

THE SPIRE

July & August 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.



A Note from the Interim Pastor

HAPPY SUMMER

I've always thought of summer as a productive time. I grew up on a farm. We had a large garden, the produce from which we filled the canning shelves and the freezer. The longer days meant more hours to get outside things done. It also meant we didn't have to rush. We worked long, hard days and took time to enjoy life. While out mowing, one might stop and watch an animal doing its thing along the edge of the field. Or enjoy the lazy circles of a soaring hawk. 4 PM snack often happened as supper was rarely before 9 PM. We also took time to fly kites, go for hikes, and to participate in all the activities of church and town. My childhood church held vesper services on Sunday evening in the summer; usually in someone's backyard. There was the Blueberry festival and one or two outdoor hymn sings.

This congregation has worked hard for the last two years trying to be faithful during the pandemic. All the regular things got done with the added burden of protecting each other from COVID. This congregation has been productive; it's now time for renewal. I encourage you to use your allotted church time to attend worship and enjoy fellowship opportunities. While some things will still need to be done, perhaps they will be less urgent. Open your hearts and minds to the breeze of the Spirit throughout these summer days.

Rev. Jennifer Geary

Worship in July and August

Sundays at 10:00 AM

Summer worship will be a bit more relaxed. As much as possible we will be outside.

Our Scriptural focus will be on the Gospel and Epistle lessons.

The speaker and congregation will be closer together.

Our music will predominately be a cappella.

Our songs will be shorter. We will continue to offer the service through Zoom.

We encourage those who are traveling or who cannot get out to join us via the internet.

Fellowship refreshments will be provided, and folks are encouraged to visit with each other.

(Please consider providing the snack for one of the Sundays)

Children Are Always Welcome!

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 will be worshipping outside for the months of

July and August, weather permitting.

Please bring your own chair or blanket.

Folks can sit on the grass or on the more even ground of the parking lot.

Both shade and sun will be available.



*On Sunday, July 10, we will celebrate
the Baptism of Sylvie Nadeau
during Worship*



*On Sunday, August 14, we will
celebrate the Baptism of
Fitzgerald Philips
during Worship*



Anthony Coutts will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute this Fall, majoring in Society, Policy and Technology. He has been an active member of this church since being born, participating in the Youth Group and attending several mission trips. He is a member of the National Honor Society and an honor roll student. He was a varsity basketball player for three years and a varsity soccer player for four years. He was a league all-star in soccer for three years, an Eastern Mass soccer all-star for two years and was named to the MetroWest Soccer All-Star Team his senior year. He is looking forward to continuing his academic pursuits at WPI while playing for their soccer team.



In Memoriam

REVEREND DR. ROBERT WOOD
1930 – May 29, 2022



NEWS FROM OUR CLERK

All who might be working with children at our church need to have an updated background check. This can be done entirely online.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall following the Sunday services. Please sign your name and email address so that we may begin this process.

Thank you ~ Sue Conte



We are updating the church directory to be sent out to all sometime in July. If any of your contact or household information has changed since November of 2021, please send those updates to the church office. When the new directory arrives in your inbox, please be sure to download it and save it to an easily accessible location on your device or print it out.

Thank You!

Sunday School July 24 and August 7

Sunday School lessons will be offered once a month for children in grades 6 and younger. Children will begin worship in the sanctuary with their families at 10 AM and then can go to Fellowship Hall for the second half of the service. All ages will be in the same space with a variety of age-appropriate activities offered. Children are welcome to stay with their parents if they prefer.

Children are always welcome in worship. There are activities sheets, books, and fidgets available at the back of the sanctuary. The service can be heard in Fellowship Hall so if you and your child need to step out, you can still hear the service. A play area is set up in Fellowship Hall.

All children who participate in Sunday School will need a completed registration form which you can find on the church's website www.millisucc.org under the "about" tab/forms.

Christian Education Committee
Kelly Williams ~ Doug Briggs
Meghan Prescott





The Spire and Steeple Renovations are Complete!

The Spire has been painted white which blends in with the rest of the Steeple.

We are very pleased with the results!

We will be waxing and buffing the nursery room floors during their July 4 holiday week.

The handicap spaces will be redone soon, putting all under the cedar trees.

If you know of a project that you would like to do for us or with us, please let us know.

We are always looking for
"Guest Lawn Mowers"
Please contact Steve Howie.

Kathy Stevens
Trustees

Visitors' Group News

The Visitors' Group will not be meeting in July and August.

Please let one of us know if you or if you know someone who would like a visit.

We want to thank Rev. Jennifer Geary, the Deacons and everyone who made the Visitors' Tea possible.

It was a delightful time and very much appreciated!

It was so wonderful to see everyone who attended!

"Rejoice always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

"Prayer: Heavenly Father, we praise you for hearing and answering our prayers. Help us to continue steadfast prayers throughout each day. Amen."

We hope everyone has a Blessed Summer!

