



Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054
www.millisucc.org (508) 376-5034

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Church of Christ Vision Statement:
Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's love.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

There is so much news today about violence and hardships and division. There are daily reports about betrayal and fear. We are exposed to angry posts and vicious words everyday. All of this negativity and pain impacts our psyche and our bodies. It seems that we are carrying a lot more "stuff" these days. Shoulders are rigid, jaws are clenched and exhaustion seems to be the new norm.

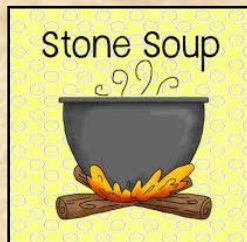
Then along comes November and we are reminded to be thankful.

Again?

Yes.

Perhaps just for a moment, we might unclench our jaws and our fists. Just for a minute we can relax our shoulders and shrug them with a deep breath. In that quiet blip of time, we can recall the good things around us and we can be grateful.

Scripture says in 1 Thessalonians to "give thanks in all circumstances." So, even when it seems that things are challenging and the words feels a little off kilter, we can be intentional about our gratitude for all the small good gifts of God that surround us. Maybe we might even pick up the discipline of a gratitude list for November. Each evening simply write down five things you are grateful for from the day.



**Join Us for our
Stone Soup Luncheon
Sunday, November 24th
following worship**

Stone Soup is an old folk story in which hungry strangers convince the people of a town to each share a small amount of their food in order to make a meal everyone enjoys. Come join us to share soup made by friends you know and learn about the strangers we are helping in our Mission work. If you have a good soup to share please notify the Men's Fellowship group who will be stirring the pots!!!

Here is my list as I write this article:

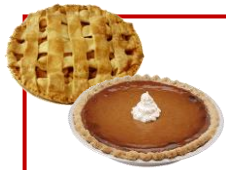
1. The sound of Nessie the Bad Dog snoring under the table.
2. A hot cup of coffee (and the fact that the milk in the back of the fridge wasn't sour).
3. The furnace kicking on when it got cold last night.
4. My family and the support they give me (especially the breakfast sandwich Rob made this morning).
5. The church I serve and the wonderful community of faith we are creating together.

May you find kernels of gratitude this month.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Jen





It's Time to Order Your Thanksgiving Goodies!

Pre-Orders are being taken for Apple & Pumpkin Pies, made fresh by our Youth groups. To pre-order, [click here for the order form](#), or visit our website at millisucc.org and click on the Events tab. Or, you can see a youth team member after worship, or call Marguerite Monahan at (508) 277-4115. Pies will be ready for pick-up after worship on November 24th. Proceeds support Youth programs & activities.

Cranberry Chutney orders will be taken from November 3 - 19, and will be distributed on Sunday, Nov. 24 after worship. To place your order, see Kathy Stevens at church, or call her at (508) 376-8124. The price for chutney is \$4.75 per pint; proceeds go to support the activities of the Women's Fellowship.



Hanging of the Greens & Pot-luck Supper

***Saturday, Nov. 30th
5:30-7:30pm***

*Join us for a potluck meal,
decorating the church for
the Advent season, and a
Christmas sing-along!*

***Friends and Neighbors
are welcome!***

Please sign up for the potluck during coffee hours in November.

HOLIDAY HELPER PROGRAM



This holiday season our church will once again help to support the Millis Food Pantry Holiday Helper Program. This is an opportunity to give gifts to less fortunate families in Millis.

We will be in Fellowship Hall following worship services on Sunday, December 1st and 8th with this year's gift tags.

Each anonymous tag will have the age and gender of the recipient and their gift request. Come choose a person or family that you would like to help, making sure that we record your participation. We have found this to be a perfect opportunity to teach our children the true meaning of giving at Christmas! **All gifts, including gift cards, need to be wrapped with the gift tag securely fastened and returned to the church by December 17th.**

We will then work with the Food Pantry to make sure they reach the right families. This is a chance to bring happiness to families in our own community. Thank you for your help!

Deb Whitney

Pledge 2020

Please don't forget to send in your 2020 Pledge card, if you haven't returned it yet. The Church of Christ, Congregational is grateful for your support!

If you didn't receive your Pledge mailing, call the church office at (508) 376-5034.



Jolly Holly Fair at Church of Christ

Saturday, December 7th from 9am-2pm

The Jolly Holly Fair is the church's largest fundraising event, and we welcome any effort you can provide to help make the fair a success!

On the next 2 pages, you'll find many ways that you can contribute to the fair. Any help/donations are greatly appreciated!

