

THE SPIRE

JUNE 2022

We seek to be a Christian community by worshipping God through prayer, music, and the proclaimed Word. Following Christ's example, we enthusiastically reach out to everyone with compassion, respect, and love so that we may grow in faith and commitment together.

Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC

142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054

www.millisucc.org • (508) 376-5034 • millisucc@msn.com



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



A Note from the Interim Pastor

Pride Month

During the month of June, you will hear a lot about Pride Month – it's the hip thing to do these days. There will be rainbows and same gender couples all over billboard and in commercials. Yes, this is surfacy stuff but not to be poo-pooed. Massive sacrifices were made by so many people to bring our society to this 'hip' moment. As a congregation that went through a thoughtful process to become Open and Affirming, we have a responsibility to think deeper than flying a flag on this and other issues. June is a good month to ask, "How do we stop the hate and violence?"

Of what are you proud? Your looks? Your talents? Your physique? Your heritage? Your age? The length of your marriage? Your work skills? Your patience? Your children? Your faith? Your commitment? Your perseverance? Your problem-solving ability? Your accomplishments? Think for a moment. What if you were told that any of those things were invalid, not real, and actually, the work of the devil?

The folks who participated in the first Gay Pride event weren't being hip. They took great risk to participate. They risked losing their job, their housing, their family support, and their lives. They knew they were valid human beings even if much of society told them they weren't. They took the risk of not only acknowledging their sexual identity but had the audacity to say they were proud of it.

Many parts of the Church were and are places of persecution for LGBTQ+ folks. Our Open and Affirming designation tells the world that all people are welcome and celebrated here. And so, we must live it. We must live it for all minorities and persecuted groups. It's not enough for it to be on a sign. We need to continue to grow in our understanding of ourselves and others and how we truly accept, love and care for each other. We need to question all of the 'this is how we've always done it's to see how they might intentionally and unintentionally exclude others. We also need to not get our backs up when someone challenges us on our privilege.

Throughout the gospels, we see Jesus love people by challenging them to grow in their understanding of God's love. How are we growing in our understanding of God's love for us and for others? This is our challenge during this month of June, to grow spiritually as we share the love which will overcome the hate.

Rev. Jennifer Geary

Worship in June

Sundays at 10:00 AM

June 5 ~ "Alive in the Spirit"

Pentecost, Senior Sunday, Communion
Acts 2:1-21; John 14:15-17; 25-27

June 12 ~ "The Peace of God"

Baptism, Sunday School
Romans 5:1-2, 5; Galatians 3:23-28; John 16:12-13

June 19 ~ "Being Fully Human"

Juneteenth
Luke 8:26-39

June 26 ~ "Celebrating Fruit"

Myrna's Retirement
Psalm 100; Mark 14:26; Galatians 5:22-25

Worship Bulletin can be found at:
www.millisUCC.org

To join Sunday worship services by Zoom, use 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>



*On Sunday, June 12, we will celebrate
the Baptism of Sylvie Nadeau
during Worship*

Celebrating the Music Ministry of Myrna Rybczyk

It is with profound gratitude that this congregation thanks Myrna Rybczyk for her 26+ years of music ministry with us. Myrna's last Sunday as the Music Director will be June 26, 2022 as she will then begin a well deserved retirement.

A music filled worship service will begin at 10 AM followed by a public reception in Myrna's honor. We are gathering a large choir to sing "Total Praise" at the end of the worship service, please consider joining. Also, gifts and memories will be shared at the reception.

If you would like to sing in the choir, please contact Kathy Stevens. If you would like to help with the reception, please contact Mary Jensen. If you would like to speak or share something during the reception, please contact Rev. Jennifer Geary. All may be reached through the church office if you do not have their direct contact information.



Pentecost

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH

The worship team has a fun and celebratory worship service planned for **June 5th**.

All ages are encouraged to attend.

Please wear **RED, YELLOW** or **ORANGE**, if possible ~ Communion will be served.