The Visitors

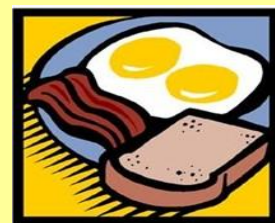
Judy Ackerman ~ Ellie Costa ~ Ginny Demery ~ Linda Jones ~ Judy Kosinski
Myrna Rybczyk ~ Pat Spearing ~ Kathy Stevens ~ Rev. Jennifer Geary

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has continued to review ministerial profiles and schedule interviews. They plan on continuing to interview candidates throughout the summer.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting in Person

Sunday, July 17 at 7:30 am



**Please join the Men's Fellowship in Fellowship Hall for our monthly Breakfast Meeting.
Hope to see you there!**

From The Deacons

"Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future" ~ John F. Kennedy

Summer is upon us, bringing warmer weather, summer activities, family gatherings and for some the opportunity to travel. Summer also brings a change to our Sunday worship. Beginning in July and continuing through August (*weather permitting*) we will gather on the back lawn for 10 AM Sunday worship services. Feel free to bring your own lawn chair, blankets etc. to sit on and your voice to sing joyously.

We are seeking Volunteers:

- Lay readers for reading scripture or participating in other parts of the service.
- To host fellowship/coffee time following the outdoor service. The picnic table will be used to set out snacks/drinks. Generally, a couple of different snacks and a beverage are all that are needed. If you are able to host a Sunday, please call the church office and sign up.
- If you would like more information, please contact a Deacon.

The Deacons are in the process of updating the job description for the Music/Choir Director. We have sent out a brief survey for the congregation to give input regarding the position and would appreciate a timely response. A 3-5 member search committee is being formed. We will keep you up to date as to the progress of the search.

Whatever your plans during July and August, we hope you enjoy memories of the past, enjoy the present and look forward to the future with love and kindness.

Your Deacons

Lauren Briggs, Wendy Schneider, Suzi Sennott



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.

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

John Smith, Jo-Ellen Briggs, Linda Jones and Jennifer Payne



*~ One Final Thank You To Myrna For Her Years Of Service as Music Director ~
"God Was Always In Her Heart"*

Our gratitude goes to the Deacons and to Rev. Geary for the special farewell service you prepared for her last working Sunday. It will be remembered for a long time.

The reception retired Myrna in Church of Christ style. The musical decorations were perfect as was the food.

Thank you to Mary Jensen, Pam Johannson, Bonnie Mac Donald, Judie Ackerman and all others who baked and served, and to all the speakers who shared their love of Myrna with her, her family, and her friends.

"SHE WAS THE RIGHT PERSON AT THE RIGHT TIME FOR THIS CHURCH"

God Bless Myrna!

In Love ~ The Choir

Becki Abalutzk, Katelyn Andrews, Brooks Corl, Ellie Costa, Beth Dowdell, Judy Kosinski,
Jennifer Payne, John Smith and Kathy Stevens



Thank you, Mary Jensen and team, for the lovely reception offered for Myrna.
The food was delicious and the hall was beautiful.

Thank you, Rev. Geary, Wendy, Sue and Suzi for making the Summer Tea possible.
It was great to visit with folks we had not seen in years.

Thank you, Trustees, for securing the services of such a qualified contractor who cared about the historic nature of our building and for bringing the spire project to completion. - Rev. Geary

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

Note: If you have any trouble logging onto Zoom, please contact Sue Conti (cell)

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. See below for a list of the Bible Study passages for **July** and **August**.

July 6	Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
July 13	Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
July 20	Colossians 2:6-15, 16-19; Luke 11:1-13
July 27	Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
August 3	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
August 10	Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
August 17	Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
August 24	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14
August 31	Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

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



Healing Prayer Services Monday, July 18 at 7:30 pm

All are welcome to these meetings which take place in the Parlor. We begin with discussion and then move into prayer together.



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, please contact Mary Jensen.

PRUDENTIAL CORNER

We have made significant withdrawals from our investment account in the 2022 calendar year. On January 1, 2022, our investment account was worth \$441,000. Since that time, we have taken out \$47,950 to cover expenses and for the work done on the steeple. This coupled with the downturn in the market (\$18.39/share down to \$16.04/share) leaves our investment account worth \$345,000 as of June 20, 2022.

Note that while most stock market indices are down ~20+% (ie. S&P 500, Dow Jones, and Nasdaq), our holdings are only down 12%.



To protect our members from scammers, we will no longer be publishing personal phone numbers or email addresses in the Spire.

All members and friends should have a copy of the Church Directory where that information can be found.

You can always contact the church office as well.

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**.

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.

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., 7:30 PM

Trustees – Second Monday, 6:00 PM

Mission – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Visitors – Third Thursday, 10:00 AM

Church Council - Third Thursday, 7:00 PM

Prudential – Second 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.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



The deadline for entries for the September Spire will be **August 20**. Please have all your information 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 please continue to maintain a distance between you and others. Thank you for caring for others by engaging in these simple acts.

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	*Kelly 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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Millis, MA 02054

Phone:
508-376-5034

E-Mail:
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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



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