GENERAL HELP

Please let Becki Abalutzk or Gail Luck know if you can help out in one of these areas:

- Help with set up & clean up, day of help, greeting
- People to help with pictures in the Santa Room
- Food donations for the snack bar
- Other tasks, as needed



SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

In order to have a successful Silent Auction, we need your help getting a variety of items that people can bid on during the fair. The auction will include creative, themed gift baskets and some stand-alone items (e.g. coffee makers, sporting event tickets, bottles of wine, etc.) You can either donate individual items or get together with some friends to create a themed basket. Ideas include: Movie Night, Italian Dinner Party, Day at the Spa, Games Galore, etc. – use your imagination!

If you have items to donate for the Silent Auction, please see Gail Luck, or contact the church office at (508) 376-5034 or millisucc@msn.com.

NEEDLE ARTS TABLE

If you are a person who does crewel, crochets, embroiders, knits, sews, or has any other creative needlework talent, we ask if you would kindly donate an article or as many as you wish, to the NeedleArts table at the Jolly Holly Fair. The more we have to sell, the greater our success! If you would like to put a price on the articles you donate, that would be a great help, but if you prefer to have us price it, we're happy to do that.

Those of us who enjoy doing "Needle Arts" meet in the parlor on Monday mornings beginning around 10:00am.

Even if you don't knit or crochet, come for the socializing!



BAKE! BAKE! BAKE!

The Jolly Holly Fair is almost here! The Fancy Foods table brings in a lot of money for the church, but only if you bring your favorite baked items to the table.



Cakes, cookies, pies, squares, or whatever you want to bake – we will sell it. Jams, pickles, soups, and snack mixes are also welcome.

Note: Due to Board of Health rules, we must have a full list of ingredients for each item you donate. We have created an easy-to-fill-out form which you can use to identify the ingredients. Forms will be available in Fellowship Hall, the church office, on our website, and at the Fancy Foods table when you drop off your items.

If you have any questions, please call Kathy Stevens at 508-376-8124.

WHO HAS A SWEET TOOTH?

The Candy Table requests donations of Christmas candies such as: Hershey Kisses, M&Ms Plain and Peanut, Reese's Pieces, Jelly Beans, etc. Donations may be left at the church for Linda Jones.



Jar filling workshops will be at Linda Jones' house on the following dates: **Monday, December 2; Wednesday, December 4; and Thursday, December 5.** Coffee will be ready at 9:30am! All Candy "Elves" welcome to these workshops!!

Good Stuff Needed for The Green Zone (aka White Elephant)

We need **good, gently used items** for the Green Zone, which is a popular area of the Jolly Holly Fair. You may bring items to the basement anytime between now and the Fair. Please **DO NOT** block the aisle to the other rooms.

We DO want:

- dishes and glassware
- knick-knacks and gift items
- games and toys
- tools and craft materials
- Holiday decorations
- Kitchen gadgets
- books, and DVD's



We **DO NOT** want:

- TV's, electronics or exercise equipment
- broken furniture or large furniture items
- appliances or lamps
- clothes, shoes, linens, pillows or blankets
- stuffed animals
- inexpensive plastic toys that come in kids meals or goodie bags

Please do not bring us things that are dirty, broken or with little or no value.
It costs us to get rid of it!

***Proceeds help support Youth
Ministry programs and missions.***

MISSIONS REPORT

Again this year, we plan to support both South Shore Habitat for Humanity and New Life Furniture Bank. We will make a financial contribution to both agencies. But, in addition to our financial support, listed below are other ways you can participate in helping these organizations.



South Shore Habitat: Several members of our congregation this summer volunteered at South Shore Habitat Duxbury apartment project. The apartments are complete and the last of the residents are moving in. The good news is SSH has another house project starting soon in Easton. We plan to volunteer and if you are interested please let us know. We can help you sign up. All are welcome and even if not “handy with a hammer” there is a job for all talents.



New Life Furniture Bank:

Several ways to help NewLife are: join members of our congregation who volunteer on Saturday mornings at New Life’s drop off center or donate furniture or household goods. For detailed information on how to volunteer, donate, or have furniture picked up, see the website newlifefb.org. This month, much needed items are small appliances, cutlery/flatware, and pots and pans. If you can’t get to the drop off center on Saturday, you can bring your items on Sunday and give them to Jan Krohn.

The members of the Mission committee are always interested in new areas that the church can help others. Please speak to a committee member or to Rev. Jen. Mission members are Mary Smith, Art Payne, Wendy Schneider, and Jan Krohn.

Visitors Group News

The next Visitors' Group will be on Thursday, November 21, at 10:00AM in the church parlor. We will be writing Christmas cards, following our meeting. If you would like to be visited or know of someone who you think may like a visit, please let one of us know. Thank you!

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
(John 14:25-27)

The Visitors: Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Pam Johansson, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Shirley Rowley, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, Rev. Jen.

PIPS

Parents of Infants and Preschoolers Social Group

Next Date: November 14

The PIPS group was formed to provide a shared and supportive space for parents to visit, exchange ideas, and connect.

The group meets in the church parlor from **9:30-10:30am on the second and fourth Thursday of the month**. Visit millisucc.org for details.

