

THE SPIRE

May 2023

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 Message from the Moderator

- Jan Krohn

Worship for the next several weeks will be laity lead and area clergy are on call for pastoral needs. The Diaconate will announce their plans for further clergy coverage this summer.

Please contact the church office for any communication needs. I will be taking care of administrative concerns and Lauren and Doug Briggs will be taking care of worship/pastoral questions.

If you see anything in the church that needs cleaning or fixing, please fill out a maintenance/cleaning request form. The forms are in the top slot of the mailbox beside the church office. Then place the request in the bottom slot.

With Rev Geary leaving, we remind you that the church must honor the clergy code of conduct guidelines. They require that departing clergy not be in contact with former parishioners for at least one year.

Prudential Corner

Here is a summary of our finances over the first quarter (1/1/23-3/31/23) of this year:

	Q1 2023 YTD Actual	Q1 2023 YTD Budget	difference
Pledges	28,214	28,108	106.91
Total Income	40,943.43	40,914.54	28.89
Total Expenses	70,842.43	62,141.76	-8,700.67
Net	-29,899	-21,227	-8,671.78

MANY thanks for everyone keeping up with their pledges, which are right on budget. Our total Income also remains on budget, thanks in part to "Other Facility Rentals", which is \$1,812 actual vs \$589 budgeted. We see this as a continued area of opportunity so spread the word!

Our expenses for the quarter were higher than budgeted. The amount we paid for gas was \$5,174.90 more than budgeted, which is due in part to the first quarter months being much colder. We should see some leveling off of this number into the second quarter as the weather warms. In addition, we paid \$5,408.74 more than budgeted for our building and liability insurance. This is in part due to rising costs, but also this is a quarterly payment due in March so this expense will also level off in the coming months.

To date we have withdrawn \$19,000 from our investment account to cover expenses. As of 3/31/23 we have \$241,448.72 in the General Fund, \$48,935.31 in Board Restricted Funds, and \$42,106.05 in Donor Restricted Funds.

From Your Deacons

The Deacons are continuing to plan for a mixture of pulpit supply and lay person leadership until a settled pastor arrives. We are in the process of seeking a part-time minister who might have availability twice a month, with lay person leadership covering the other two weeks per month. If you have ideas for worship or would like to help lead a service as a lay person (including reading scripture, leading prayer, or giving a brief message), please speak to one of the Deacons.

We are specifically searching for those who might want to share a story about motherhood, their mothers, or motherly figures in their lives on our Mother's Day service on May 14. If you are interested in sharing your story or having a reader share your story on your behalf, please contact one of the Deacons.

We will be having Breakfast Church on May 7. If you are interested in bringing a breakfast dish or treat, please contact one of the Deacons.

Please keep an eye on the Spire and bulletin for important worship dates coming up.

Lauren, Allen, Kathy, Katie, and Doug

Breakfast Church – May 7

We will be having Breakfast Church and Communion on Sunday, May 7. Worship will be held in Fellowship Hall, with free breakfast foods provided as part of worship. If you are interested in bringing breakfast food to share (such as muffins, breads, fruit, etc.), please contact one of the Deacons.



Mother's Day Service ~ May 14

On Mother's Day, May 14, our worship will be centered around celebrating mothers and motherly figures. If you have a short story or poem about a mother or motherly figure in your life that you'd like to share or have shared on your behalf, please contact one of the Deacons.



Service Opportunities



Kaua'i
Habitat
for Humanity®



Hawaii
Village Build

Again, this year South Shore Habitat has a house build in Kaua'i Hawaii. It will be the week of October 14 to 22, 2023. The cost of the trip is \$1643 plus your air fare. Speak to Sue/Andy Bolton or Mary Smith or Wendy Schneider about their last year's rewarding experience.

Any questions or interest please contact Jan Krohn



The mission committee welcomes suggests from the congregation of charitable organization(s) and/or a service activity we can contribute. Please contact any member. Art Payne, Judy Kosinski, Casey Woodley or Jan Krohn.



