



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

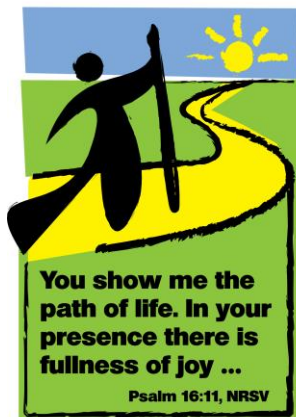
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
Church of Christ Vision Statement:  
*Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's love.*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The time has come to say goodbye to one another. I have so many things to say and I'm so very sad that I can't say them to you all face to face. It is a subdued ending for such a fun-filled, meaningful ministry. My arrival in October 2007 came in the middle of a big celebration U2 worship service. It seems in many ways we have been throwing parties and celebrations ever since.

The Church of Christ, Congregational is a vibrant and loving church. We have worked in community on the value of laughter and on the need to take the Gospel seriously but ourselves less so. We have tried to improve our communication and worked on speaking the truth in love to one another. We have looked at our history as a church as we celebrated the 300th anniversary. We also imagined our future as we crafted vision statements and welcome statements to take us into the years to come. And, the food... oh we have eaten so much wonderful food together over the years.



It is my dearest hope that my ministry in Millis has inspired folks to love God, love neighbors and find joy in the Christian faith. This time has changed me and I am deeply thankful to each of you and all of you who journeyed with me. You have deepened my faith, made me revisit my understanding of church and gave me glimpses of heaven in community.

~ continued on page 2 ~

**Sunday, May 3 at 10:00am**

**Communion Sunday  
Virtual Worship**

Livestreamed on Facebook

You don't need a Facebook account to participate. Just click this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MillisUCCChurch/>

For a copy of the liturgy, [click here](#),  
or visit our website: [www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org).

**You Are Not Alone!**

**If you need anything, contact the church:**

Phone: (508) 376-5034

Email: [millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com)

**We are updating information frequently  
on our website & social media:**

Website: [www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org)

Facebook: [@MillisUCCChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MillisUCCChurch)

Twitter: [@millisucc](https://twitter.com/millisucc)

**Join Us on Facebook  
for Livestreaming Services:**

You don't need a Facebook account to participate. Just click this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/MillisUCCChurch/>

**Virtual Worship Services**  
on Sunday Mornings at 10:00am

**Church Check-Ins**  
on Tuesday and Thursdays at 7:00pm

*From the Pastor ~ continued from page 1*

While you've heard it from other pastors, I am compelled to state it again. This goodbye must have clear and distinct boundaries. Once I leave, I will not be available to officiate at any type of service or maintain relationships. I will need to unfriend folks on social media and take my leave. You will have an interim pastor arriving soon and the task of settling in and getting to know each other will not only be rich and rewarding, it deserves your undivided attention. This is not because I don't care, for I have come to care deeply for you. It is because I care deeply for you that I must make a clean exit and not leave any loose ends.

Because my departure from Millis is taking place in an unprecedented time, I hope to be able to return for a picnic this summer to have a chance to say goodbye in person. This will be my only return.

You know I have come to dearly love you. I have been blessed by the innumerable times you have responded to my leadership and ministry, particularly during times of life transitions. I have been blessed by the sharing of your life's personal struggles with me. I have been blessed by working with the other members of the staff. I have been blessed by being a member of your faith community for twelve years and all that that entails. Rob, Parker and I will forever fondly remember the time we were blessed to share with you all.

My prayer for you as we part, is that you continue to find new, exciting and faith-filled ways to embrace the people and community beyond the walls of the building and meet the needs of the people of Millis, for in doing so you will encounter the Risen Christ in your midst.

I'll end with one of my favorite blessings:

*Life is short. We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.*  
~ Henri-Frédéric Amies

Thank you for letting me walk the way with you.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Jen

## Update from the Deacons

We hope you are doing well during this challenging time. As you may have heard, we will be continuing with online Sunday worship and Tuesday/ Thursday check-ins until at least May 31st.

The Interim Pastor Search Committee has been meeting frequently, reviewing ministerial profiles sent to us by the Southern New England UCC (SNEUCC) and conducting interviews from April 20-23. We are presently working to finalize the process and will have an announcement in the near future. Please continue to check the church website for updates.

**The Deacons' Fund is available.** The purpose of the fund is to provide emergency financial aid for a one-time need with preference given to church members. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Rev. Jen by leaving a message at 508-376-5034 or on the website [www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org), and select Email the Pastor. All requests are confidential.

