

THE SPIRE

APRIL 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.



EASTER JOY

I'm so excited for Holy Week and Easter this year. Last year some of us gathered outdoors, but so many were not able to participate. This year, as a celebration of so much progress in living with the Corona Virus, I hope you will make space and time to journey through each day of Holy Week. The celebration of Easter is missing something when one hasn't experienced the events of the days before.

- The warmth and green of Palm Sunday with the branches waving and the shouts of Hosannah. Joy in believing that a great king will save us with military might.
- The poignancy and foreboding of Maundy Thursday.
- The deep sadness of Good Friday.
- The bewilderment of Holy Saturday.
- The absolute joy of Easter Sunday, realizing God had a different kind of Savior for us.

This amazing week is the foundation of our faith. These are the high holy days that all should observe. Plan now to be present so that God might engage your spirit in holy work. Please check the worship schedule for times and places for each event.

Rev. Jennifer Geary

Worship in April

April 14 – Maundy Thursday – 6 PM

We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 6 PM for a simply elegant soup and bread supper. We will celebrate Communion around the table as Jesus did with his disciples and then move into the service of Tenebrae. The sanctuary will be open for silent prayer from 6:00-9:00 PM.

April 15 – Good Friday – 2 PM

Participants will Walk the Way of the Cross around the church property as we remember the final hours of Jesus life through words, sights and sounds. In case of rain, the service will happen in the sanctuary.

Sundays 10:00 AM

April 3 – Communion

“Fast from Selfishness; Feast on Service”

Psalm 126; John 12:1-8

April 10 – Palm Sunday

“Fast from Criticism; Feast on Praise”

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

April 17 – Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service – 6 AM

John 20:1-8

The sun will rise at 6:02. Arrive as early as you would like. We will gather in silence until the sun has fully risen and then move into our active worship

Note: In case of rain, the Sunrise service will take place in the Sanctuary.

Sanctuary Worship – 10 AM

Psalm 150; Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12

April 24 – “Faithful Doubting”

Acts 5:27-32; John 20:19-31

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>



We need several volunteers to help with Holy Week. What small part can you do?

Soup and Bread makers needed for Maundy Thursday

Our Maundy Thursday service will begin with a special meal of soup and bread. The worship team is looking for one or two bakers and one or two soup makers to volunteer to provide the food for the event. Please let Wendy Schneider know if you are willing to help out or if you have questions.

Readers for Maundy Thursday & Good Friday

If you enjoy reading out loud and are available Thursday evening and/or Friday afternoon, we need 12 readers for each day. Please let Rev. Geary know if you are willing to help out or if you have questions.

Childcare

Children are welcome at all our services AND we know that sometimes parents want to have spiritual time for themselves. We are looking for a few folks who would volunteer to provide childcare at the church on Good Friday or in families' homes on Maundy Thursday evening.

We would also like to provide childcare during Sunday service. To do this, we need to have two adult volunteers for each week. If you would be willing to donate one Sunday to provide childcare in Fellowship Hall, please contact **Kelly Williams**.



Come Join Us on Easter Sunday following the 6 AM Sunrise Service. For more information, please contact

Art Payne at

aartpayne@verizon.net

Note: Please see related article to make reservations!

- Eggs
- Bacon/Sausage
- Potatoes/Home Fries
- Pastries/Donuts
- Fruit
- Cereal
- Coffee
- Milk/Juice/Water

Calling All Children

Come join us for an Easter Egg Hunt following Easter Sunday Worship ~ Don't forget to bring your Basket!



Holy Week Meals

There are two opportunities during Holy Week to join together around the table: Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Because it has been so long since we have been able to sit down together to eat, it is hard to judge how many will attend so we are asking for reservations. Anyone can attend either meal with or without reservations but if you think you might attend, please let us know so we have a ball park idea of how much food to make. You can use the online sign-up or call the church office.

