

*Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC*

142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054

[www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org) • (508) 376-5034 • [millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com)



**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

Church of Christ Vision Statement:

*Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's love.*

## Outdoor Worship

Going forward, we will worship in the outdoor chapel for as long as we can, depending on the weather, with the exception of Communion Sundays.

Bring your chair.

## Sunday Worship in October

### **October 3 – Communion –**

World Communion Sunday

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

### **October 10 - “Are you good?”**

Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Neighbor's In Need Offering

### **October 17 – Guest Speaker: Rev. Alex Shea Will**

Job 38:1-7; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c;

Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

### **October 24 – “Have Mercy on Me”**

Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

All Church Conversation

### **October 31 - “The Masks We Wear”**

Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

Come to worship in your costume or mask.

**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>

## ***In-sanctuary worship***

So much has changed recently in relationship with the Corona Virus. Here are our worship guidelines as we know them at this time.

**Changes have been made.** Please continue to be flexible as all society participates in the great experiment of how to move out of a pandemic.

- The windows and doors of the sanctuary will be open and the fans will be drawing air up regardless of the weather.
- **All worship attendees are asked to wear a mask during the entire service.**
- Please sit in such a way that there is an empty pew in front of you and behind you.
- Attendees will **not** be able to walk through the preschool area. Both bathrooms are open for use.
- The bulletin is available on the church's website. Some printed bulletins will be available at the door. Please take everything with you when you leave.
- Attendees are encouraged to visit with each other after the service outside or in Fellowship Hall. Please no visiting in the sanctuary.
- All services will be recorded. By being present, attendees give permission for their image and voice to be recorded and shared.

### **A Prayer for October – Rev. Jennifer Geary**

As nature changes clothes from greens to reds and golds, we turn to you God seeking your grace. We confess the promises made in Spring, for what we would accomplish during Summer which are still undone as we enter Autumn. Help us, like the trees, let go of those lost plans as they wither and dry up, that they might be composted and recycled into nourishment for next Spring's goals.

Bless the creatures that are making and filling their winter nests. May we be equally wise, not to hoard, but to gather the relationships, the prayers, the rituals, and the community that will help us through the winter.

The decreasing humidity gives us clear, crisp air. Give us eyes to clearly see those around us who need our care and support. As we begin to add layers of clothing and blankets, remind us of those who wear all their layers year-round because they have no closet in which to store the basics.

We notice the darkness increasing; help us continue to be outside, to engage in meaningful activity and to not just hibernate in front of a glowing screen.

As in all seasons some of us are in stellar health and some of us are struggling. Give strength to our bodies and our souls. Renew our physical, spiritual, and mental health. Should Autumn bring to us, just like so much of nature, our time to pass from this life to the next, we ask for a smooth transition accompanied by your presence and grace.

Thank you God, for the fullness of Summer which we cherish in the harvest. Continue to open our awareness to the bounty of blessings that surround us. Grant us to have grateful hearts and may words of gratitude be often on our lips.

Bless O God, those people who live in the southern hemisphere who are beginning to thaw out and look forward to Spring. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

### **All Congregation Conversation**

25 people gathered on September 26 to hear updates from Church leaders and the Transition Team. More information is going to be gathered for another all congregation conversation which will take place on **October 24th following worship**. All Members and Friends are encouraged to attend. Please let the church office know if you need child care in order to attend.

## Pledges and Offerings

Making a financial pledge to the church changes everything! Jesus talks, again and again, about the immensely intimate relationship between money and our “everything else.” It isn’t magic or gimmick - it’s simply one of the central spiritual principles of our Lord’s teaching. When we connect money to our faith, priorities get rearranged. Why? Because money IS spiritual. Money and spirit are connected! “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Pledging and following through with regular offerings is also an act of thanksgiving. “Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High”. (Psalm 50:14) Through our offerings, we thank God for all the blessings God has given us.

Giving pledged offerings is also serving. All the wonderful ministries of this congregation depend upon the pledged giving of its members and friends. Through pledging, you transform your life, and lives around you.



## November Newsletter

NewsLetter  
**DEADLine**

The deadline for entries for the November Spire will be **October 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please have all your info in by then. Thank you.

## On-line Bible Study

Each **Wednesday at 11:00am**, 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 October” section on page 1 in the newsletter.

### Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2l2aGExMU1SONHVHRycjVldz09>

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

**Meeting ID:** 876 4148 4473

**Password:** 02054



## Trustees Report

The combination lock and safety push bar have been installed at the side door of the church, and it is working well. Current key holders have numbers for entry.

**REMEMBER – If you need access to the church office, DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR OLD KEY!**

If you have any questions, contact Kathy Stevens.

Shortly, you will see some new signs in the upper parking lot:

**NO PARKING**

**M-F**

**3PM – 6PM**

**15 MINUTE PICK-UP PARKING ONLY**

Handicap parking will not change.

Happy Hours now has 40 families picking up children in the afternoon. This change will speed up the pick-up process.

A final decision will be made on a steeple repair company in the next few weeks. The work will not begin until later next year.

At the church's annual meeting in February, 2022, the congregation will be able to choose whether to replace the clock faces with new clocks, artistic paintings, or plain frameworks. Stay tuned!!

~Kathy Stevens

## Using new email program

We are transitioning from using Constant Contact for large group emails to Servant Keeper, our office data base. We expect to run into some glitches and ask your patience. Also, your feedback is essential. Please let us know what is good or can be improved as we make this transition.



## common cathedral and the Boston Marathon

The September 12 common cathedral based service was to bring awareness to **Rev. Laura Shatzer**, who will be running the Boston Marathon on October 11, **raising funds to benefit common cathedral**. Common cathedral is an ecumenical congregation that builds bridges between the housed and unhoused people and fosters a beloved community among unhoused folks through opportunities for leadership, service, creativity, and rest in downtown Boston. For many years we have supported their work through service and donations.

### In Rev. Laura's words:

One of my lifelong dreams is coming true -- I'm running the Boston Marathon! Even better, I'm running it to raise money for the ministry of *common cathedral* (via sponsor Boston Medical Center). As many of you know, my first call to ministry was as Associate Pastor and Chaplain at *common cathedral*, from 2015-2020. I never could have imagined that I'd have to say goodbye to this beloved community in the early intensity of the COVID-pandemic when my family moved to Iowa. And, a year ago, I never would have dreamed I'd have the opportunity to run the Boston Marathon for such an amazing ministry that empowers people to believe in themselves, in each other, and in something greater than us all.

This year has been a marathon. Unhoused and low-income folks have persevered through the pandemic with resilience and care for one another. When so many places were closed, *common cathedral* remained open, with precautions to gather safely for those who had nowhere else to go. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the massive health inequity in our country -- a gap that sponsor Boston Medical Center and *common cathedral* are both working to address in their own ways.

This is my dream race for my dream team! Please give generously in celebration of *common cathedral*, and with the hope that all of us -- housed and unhoused -- might keep on moving from surviving to thriving.

### Use this link to donate to Rev. Shatzer's fundraiser:

<https://www.givengain.com/ap/laura-shatzer?fbclid=IwAR3ZvRE0S75B33npKkJMtfKW4KDJd2YIGk4UrOOX3CI1GTMMX9ueigiDIDM>

### *Common cathedral's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!*

**Sunday, October 10** at Brewer Fountain on the Boston Common. Bagged lunch at 12:30pm. Worship at 1:00pm, including a Q&A with **Rev. Debbie Little**, Founder of common cathedral.

\$25 suggested donation

**RSVP at [commoncathedral.org](https://commoncathedral.org)**

## Gratitude Corner



Thank you to the Visitor's Group for visiting our mom, Evelyn Anderson, and sending her cards. It has helped her stay connected to her church family while living at the Mary Ann Morse Nursing Facility and means so much to her. God Bless you.

~From her family

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The church extends its thanks to Happy Hours owner Marilyn Barber for the re-landscaping of the flower bed next to the driveway. It certainly looks better.

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Thank you to Lauren Briggs for her work with the raised flower beds on the side lawn. A wonderful community project!

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*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](mailto:millisucc@msn.com).*

## A Community Education Event

**Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**, our guest author, **Rev. Marcia Cham**, will speak about her latest book, ***"Holey Moley God! You've Got to be Kidding!"*** Rev. Cham, a UCC pastor shares her search for holiness and the story of God's hunt for her. Through her studies and travel, challenges and struggles, silence, and solitude, she has discovered that holiness is everywhere, and that God was not kidding when the Holy One call her to ordained ministry.