The Deacons continue to stay in touch with our COVID Comrades. If you know of anyone in need of a phone call or other assistance, leave a message for Rev. Jen at the church office.

As always, please don't hesitate to let us know if we can be of assistance now and in the future.

Wendy Schneider and Sue Conte  
Diaconate Co-Chairs



## LOCAL AID RESOURCES FOR MILLIS RESIDENTS

**Millis Ecumenical Food Pantry**  
[www.millisfoodpantry.com](http://www.millisfoodpantry.com)

**The Millis Fund**  
[www.millisfund.com](http://www.millisfund.com)

## Calling All Mask Makers!

We received a request from Ashley Bryant, who is the Case Coordinator at Amego Inc., a local non-profit that serves people with autism. They have a group home right in town and are reaching out to see if anyone in the community has access to cloth masks for donation. They are currently serving 203 people in 44 group homes throughout Massachusetts and any donations will be greatly appreciated.

If you are able to help, or want more information, contact Ashley Bryant directly at:  
ABryant@amegoinc.org



**The 3rd Annual New Life 5k Trail Run is taking place as a Virtual 5k Challenge that can be completed between April 13 and May 10.**

Although COVID-19 has made it impossible for people to gather for a traditional 5K, NewLife found a creative way to hold the 5K anyway!

The Church of Christ, Millis is a sponsor for this event, and we even have a church team: "Walk-Ins Welcome"! The NewLife 5K raises more than 20% of the budget that keeps New Life Furniture Bank of MA strong and allows them to serve hundreds of families, single mothers, seniors and vets as they come out of homelessness and rebuild their lives. Now, more than ever, they are calling on you to support New Life and their incredible clients!

Visit the [NewLife Furniture Bank's website](http://www.newlifefurniturebank.com) for more information on how to support this event.

## Visitors' Group Update

The Visitors' Group will not be hosting its annual Spring Luncheon in May this year. We hope everyone is doing well under the present circumstances. Please let us know if you need any assistance by calling the church at 508-376-5034, or contact one of the Visitors.

We also want to offer a gentle reminder for all of us to try and keep in touch with those we visit or who live alone, by calling them or sending a card or a note. We know they will appreciate it.

We want to thank Rev. Jen for all her guidance, leadership and her friendship. Although we will miss her very much we wish her the best on her new adventure.

*"Dear Lord, take my hand and guide my steps to the future filled with Your promises."*

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



## YOUTH & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### Youth Group (ages 7-12)

The Youth Group continues to meet via Zoom, to check in and share a few laughs. They even had a chance to have a Zoom meeting with a group they hope to work with in Chicago this summer, and they all got to share about themselves and their groups.

All youth in grades 7 through 12 are welcome to participate. To learn more, email one of the youth leaders: Marguerite at: [tiariri@gmail.com](mailto:tiariri@gmail.com), or Doug: at [dcb.joel@verizon.net](mailto:dcb.joel@verizon.net)



### Children's Activity Pages

(click on each title to open it)

[Scripture Placemats Coloring Pages \(in English\)](#)

[Scripture Placemats Coloring Pages \(in Spanish\)](#)

These free resources were made available to us by ChurchArt and the Children's Worship Bulletin Team.

## A Message from the Music Director

As we edge toward reopening our church and resuming our ordinary lives, I find I am impatient to begin. The strange thing is we can't begin where we left off...at Easter; the music for Lent and Easter has been put away until next year.

We are facing a challenging time. In addition to the Covid virus and the unrest and grief that touches us all, we are entering a period of transition. One of the constants in the church and worship, is the choir. The choir leads and supports congregational singing and we have had many losses in the past few years. Therefore, we must continue to go on, finding and learning music that suits a smaller choir and less rehearsal time. Will we need to be social distancing in June? Possibly, and if so, we can easily do that in the sanctuary. Will we be rehearsing through the summer? Yes. A few years ago, we had a Canon Club which met for two summers. Those rounds which we so enjoyed singing, were fun. Using many of the ones we learned we can easily teach the congregation to join in; this is another way to draw people closer.

As soon as we open the church we will begin rehearsals. I really want to hear from you about ideas for moving ahead smoothly, so feel free to call or text, and stay "tuned in" for dates and times.

Ernest Shackleton, the ultimate survivor, said: "Optimism is the essence of moral courage."

Myrna Rybczyk

## Planning a Proper Good-bye

When Covid restrictions are lifted, we plan to hold a church picnic and we'll invite Rev. Jen back so we all have a chance to say good-bye and express our well wishes in person. We will provide the congregation with an update once a plan is in place.



HAPPY  
Mother's  
Day

MAY 10