Maundy Thursday dinner begins at 6 PM. It will be a simple supper of soup and bread. There will be options to meet most dietary needs. As we conclude dinner, we will experience communion in a way similar to what Jesus and the disciples experienced. We will then move on to the emotionally moving service of Tenebrae. [Click Here to sign up.](#)

Easter Breakfast will include a variety of food options. It will begin around 6:45 AM following the Sunrise service which begins around 6:00 AM. [Click Here to sign up.](#)

You are invited to attend a Springtime Tea!

Hosted by the Visitors' Group
Thursday, May 19, 2022 in Fellowship Hall

"Time to be determined, please see the May Spire"

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

All Are Welcome! We hope you can join us!
If you have any questions, please call the
church office at (508) 376-5034.



IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS

The deadline for ordering is Sunday,
April 10
Tulips or Lilies = \$12 each

Forms are in the church office, the
Sanctuary or online at:

www.millisucc.org

Located under the "about" tab / "forms".
Please make checks payable to "**Church
of Christ**" and write "**Flowers**" on the
memo line of the check.





DON'T HAVE HAY FEVER? TRUSTEES NEED YOUR HELP!

We need people to mow the lawn starting this Spring.
Could you do a month?
How about one week a month for the Summer?
The Trustees are investigating new mowers,
preferably sit-down ones and not too complicated.
We would like at least four people, besides us, to help
out. Older teens are welcome!

**Contact Steve Howie, Andy Bolton or
Kathy Stevens**



Millis Community Garden

The Millis Community Garden will be opening soon! There will be a lottery for the available plots which will run from March 18 to April 8. Gardeners will then be selected and notified by April 15, and the Garden will officially open on April 18!

Please email millisuccgarden@gmail.com or see **Lauren Briggs** for more information, and to enter the lottery. Please spread the news to other Millis residents who may be interested!



Trustees

In early March, we were asked by Marilyn Barber for approval to have the seven nursery school classrooms painted. She received a grant to have the work done. We approved this project. It began on March 14 and should be completed by now.

A new project has begun – the floor tiles on the left side of the nursery classrooms are cracking and must be removed and replaced for the safety of the children in those rooms daily. We are obtaining the names of flooring companies for quotes. The Prudential has been informed of this upcoming expense.

We are also working on replacing the windows in the Parlor and the Minister's office. Funding has been offered by Women's Fellowship.

Do you have a project that you would like to see done? Are you willing to do some or all of the work? Please let us know.

Kathy Stevens

Visitors Group

The Visitors' Group will be meeting on Thursday, April 21 in the church Parlor at 10 AM. You are welcome to join us if you are interested in becoming a visitor. Contact us if you know someone who you think would like a visit.

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)*

Prayer:

"Loving Father, make me aware of your presence so that we may bear witness to your love in all that we do." Amen

Janice Davin (North Carolina)

The Visitors:

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

Rev. Geary Engaging in Study

Rev. Geary will be participating in Clergy Clinic April 25-27. She will be available for emergencies only. Clergy Clinic meets three times per year for three days each time. It involves clergy from many denominations from all over the country. They gather to spend time deepening their own spiritual lives and sharing case studies to help improve congregational life. The program is based on Bowen Family Systems Theory.





Thank you for giving to the Lent Heifer International Project. Please bring your collections on Easter Sunday. We hope to buy a flock of chicks, goat, pigs, or maybe even a water buffalo!



Community Outreach

The Millis Garden Club and the Millis Lions Club, co-sponsors of the 17th Annual Millis Beautification Day, are once again calling on residents to show pride in Millis by supporting the town-wide cleanup. This year's rain-or-shine event will be held on April 30, the last Saturday in April. As usual, the start time will be 9 AM. We will register as a team. Please contact us now if you can help.

