

The Steeple

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

January 2024

Volume I No. 2024



~From Reverend
Greta MacRae

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

My Dear Congregation,

The apostle Paul wrote two letters to the church in Thessalonica. They are the oldest letters in the New Testament. All was not easy with this congregation. They faced intense opposition from the settled Jewish community, a congregation that flourished even though the city was culturally Greek. Still, the congregation carried on and began to live out its life centered on Christ.

The words Paul uses to encourage them "Rejoice, pray, and give thanks" are words we can adopt in our small but mighty congregation where we are generally accepted in this community. This has been a year of so much activity for us as a congregation and there is much to give thanks for.

Think of it! We have been together now for a little over a year as pastor and congregation. This year we discerned a new way forward and decided to join together. You called me as your pastor - for which I am grateful and filled with excitement and anticipation. But even before that we began the work of taking stock of our viability as a spiritual community. With the help of the Governing Board, Deacons, Property Committee, and Finance Committee we have looked carefully at our financial and real estate assets and the things we might do to keep them flourishing. We have a pretty clear idea of where we are and, with a church audit, we will conclude this part of our work.

Is there more to do? Yes. There is a list that Jim Stoney has composed of what needs to be done to the building and dreams we have to make it more beautiful and usable for the many groups that meet here. With careful attention to stewarding the many good things God has given us we will continue to be church.

This coming year we will embark on a new adventure. We will begin to assess the spiritual assets of the church. To do that we will begin to ask some questions about where God seems to be leading us. We will begin to discern who we are and how our faith might become a more important part of our lives.

In the meantime, rejoice in what we are becoming, pray for the church as a whole and for the individual people of this community, and give thanks for the God who is with us always.

*Rejoicing in being a part of this community,
Pastor Greta*

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

**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

milfordcongregational.org

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

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

Worship Service 10:30am

& Sunday School

**A new year is like a blank
book. The pen is in your
hands. It is your chance
to write a beautiful story
for yourself.**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Calling all Ministry & Operational Teams!



Annual Reports: The deadline for the annual reports is **January 16th**. Each Ministry & Operational Team, please email your report on or before that day. Thank You!



Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will take place on **January 28th** following the service. *The snow date for the meeting is February 4th.*

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.

Additional Items Always Needed:

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



Oodles of Noodles

Pasta & More:

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



Tuesday, January 16th, 7pm @ Cindy Kearley's — *The Invisible Thread*

Written by Laura Schroff

Wednesday, January 24th, 10am @ the Church — *The Covenant of Water*

Written by Abraham Verghese

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

Happier January 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1 Find three things to look forward to this year

2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself

3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

7 Learn something new and share it with others

8 Say positive things to the people you meet today

9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)

10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

13 Take a different route today and see what you notice

14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

16 Contribute positively to your local community

17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

18 Get back in contact with an old friend

19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge

21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

24 Take a small step towards an important goal

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside



28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently

29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

30 See how many people you can smile at today

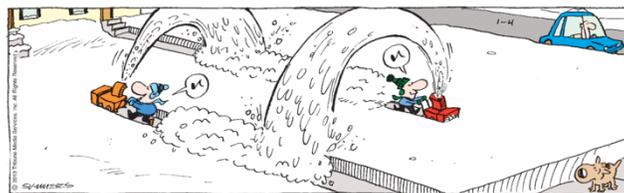
31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

Inclement Weather Policy



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

2023 Christmas Pageant Memories



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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Amy Tamagni | 21 Larry Spencer |
| 4 Thomas Cooper | 22 Jane Schroeder |
| 7 Helen Thibeault | 22 Martha Ellis |
| 9 Caroline Tempesta | 26 Benjamin Tempesta |
| 9 Martha Kroesen | 28 Leroy White |
| 11 Jane Casey | 29 Allen Sawyer |
| 13 Samuel Lanciano | 30 Patricia Stratton |
| 13 Jim Stover | 30 Jennifer Stoney |
| 14 Noah Sabo | |
| 14 Susan Schroeder | |
| 14 Kerrie Tiberio | |
| 18 Betsy Brogioli | |
| 18 Ron Engblom | |



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



JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>* AOG = Assembly of God Church</p>	<p>1 -8-10am AA Happy New Year</p>	<p>2 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>3 -8-10am AA -5:30-7:30pm Girl Scouts -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>4 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>5 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>6 -8am-6pm AOG</p>
<p>7 -10:30am Worship -8-10:15am Ecuadoran -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>8 -8-10am AA</p>	<p>9 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>10 -8-10am AA -7pm Governing Board -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>11 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>12 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 -10:30am Worship -8-10:15am Ecuadoran -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>15 -8-10am AA</p>	<p>16 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>17 -8-10am AA -5:30-7:30pm Girl Scouts -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>18 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>19 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>20 -8am-6pm AOG</p>
<p>21 -10:30am Worship -8-10:15am Ecuadoran -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>22 -8-10am AA</p>	<p>23 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>24 -8-10am AA -10am Book Club -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>25 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>26 -8-10am AA -7pm AA -7:30-9:30pm AOG</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 -10:30am Worship -11:30am Annual Meeting -8-10:15am Ecuadoran -12-2:45pm Spanish -5:30-8:15pm Brazilian</p>	<p>29 -8-10am AA</p>	<p>30 -8-10am AA -7:30pm AA -7-9pm AOG</p>	<p>31 -8-10am AA -7-9pm AOG</p>			