

THE SPIRE

March 2026

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

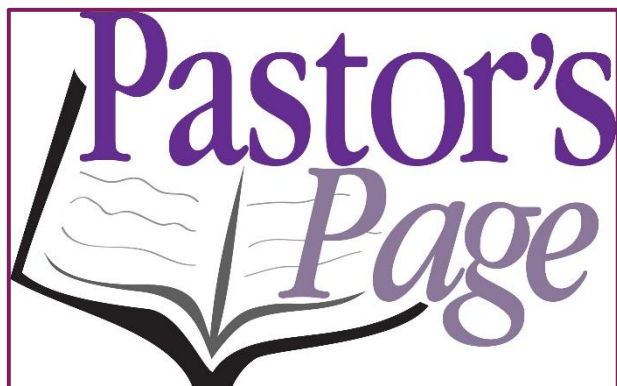
142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054

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An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Dear Beloved in Christ,

As we journey together through this sacred season of Lent, I invite you to pause and reflect on the story of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42). It is a beloved story by many and only found in the Gospel of John. This scripture is rooted in a complex history. For centuries, deep tension and mistrust shaped the relationship between Jews and Samaritans, so much so that many Jews would travel long distances just to avoid passing through Samaria. Yet, Jesus chooses to cross these boundaries, speaking not only to a Samaritan, but to a woman. This was a bold move in a culture where such public interactions were rare and discouraged.

Their conversation at Jacob's well is the longest Jesus has with anyone in the Gospels. It centers on the offer of

“living water.” Living water meant fresh, flowing water, much preferred to stagnant well water. But Jesus brings deeper meaning, using “living water” as a symbol for the renewal and life the Spirit offers to all who thirst for God.

In this passage, we see Jesus, weary from traveling, sitting by a well in Samaria. When the Samaritan woman approaches, Jesus asks her for a drink. This request leads to a deep, theological conversation that transcends cultural barriers and offers the gift of “living water”—a water that quenches not just physical thirst but the thirst of the soul.

How often do we, like the woman, come to the well of life carrying burdens? Lent is a time to recognize the wells we turn to (e.g. wells of busyness, materialism, or self-reliance) and to hear Jesus' invitation to take another path.

This living water can truly refresh and renew us. Just as the Samaritan woman left her jar behind and ran to share the good news with her community, we too are called to leave behind what no longer serves us and to share the hope and joy we find in Christ.

During this Lenten season, I encourage you to spend time in prayer, reflection, and acts of service. Let us draw near to the well of God's mercy, allowing living water to cleanse, heal, and transform us. May we, like the Samaritan woman, encounter Jesus in a way that changes everything.

May the peace of Christ be with you,
Rev. James



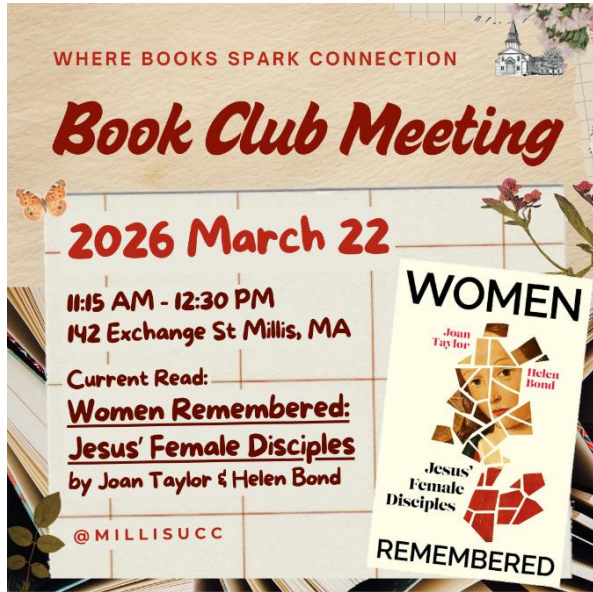
Lilies and Tulips are on sale again this year for \$15 per pot. Help us decorate the sanctuary for Easter by ordering your blooms today! Pick up an order form from the hall table when you come in, or call the office with your dedication and mail your check. Please make payable to Millis Church of Christ. **Last day to order is Tuesday, March 31.**



Our PRC members have been busy this year establishing our Second Chance Closet. Pastor James, together with Millis Fire Department, identified a need in our community for replacement clothes in the event of fire or other significant household disasters. Donations have been generous and volunteers have been at the ready to sort, fold and hang clothes. If you, or anyone you know of, are in need of "shopping" (clothes are free) at our Second Chance Closet, appointments can be made by calling the office, and monthly open hours will be posted as the schedule evolves. Our March Open Closet hours will be Saturdays, March 21 & 28, 2026 from 10:00am-noon. No proof of hardship or residency required.



Gentle Reminder: *Spire* content is due by the 20th of each month.



Lace up your sneakers, it's time again for the annual New Life Furniture Bank's fundraiser! **Raceday is Saturday 4-11-26!**

Fun Run for ages 4-10 begins at 9am. Not a runner? No worries! Walkers welcome as well. For registration and details, please visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Medfield/NewLifeSolesRace>



To All my Church Friends,

Thank you for your prayers, cards and phone calls during my three week hospital and rehab stay. I am home but still confined for the next three weeks. Hopefully, not longer than that. I had a quiet 85th birthday with 2 visitors and many phone calls. Thank you for remembering. If the snow ever stops, I will try to get to church.

