

# THE SPIRE

January 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

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

An Open and Affirming Congregation



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



*"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."*

– Matthew 2:10-11

Friends,

We have entered the season of Epiphany, a time of revelation and manifestation. The term "epiphany" come from a Greek word meaning "to reveal." During this season, we celebrate the ways God is revealed in our world, beginning with the story of the Magi. These travelers, guided by a star, were outsiders who journeyed from afar, led by their wisdom and deep sense of seeking. They were not part of the established religious system in Jerusalem. Yet, in

Matthew's Gospel, they were the first visitors to recognize the Christ child as a source of divine light for all people.

The journey of the Magi challenges us to look for God in unexpected places and among unexpected people. It reminds us that God's light is not confined to one place, one group, or one way of thinking. It shines for everyone, inviting all who seek to come and see. Their story is a powerful call to broaden our understanding of community and to actively seek and welcome the divine in those who are different from us. Their act of kneeling was one of profound respect and recognition, an example of how we are to respond when confronted with holiness in our midst.

To mark the beginning of this season, we distributed "Star Words" during our worship service on January 4<sup>th</sup>. A Star Word is a single word, offered as a gift of intention and guidance for the year ahead. It's a word to reflect upon, to pray with, and to help you notice God's presence in your daily life. It serves as your personal star, a point of spiritual focus to guide you through the coming months.

If you were not present for worship but would like to receive a Star Word to

guide your journey this year, please contact me, and I will be happy to provide one for you.

As we move forward into this new year, let us be like the Magi—curious, courageous, and open to where God is at work in our midst. I encourage you to read through the rest of this newsletter to discover the many opportunities for engagement, service, and growth in our community in the weeks ahead.

Peace,

Rev. James



# Volunteers Needed

January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am

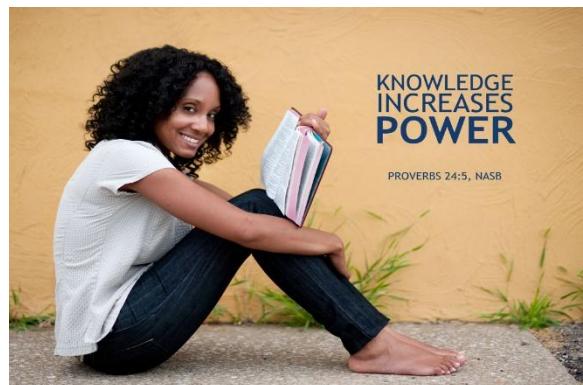
Come join us for worship on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am to find out how you can get involved in the church community!

[millisucc.org](http://millisucc.org)



## SAVE THE DATE!

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> immediately following worship.



## 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

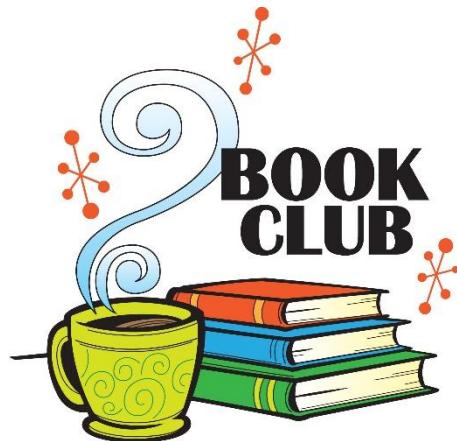


Our PRC members have been busy this year establishing our Second Chance Closet. Pastor James, together with Millis Fire Department, identified a need in our community for replacement clothes in the event of fire or other significant household disasters. Donations have been generous and volunteers have 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 January Open Closet hours will be Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 10:00am-noon. Everyone deserves to be warm this winter, no proof of hardship or residency required.

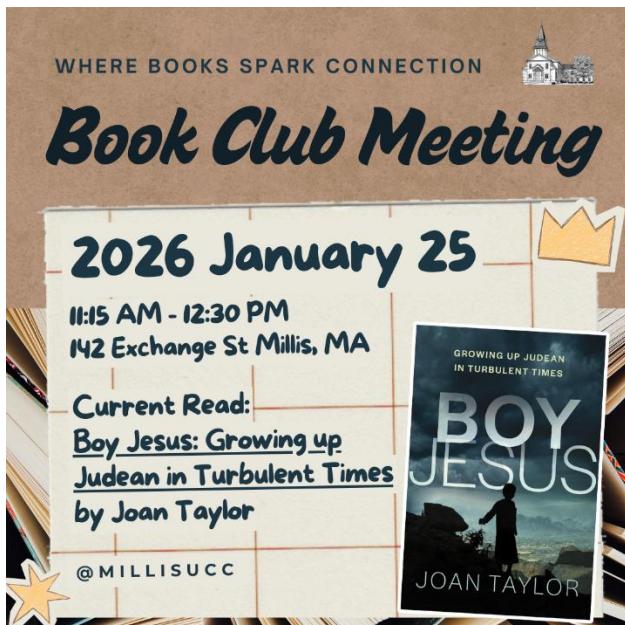


*If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, or if you or someone you know wants to receive prayers for a specific situation, please Contact Mary Jensen.*



Ever wondered what life was actually like for Jesus before he started his ministry? We often think of the nativity or the adult teacher, but there's a huge gap in the middle.

What did it mean to grow up as a Jewish boy in first-century Judea, surrounded by societal turbulence and religious tradition? This January, our book club is diving into Boy Jesus by Joan Taylor. It's a fascinating historically grounded look at the childhood that shaped the man. You don't need to be a history buff or a theology expert to enjoy this. Just bring your curiosity! We are a group that loves good books and great conversation, and our table is open to everyone. Whether you've never stepped foot in a church or just haven't in a while, we'd love to have you. Join the conversation!



Gentle Reminder: Content for monthly newsletter is due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



Super Bowl Sunday is also Millis Fund Sunday! This is the annual fundraiser for our town's charitable organization that helps Millis residents in need of assistance. Collections received on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> during worship, will be donated to the Millis Fund.

**Church of Christ**  
**142 Exchange St.**  
**Millis, MA 02054**

Phone:  
508-376-5034

E-Mail:  
[millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com)



*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org)



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  
142 Exchange Street  
Millis, MA 02054