Sunday School for Children May 21 at 10 AM

One Sunday a month, Sunday school is offered for those in grade 8 and younger. We divide the students into two groups by age depending on who is there on a certain week. Children in grade 3 and older are encouraged to bring their Bibles with them.

Mark your calendar, so you don't miss the May classes on the 21st!

Please contact Doug Briggs or Kelly Williams for more information or to volunteer to help.

You can find the registration form and policy information on the church website www.millisucc.org under the "about" tab/forms.

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 during Sunday service. If you would be willing to donate one Sunday to provide childcare, please contact Wendy Schneider.

Christian Education

We are excited to begin offering family fellowship events after Sunday School! These events will be brief, local gatherings with activities offered to provide opportunities for the parents (and the children) to get to know each other. Events will be weather dependent, so we might not be able to say exactly what we'll be doing a week or so in advance, but within a few days we will have a plan. If you haven't yet shared your contact information with Doug, Kelly, or Brenda, please do, so we can contact you directly with updates.

Upcoming dates for Sunday School and family fellowship will be April 30th and May 21st. We are hoping to have a picnic, and games on the back lawn on the 30th, and a short walk on the 21st!

We hope to see your families at these events. Please contact any of us with any questions. Doug, Kelly, and Brenda

Welcoming Committee News

"A smile is the universal welcome." - Max Eastman

Church life is an opportunity to serve with grace and kindness. Volunteers are always welcome for greeting before the service. It is an easy, simple way to serve and only takes a few moments of your time on Sunday morning.

Thank you to Karen Hatch, Judy Kosinski, Pam Johansson, Alan and Zeke Williams for being Greeters during the month of April.

A BIG thank you to Suzi Sennott, Sue Conte and Jan Krohn for assisting with the Pre-K childcare on Sunday mornings.

We will be hosting the Visitors Tea on an afternoon in June (date TBD). If you are interested in assisting in this lovely event, please contact Wendy.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 3rd from 9 am- 2 pm. We are hosting an Electronics Recycling by the Green Day company and a Flea Market open to all surrounding communities. If you are interested in helping on the event day, contact the church office.

FLEA MARKET: Calling all vendors, crafters, and yard sale sellers. Reserve your 10x10 spot for \$20. Tables are included, if needed. For reservation forms visit www.millisucc.org, and select "Events".

RECYCLING INFORMATION: Bring these items to the parking lot- they unload from your car.

Small electronics items: Computer towers, Scanners, VCR, Printers, Copiers, DVD,

- Stereo Equipment, Computer Tower, Lighting, Vacuum, Answering Machine, Fax, Speakers, Compact disc., Circuit Boards, Radios, Record Players, Modems, Word Processor, Fans, Video equipment, Game Console, Xbox, etc., Tape Players, Typewriters (Anything with a plug and more)...\$5 each.
- Appliances: Dishwasher, Dryer, Stove: \$20, Microwave: \$10 (small) \$20 (Large)
- Lawn mowers, \$20
- Snow blowers \$40
- TV's and Monitors/Flat panel monitors: 18" - 26": 20.00 ea
27"- 35" ...\$25.00 ea / Over 35" Projection TV...\$40.00 ea
- AC \$25, Dehumidifier: \$20, Refrigerators: \$20 (dorm) \$40
- Large Grill, \$20, Empty propane tank \$15,
- Ex. equipment. \$20-40 weight sets...\$10

NO CHARGE on these items

Keyboards, Car, Boat, Lawn Mower, Motorcycle Batteries, Cables, wire and cell phones.

ALSO included: Bicycle Recycle Day, no fee. Bring your unwanted old or new bicycle and drop it off, it will be reused again. Mountain, Road, BMX, Cruiser, (Old to current)/New, Kids, etc. We also take working or non-working minibikes and mopeds.

- **Our aim** is to keep bikes from being thrown out when they can be reused. (We can pick up bicycles if you cannot bring them.)

If you have any suggestions for or would like to assist the Welcoming Committee, feel free to contact Wendy Schneider.

Enjoy May and all the excitement the spring weather brings!

Host with the Most?