The church picnic will follow outside on the back lawn.



As is the tradition of this congregation, we will be honoring graduates during worship on June 5th. Four High School graduates will receive their Church of Christ Scarves. We would also like to hear your "plans for the future".

Please send a brief message with details about work, volunteering, or further schooling that you have planned. Also, please include any honors or awards that you received. This will be included in the July Spire.

Church Picnic



Come One, Come All to the Church Picnic on Pentecost Sunday, June 5

It has been a long time since we have been able to eat and play together. Please bring a salad or desert to share.

The Men's Fellowship will supply burgers and hot dogs.

If you need something else on the grill, please bring.



Fellowship Refreshments

Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for after-worship Fellowship time each Sunday during the months of July and August. We'd like to have all the Sundays signed up prior to the July Spire going out. If you can provide refreshments for one Sunday, please contact the church office.



Church Flea Market & Craft Fair
Saturday, June 11 from 9 am – 2 pm
(Rain date will be Saturday, June 18)

Crafters, Vendors and Yard Sale Sellers
 Wanted!

Space Cost is \$15.00 per 10' x 10' spot
(Tables included if needed)

To register or request additional information,
 please contact Bonnie Mac Donald

**You are invited to attend a
 Summer Tea!**



Join with the Visitors' Group
 Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 2 PM in
 Fellowship Hall.

Enjoy an afternoon of fun, friends,
 fellowship, and delicious treats!
 All Are Welcome!

We hope you can join us!
 If you have any questions, or need a ride,
 please call the church office.

Sunday School
June 12

The Christian Education Committee is committed to providing a meaningful religious experience for our children and youth. A half-hour program for children, grade 6 and younger, will be offered monthly. Children will begin worship in the sanctuary with their families and will then go to Fellowship Hall for the second half of the service. All ages will be in the same space with a variety of age appropriate activities offered. Future dates will be announced based on the availability of CE members.

You can find the registration form and policy information on the church website www.millisucc.org under the "about" tab/forms. Please contact a member of the committee for more information and/or to volunteer to help.

Doug Briggs, Kelly Williams and Meghan Prescott





Thank You

I want to express my deep gratitude to Myrna Rybczyk for her music ministry here at Church of Christ. She has been a pleasure to work with during a very trying time of two years of the pandemic. Through her adaptability we were able to have music as part of worship the entire time when many congregations didn't. She has been a supportive colleague. Thank you!

Rev. Jennifer Geary

Thank you Trustees, for providing the fellowship refreshments during the month of May.

Thank you to everyone who supported the runners and walkers as they fundraised for New Life Furniture.

If you would like to express your gratitude to others, either anonymously or with your name attached, please send an email to the church.

Worship Team

Worshiping God means to forget self for a moment and give all our attention to God. To praise God through a variety of media. The foundation of worship is scripture. To plan out a worship service one starts with a scripture passage and then builds on it. A service of worship begins with praise and settling in, becoming fully present to God. Next, we hear the scripture and consider what it might mean for us today. We then respond to that message through music, prayer and offering. Lastly, we prepare to go out into the world to share God's love and grace. All of this is done from our understanding of God and our desire to serve God well.

If you would like to join the Worship Team, please speak to a team member:

Kathy Stevens, Myrna Rybczyk,
Wendy Schneider or Suzi Sennott.

Trustees

The Steeple repairs have begun. We will monitor the progress as the days go on.

Steve purchased a new lawn mower and he will try selling the old one on e-bay or another site.

The floor tiles have been replaced in the Nursery. We still need to rent equipment to buff and wax all of the floors down there.

As a Summer project, we will move all of the handicap spaces to the tree side. The signs will go on to the trees and the parking area repainted.

Kathy Stevens

MISSIONS MOMENTS



The South Shore Habitat House in Westwood is built!!!

Thanks to all who volunteered on our Millis UCC build days.

On Saturday, April 30, South Shore Habitat for Humanity welcomed home the newest Habitat family, the Dimitrovis.

