

THE SPIRE

June 2024

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.



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you all! As we step into June, I'm excited to connect with you and share some important updates and reflections. It's incredible to think that this is already my third month of ministry with you. Time flies when you're part of such a wonderful and supportive community.

Happy Pride Month! June is a time for new opportunities and continued growth in our spiritual journey. It's a moment for renewal, reflection, and

action as we engage more deeply with our faith and community.

Our Women of the Bible study series continues. Recently, we've explored the figures of Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Elizabeth, and Anna the Prophetess. These discussions have enriched our understanding and sparked meaningful conversations, deepening our faith. Join us every Wednesday at 7 PM, either in-person or via Zoom. This series is an excellent opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together.

On Sunday, June 9th, we will present our recent missions sponsorship during worship. I'm thrilled to share that we successfully purchased an ultrasound machine for the Africa Exchange Project. This essential equipment will significantly enhance healthcare for expectant mothers in Tanzania. Your support and dedication to this cause are truly inspiring, and I look forward to sharing more details during the service.

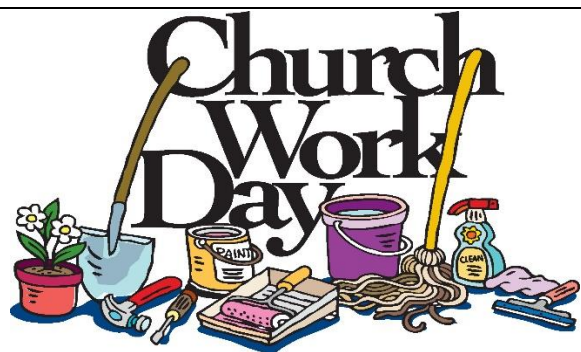
Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 23rd, as we celebrate our first Open & Affirming Sunday. This day signifies our commitment to inclusivity and love for all. It will be a joyous occasion filled with worship, fellowship, and a reaffirmation of our promise to

welcome and affirm every individual, regardless of their background or identity. Don't miss this special celebration!

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication. Your commitment to our community and faith is inspiring, and I am blessed to be part of this journey with you. As we move into June, let us continue to support one another, grow in our faith, and make a positive impact both within and beyond our church walls.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor James



We are sure you have noted areas around the church that we can clean up and improve. The council has identified several areas and want/welcome your ideas.

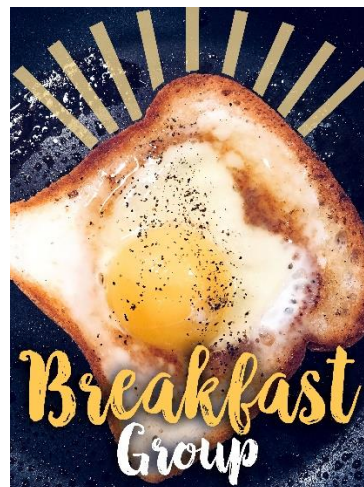
We hope, on a Sunday once a month, after shortened service, to start the service projects. So please give your ideas and join the church in action!

Please email Jan Krohn with your service ideas.



Join Us Sunday, June 9th

Please join us during worship to hear from Rob Schadt, Project Chairperson for the Africa Exchange Project. Rob will be presenting information about the organization and its efforts in Tanzania

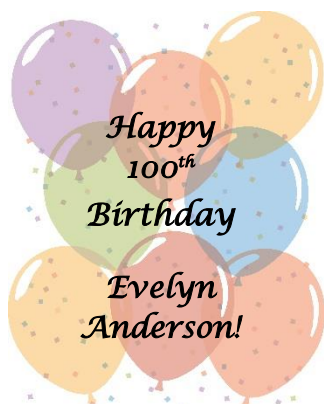


Join Us for Fellowship Breakfast on the 3rd Sunday of every month! (so as not to conflict with Father's Day, June's Breakfast will be the 4th Sunday)

NEXT MEETING: June 23rd 8-9am

Cooking starts around 7:30am. Please bring a breakfast item to share.

All are welcome!



Evelyn Anderson, long-time church member, celebrates her 100th birthday this month! All of us here at Millis UCC would like to extend a heartfelt "Hooray!, in celebration of Evelyn. Happy Birthday!



Love the great outdoors? Want to be part of the team that helps to keep us looking well-groomed and cared for? We'd love to have you join the lawn care crew! No previous lawn care knowledge necessary! We will train you to use our ride-on mower. Simply sign up for a given week, then make your own hours; mowing when it fits your schedule. Contact Wendy for sign-ups and mower training.



Friendly Reminder! Spire Articles are due each month by the 20th.



Calling All Farmers/Vendors!

We are putting together a farmer's market on Wednesdays from June 26-October 2nd, 2:00-6:00PM. We have spaces available for those selling fresh fruit and vegetables as well as local crafters.

Spaces are 10ft. by 10ft. (tables and chairs not included) for \$25/Wednesday, or \$20/Wednesday if you commit to more than 8 Wednesdays. We will provide Board of Health permit to fill out, and a permitting fee of \$64 for the season may be required. For more information, please email

millisfarmersmarket@gmail.com



*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.*

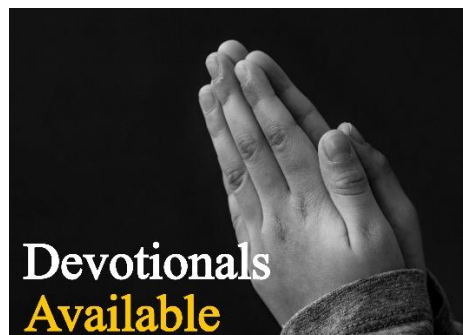


James' ordination service will be Saturday, June 22nd at 2pm at Fort Washington Collegiate Church in NYC. All are welcome to join in-person, or watch the livestream: www.fortwashingtonchurch.org

Hopefully, we will offer a watch party at church. We will update these plans as they unfold.

