

*Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC*

142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054

[www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org) • (508) 376-5034 • [millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com)



**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

Church of Christ Vision Statement:

*Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's love.*

## Outdoor Worship

August 8, 15, 22 we will worship in the outdoor chapel depending on the weather. Bring your chair.

### Sunday Worship in August

**Aug 1 – Communion “The Bread of Life”**

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13;  
Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:24-35

**Aug 8- Outside “Shaping Community”**

2 Samuel 18:5-9; 15, 31-33;  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

**Aug 15- Outside “Seek Wisdom”**

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14;  
Ephesians 5:15-2; John 6:51-58

**Aug 22- Outside. Camp Sunday**

Dress casual as we worship like we would at church/hiking camp.  
1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43;  
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

**Aug 29 – “Which rules to follow?”**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13;  
James 1:17-27;  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**To join Sunday worship services by Zoom, click on this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87562091923?pwd=MVpJT21NelpRck9wM1UyaUtBalZsZz09>

**If using phone, dial:** 1-646-558-8656 US (NY)

**Meeting ID:** 875 6209 1923

**Passcode:** 02054

**Find your local number:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc6vTurh6j>

### *In-sanctuary worship*

So much has changed recently in relationship with the Corona Virus. Here are our worship guidelines as we know them at this time. Please continue to be flexible as all society participates in the great experiment of how to move out of a pandemic.

- The windows and doors of the sanctuary will be open and the fans will be drawing air up regardless of the weather.
- Please bring a mask with you to worship as we request that everyone wear a mask during singing.
- For the remainder of the service masks are optional for those who are vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated folks are urged to wear a mask.
- Attendees will **not** be able to walk through the preschool area. Both bathrooms are open for use.
- The bulletin is available on the church's website. Some printed bulletins will be available at the door. Please take everything with you when you leave.
- Attendees are encouraged to visit with each other after the service outside or in Fellowship Hall. Please no visiting in the sanctuary.
- All services will be recorded. By being present, attendees give permission for their image and voice to be recorded and shared.



### **Community Garden**

The Millis Community Garden has officially been opened! The Garden is located on the side lawn of the church, and we still have plots available if anyone is interested in gardening in them! There is no cost to use a plot—please see **Lauren Briggs** or email [millisuccgarden@gmail.com](mailto:millisuccgarden@gmail.com) for more information or to register for your plot!

#### **We could still use help with:**

- Reaching out to local businesses or organizations who might be interested in sponsoring a bed
- Sponsoring a bed yourself
- Setting up the beds
- Gardening in a bed yourself
- Painting or decorating a garden bed
- Helping to staff/check in on the garden once it is set up
- Visioning other possibilities

### **September Newsletter**



The deadline for entries for the September Spire will be **August 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please have all your info in by then. Thank you.

### **On-line Bible Study**

**Bible Study resumes  
Wednesday, Aug. 11**

Each Wednesday at 11:00am, a group gathers on Zoom to listen to and discuss one or more passages from the upcoming Sunday's worship service. Each gathering is a stand-alone event. For a list of each Sunday's passages, see the "Sunday Worship in August" section on page 1 in the newsletter.

#### **Bible Study Zoom link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2I2aGExMU1ISONHVHRycjVldz09>

**If using a phone, dial:** 1-646-558-8656

**Meeting ID:** 876 4148 4473

**Password:** 02054



## *Gratitude Corner*

- On behalf of the Purkis-Luck family, I want to thank everyone for the love and support we received during my brother Art's illness and his passing. Your kind words, thoughts, prayers and cards were very touching and helped us all to cope through a diagnosis we never thought he would have. While we are still grieving over the loss, we take solace that he is no longer in pain, and comfort in the support you continue to give us. Thank you all!

~Gail Luck

- Thank you to the members of the Church of Christ for their generous donation to the Millis Food Pantry.

"On behalf of all of the clients of the Millis Ecumenical Food Pantry, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$500, dated from December. The donation was recently found in the food pantry mail bin inside the church office. Since the pandemic started, our mail had been left in a bin outside of the office, as we did not have access to the inside bin. I'm sure whoever kindly left the check in the inside bin did not know this. I hope you understand that the delay in depositing the check in no way reflects our sincere appreciation. The church is a constant source of support and help to the pantry. Without you, the pantry could not exist. We are all enormously grateful."

~Elizabeth Derwin

- Thank you to Joan Nichols for the donation of mulch for some of the church gardens. Also, thank you to Wendy Schneider for lending her bench as a Pride Month display.