As the church expands the rental of the building to more one-day users, we are in need of a cadre of Church Hosts. These Hosts would unlock the church and make sure lights and heat are working and then lock up afterwards, making sure lights and heating are off. There would be no monthly meetings other than to coordinate who's covering which days. There's no heavy lifting or moving of furniture. You would not need to be on-site the entire time. It will require a brief training about the facility. If you are interested in being a Church Host, please contact Julie in the office.



The Spire deadline for June is
May 20th, 2023

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.



Thank you so much for the wonderful send off. The room was beautiful and the food



delicious. Thank you for all the plants, indoor and out, for the wind chimes (already hanging on my front porch), for the pictures, lime bars, chocolates, and generous cash purse. Thank you for the lovely cards and notes on the pots. It has been a pleasure to serve among you.

Grace & Peace, Jennifer aka Rev. Geary



Worship Bulletin

The 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>

Wi-Fi Changes

Sometime over the next month the Wi-Fi name and password will change. If you find yourself not getting service like you used to at church, you will probably need to update your settings. We will let you know when the change happens.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, May 21 at 7:30 am



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

Refreshments

Each Sunday we all enjoy a drink and snack following worship, but these don't magically appear. Everyone sharing a little, creates a feast. Please look through your calendar and pick a Sunday - next month, during the summer, next fall – when you will provide the refreshments. When we all take a turn, we only need to do it once per year. Please contact the church office with your preferred week. If when the time comes you cannot be there, we'll just find someone to swap Sundays with you.


Please be Praying for...




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



Visitors' Update

Myrna Rybczy

Our next meeting is May 11th. Please make me or a member of the Visitors aware if you know of someone who needs a lift in their day with a card, call or visit

Socializing with the M&M's Mondays in the Parlor!

The M & M's (Monday Morning Needlework Group) gather in person in the Parlor every week!

Join in the fun on Monday mornings, any time **10 AM – 12 PM.**

All are welcome – bring hand work if you have it or just come to socializing!

May Committee Meetings

5/3 - 7:30 PM ~ Christian Education - Zoom

5/9 - 12:00 PM ~ Prudential - Zoom

5/11 - 10 AM ~ Visitors Group - Parlor

5/14 - 11:30 AM ~ Deacons – Parlor

5/17 - 7:00 PM ~ Church Council – Chapel

5/23 – 7:00 PM ~ Missions



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.



★ ARMED FORCES DAY ★

Opportunities to Serve

On the next page you will see the new committees for 2023. There are several open slots where you would be welcome to serve. Terms of commitment are 2 years for committees, 1 year for officers. Please contact the church office or Moderator, Jan Krohn, if you would like to be an officer or join one of the committees.

Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Jan Krohn (22)
Church Clerk	Sue Conte (22)
Treasurer	Gail DiGioia (22)
Assistant Treasurer	Open
Investment Fund Manager	Open
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Open

Diaconate		
Katelyn Andrews (23)	Doug Briggs (23)	Lauren Briggs (21)
Kathy Stevens (23)	Open	Open
Allen Williams (23)	Open	////////////////////////////////////
Missions		
Casey Woodley (22)	Jan Krohn	Art Payne
Open	Open	////////////////////////////////////
Trustees		
Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	////////////////////////////////////
Prudential		
Open-2 yrs	Doug Coutts (21)	Bill Wright
Open-2 yrs	Open-2 yrs	////////////////////////////////////
Christian Education		
Brenda Marrero (23)	Doug Briggs (22)	Kelly Williams (21)
Open-2 yrs	Open- 2 yrs	////////////////////////////////////
Welcoming Committee		
Wendy Schneider (23)	Open	Open
Open	Open	////////////////////////////////////
At-large Members of Church Council		
Art Payne (21)	Judy Ackerman (21)	////////////////////////////////////
Pastoral Relations Committee		
Linda Jones (21)	John Smith (21)	Jo-Ellen Briggs (21)
Jen Payne (21)	Open	////////////////////////////////////
Memorials Committee		
Sue Conte (21)	Open	////////////////////////////////////
Delegate		
Open	Open	Open

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