For those who are curious, an Installation Service is a separate event that will take place here, in Millis, sometime in the Fall.

We hope that you will join us for both of these events that celebrate a significant milestone in James' career and commitment to Christ.



The Upper Room devotionals are available in the rack by the side door. Please help yourself. If you enjoy these and they are all gone, please let Laura in the office know so we can order more copies going forward.



Thank you to Rick Jones, for helping to change batteries in our alarms.

Thank you to our current Lawn Crew, Sue, Jan, Wendy and Art, you keep us looking good and help to protect the Preschool kids from ticks.

Thank you to the Deaconate for your lay-led services.

Thank you to Sue, your green thumb ensures we are welcoming all, with colorful and cheerful plantings.

Thank you to Gail, for stepping in to ensure we had all required permits.

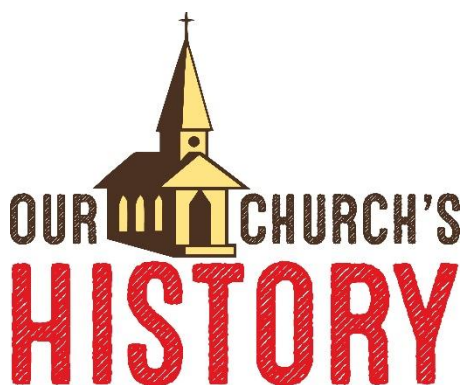


Crafters Group

Monday Morning Fellowship

Every Monday from 10am-noon in the Parlor

All are welcome! Bring your handwork if you have it, or just come to socialize. We'd love to see you there!



Submitted by Art Payne

The First Meeting House – commemorating the 300th Anniversary.

At the first Town Meeting of the new Town of Medway, in 1713, a committee consisting of John Rockett, Jonathan Adams, and Samuel Partridge, was appointed and charged with constructing a meeting house. A second vote stipulated that the

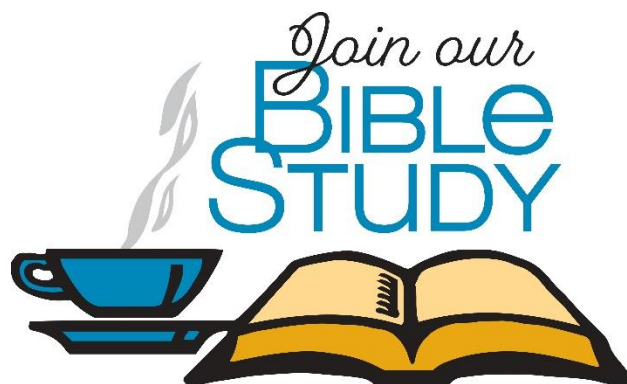
meeting house be set on the Bare Hills (site of current Prospect Hill Cemetery). On June 7, 1714, an agreement was signed by the committee and John Richardson to build the meeting house. Specifications were provided and it was required that “men that are to be employed in the work to be hired in this town”. The Church of Christ, organized on October 7, 1714, would meet at the home of Peter Adams until the completion of the meeting house.

Construction of the meeting house began in the fall of 1714 and continued through the winter. We know that the meeting house was completed by March 7, 1715 as it was recorded that on that date “assembled the inhabitants of Medway in the meeting house”. The first service, preached by the Rev. David Deming, occurred around this time. We can only guess, for all of the earliest records were removed when Rev. Deming departed from the pastorate in 1722.

The First Meeting House stood on the west side of Bare Hill just north of the public tomb. The location is marked by a large boulder that can be seen today. The building was 34 feet long, 28 feet wide and 16 feet between the joints. The roof was nearly flat and rose at an angle of only four feet. Walls were planked and clapboarded on the outside and within “sealed with good boards”. There was originally

only one pew for the Deacons. The rest of the congregation sat on plain wooden benches. Later on, pews could be purchased, and location would be determined by social status. This was strictly enforced by Church deacons! The pulpit was as high as possible and was reached by a long winding stairway. Seating galleries were on three sides of the building. The building was plain and unheated.

The First Meeting House served as a community center, town hall and Church for almost 34 years. Its pastors were Rev. David Deming and the Legendary Rev. Nathan Bucknam who served 25 of his record 71 years here. The meeting house was destroyed by fire on January 18, 1749. Only the glass, a valuable 18th Century commodity, could be saved. The fire was considered to be of suspicious origin and historian Rev. E. O. Jameson hints that it might have been designed to clear the way for a new meeting house. Anyway, new meeting house was quickly built slightly west of the First which now passed into history.



Wednesdays at 7:00pm
Current topic: Women of the Bible

All are welcome to join us for a Hybrid Bible Study with Pastor James. You may attend in-person in James's Office or via Zoom. We will gather to read scripture and talk about our faith in today's world.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832179786?pwd=L1lrMjNRWjEzNGxzZnRpdmc5RmlWZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3217 9786
Passcode: 181480

**Church of Christ
142 Exchange St.
Millis, MA 02054**

Phone:
508-376-5034


E-Mail:
millisucc@msn.com



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



*For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to
do good works.*

Ephesians 2:10, NIV

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
142 Exchange Street
Millis, MA 02054

