



In my devotions this morning, I encountered Peter's description of the church, the way he saw the ideal church. After talking about how the people of the church should lean on one another and support each other, he says this: "Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called that you might inherit a blessing." (1 Peter 3:8-9) And then he recalled the words of Psalm 34 as illustration. "Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it."

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (Ps 34: 12-16) And when I read those words of unity, sympathy, love, tenderness and humility, my mind went immediately to Milford FUMC, for those are the qualities I see in this church, and though I see some challenges here, I also see the presence of God through the Holy Spirit aligning our values with those of God. I see a church which aligns itself with peaceful pursuits rather than engaging in back-biting and deceit, and I see answers to our prayers because we conform to the good and steer away from evil. I see good days ahead for us and the inherited blessing of God Peter talks about because we love God and people within our congregation and in our neighborhood (which covers a lot of ground in our case.)

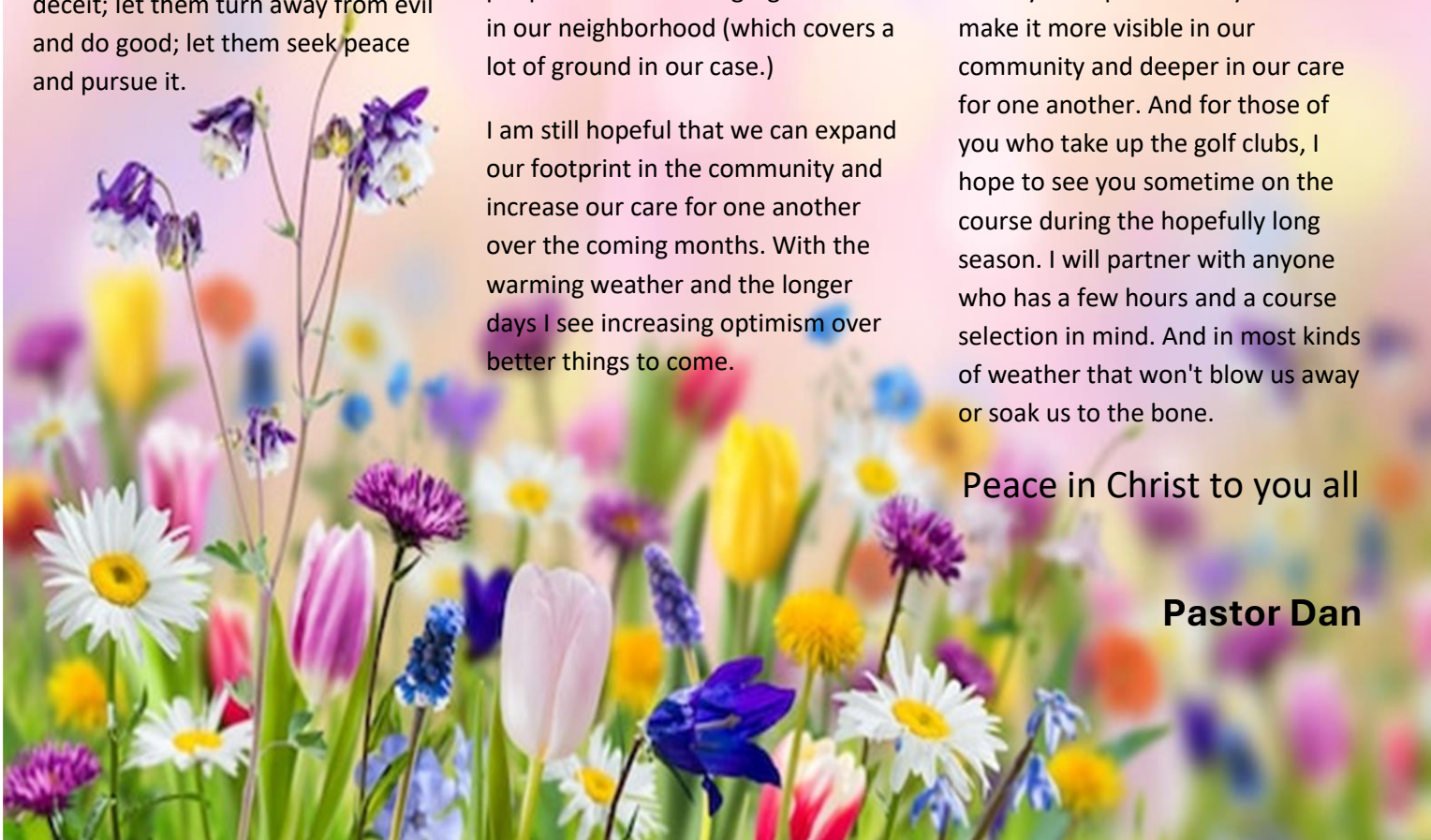
I am still hopeful that we can expand our footprint in the community and increase our care for one another over the coming months. With the warming weather and the longer days I see increasing optimism over better things to come.

