelled, the congregation will be notified in the following ways: email to the congregation, the church office answering machine, and the church FaceBook page. Every effort will be made to post a cancelation at least one hour prior to the start of service.

Friendly February 2024

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why



26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

29 Acknowledge someone's problem or pain rather than trying to fix it



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



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

Paul Tamagni
227 Main St.
Milford, MA 01757
508-634-9900 t 508-634-9960 f
Email: Paul@TamagniWealthAdvisors.com

Bright Insurance Agency Inc.

6 Congress Street
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-0556
www.brightinsurance.com

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/3	Abby Stover	2/22	Gary McMichael
2/10	Donna Andreotti	2/26	Linda Tiberio
2/16	Jane Milani		



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

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>* AOG = Assembly of God Church</p> <p>* INE = Iglesia Nueva Ecuadorian Church</p>				1 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm AOG	2 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm	3 -8am-6pm AOG
4 -10:30am Worship -8-9:15am Zoom Yoga -8-10:15am Ecuadoran -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian	5 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE	6 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG	7 -8-10am AA -5-6pm Brownies -5:30-7:30pm Girl Scouts -7pm All Church's Mtg. -7-9pm AOG	8 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm AOG	9 -8-10am AA -2-4pm AOG Decorating -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG	10 -8am-1pm AOG Decorating -6-11pm AOG B-Day Party
11 -10:30am Worship -8-9:15am Zoom Yoga 1-4pm Girl Scouts -8-10:15am Ecuadoran -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian	12 -8-10am AA -7pm Governing Board -6-9:30pm INE	13 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG	14 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG	15 -8-10am AA -11:15am Ladies Lunch -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm AOG	16 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG	17 -12-8:30pm Quicenera (INE)
18 -10:30am Worship -8-9:15am Zoom Yoga -8-10:15am Ecuadoran -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian	19 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE	20 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG	21 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG	22 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm AOG	23 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG	24
25 -10:30am Worship -8-9:15am Zoom Yoga -8-10:15am Ecuadoran -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian	26 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE	27 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG	28 -8-10am AA -10am Book Club -5-6pm Brownies -7-9pm AOG	29 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm AOG		