Janice Krohn

janicekrohn@gmail.com

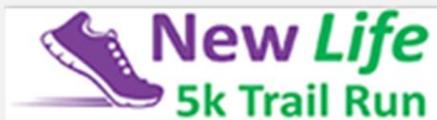
Wendy Schneider

wschneider.0511@gmail.com



We have given \$1000.00 to Global Giving for help to the people of Ukraine. Millions of civilians are caught in the middle of an escalating war and humanitarian crisis. Our donation will support the Ukrainians in need, with a focus on the most vulnerable, including children. Global Giving is one of the most reliable and trustworthy charities in the world. They have a four-star rating and nearly perfect score from Charity Navigator due to their stability, efficiency, sustainability, and commitment to transparency, in addition to accreditation from the BBB Wise Giving Alliance.





Come Join the Team on May 7

New Life is excited to host their annual 5K trail run on the Medfield State Hospital grounds with the route leading through the beautiful Charles River Reservation.

This year to celebrate being in person, New Life has partnered with the Cultural Alliance of Medfield to host live music. If that wasn't enough, the furniture matters club of Medfield High School will introduce a Kids Fun Run for children 4-10 years old.

We will have a team which includes kids for the fun run. New name of our team this year:
 Millis United Church of Christ On the MOVE

If you cannot participate, please consider a donation to a runner/walker or donate towels/silverware on Sunday May 8th for the furniture bank. More information on registration will be coming soon.

Let us know if you sign up and/or have any questions.

Janice Krohn

janicekrohn@gmail.com

Wendy Schneider

wschneider.5011@gmail.com



From the Deacons

Dawn and resurrection are synonymous ~

The reappearance of the light is the same as the survival of the soul ~ Victor Hugo

The Deacons, along with the Worship Committee have planned what we think will be meaningful services for the rest of Lent and Holy Week. Please check the Worship listing in this Spire for specific events and times.

If you are interested in participating in any of the services by greeting, doing readings, or assisting with the technology aspect of the services, we **welcome volunteers**. We will be contacting members and friends asking for assistance with aspects of the services, especially during Holy Week.

Order forms for Easter lilies and tulips are now available on the church website and in the sanctuary. The deadline for orders is April 10th. Specifics are on the order form.

If anyone has ideas for information, slogans, or messages to be put on the swing sign on the front lawn, feel free to let a Deacon know. We welcome any ideas.

As the weather warms and the flowers bloom, we look forward to having outdoor services in a few months.

As always, if you have questions, comments, ideas for worship feel free to reach out to us.

Blessings ~ Lauren Briggs, Wendy Schneider and Suzi Sennott

Gratitude Corner



We are all so grateful for the Welcoming Committee for providing us with such delicious refreshments following Sunday Worship during the month of March.
Thank You!

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.

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.

Jo-Ellen Briggs: dcb.joel@verizon.net
Linda Jones: pariswoman44@gmail.com
Jennifer Payne: paynejenpayne@verizon.net
John Smith: jfs249@comcast.net

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

John Smith
For the PRC



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, send an email to Mary Jensen at: mejensen7@verizon.net

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**, and from **12pm-2pm on Wednesdays**.

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.

Phone: (774) 993-9407

Email: pastoruccmillis@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

The Christian Education Committee is looking for volunteers to assist in providing supervision for our young people during service. A member of the committee will always be there for leadership, but as the committee is small, we will require additional support.

If you are interested, please contact:

Doug Briggs
(508) 498-0927

dbriggs498@gmail.com

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=VENBMmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQQjJUdz09>

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

Meeting ID: 298 790 4285

Passcode: 866156

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 April" section on page 1 in this newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2l2aGExMU1lS0NHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054



May Newsletter



The deadline for entries for the May Spire will be **April 20**. Please have all your info in by then. Thank you.

COVID Protocols

We continue to follow current Health Department COVID protocols. Masks are optional in the building; however, we ask that you wear a mask during singing. Please continue to maintain a distance of at least six feet between you and others. Thank you for caring for others by engaging in these simple acts.

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., 2:00 PM

Trustees – Second Monday, 6:00 PM

Mission – Third Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Visitors – Third Thursday, 10:00 AM

Church Council - Third Thursday, 7:00 PM

Prudential – Fourth 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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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



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