Rev. Jennifer Geary represented our congregation at the home dedication along with the South Shore Board members, volunteers, family, neighbors, friends, and Westwood Town officials. All gathered in the front yard to officially hand Inna and Vesko the keys to their new home.



Thanks to all church members who walked, ran, or gave donations to New Life's 5th annual fund raiser.

Missions fund also gave \$1,000 as a sponsor of the race.

The runners almost got blown over with the strong wind!!! But we all finished!!! New Life raised enough to serve over 140 families. All proceeds will directly benefit families transitioning out of homelessness.





Millis Beautification Day

Have you thought the streets in Millis looked cleaner? You are right! Church members joined lots of Millis residents to clean up the town on Millis's annual Beautification Day!

These church "beauties" were on the move on Middlesex Street.



We picked up over 8-10 LARGE BAGS of trash!!



News From The Deacons

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." – Albert Einstein

Look around and see the miracles unfold as we begin June with the sights and sounds of nature. The beauty of the trees, flowers springing forth, the sounds of baby birds and other animals, as well as our ability to be outside enjoying the activities warmer weather brings.

Sunday, June 5 we will celebrate Pentecost which is recognized as the "birthday" of the Christian Church. On this 50th day after Easter, the Holy Spirit united the followers of Jesus in shared praise and mission. The color red is associated with Pentecost and will decorate the sanctuary. Our service this year will include communion, baccalaureate recognition, and a picnic following the service.

We will celebrate a baptism on June 12, and Father's Day and Juneteenth on June 19. As an Open and Affirming congregation we will also be celebrating PRIDE month during June.

Myrna Rybczyk has informed the Diaconate of her plans to retire at the end of June from her position as Music Director. Myrna has been an integral part of the music in our church for the past 26 years and will be missed in her position. As she reminded us, she is not moving away and will continue as a member of our congregation.

We will be honoring Myrna on her last Sunday, June 26 with a reception in Fellowship Hall following the church service. If you are interested in helping with the celebration, contact one of the Deacons.

The Music Director position comes under the Diaconate. We are in the process of developing a plan for the search for a new Music Director. We will keep the congregation informed as we go forward with the process.

The Diaconate is sponsoring the Visitors' Tea on June 23. If you would like to assist in honoring this dedicated group of volunteers, please contact one of the Deacons.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of summer!

Lauren Briggs, Suzi Sennott, and Wendy Schneider





We are updating the church directory to be sent out to all sometime in June. If any of your contact or household information has changed since November of 2021, please send those updates to the church office. When the new directory arrives in your inbox, please be sure to download it and save it to an easily accessible location on your device or print it out.



To protect our members from scammers, we will no longer be publishing personal phone numbers or email addresses in the Spire.

All members and friends should have a copy of the Church Directory where that information can be found.

You can always contact the church office as well.

Visitors' Group News

Our next Visitors' Group meeting will be, Thursday, June 16 at 10 AM in the church parlor.

We hope that you will be able to attend the Visitors' Tea on Thursday, June 23 at 2 PM in Fellowship Hall.

We are sad to report that Pam Johansson has resigned from the Visitors' group. We will miss her very much and thank her for her many years of service.

"Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ." Ephesians 4:32 (CEB)

The Visitors:

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

NEWS FROM OUR CLERK

All who might be working with children at our church need to have an updated background check. This can be done entirely online.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall following the Sunday services. Please sign your name and email address so that we may begin this process.

Thank you ~ Sue Conte

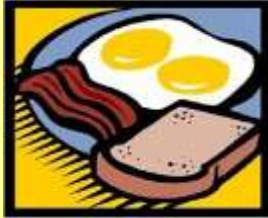
Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has received its first ministerial profiles!

They are continuing to meet via Zoom to review these profiles, and they will be conducting a mock interview soon to prepare for the interview stage.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting in Person

Sunday, June 19 at 7:30 am



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

Rev. Geary's Office Hours on Zoom or In Person

Rev. Geary will be available to church members on-line via Zoom, or in person from **11am-1pm on Mondays**.