~Sue Conte

- Thank you to everyone for all of the well wishes and prayers while I was feeling under the weather with a respiratory infection.

~Shelley Goes



*If you would like to express your gratitude to others, either anonymously or with your name attached, email the church office at [millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com).*

## Missions



Thanks to all who joined our The Walk-ins Welcome team, who participated in the annual New Life 5K. We raised \$450. The church also gave \$1000.00 to sponsor the event. Here is the thank you note from New Life which touches on how much our donations help others.

*Please share New Life's and my gratitude to the team and congregation. I did want to share a recent email I received from a client's mother. I think it sums up the impact of the work and your support.*

*"My son was a recent recipient of donations from your furniture bank. He was beaming with joy and full of gratitude.*

*He truly was in awe looking around at his new apartment now with furnishings in it. It brought tears to my eyes seeing his joy. Your organization truly gave him a New Life and I am forever grateful."*

*Thank you again. Rich*

Information on how you can volunteer or have items to donate or know someone who needs assistance, please see their website at [newlifefb.org](http://newlifefb.org) or Jan Krohn at [janicekrohn@gmail.com](mailto:janicekrohn@gmail.com).



South Shore Habitat has stated their Westwood home build. We hope to get a group together for a day of building in the fall. Please note more information in the next month's Spire. At present an individual sign up is available on their web site.

[sshabitat.org/volunteer](http://sshabitat.org/volunteer)

## Pledges and offerings

Thank you to everyone who has continued to mail in your pledge and offerings. Have you found it difficult to remember to send it in? Consider using Bill-Pay through your bank. It is easy to set up an account with your bank and usually there is no fee. You can set it up as an automatic payment and the bank will send your offering to the church weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. In the back of the sanctuary are cards which say "I gave electronically" so you have something to put in the plate even when you are giving on-line.

## Rev. Geary's Office Hours

Rev. Geary will not be offering regular office hours during the month of August. She is usually at the church on Monday and Wednesday. You can reach her at any time by phone, text or email:

Cell Phone: (774) 993-9407

Email: [pastoruccmillis@gmail.com](mailto:pastoruccmillis@gmail.com)

In Memoriam

**Robert Norman Zabe**

July 10, 1926 – July 22, 2021



## ***From the Deacons***

Philippians 2:4

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Over the course of the past months during the pandemic each of us has been concerned with our own well being, that of our families, friends, the wider community and world. We were limited in how we could be of service and for many just keeping our close circle safe and healthy was the main concern.

As we begin to gather together once again, remember it is OK to consider what is most important and best for you and your family. That being said, Philippians 2:4 reminds us we should also keep in mind what will be beneficial for our community and trust that others are also looking out for our interests as well. Everyone has to work together.

The Deacons have been working diligently to assist Rev. Geary in our worship services during this challenging time. As we continue to move forward with in person worship, we are turning to our wider church community to share your time and talent.

There are several pieces to the Sunday service that you can be involved in, requiring a small time commitment as your schedule allows. Specifically, we would love to give training on how to run the camera/Zoom for worship services, have extra greeters, acolytes, sign up for hosting fellowship time after the service, and assist in setting up equipment for outdoors services.

Outdoor Sunday services will be held in August on the 8,15, and 22 at 10 AM. If the weather is inclement we will worship in the sanctuary. Keep a chair in your car to be ready. :) Please contact any of the Deacons if you are available to help set up for one of these services.

Katelyn Andrews has taken on designing and printing name tags for any committee or congregation member who would like them. You may contact Katie directly or leave a message at the church office with your contact information and she will get back to you.

We thank you for your patience as we continue to move in the direction of a familiar way of life, always ready to adapt as circumstances change and restrictions may again be put in place.

Looking forward to having you share your talents with us.

Peace be with you,

Your Deacons,

Katelyn Andrews, Doug Briggs, Lauren Briggs, Sue Conte, Joan Nichols, Wendy Schneider and Suzi Sennott

## Sunday Morning Volunteers

**Lay Worship Leader:** Sue Conte

### **Fellowship Refreshments:**

**August 1:** Kathy Stevens & Judie Ackerman

**August 8:** Volunteer needed

**August 15:** Men's Fellowship

**August 22:** Volunteer needed for S'mores fixings

**August 29:** Volunteer needed

The Men's Fellowship is coordinating after worship refreshments. If you would like to volunteer to provide food, please contact the church office.



## Prayers for our College Students

Please keep the following in prayer as they head off for post-secondary education.

