

# The Steeple

A monthly publication of  
The First  
Congregational Church  
of Milford,  
Massachusetts.  
A member of the United  
Church of Christ.

April 2024

Volume 4. No. 2024



~From Pastor  
Rev. Greta MacRae

"This is my beloved and this is my friend." Song of Songs 5:16b  
"Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death and passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame"  
Song of Songs 8:6

My Dear Congregation,

Those lines are from one of the greatest love poems ever written and they are in the Bible! I read them to Denis when we married in our front yard almost four years ago. Whenever I hear them, I return to that day so filled with joy even amidst a pandemic. Our friends and families gathered with us, the neighborhood came out to watch, there was music and lots of food. It was a sweet day.

Let us pivot. It is easy to think of things you love about your favorite people, but have you ever written a love letter to your church? In this week following Easter I wonder if we all might take 15 minutes to remember the things we love about church. We have a coffee and conversation scheduled for April 28. I would love it if you each would send me some of the things you love about church, and I will write them into the opening prayer for our discussion.

Here is a prime for the pump: last Saturday some folks from Christian Ed, parents, and some of our kids gathered to tell the Easter story. We also had a scavenger hunt and dyed Easter eggs. My favorite part was how each of us took one of the Resurrection Eggs that hold little props for us to help tell the story and then told that part of the story in our own way. It was wonderful.

Let us write love stories about our church.

*Peace and prayers,  
Pastor Greta*

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

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

First Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
4 Congress Street, P.O. Box 344,  
Milford, MA 01757  
(508) 473-5259

[milfordcongregational@gmail.com](mailto:milfordcongregational@gmail.com)

[milfordcongregational.org](http://milfordcongregational.org)

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

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

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

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## Book Clubs

**Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10am** — *The Lost Bookshop*  
Written by Evie Woods

Contact Darlene Crawford at [darcrew12@gmail.com](mailto:darcrew12@gmail.com) for more information



### Third Sunday Sharing- After worship at Coffee Hour

On the third Sunday of the month we will have sharing conversations to get to know each other more deeply at coffee hour. Please join us and let us get to know you better!



### Volunteers Needed for Electronics Recycle Day on April 20th

We are in need of volunteers to help out on Recycling Day. Below is listed the activities that will be done. Please contact Martha Ellis at [martha.ellis3@gmail.com](mailto:martha.ellis3@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you in advance for your time and effort!

- ⇒ 3 at 7:30am to set-up
- ⇒ 2-3 to remove items from cars. 2 hour shifts between 8am-12noon.  
Muscles appreciated!
- ⇒ 3-4 to keep records. 2 hour shifts between 8am-12noon.
- ⇒ Break down signs, chairs, tables, etc. after noon.



## 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.



### **Oodles of Noodles**

**Pasta & More:**  
Macaroni & Cheese,  
box noodles, spaghetti,  
egg noodles, Parmesan  
cheese, all kinds of  
sauces, etc.

### **Additional Items Always Needed:**

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

# Celebrating Marilyn Ellery

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Immediately following worship in the Large Vestry downstairs

The Governing Board invites you to a reception honoring Marilyn Ellery and her many years of service to First Congregational Milford. Marilyn is the 6<sup>th</sup> generation of her family in this church. She has most recently served as Sexton, both on her own and with her beloved late husband, Bill. Her father before her was also Sexton, and her mother was a dynamo who kept hospitality alive in the church. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, Marilyn's family will join us as we celebrate her history in FCCM with refreshments including PIE. (Marilyn loves apple pie!) Please stay after worship for this special event.



## Ministry Evaluation Task Force


A new volunteer group has been created by the Governing Board to conduct a Ministry Evaluation, which is recommended by the UCC to take place at regular intervals of 3-5 years. Allen Sawyer from Deacons, Jane Metzger from Finance, Barbara Low from Governing Board, and Judy and Jim Stoney from Pastor/Parish are using materials provided by the UCC to evaluate 3 areas:

- ◆ God's Church: Our resources (including our building) and our mission
- ◆ The Church's Congregation: Who we are as a spiritual community
- ◆ The Designated Term Pastor: How we want her to lead us

In the coming months, this group will identify the Church's accomplishments of the past year toward the goals set by our congregation during recent "coffee and conversation" sessions. We will be asking the Congregation to identify creative and positive ways to strengthen the areas needed to help all of us and our Pastor to keep improving our church experiences, and we will be seeking guidance from our Pastor as needed. This work will serve us well in creating the church profile we will use in the search for our Settled Pastor. As we go along, we will host "coffee and conversation" sessions at intervals to share our findings. We plan to gather formal feedback from the Congregation near the end of our task and will present a written report to the Church at the conclusion. Please join us for Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, April 28 to look at the progress we, as a Congregation, have made in maintaining God's Church. The 5 of us invite you to contact any of us with questions.