Note: During the month of June, Wednesdays office hours by appointment only.

To connect via Zoom from your computer, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81936525328>

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

Meeting ID: 819 3652 5328

You can call, text or email Rev. Geary at other times, but might need to leave a message.

PRUDENTIAL CORNER

For the month of April, our income was \$17K and our expenses were \$19K. We received \$9,200 in pledges, which is right on budget (thanks everyone!). We took \$17,350 out of our investment account in the month of April to cover expenses, including the first half payment for the steeple work (\$12,350). We have several more big expenses coming up, which will necessitate more withdrawals in the coming months. These include the second half of the payment for the steeple (\$12,350), \$2,969 for a lawnmower, and \$2,350 for some additional work on the steeple.

Healing Prayer Services

Monday, June 20 at 7:30 pm

Our monthly prayer service will focus on the healing of society. We will pray for individual healing also. All our welcome to these meetings which take place in the Parlor. We begin with discussion and then move into prayer together.

JULY ~ AUGUST NEWSLETTER



We have decided to combine articles for July and August into **ONE** newsletter which will go out in July. There will not be another newsletter sent out until September.

Please have **ALL** articles into the office no later than **June 20**.

Thank you!



The Power of the Prayer Chain:

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, or if you or someone you know wants to receive prayers for a specific situation, please contact Mary Jensen.

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 10 AM. 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=VENBMmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQJkUdZ09>

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

Meeting ID: 298 790 4285

Passcode: 866156

Note: If you have any trouble logging onto Zoom, please contact Sue Conti (cell)

YOUR VOICE AT THE PRC

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is meeting with Rev. Jennifer Geary, our Interim Pastor, on a regular basis. We individually seek your feedback and ideas for our church, and assure you a safe, confidential welcome for your closely held concerns.

We are all striving to be one Body in Christ. Please remember, Rev. Jennifer Geary truly welcomes your voice.

John Smith, Jo-Ellen Briggs, Linda Jones and Jennifer Payne

COVID Protocols

We continue to follow current Health Department COVID protocols. Masks are optional in the building; however, we ask that you please continue to maintain a distance between you and others. Thank you for caring for others by engaging in these simple acts.

Online Bible Study

Each **Wednesday at 9:30 am**, 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 June" section in this newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2I2aGExMU1IS0NHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054



Committee Meeting Times

All the committees of the church have met, selecting their chair and meeting time as follows:

Diaconate – First Tuesday, 6:00 PM

Christian Education – First Wed., 7:30 PM

Trustees – Second Monday, 6:00 PM

Mission – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Visitors – Third Thursday, 10:00 AM

Church Council - Third Thursday, 7:00 PM

Prudential – Second Tuesday, 11:00 AM

Welcoming – TBD

Pastoral Relations – As needed

See the list of all elected leaders on the last page of the Spire. The person with the * is the chair of the committee.

Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Jan Krohn
Church Clerk	Sue Conte
Treasurer	Gail DiGioia
Assistant Treasurer	Mary Smith
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Maria Melchionda

Diaconate		
	*Lauren Briggs	*Wendy Schneider
	Suzi Sennott	
Missions		
Casey Woodley	Art Payne	Wendy Schneider
*Jan Krohn	Mary Smith	
Trustees		
*Andy Bolton	*Kathy Stevens	Wayne Carlson
Rich Manzano	Bonnie Mac Donald	
Prudential		
Susan Bouchard	Doug Coutts	*Bill Wright
Christian Education		
*Doug Briggs	Meghan Prescott	*Kelley Williams
Welcoming Committee		
Judy Kosinski	Bonnie Mac Donald	Maria Melchionda
	Myrna Rybczyk	Katelyn Andrews
At-large Members of Church Council		
Art Payne	Judie Ackerman	
Pastoral Relations Committee		
*Linda Jones	John Smith	Jo-Ellen Briggs
Jen Payne		

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

**Church of Christ
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