

THE SPIRE

February 2024

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.



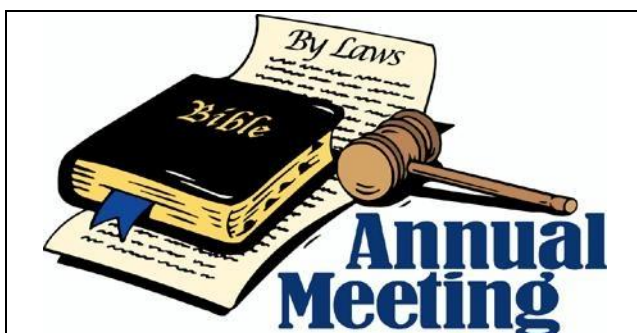
Wrap us in your warm love
on this winter day, ☺ God.

From Your Deacons

Reverend Mary will be leading worship on February 4th and 18th. If you would like to help with worship in 2024 including giving a message, reading scripture, or helping film the service for Zoom, please let one of the Deacons know.

Thank you,

Lauren, Allen, Kathy, Katie, and Doug



**Save the Date! Our Annual Meeting
will be Sunday, February 4th
immediately following worship
service.**

*Members, attendance is important
as we will need a quorum for voting.



Super Bowl Sunday is

MILLIS FUND Sunday!!!

The Millis Fund helps Millis families with temporary financial emergencies by paying bills directly to creditors. Applications for assistance are reviewed and evaluated by a nine-member Operating Board of Millis citizens. Three Millis churches including ours, Ael-Chunon Congregation, and a generous Millis business gave founding donations in 1993.

Please consider making a generous contribution to the Millis Fund on or around Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th. You can donate by sending a check (payable to The Millis Fund) to 142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054. Did you know that:

- The Millis Fund has helped over 450 Millis families cope with financial emergencies since its founding.

- Over 99% of funds collected by the Millis Fund go directly to aid families rather than to administrative costs.
- The Fund is administered by an ALL VOLUNTEER OPERATING BOARD of Millis citizens, including two from our Church.
- Your donation is tax deductible for 2024 under IRS Code 501(C)(3). The Millis Fund's Tax Identification Number is 04-3228631.
- If your employer matches charitable contributions, the Millis Fund will almost certainly qualify to be included. Please consider applying for this match if it's available to you.

For more information on the Millis Fund, please contact me, or call the church office. THANK YOU for prayerfully considering a generous donation on or about Sunday, February 11th!

Brooks Corl,
 Millis Fund Operating Board member and
 Treasurer



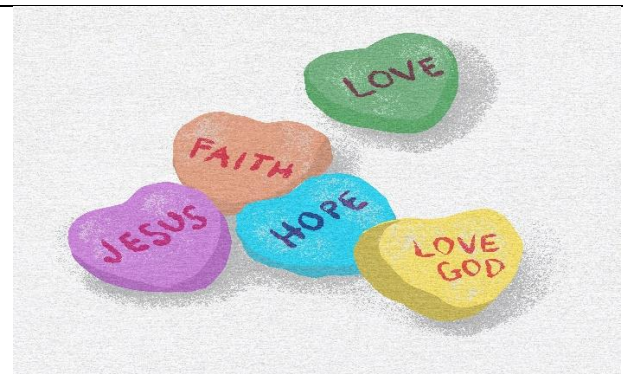
I would like to extend my gratitude to the church for the beautiful Harry & David gift box you sent me for Christmas. Everything in it was delicious! I was touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity and your gift helped make my Christmas special. Blessings and peace to you all,
 Rev. Mary



February 13th 5:30-7pm

Come join us in Fellowship Hall for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Bring a sense of humor and love of all things bacon! This event is FREE and open to the public. Donations accepted. All are welcome!

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.



Meet our Pastoral Candidate



James Admans (pronouns: they/them) is a multifaceted individual with a career spanning spiritual leadership, entrepreneurship, writing, and the creative arts. Originally from Connecticut, James is ordained pending call in the United Church of Christ. After earning degrees in Anthropology (Southern Connecticut State University) and Forensic Anthropology (Boston University School of Medicine), their academic journey led them to Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where they obtained a Master of Divinity degree, exploring Biblical studies, social ethics, and queer theology. During their final year at seminary, James's commitment to advocacy was honored with the Malcolm Boyd Veritas Award, recognizing their impactful social justice endeavors within the LGBTQIA+ community.

James has previously served at Fort Washington Collegiate Church as their Digital Minister and Seminary Intern. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they also served as Staff and Volunteer Coordinator for a vaccination site that distributed more than 6,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

James has made a significant mark in religious literature by compiling "Beyond Worship: Meditations on Queer Worship, Liturgy, & Theology," an anthology that garnered a 2023 Independent Publishers

Bronze Medal for its profound contributions to religious thought by thirty-three queer and transgender theologians from a variety of faith traditions and backgrounds.

James is recognized throughout the United Church of Christ for their unique and vibrant drag ministry. James shares their drag persona, Marge Erin Johnson (she/her), as a dynamic expression of faith that champions love, justice, and inclusivity. James has been invited to preach as Marge at numerous churches and seminaries along the East Coast.



Come get a chance to meet Reverend James in person!

We will be hosting a meet & greet with Reverend James in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 10th from 4-6pm. Light refreshments will be served. This is a drop in event, meaning you can pop in and out anytime between 4 and 6pm as it fits your schedule. The following day will be Candidate Sunday when you can hear Rev. James preach to our congregation.



IMPORTANT!!

February 11th, is Super Bowl Sunday, Millis Fund Sunday but most importantly it is Candidate Sunday!

We ask that as many members be in attendance for service as possible, not just to hear Reverend James preach, but also to stay for the Special Congregational Meeting, immediately following worship service, when we will vote to finalize the position of Settled Pastor.

Reminder: only church members can vote



February 14th at 7:00pm

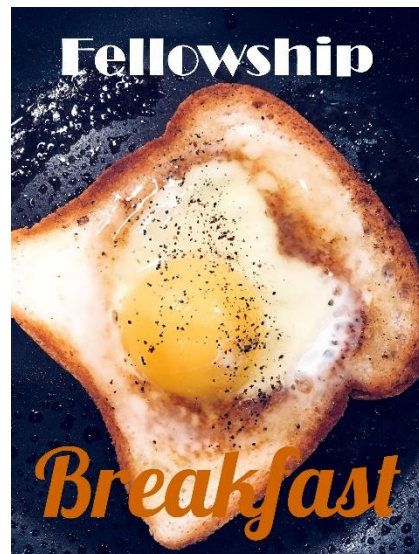
An Ash Wednesday Service will be led by Reverend Mary and will include Communion and the imposition of ashes if worshippers would like.



Friendly Reminder! Spire Articles are due each month by the 15th.



- The Search Committee
For their dedication, time and prayerful consideration for the calling of Rev. Admans.
- The Deacons
For their dedication and commitment to bring meaningful worship to the congregation.
- Rev. Mary
For her ongoing support and spiritual guidance over the past several months.
- Lauren Briggs
For her grace, talents and leadership as she completes her time as a Deacon.



Join Us for Fellowship Breakfast on the 3rd Sunday of every month!
NEXT MEETING: Feb, 18th 8-9am
 Cooking starts around 7:30am. Please bring a breakfast item to share.
 All are welcome!

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

Phone:
508-376-5034

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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