Faithfully,

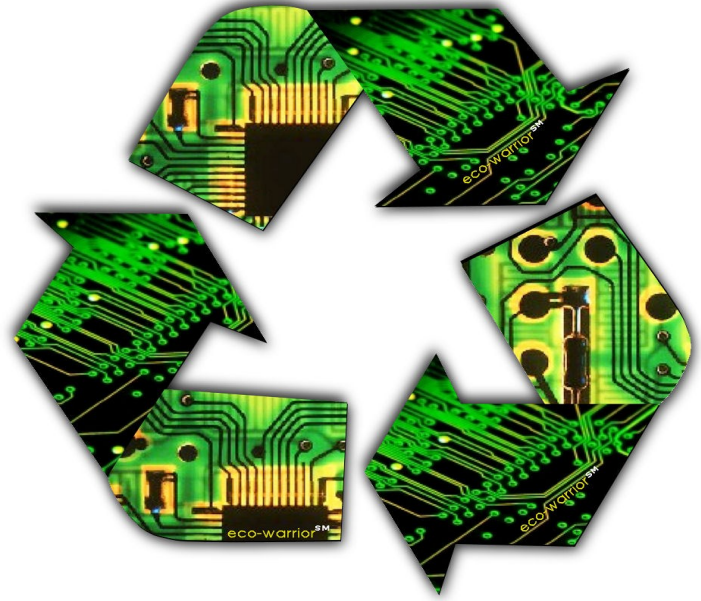
Allen, Jane, Barbara, Judy, and Jim



# Electronics Recycling Day 8am to Noon

**April 20, 2024**

**4 Congress Street,  
Milford, MA**



All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TV's can be recycled. Recycling fees range from \$5 to \$35 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and re-use them. The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost.



Drop off in the church parking lot at  
4 Congress St., Milford.  
(Opposite Draper Park, next to the Post  
Office)

**CASH PAYMENTS ONLY,  
PLEASE.**

**\*\*Call 508-473-5259 with any questions\*\***

## The Ann Miller Scholarship Application

Ann C. Miller was baptized in our Church shortly after her first birthday on June 12, 1938. Quite fittingly, it was Children's Sunday. In her many years of Church membership, no one ever doubted that Ann Miller loved her Church and her Church family. She demonstrated her love most clearly in her role as Sunday School Superintendent, a position she held for many years until her death in 1998. Her commitment to the First Congregational Church of Milford and its Sunday School continues with the scholarship she designated in her will.

The Ann Miller Scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving student associated with our Church who is continuing his or her education beyond the high school level, with preference given to students pursuing further study in art, religion, or education. The ideal candidate will exemplify Ann Miller's love of the Church and her dedication to serving in a helping capacity. There is no age requirement for applicants. High school students and adult non-traditional students may apply for acceptance. Nominations and direct applications are reviewed equally.

Application due date: **May 15, 2024**

Please submit a completed application to the Church office or mail to the attention of the Christian Education Committee, P.O. Box 344, Milford, MA 01757.

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Schools Applied To	Intended Major	Accepted

With what extracurricular activities have you been involved: (volunteer work, sports, music, etc.)

Activity	No. of Years	Special Awards/Honors	Offices Held

What have been your community service activities? Please describe your participation in one or two sentences.

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What has been your involvement with this Church?

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What work experiences have you had?

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**Essay portion** (Please attach a typed essay of approximately one page)

What are some of the goals, both professional and personal, that you would like to achieve?

The Religious Education committee of the First Congregational Church of Milford will select the recipient. Members of the committee may request a school transcript and/or a personal interview.



Active April 2024



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



1 Commit to being more active this month, starting today

2 Spend as much time as possible outdoors today

3 Listen to your body and be grateful for what it can do

4 Eat healthy and natural food today and drink lots of water

5 Turn a regular activity into a playful game today

6 Do a body-scan meditation and really notice how your body feels

7 Get natural light early in the day. Dim the lights in the evening

8 Give your body a boost by laughing or making someone laugh

9 Turn your housework or chores into a fun form of exercise

10 Have a day with less screen time and more movement

11 Set yourself an exercise goal or sign up to an activity challenge

12 Move as much as possible, even if you're stuck inside

13 Make sleep a priority and go to bed in good time

14 Relax your body & mind with yoga, tai chi or meditation

15 Get active by singing today (even if you think you can't sing!)

16 Go exploring around your local area and notice new things

17 Be active outside. Plant some seeds and encourage growth

18 Try out a new exercise, activity or dance class

19 Spend less time sitting today. Get up and move more often

20 Focus on 'eating a rainbow' of multi-coloured vegetables today

21 Regularly pause to stretch and breathe during the day

22 Enjoy moving to your favourite music. Really go for it

23 Go out and do an errand for a loved one or neighbour

24 Get active in nature. Feed the birds or go wildlife-spotting

25 Have a 'no screens' night and take time to recharge yourself

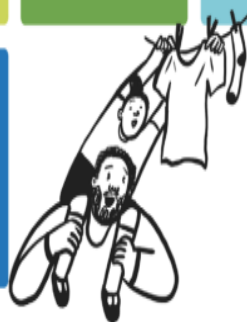
26 Take an extra break in your day and walk outside for 15 minutes

27 Find a fun exercise to do while waiting for the kettle to boil

28 Meet a friend outside for a walk and a chat

29 Become an activist for a cause you really believe in

30 Make time to run, swim, dance, cycle or stretch today



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.

### **Buma-Sargeant Funeral Home**

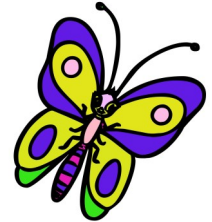
42 Congress Street  
Milford, MA 01757  
(508) 473-5511  
[www.bumafuneralhome.com](http://www.bumafuneralhome.com)

### **Watson Colonial Funeral Home**

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

### **Whitinsville Monumental Works**

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



## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

2 Megan Yuknis  
3 Addie Thibeault  
3 Matthew Rose  
4 Kevin Kearley  
4 Shannon Smith  
12 Cindy Kearley  
13 Shawn Smith

12 Rachel Thibodeau  
17 Kathy Sabo  
19 Karen McSweeney  
24 Kevin Kroesen  
24 Matthew Kroesen  
25 Danielle Homer



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



# APRIL 2024

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