

THE SPIRE

MAY 2022

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 Note from the Interim Pastor

It's Spring, a time when we celebrate all the newness and rebirth of life AND in the midst of it, we engage in spring cleaning, letting go of items no longer needed.

I was having a difficult time deciding what to write for this month's Spire when I stumbled again upon this poem by Parker J. Palmer. He wrote it in response to a quote from William Stafford.

Happy Spring!

Rev. Jennifer Geary

Everything Falls Away

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change.
~ William Stafford

Sooner or later, everything falls away.
You, the work you've done, your successes,
large and small, your failures, too. Those
moments when you were light, along-side
the times you became one with the night.
The friends, the people you loved
who loved you, those who might have
wished you ill, none of this is forever. All
of it is soon to go, or going, or long gone.

Everything falls away, except the thread
you've followed, unknowing, all along.
The thread that strings together all you've
been and done, the thread you didn't know
you were tracking until, toward the end,
you see that the thread is what stays
as everything else falls away.

Follow that thread as far as you can and
you'll find that it does not end, but weaves
into the unimaginable vastness of life. Your
life never was the solo turn it seemed to be.
It was always part of the great weave of
nature and humanity, an immensity we
come to know only as we follow our own
small threads to the place where they
merge with the boundless whole.

Each of our threads runs its course, then
joins in life together. This magnificent tapestry ~
this masterpiece in which we live forever.

~ Parker J. Palmer

Worship in May

Sundays at 10:00 AM

May 1 ~ Communion; "Do You Love Me?"

Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 8 ~ "Shepherding"

Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 15 ~ "Let it go so you can love"

Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 22

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5;

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

May 29

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21;

John 17:20-26

Worship 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>



Pastor on Vacation

Rev. Geary will be off from May 20 – May 30 to attend a spiritual retreat and have some vacation time.

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact one of the Deacons: Wendy Schneider, Lauren Briggs, Suzi Sennott.

Pastoral care coverage is being provided by Rev. Ken Landin, the UCC pastor in Wrentham.



Worship Team

Worshiping God means to forget self for a moment and give all our attention to God. To praise God through a variety of media. The foundation of worship is scripture. To plan out a worship service one starts with a scripture passage and then builds on it. A service of worship begins with praise and settling in, becoming fully present to God. Next, we hear the scripture and consider what it might mean for us today. We then respond to that message through music, prayer and offering. Lastly, we prepare to go out into the world to share God's love and grace. All of this is done from our understanding of God and our desire to serve God well.

If you would like to join the Worship Team, please speak to a team member:

Kathy Stevens, Myrna Rybczyk,
Wendy Schneider or Suzi Sennott.





Trustees

We have heard from the Steeple company. The quote is less than originally given. Work will start the first or second week of May.

The floor tiles in the Nursery classrooms are not as bad as believed. The Trustees and Friends will be able to handle the repairs and will also wax and buff the floors when the repairs are done.

Quotes for the replacement windows in the Parlor and Minister's office should be completed in a few weeks.

Thank you to Nancy Auger for painting the wrought iron railings ~ a Great Volunteer Project!

Steve Howie has been tasked to find a new or used lawn mower to fit the needs of the church.

Andy Bolton will be stepping back from some of his Trustee duties in early July. The board members will try to find a replacement.

Kathy Stevens

Hurrah!! Come to Sunday School Starting May 15th

The Christian Education Committee is committed to providing a meaningful religious experience for our children and youth. Starting May 15th, a half-hour program for children, grade 6 and younger, will be offered monthly. Children will begin worship in the sanctuary with their families and will then go to Fellowship Hall for the second 1/2 of the service. All ages will be in the same space with a variety of age appropriate activities offered. Future dates will be announced based on the availability of CE members. Questions? Please contact a member of the committee for more information and/or to volunteer to help.

- **Doug Briggs**
dbriggs498@gmail.com
- **Kelly Williams**
- **Meghan Prescott**



thankful

If you thought our wrought iron railings looked new, say thanks to Nancy Auger for her painting ability. She initiated the project herself, with grateful thanks from the Trustees.