Fondly,
Kathy Stevens



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.



With Easter so early in April, it's not too soon to start planning now! Please join us for any or all of the upcoming Holy Week events. All are welcome!

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026 at 10:00am
Come Worship with us and receive your palms.

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026 at 6:30pm
Potluck & Worship

Please bring a dish to share with others. If you are willing to help plan this, contact Kathy Stevens for the set-up, meal, readings etc. The service will be held in Fellowship Hall with Scripture readings.



April 4, 2026 10:00am-4:00pm

Interested in reviving this beloved tradition? Members and friends can sign up for one to two 30-minute time slots to take some time for quiet reflection. Please reach out to Rev. James (pastoruccmillis@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating. *(Participants are required to keep their cell phone on hand or be joined by another person for safety).*

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

- 6:00am ~ Sunrise Service (outside service led by Rev. James)
- 7:00am ~ Potluck Breakfast (Please bring an item to share. If your item needs to be served warm, it must be fully cooked ahead of time and put in a warm oven BEFORE sunrise service.)
- 10:00am ~ Worship
- After Worship **Egg Hunt!**



CALLING ALL COOKS!

As many of you are aware, Jen Payne broke her leg recently and is now in rehab. When she returns home, she will probably be house-bound for a while.

Artie and Jen will agree they are not kitchen wizards, so I am asking for some folks to do some cooking. Soup, Stew, Cassaroles. Easy on the Salt and spices, but everything else is ok. Please NO EGGS.

If you have any further questions, please call Kathy Stevens. Artie can do most pick-ups. If we can get 1-2 Meals a week, that would be great!



If you would like to send mail to our friend Brooks Corl, please contact Kathy Stevens for his new address.

He is getting the care he needs and physical therapy to make him stronger. Please keep him in your prayers.

-Kathy Stevens



Hold the following dates for some of our upcoming events! All are welcome!



Friday, April 10th at 6:30

Join us for our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off and Movie Night! Please let Rev. James know if you plan on bringing chili. Please bring a list of ingredients to display beside your chili.

**Heavenly
Humor**

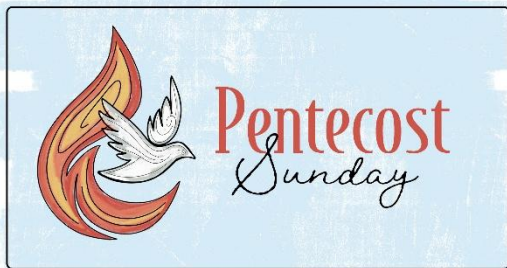
Sunday, April 12th at 10:00am

A church favorite! Holy Humor Sunday with Rev. Mary Perry.



Sunday, May 3rd at 10:00am

Star Wars Sunday! May the Force be with you. Costumes encouraged for this themed Sunday worship.



Sunday, May 24th at 10:00am

Celebrating the Holy Spirit, wear red and get fired up for worship!



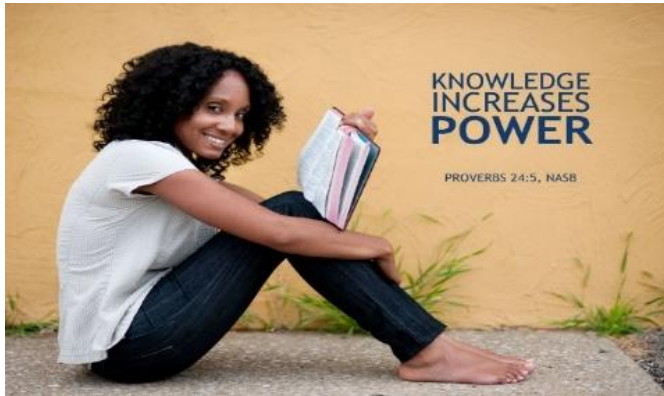
The Millis Community Garden is gearing up for the 2026 season! If you are interested in gardening in one of the beds for free, please contact Lauren Briggs or fill out this Google form:

<https://forms.gle/w15Vbn7jUvKBmSZL8>

If you are doing some spring cleaning and have gardening materials, seeds, outdoor furniture, or outdoor planters that you are no longer using and want to donate to the Garden, please contact Lauren Briggs.

Additionally, if you or someone you know would be interested in hosting an event in the Garden, such as a presentation or an activity for children, please contact Lauren Briggs. This could be a great opportunity for a small business owner or organization leader to gain

exposure for their business or organization.



Understanding PRC

What is PRC and what is its role? The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) regularly meets with Rev. James to foster communication between the Pastor and the congregation, and to support our Pastor in their efforts to connect the church with the community. We seek your feedback and ideas for our church, and assure you a safe, confidential welcome for your closely held concerns. We are striving to be 'One Body in Christ'. Please remember, Rev. James truly welcomes your voice. For ideas, questions, or concerns, please contact any member of the PRC committee:

Suzi Sennott, Jo-Ellen Briggs & Maria Melchionda

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