**Kate Luck** – U. Maine (Senior)

**Patrick Luck** – WPI (Senior)

**Amelia Coutts** – Belmont (Sophomore)

**Alexa Briggs** - Rochester Institute of Technology (Junior)

**Paul Bolton** – Salem State University (Sophomore)

**Abigail Messias** – Salve Regina (Sophomore)

**Patrick Smith** – Plymouth State (Freshman)

**Lucas Smith** – UMass Lowell (Freshman)

**Abigail Sullivan** – Framingham (Freshman)



## *Transition Team Update*

1. We have had Sunday morning and Facebook questions posted seeking answers to some of the survey questions. Thank you to all for giving your input and support.
2. We have reached out to church families with children to learn more about the needs of our youth and what qualities they would like in a new pastor.
3. This month we will interview some town officials seeking what they note has been our role in the community. We also hope to discover areas where we can provide more active community support. Both are questions in the survey.
4. The next area we need to assess is whether we can support a full time or part-time minister, which we will need to determine before we start the search.

As always, we welcome your questions, concerns, and insight into this important process. Becki Abalutzk ~ Art Payne ~ Jan Krohn

## Visitors' Group

The Visitors' Group will not be meeting in August. We hope that you are enjoying the lazy days of summer. Please let us know if you would like a visit or know someone who you think may like to be visited. "I can do all things through the Lord who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 (NIV) Thank you, God, for loving and caring about us. Guide us each day and give us the strength and wisdom to do your will. Amen.

### The Visitors:

Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Pam Johansson, Shirley Rowley, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, and Rev. Jennifer Geary.

## Socializing with the M&M's Mondays on Zoom and In Person!

The M & M's Monday Morning Needlework Group gathers virtually on Zoom, and in person in the Parlor! Join in the fun on Monday mornings, any time after 10am. All are welcome – even if you're not working on a needlework project, join in for the socializing!

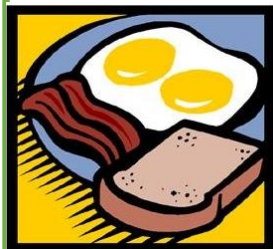
### **By computer, click this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2987904285?pwd=VENBmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQQjJUdz09>

**If using a phone, dial:** 1-646-558-8656

**Meeting ID:** 298 790 4285

**Passcode:** 866156



## Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting In Person

**Sunday, August 15th at 7:30am**

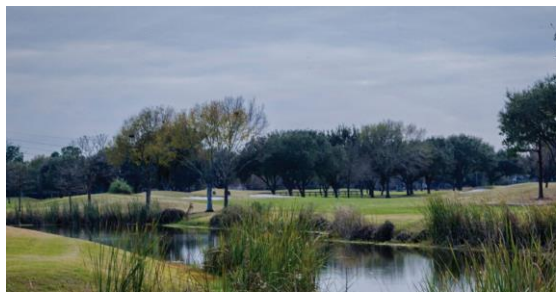
Please join the Men's Fellowship in Fellowship Hall for our monthly Breakfast Meeting. Hope to see you there!

**\*\*Covid protocols will be followed\*\***

## Church Office Hours

**Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm**

Any non-urgent VM's or emails received outside of these hours will be returned on the next business day.



## Leadership & Committees

<b>Moderator</b>	Gail Luck
<b>Church Clerk</b>	Nydia Rice
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mary Smith
<b>Collector</b>	Brooks Corl
<b>Assistant Collector</b>	Brian Hall

<b>Diaconate</b>		
Sue Conte	Wendy Schneider	Katelyn Andrews
Doug Briggs	Lauren Briggs	Joan Nichols
Suzi Sennott		
<b>Missions</b>		
Jan Krohn	Art Payne	Wendy Schneider
Mary Smith		
<b>Trustees</b>		
Kathy Stevens	Andy Bolton	Wayne Carlson
Bonnie MacDonald	Rich Manzano	
<b>Prudential</b>		
Bill Wright	Doug Coutts	
<b>Christian Education</b>		
Kelly Williams	Tammy Coutts	
<b>Welcoming Committee</b>		
Maria Melchionda	Katelyn Andrews	Judy Kosinski
Bonnie MacDonald	Myrna Rybczyk	
<b>At-large Members of Church Council</b>		
1. Judie Ackerman	2.	
<b>Pastoral Relations Committee</b>		

\*The Pastoral Relations Committee is formed based on nominations from the Pastor, the Moderator and the Senior Deacon.



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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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