A big thank you to Sue Conte for all the beautiful gardening work.

Thank you to Rev. Jennifer Geary, the Deacons and the Worship Team for their work during the Lenten Season. A few new ideas to make us think of the message of Easter ~ Psalm Responsive Readings, Pretzels for Communion, Altar Candles lighting the way each week, and again, walking the church grounds on Good Friday, Follow the Cross.

I thank the worship team for leaning into this new responsibility with imagination and grace. I look forward to your future plans. ~ Rev. Geary

Thanks to Myrna, the choir and Tom Waters for the beautiful Easter music.

Thanks to everyone who donated flowers to praise God with beauty in the sanctuary.

Thank you, Doug Briggs & helpers, for providing the Easter Egg hunt.

Thank you, Missions Committee, for providing Fellowship refreshments for the month of April.

A special thanks to the readers, greeters, cooks, singers, set-up and clean-up crews along with all attendees during services and activities for Lent, Holy Week and Easter and making it so special ~

"Pepper and Ginger Manzano, Judie Ackerman, Linda Jones, Linda Morse, Sue Conte, the Prescott family, Casey Woodley, Lauren Briggs, Jan Krohn, Brooks Corl, Kathy Stevens, Bud Geary, Joan Nichols, Art Payne, Suzi Sennott, Paul Rice, Wendy Schneider, Andy Bolton, Steve Howie, Jen Payne, and Doug Briggs".

Thank you to our new Administrative Assistant, Ann Marie who produced all the bulletins, notices, mailings, etc. throughout the season.

If you would like to express your gratitude to others, either anonymously or with your name attached, email the church office at millisucc@msn.com.

From the Deacons

"Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul."

~ Luther Burbank

The Deacons would like to thank the Worship Team and all who participated in being readers, greeters, cooks, and set up crews for the services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. A special thanks to Rev. Geary for her guidance and leadership in making this a joyous and meaningful season for all of us.

A Bluetooth speaker has been in Fellowship Hall allowing families who need to take their little ones out for a few moments the ability to hear the service. The small play area is also set up for them to use.

A special thank you to the Missions Committee for ordering new church logo T-shirts that can be worn at community or church sponsored events. We hope to wear them at Millis Beautification Day on April 30th. Contact Jan Krohn, Wendy Schneider or the church office if interested in having one. The cost is \$15.00 per shirt.

Rev. Geary will be on vacation Sunday, May 22 through May 30th. The Deacons will be working with the Worship Team to design the Sunday services on May 22 and May 29th. We have a couple of ideas, but feel free to contact us with any suggestions.

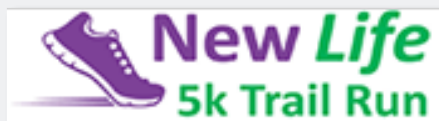
As the weather gets warmer, take time to enjoy the perennial/pollinator garden that Sue Conte tends to with much love and care. Thanks, Sue!

Feel free to contact any of us with suggestions, comments etc. that the Deacons may address or help with.

Happy Spring

Lauren Briggs, Suzi Sennott, Wendy Schneider





Come Join the Team on May 7

New Life is excited to host their annual 5K trail run on the Medfield State Hospital grounds with the route leading through the beautiful Charles River Reservation.

This year to celebrate being in person, New Life has partnered with the Cultural Alliance of Medfield to host live music. If that wasn't enough, the furniture matters club of Medfield High School will introduce a Kids Fun Run for children 4-10 years old.

We will have a team which includes kids for the fun run. New name of our team this year:
Millis United Church of Christ On the MOVE

If you cannot participate, please consider a donation to a runner/walker or donate towels/silverware on Sunday May 8th for the furniture bank.

Let us know if you sign up and/or have any questions.

