

THE SPIRE

November 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.



Friends,

Welcome to a brand new month! November is a time of change and transition, as we shift from the colorful days of fall to the chilly winter ahead. It's a time for reflection, gratitude, and preparing for the holiday season.

It was wonderful to see so many at our Trunk or Treat event in the back parking lot. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and handed out candy! Additional thanks to Amy and Jo-Ellen, who led the first of hopefully many Sunday school lessons and decorated pumpkins with our kids this past Sunday. They had a blast, and the pumpkins turned out great!

Between the upcoming election and our church being in a new season of growth, I am reminded that change takes time. It's not always easy, but it's important to have faith in the

process and trust that everything will work out for the best. As we continue to navigate through these changes together, let us remember to support and uplift one another. I am here for you too. Please feel free to make an appointment with me anytime, whether for spiritual care, to chat about an idea for an event, or just to catch up. Make an appointment here: <http://calendly.com/pastoruccmillis/>.

In a time of change, let us also commit to acting on these opportunities presented to us. We can quickly fall into a "stuck" mindset if we do not act courageously. I believe in a God who gives us opportunities so that we transform our congregation and enter a time of vibrancy. But it is up to us to act on the opportunities before us. If we do not act on them, nothing changes. But if we do, we open ourselves to new life. We have many ways to get involved during the month of November. We will have an Election Night Watch Party on November 5th from 6pm-10pm. This event is co-sponsored by Southborough Safe Spaces, a UCC-affiliated youth group from the local area. Don't spend election night alone! Come be in community during what will probably be a stressful night for many.

Looking ahead, we have our next Open Mic Night on November 23rd from 6pm to 8pm. We already have a couple of performers who have committed to be there. You don't want to miss it! Lastly, Thanksgiving Sunday and our Stone Soup Luncheon after worship will be on November 24th. Hope to see you then!

In other news, I will be away on the first Sunday of November. I was invited to preach and speak on a panel at Pilgrim Church UCC in Weaton, Maryland. I am honored to be given this opportunity and will be sure to give them greetings from Millis UCC!

As we navigate this season of change together, let's continue to embrace the opportunities before us with open hearts and minds. Your involvement and participation are what make our congregation a vibrant and welcoming community. I look forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events and sharing in the joy and fellowship they bring.

Blessings,
Rev. James



Remember to turn your clocks back

1 hour on Nov. 3rd.



Hello from your Deacons, We have upcoming worship dates that we ask you to take note of:

NOVEMBER 3rd, 2024

Join us at 10am on Nov. 3, for a breakfast service with an All Saints remembrance afterwards. All Saints is when we remember those who are not with us anymore and show appreciation for their importance to our Church. If you have someone you would like to remember, or can bring something to share, please contact one of the Deacons.

November 24th, 2024

Join us at 10am for worship, and afterwards enjoy the smells and tastes of our Stone Soup luncheon. Feel free to bring a special soup, bread, or dessert if you are able, but it is not required.

On the horizon

Advent services begin December 1st and lead to our family friendly Christmas Eve service on December 24th! Please join us to celebrate!

Blessings,
Doug, Kathy, Katie, Allen, Kelly and Keith




REV. NOAH BREWER-WALLIN
GUEST PREACHER

Sunday November 17th @ 10AM
 Transgender Day of Remembrance

Rev. Noah Brewer-Wallin (they/them & he/him) serves as the Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Southern New England Conference. Noah equips congregations to make God's love real through engagement in racial justice, Open & Affirming ministries, environmental ministries, and more.

Southern New England Conference
 United Church of Christ
 Making the Love & Justice of Jesus




Articles for the Spire are due by the 20th of each month.



Chutney Update

Kathy's annual Cranberry Chutney sale runs Nov. 3-17th.

Containers will be \$6.50 this year. Cash only please, payable upon delivery.

Place your orders with Kathy so she knows how much to make and she will have it ready and delivered in time for Thanksgiving.

Church orders will be available at the Stone Soup Luncheon on Sunday Nov. 24th after our Thanksgiving Service.

*(Remember this is a fresh product and should remain refrigerated until use. NOT a shelf-stable product)





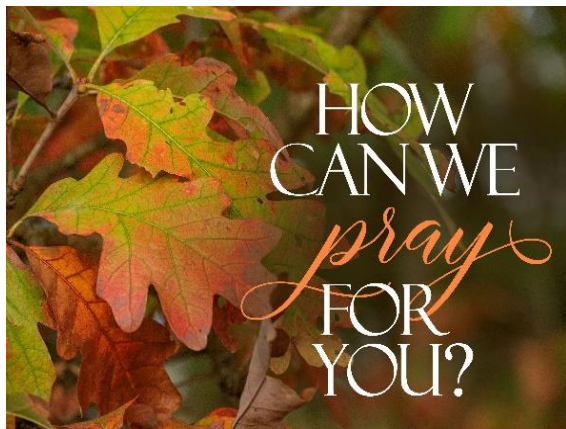
Habitat for Humanity Kaua'i Hawaii 2024

Aloha, Greetings from Kaua'i, Hawaii a beautiful island. However, it has one of the most expensive housing markets. Native Hawaiian's work two jobs and have difficulty finding a home to own. Kaua'i Habitat for Humanity has supported many families in ownership of a new home. This year they have 140 new homes lined up to build.

