

The Steeple

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The First
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May 2024

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~From Pastor
Rev. Greta MacRae

“Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids- blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps in front of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.” John 5:2-9

My dear congregation,

I will attend a retreat next week with a group of people I have known for years as part of a program called Soul of Leadership. I meet once a month with a smaller cohort from the larger group to hold something called “clearness committee.” At the clearness committee each of us has the wisdom of the group and their full attention as we tell a story from our lives and then listen as others in the group ask questions, share images, and say prayers around the story that has been told.

This story from the Gospel of John reminds me of clearness committee because Jesus asks a helpful and important question, “Do you want to be made well?” The thing about questions is that they clarify for us what we may not have had the self-awareness to articulate. The man in the story shares a few reasons for why he has sat beside this pool for thirty-eight years. Maybe they were valid reasons. Maybe they were excuses- but the short explanation for that long thirty-eight years is that he was not really clear on what he wanted not, at least, until Jesus asked.

We all have stories of things we have not been able to heal or to make happen. Our church has a story too. What are the questions we need to ask of ourselves as if Jesus was right there when we asked? What is the big important question we need to hear to help us pick up our mat and get walking?

Listening for the questions with you,

Pastor Greta

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

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

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milfordcongregational.org

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

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

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

Memorial Lighting



The May Memorial
lighting is given by
Jane and Paul Milani
in memory of loved
ones.

Strengthen the Church

Living the love and justice of Jesus!

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024 – Special Collection

Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



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.



Cinco De Mayo

Hola Amigo:
Rice, beans, tortillas,
canned tomatoes,
canned mexican style
vegetables, & sauces,
etc.

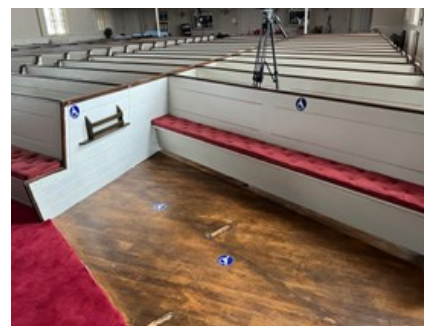
Additional Items Always Needed:

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



Newly Established Handicap/Wheelchair Area

Our handicap/wheelchair area has been completed. A special thanks goes out to Larry Spencer, Allen Sawyer, Jim Stoney, the Brazilian, Spanish, and Ecuadorian churches for all their help. It is their help that allowed us to complete our facility task.



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

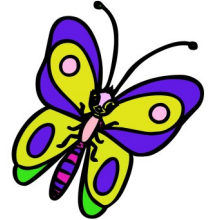
42 Congress Street
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-5511
www.bumafuneralhome.com

Whitinsville Monumental Works

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

Watson Colonial Funeral Home

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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Noah Tiberio | 14 Erica Rouleau |
| 3 Steven Watson | 14 Tommy McSweeney |
| 8 Kyle Bertulli | 17 Larry Paccico |
| 8 Bryana Bertulli | 24 Lillian Thibeault |
| 9 Christopher Stoney | 27 Zack Tamagni |
| 9 Joshua Engblom | 31 Andrew Rose |
| 12 Bob Thibeault | |



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





Tuesday, May 21st, 7pm — *Peace Like A River* Written by Leif Enger
 Wednesday, May 22nd, 10am — *Tom Lake* Written by Ann Patchett

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



Meaningful May 2024

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

1 Do something kind for someone you really care about

2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do

3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small

4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together

5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why

6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful

7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why

8 Set yourself a kindness mission to help others today

9 What values are important to you? Find ways to use them today

10 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times

11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder

12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you

13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture

14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature

15 Do something to contribute to your local community

16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better

17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful

18 Send a handwritten note to someone you care about

19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful

20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable

21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger

22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about

23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of

24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today

25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why

26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful

27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others

28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight

29 Today do something to care for the natural world

30 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost

31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>* AOG = Assembly of God Church * INE = Iglesia Nueva Ecuatorian Church</p>			<p>1 -8-10am AA -5:30-7:30pm Girl Scouts -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>2 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>3 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>4 -11am-1pm Pastor Val Event -6-9:30pm Pastor Angel Event</p>
<p>5 -10:30am Worship -8-9:15am Zoom Yoga -8-10:15am Ecuatorian -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>6 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE</p>	<p>7 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>8 -8-10am AA -5-6pm Brownie Troop -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>9 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>10 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>11 -10am-1pm Pastor Val Event</p>
<p>12 -10:30am Worship -8-9:15am Zoom Yoga -8-10:15am Ecuatorian -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>13 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE</p>	<p>14 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>15 -8-10am AA -5:30-7:30pm Girl Scouts -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>16 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>17 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>18 -6am-9pm AOG (Pastor Angel)</p>
<p>19 -10:30am Worship Strengthen the Church Collection -8-9:15am Zoom Yoga -8-10:15am Ecuatorian -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>20 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE</p>	<p>21 -8-10am AA -7pm Book Club -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>22 -8-10am AA -10am Book Club -5-6pm Brownie Troop -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>23 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>24 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>25 -6am-9pm AOG (Pastor Val)</p>
<p>26 -10:30am Worship -8-9:15am Zoom Yoga -8-10:15am Ecuatorian -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>27 -8-10am AA -6-9:30pm INE</p>	<p>28 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>29 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>30 -8-10am AA -6:30-7:45pm Yoga Class -7-9pm INE -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>31 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	