Janice Krohn

janicekrohn@gmail.com

Wendy Schneider

wschneider.0511@gmail.com



The Church is putting on a Flea Market in June

A coordinating Team is being put together to organize it. If you are interested in being on the Team, please contact Moderator Jan Krohn
janicekrohn@gmail.com

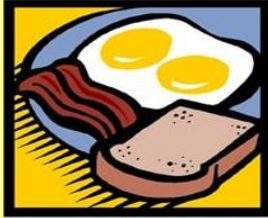
The Visitor's May Tea has been moved to June.

Check out the June Spire for more details.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting in Person

Sunday, May 15 at 7:30 am



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

Visitors' Group News

We hope you all had a blessed and wonderful Easter!

Our next Visitors' meeting will be on May 12, 2022 at 10 AM in the Church Parlor. We welcome anyone who may be interested in becoming a Visitor.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

The Visitors:

Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Pam Johansson, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Kathy Stevens, and Rev. Jennifer Geary



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

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-2pm 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

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee was commissioned on March 20th. Since then, they have met with Rev. Geary and Rev. Alex Shea Will. They organized with Becki Abulutzk, chair; Suzi Sennott, recording secretary; Maria Melchionda, corresponding secretary and John Smith, chaplain. The church's profile has been submitted and they are now awaiting applicants.

Healing Prayer Services

Come gather for healing prayer on Monday, May 16 at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. We will pray using "Faith Imagination".

All Are Welcome

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 10 AM. 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

Note: If you have any trouble logging onto Zoom, please contact Sue Conti at (508) 259-6093

Online Bible Study

Each **Wednesday at 9:30 am**, a group gathers on Zoom to listen to and discuss one or more passages from the upcoming Sunday's worship service. Each gathering is a stand-alone event. For a list of each Sunday's passages, see the "Sunday Worship in May" section in this newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2l2aGExMU1lS0NHVHRycjVldz09>

If using a phone, dial: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054



YOUR VOICE AT THE PRC

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is meeting with Rev. Jennifer Geary, our Interim Pastor, on a regular basis. We individually seek your feedback and ideas for our church, and assure you a safe, confidential welcome for your closely held concerns.

Jo-Ellen Briggs

dcb.joel@verizon.net

Linda Jones

pariswoman44@gmail.com

Jennifer Payne

paynejenpayne@verizon.net

John Smith

jfs249@comcast.net

We are all striving to be one Body in Christ. Please remember, Rev. Jennifer Geary truly welcomes your voice.

Committee Meeting Times

All the committees of the church have met, selecting their chair and meeting time as follows:

Diaconate – First Tuesday, 6:00 PM

Christian Education – First Wed., 7:30 PM

Trustees – Second Monday, 6:00 PM

Mission – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Visitors – Third Thursday, 10:00 AM

Church Council - Third Thursday, 7:00 PM

Prudential – Fourth Tuesday, 11:00 AM

Welcoming – TBD

Pastoral Relations – As needed

See the list of all elected leaders on the last page of the Spire. The person with the * is the chair of the committee.

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.

June Newsletter



The deadline for entries for the June Spire will be **May 20**. Please have all your information in by then. Thank you!

Quarterly giving statements will be mailed out in May. Please review yours when received and contact the church office with any questions.

Prudential Corner

We will be putting the monthly totals into the Spire.

Here are the actuals for the first quarter of the year:

Month	Total Income	Pledges	Expenses	Net for Month
January	8,114	4,977	15,777	-7,663
February	19,132	13,042	13,704	5,428
March	15,348	7,959	28,429	-13,081

Here is how we are doing Year to Date versus the Budgeted Numbers:

	Total Income	Pledges	Expenses	Net for Year
YTD vs Budget	-11,000	-1,000	+5,000	-6,800

To date we have taken 7,000 from our investments with another 12,000 to be taken out in April. If there is other information that you think would be helpful to be shared on a monthly basis, then reach out and let us know!

Prudential Committee
Bill Wright, Doug Coutts, Susan Bouchard

Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Jan Krohn
Church Clerk	Sue Conte
Treasurer	Gail DiGioia
Assistant Treasurer	Mary Smith
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Maria Melchionda

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

*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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508-376-5034

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



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