

THE SPIRE

DECEMBER 2021

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.

Sunday Worship in December

Blessed and Waiting

November 28 – First Sunday of Advent
Revelations 21:1-6a, Isaiah 61, Mark 12:30-44

December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

December 20 – Blue Christmas Service

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

December 26 – Christmas Sunday Service

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>

From the Interim Pastor

We here at Millis Church of Christ are participating in a hopeful process. A process seeking peace, celebrating love, and moving toward joy. Advent is a season of waiting and preparing for yet another year of God's grace and mercy. We know that Jesus was already born; we don't need to anticipate that. But we can anticipate the light and truth of God breaking forth in our world today.

We can invite the Holy Spirit to grant us new birth in Jesus' name. We can keep our eyes and ears on alert, looking and listening for the grace of God moving among us. We can apologize, forgive, reach out, and welcome in. For God so loves us that God became human to teach us how to live with each other. God knows our experience first-hand.

We can, like Mary and Joseph, take risks, knowing that no matter what happens, God loves us and welcomes each of us the way a parent loves and welcomes a newborn child. May God grant you grace throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

With joy,
Jennifer

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, send an email to Mary Jensen at:
mejensen7@verizon.net.

The church office will be closed, and there will be no office hours or meetings from December 27 through January 1, 2022.

Gratitude Corner

To all who donated their time and talents for the Jolly Holly Fair

To Rev. Geary and the Deacons for all they do for us each week

To Myrna, Becki, and all the choir for being there each Sunday

To Rick Jones for bringing back our Christmas carillon

Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 20

7:00pm

If you are grieving or experiencing any difficult life event or just long for a warm, calm, quiet space, please join us for a time of worship and support at our Blue Christmas service.

This service acknowledges that we are all in different emotional places during this holiday season.

COVID Protocols

We continue to follow current Health Department COVID protocols. Masks are to be worn in the building and during worship. Please continue to maintain a distance of at least six feet between you and others. Thank you for caring for others by engaging in these simple acts.

Adult Education

No community education events are scheduled for December. We hope to start back up in January. Please give us suggestions for topics or presenters you would like to see.

Contact Rev. Geary for more information or with ideas.

How We Serve

Our mission is to worship God, serve neighbor and to live together in love. This congregation has designated several positions and committees necessary to fulfill that mission. These positions and committees are: Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Diaconate, Education, Mission, Welcoming, Prudential, Trustee, and Pastoral Relations. In addition, we have the Collector and several assistants. We also have various Teams that form and reform such as Visitors, Jolly Holly Fair and Worship. And then there are the Fellowship groups: Womens, Mens and Youth. These officers and committees create the framework on which all the activities of the congregation are built.

Volunteers are needed to be voted in at the Annual meeting at the end of January, to serve for the coming year. Please take some time daily or weekly to pray over these positions and to pray over the Church Directory. Who has God best equipped to serve in what capacity? To what work is God calling you? Also, seek God's direction for alternative committees and/or teams.

The Church Council is seeking nominations for all positions. Please contact the church office, Moderator, Gail Luck or Rev. Geary, if you have suggestions or to volunteer.

Missions Update Giving Thanks!

Thank you to all who donated to the sock/warm clothing drive in November to Our Daily Bread. We had many boxes of donations! We dedicated the donations at Sunday service and Paul Rice shared his experience at Our Daily Bread. We thank him for the delivery of all the items!

Our Daily Bread is a nonprofit food, nutrition, and resource center. Their purpose is to provide a free nutritious meal in a warm and welcoming atmosphere to those in need. The Resource Center also provides mentoring for basic life skills, encouraging and empowering a population that includes the unhoused and disenfranchised. In 2021, they added laundry and shower facilities for their clients' use. And thanks to you, they will have some clean socks and warm clothes for the winter.

Reverse Advent Calendar Giving

For the second year, we are collecting donations for the Millis Food Pantry through a Reverse Advent Calendar project! You can add an item to your collection for each day of Advent, then drop off all your items on December 22nd between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. We will be there to collect your items right from your car!

Suggested items:

- Applesauce – jars, pouches, or individual cups
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned soup
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Oatmeal - regular and instant
- Biscuit or baking mixes
- Seasonings and spices
- Deodorant
- Body wash and bars of soap
- Baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Toothbrushes
- Razors
- Feminine care products

Food Pantry Clean-Up Project

Please join the Mission Committee in a community project to paint and improve lighting in the Food Pantry. We are joining with the Millis Recreation program to invite Millis High School students to volunteer alongside any members of the congregation who are interested. This project is starting in early January, check the website then for more information on how to sign up!