The **Messenger**

I see us opening our doors to personalize our prayer ministry and engage with community outreach through movie nights and some kind of care for the people coming to the Food Pantry next door. I see expanded Bible Study for both knowledge and application of our faith where we are. I envision cooperative ministries with other churches in the area to more effectively meet the needs of those around us. I handed out a list of things I saw as possible ways to reach out and energize our ministry, and I invite you to take another look at that before our next Council meeting and come with your own ideas to the next meeting. I think we are a very loving and caring and hospitable place to be on Sunday morning and throughout the week. I invite your input into ways we can make it more visible in our community and deeper in our care for one another. And for those of you who take up the golf clubs, I hope to see you sometime on the course during the hopefully long season. I will partner with anyone who has a few hours and a course selection in mind. And in most kinds of weather that won't blow us away or soak us to the bone.

Peace in Christ to you all

Pastor Dan



NEWS AND NOTES

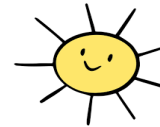
May Birthdays

Arthur Knust Graichen – May 3
 Cheryl Stewardson – May 10
 Charlotte Kensil – May 15
 Ian Stewardson – May 22
 Steven Kensil – May 28



Please don't forget to sign up to usher, read, light the candles and help with communion.

Signup sheets are in fellowship Hall



Below is the Schedule for groups using church facilities:

Assembly of God

Sundays, 5-9 p.m., May 4, 11, 18, 25
 Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m., May 7, 14, 21, 28
 Saturdays, 6-9 p.m., May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Universal Church

Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m., May 6, 13, 20, 27

Children Across America

Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17

The First United Methodist of
 Marlborough

We're having a Meat Shoot!

When: Saturday, May 17, 2025

**Where: Amvets Post
 17 Fitchburg St.
 Marlborough, Ma 01752**



3 sets of cards \$20.00

**Raffles, 50/50
 Time: 2 – 5 p.m.
 Lite lunch will be served**

The National Day of Prayer falls on May Day this year, God who listens. May Day is supposed to be a day of celebration of spring, but it also sounds like a panicked call for help. Perhaps it is appropriate that this National Day here in the US is also a call for help. Because then we might remember from whence our help comes, as the psalmist wrote. We rely on our own power, our own will, and our own structures, even when that power, that will, and those structures have been used to oppress and to divide and to elevate a few over the needs of the many. Could it be possible that on a day of praying, we might reorient ourselves and begin to live as though your kingdom has already come on earth as it is in heaven? That we might embrace a kin-dom of equality and justice that honors diversity and includes even the sojourner in our midst? Is that too much to ask? We pray that one day May Day can be a true celebration of the beauty of creation and the changing of the seasons and not a desperate cry for help. Christ, have mercy. Amen.

Pope Francis holds the John Wesley bobblehead given to him by Ashley Boggan, top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, during the pope's general audience on Sept. 6, 2023, at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. File photo courtesy of the Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome.



At 9:45 AM, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church, announced the death of Pope Francis from the Casa Santa Marta with these words:

"Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favor of the poorest and most marginalized. With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the One and Triune God."

The Director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni, told journalists later on Monday that the late Pope's body could be transferred to St. Peter's Basilica on Wednesday morning, so that the faithful may pray before his mortal remains.

Grenadilla Gang Concert - new date and time



Please join us for a free concert by the Grenadilla Gang; a professionally coached ensemble of nine clarinet players.