Pathfinders' November News

November is a busy month for our Pathfinders! We are having our regular meetings on 11/3 & 11/17, at which we'd love for someone to share in a meal with us! Sign ups are available at the 2nd floor landing.

In addition to our regular meetings, we are excited to have our annual PIE SALES this month! We will be baking our delicious apple and pumpkin pies, and selling the pre-orders on Sunday, November 19 after worship! The pies are \$12 each, and made with love! Pre-order forms are available by clicking the link below, and will also be available after worship on Sundays.

Pathfinders will also be hosting this year's annual Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, November 30. Please join us as we prepare our worship space for the season of Advent!

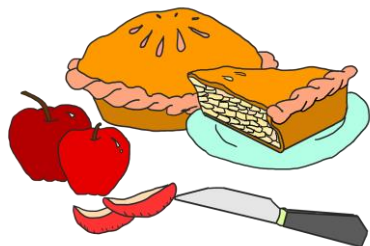
At any and all of these events, adult volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to attend! We have a small, but mighty group, so there is plenty of room for joiners!



Sunday, 11/3 & 11/17 @6:30 – 8:30 PM

Pathfinders' Meeting

Any and all students in grades 7 through 12 are invited to come for a potluck dinner, discussion, and games. You do not have to be a resident of Millis, or even a member of the church. You just need to be in grades 7-12, and want to hang out with other peers over dinner, games, and discussion.



Saturday, 11/23 @ 6pm-10pm Pie-PREP-palooza

Sunday, 11/24 after worship PIE SALES

On November 23, at 6pm, Pathfinders will be meeting to make PIES!! If you are interested in volunteering or pre-ordering, you can call Marguerite @ 508-277-4115, complete the [online order form](#) or sign up after Sunday worship.



Saturday, 11/30 @ 5:30-7:30pm

The Hanging of the Greens & Pot Luck Supper!

Join us for a potluck meal, decorating the church for the Advent season, and a (*completely optional*) Christmas sing-along! This is a wonderful family friendly, community event! Please join us for any and all of this wonderful night!

~~Keep reading for a sneak peek into our December activities!~~

Our mission is to support our church and serve the world around us.

Pathfinders' December Delegates Travel to Boston!

Pathfinders will be taking their annual trip to stay overnight in Boston with Ecclesia Ministries' City Reach Program. We leave on Friday afternoon and return Saturday afternoon. While it may seem like "ONLY" 24 hours away, it is so much more than time.

Our youngsters spend those 24 hours immersed in a very different world than their own. They are active participants in helping those that have almost nothing of material goods or necessities. Most of the people that the Pathfinders will meet are unhoused, many have not had a substantial meal in years, many have little or no family support, but ALL have the capacity to receive compassionate and thoughtful interactions with those who have come to serve them. This is where our amazing YOUTH come in! Every year, Millis UCC youth are praised for their sincere involvement in this program. The group has made lasting bonds among members of the City Reach Program. Some members have gone on to join us in worship in Millis.

In addition to the 10:00pm tour through parts of Boston that have a high unhoused population, the youth involved in this program participate in a clothing bank that serves upwards of 200 people on the Saturday morning. The entire bank is supplied by donations from the youths' congregation. This is where our amazing CHURCH CONGREGATION comes in. We need donations. We are not asking for anything purchased (except clean white socks). We are simply asking for any men's clothing that you are no longer using. We specifically need shoes, coats and pants. We will be collecting donations up until the day we head into Boston, Dec 13. Please donate if you can.

Thank you for your continued support of our youth! We look forward to sharing our experience with you when we return!

Adult Bible Study

Tuesdays ~ November 5, 12, 19 ~ 9:00-10:00am

"For Such a Time as This." This class will fearlessly and critically examine both the Bible and the daily news. We'll seek to find the "Good News" for us and to determine what consequences "fake news" has on our faith. We meet in the church parlor.

Community Office Hours

Wednesday, November 13 from 9:00-10:30am

Rev. Jen will hold community office hours at Country Kitchen, on Rt. 109 in Millis.

Bibles & Brews

Thursday, November 21

6:30pm gather & order food ~ 7pm discussion begins

At Mickey Cassidy's at 116 Main St. (Rt. 109) in Medway. Bring a sense of humor and an open mind as we take on some of the hot topics of the day from a theological perspective.

Church of Christ
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508-376-5034
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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7TH**

MILLIS UCC
JOLLY HOLLY FAIR
9AM - 2PM

KNITS & NEEDLE CRAFTS
HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
WHITE ELEPHANT
SNACK BAR
FREE ADMISSION

SILENT AUCTION
GIFT BASKETS
FANCY FOODS & CONFECTIONS
HOLIDAY GREENS
JEWELRY

SANTA!
9AM TO NOON

A holiday market of unique gifts

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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