From the Deacons

Hope: a feeling of expectation and desire

Turning the calendar page to the last month of the year is always a surprise as just how quickly time passes. Last year at this time we had planned all of our services on Zoom and were uncertain as to when we would be holding in-person worship in the future. There was still much uncertainty, anxiety, sacrifice, lifestyle changes, and a feeling of not being in control. The one thing that we did have and shared with each other was hope.

- Hope that the scientists would figure out an answer to getting the pandemic under control.
- Hope that we learned the importance of “for the greater good” and how actions affect more than ourselves.
- Hope that the simpler activities and family time we shared would continue to be a priority as life returns to a pre-pandemic lifestyle.
- Hope that our church community would continue to move forward, remembering our traditions, but willing to explore new paths.

That hope has continued through the year, moving us forward, exploring new opportunities, challenging us to listen to each other and questioning where we see ourselves in the future as our church.

After many months of contacting people and revisions, the hope of having an updated Church Directory has been realized, and it has been sent out to church members and friends.

Last year, the Deacons sponsored the Reverse Advent Calendar to benefit the food pantry. It was our hope that this would become a new tradition. The Missions Committee has now taken it over as part of the church’s local missions. Please check the Missions article for information on how you can participate.

As we move through Advent, there are many activities planned within our church and the community that will keep us busy up to Christmas. Allow yourself to take a few quiet moments to reflect on your hope for the future within your life, your family, the community, and the church.

Waiting with you in hope, peace, joy, and love,

Your Deacons,

Katelyn Andrews, Doug Briggs, Lauren Briggs, Sue Conte, Joan Nichols, Wendy Schneider, Suzi Sennott

Christmas Sunday, December 26, at 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with song, story, and pops of joy! The Star will be our symbol for the day. All ages are encouraged to attend.

Did you get a food item for Christmas that you don't like or won't eat? Bring it to worship on December 26th and share it with others during Fellowship—it just might be someone else's favorite!



Advent Worship – Blessed and Waiting

This first week of Advent, Nov. 28, we look to our future with hope. When we look to our past, we see that God has been with us through thick and thin. We know God will not abandon us in the days ahead. The evergreen is our symbol.

The second week of Advent, Dec. 5, we look to our future with peace. God has been faithful and has never left us. We don't have to go to battle but can rest in the peace that God is in control. The white/light blue dove is our symbol.

The third week of Advent, Dec. 12, we look to our future with joy. God has a plan for us. When we begin to worry, we need only to take those worries to God in prayer and then rejoice and listen for God's guidance. The golden bell is our symbol.

The fourth week of Advent, Dec. 19, we look to our future with love. God first loved us and sent Jesus as our Savior. That love of God gives us the strength to love ourselves, each other, and the world. The red cross is our symbol.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, we celebrate the new beginning God gave the world in the birth of Jesus the Christ. All ages are welcome at this service. The star is our symbol.

Live and battery candles will be available for participants. If you will be worshipping on Zoom, you can pick up candles on Wed. Dec. 22 between 4 – 6 pm.

Each week through to Epiphany, we will add an ornament to the sanctuary tree. Ornament patterns can be found on the church's website and at the church in the office and Fellowship Hall.

Visitors' Group

The Visitors' Group will not be meeting in December.

Our next meeting will be on January 20, 2022, at 10:30 in the church parlor.

We hope everyone has a blessed Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

"I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness." -John 12:46

Prayer

"Heavenly Father, help us to brighten someone's day with your love through an encouraging word, an act of kindness, or simply a smile. Amen."

Patrick Baumer (Indiana, USA)

The Visitors'

Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Pam Johansson, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Pat Spearing, Kathy, Stevens, Reverend Jennifer Geary

January Newsletter



The deadline for entries for the January Spire will be **December 20th**. Please have all your info in by then. Thank you.

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 10am. 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

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**, and from **12pm-2 pm on Wednesdays**.

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.

Phone: (774) 993-9407

Email: pastoruccmillis@gmail.com

Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Gail Luck
Church Clerk	Nydia Rice
Treasurer	Mary Smith
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Brian Hall

Diaconate		
Sue Conte	Wendy Schneider	Katelyn Andrews
Doug Briggs	Lauren Briggs	Joan Nichols
Suzi Sennott		
Missions		
Jan Krohn	Art Payne	Wendy Schneider
Mary Smith		
Trustees		
Kathy Stevens	Andy Bolton	Wayne Carlson
Bonnie MacDonald	Rich Manzano	
Prudential		
Bill Wright	Doug Coutts	
Christian Education		
Kelly Williams	Meghan Prescott	
Welcoming Committee		
Maria Melchionda	Katelyn Andrews	Judy Kosinski
Bonnie MacDonald	Myrna Rybczyk	
At-large Members of Church Council		
Judie Ackerman		
Pastoral Relations Committee		
Jo-Ellen Briggs	Jen Payne	John Smith
Linda Jones		

*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

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



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