Wendy Schneider and Jan Krohn joined the South Shore group for our 3rd one-week building trip to Kaua'i. The group, although smaller this year, were enthusiastic workers. Work assignments included a day painting and filling holes with putty, painting under the blessed relief of the the porch shade, and working in the re-sale store. Kauai's Habitat group's re-sale store is supported with donations from the community and refund products from department stores. The store, which is a major source of revenue, also offers great bargains for shoppers. We helped to sort and price items during our time there. Next year Kaua'i hopes to support a build in Maui at the site of

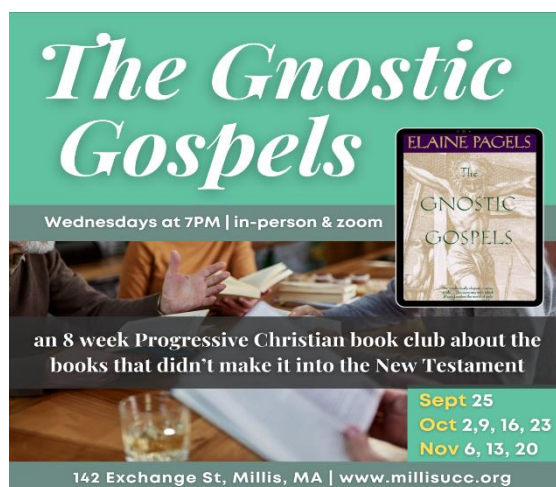
last years fires. Here are some pictures from the work and fun!





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.



**Wednesdays @ 7PM
Parlor or ZOOM**

Same night, same time! Join us for our hybrid Bible Study! Our new topic is *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832179786?pwd=L1lrMjNRWjEzNGxzZnRpdmc5RmlWZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3217 9786
Passcode: 181480



Thank you to everyone who decorated trunks, handed out candy, and made our Trunk or Treat a wonderful experience.

Thank you to Lauren Briggs, and helpers for planning our Trunk or Treat this year.

Thank you to Millis Fire Department for contributing a touch-a-truck experience to our Trunk or Treat.

Thank you to the Deacons who tirelessly search for new ways to provide alternative worship options for our lay-led Sundays.

Thank you to Amy and Jo-Ellen for hosting our pumpkin decorating Sunday School event.

And a huge Thank you to Pastor James, who provides us with education, care, spiritual guidance, and the opportunities to bring our congregation a better understanding of social justice and inclusion.



Holiday Baking!

If you are planning on baking for Jolly Holly Fair, it is not too early to get started! Kathy suggests baking when you can, then packaging and freezing your items to free up time closer to our big event. Kathy needs everyone to bring some baked item to the Fancy Foods Table. She will also need help staffing the table on fair day, Dec. 7, 2024. Please contact her if you can help, even just for an hour or two!

*Reminder: all items require a ingredient list form to be filled out. Please see Kathy for the necessary forms.



The Food Pantry is looking for gift card donations in any amount to the following stores:
Walmart, Target, Roche Brothers and Market Basket



Tuesday, Nov. 5th 2024 Election Day!!

Although our Church doesn't officially endorse one candidate or another, we do encourage everyone to get out there and exercise your right to vote.

Trunk or Treat Recap!

A perfect fall day for friends, fellowship, and fun, we had a nice turn out of decorated trunks accompanied by a fire engine supplied by Millis Fire Department. Enjoy these photos from the event, and maybe they will inspire ideas for your trunk décor next year!



Upcoming Events!

***Election Night
Watch Party***

 a place to be together in
community on a stressful night 

- streaming live updates
- free food & snacks (bring a dish to share)
- corn hole & indoor games
- mandala coloring pages
- Rev. James available for prayer & spiritual support

**Nov 5th
6pm-10pm**
*not a drop off event

co-hosted by Millis UCC and Southborough Safe Spaces
142 Exchange St, Millis, MA 02054 in the Church Parlor

***Jolly Holly
Fair***

December 7, 2024
9:00-2:00



SAVE THE DATE!

**OPEN MIC
NIGHT**

OUR NEXT OPEN MIC NIGHT
WILL BE...

**NOVEMBER 23RD
6PM - 8PM**

millisucc.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Messages from Beyond:
An Evening of Mediumship

**May 10th
7PM**

tickets on sale
in the new year!

KAY REYNOLDS
psychic medium, bestselling author,
& spiritual mentor

AS SEEN ON:



***Stone Soup
Luncheon***

NOV. 24, 2024
FELLOWSHIP HALL
11:00AM



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