Date: Sunday, May 18th

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Saint Matthew's United Methodist Church, 435 Central St., Acton, MA

The “gang” will perform an eclectic variety of music, including that of Bach, Elgar, Grieg, Vaughn Williams, Lennon/McCartney and others. Oh, and in case you wondered... The group gets its name from Grenadilla, a dark, dense hardwood from Southeast Africa used to make virtually all high-quality clarinets.

The hour-plus performance will be followed by refreshments.

Phone

978-263-2822

Email

office@saint-matthews.org



Celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday

New England Conference churches are encouraged to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday (one of The UMC's Special Sundays). The official date for Native American Ministries Sunday is May 4, 2025, but we encourage you to celebrate on a day that works best for your church. The offering taken on this Special Sunday supports vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities and allows The UMC to partner with existing Native ministries to develop new programs.

Here are some resources; find more at ResourceUMC.org

Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford



Watson Colonial Funeral Home

24 Congress Street, Milford, MA

508-473-0282

Watson Colonial Funeral Home is dedicated to providing services to the families of Milford with care and compassion.

For over 150 years the Milford community has trusted Watson Colonial Funeral Home with helping them plan the celebrations of lives lived.

We serve every family in the community with great pride. We are able to offer a wide range of services to meet your families' needs and customs. We will listen to you and your wishes to help plan a celebration consistent with your expectations. We will take the time to plan every detail and help to relieve the burden on your family during your time of loss.

Our website contains information about our caring staff, our services and links to resources to help you get through this tough time. Please give us a call to see how we can help.



The Edwards Memorial Funeral Home is a third-generation family-owned funeral home that has proudly served families in the Greater Milford area since 1882 and is dedicated to providing services to the families of Greater Milford with care and compassion.

Since 1882 the Greater Milford community has trusted Edwards Memorial Funeral Home with helping them plan the celebrations of lives lived.

We serve every family in our community with great pride. We are able to offer a wide range of services to meet your family's needs and customs. We will listen to you and your wishes to help plan a celebration consistent with your expectations. We will take the time to plan every detail and help to relieve the burden on your family during your time of loss. Please give us a call at **(508)-473-0225** and allow us the sacred privilege of assisting you.

Friends of the First United Methodist Church, Milford



Frank's Appliance Service is a family-owned Appliances and Electronics store based in Milford, MA. Since 1970, Frank's Appliance Service has served customers in Milford, Hopedale, Mendon, Bellingham, Medway, Holliston, Hopkinton, Franklin, Uxbridge, Upton and Blackstone with low prices on Appliances and Electronics products and top-notch customer service. Our knowledge on the Appliances and Electronics we sell sets us high above the competition. Frank's Appliance Service is an authorized dealer of such brands as Amana, Asko, Avanti, Bertazzoni, Blomberg Appliances, and more. We can help you select your new Appliances and Electronics purchase at any budget. We look forward to seeing you at Frank's Appliance Service, serving Milford, Hopedale, Mendon, Bellingham, Medway, Holliston, Hopkinton, Franklin, Uxbridge, Upton and Blackstone in Massachusetts since 1970.

331 Main St., Milford, MA 01757

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May

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				National Day of Prayer	May Friendship Day	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 3rd Sunday of Easter Native American Ministries Sunday AOG 5-9 p.m.		 Universal Church 8-9 p.m.	AOG 8-9:30 p.m.	Choir 2 p.m.		AOG 6-9 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 4th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day Festival of the Christiam Home AOG 5-9 p.m.		 Universal Church 8-9 p.m.	AOG 8-9:30 p.m.	Choir 2 p.m.		AOG 6-9 p.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 5th Sunday of Easter Heritage Sunday AOG 5-9 p.m.		 Universal Church 8-9 p.m.	AOG 8-9:30 p.m.	Choir 2 p.m.		Aldersgate Day AOG 6-9 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10 a.m. Worship Zoom and in person 6th Sunday of Easter AOG 5-9 p.m.	Memorial Day	 Universal Church 8-9 p.m.	AOG 8-9:30 p.m.	Ascension of the Lord Choir 2 p.m.		



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