This gathering will be held outside, weather permitting at the church. If not, then it will be in the Sanctuary or Zoom, according to CDC Guidelines.

This is the fourth event in the **Church's free Community Education Series** that is open to all residents of Millis and surrounding communities. If there is a topic in which you are well versed and would like to share or if there is a topic about which you would like to hear more, please contact the church office at 508-376-5034, or email to [millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com). They are open to any suggestions or ideas for future topics.



## Wonderful Worship Celebrations This Summer

Here are just a few pictures from our special Summer Sundays: **Camp Sunday, Common Cathedral, Blessing of the Animals.** Our newly forming Worship Team is now considering the special days we will have between now and Christmas. If you would like to join the Worship Team, please let Rev. Geary know.



Camp Sunday



Camp Sunday



Camp Sunday



Blessing of the Animals



Blessing of the Animals



Blessing of the Animals



Common Cathedral Service



Common Cathedral Service



Blessing of the Animals



Common Cathedral Service



Common Cathedral Service



Common Cathedral Service

## Missions In Action Update



Thanks to those who signed up to help build the Habitat House in Westwood. By the time you receive this Spire we will have worked on our first day on Tuesday September 28<sup>th</sup>. Participants were 3 church members and 3 community members. Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup> will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> build day with Wendy, and Paul Rice with his family members. We will share our experiences in November's Spire.

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## Millis Food Pantry

Millis food pantry reached out to our congregation to help deliver the food collections from Roche Brothers once a week to the food pantry. Thanks to our volunteers who will participate are Sue Bolton, Casey Woodley, and Art Payne.



## 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 **10am-12pm 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](mailto:pastoruccmillis@gmail.com)

*Our dreams are big – our  
hopes are high – our  
goals long-term – and  
the path is difficult.  
But the only failure is  
not to try.*

*~Jimmy Carter~*

Rev. Geary will be on vacation from October 11-17, and then away at a conference from October 18-20. She will return on October 21st. Please contact the church office with any pastoral concerns while she is away.



## ***From the Deacons***

"There is something so special in the early leaves drifting from the trees—as if we are all to be allowed a chance to peel, to refresh, to start again. *Ruth Ahmed*

We are hoping for the beautiful weather to continue and are planning on having our Sunday services outdoors as much as possible. That being said, we will be indoors the first Sunday, as we will be serving communion. On that day we will also be celebrating World Communion Sunday. Neighbors in Need offering will be collected on Sunday, October 10.

Our services will continue to be offered on Zoom and in-person. We will be discontinuing the posting of recorded services on Facebook and YouTube. The preparation and editing of a final recording is time consuming. This has been a task Rev. Geary had taken on and at this point we feel it is not necessary. If in the future we have a volunteer with technical expertise to carry out the task, it will be revisited.

Rev. Geary will be on vacation from October 11-17 and then in Chicago for a conference from October 18-20. She will return on October 21st. Please contact the church office with any pastoral concerns while she is away.

We are looking forward to having Rev. Alex Shea Will lead our service on Sunday, October 17th. Rev. Shea Will is the SNEUCC Area Conference Minister for the Northeast Region.

Advent begins the last Sunday in November this year, so we will start planning at our October meeting. More information will be in the November Spire.

Thank you for your support as we continue to adapt our services keeping the health and safety of all in mind.

Wishing you peace and good health.

Your Deacons,

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

## **Neighbors in Need**

*Theme this year is "Unfailing Love"*

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of the funds raised support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of this offering is dedicated to the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects through grants. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

**Offerings will be gathered and blessed on Sunday, Oct. 10.** Please make check payable to Church of Christ, memo line "Neighbors in Need" Thank you for your support of Neighbors in Need.

## The Jolly Holly Fair

### Attention all Jolly Holly Fair volunteers and participants!

While the world is still uncertain regarding Covid-19, we have started planning an **in-person** Jolly Holly Fair to be held **Saturday, December 4!** Between now and then, we will be monitoring the situation and adjusting as needed per Millis Board of Health rules and CDC guidelines.

What we do know is that **we will not have a Green Zone** (so do not bring in any of your “treasures”), **nor will we be having a Children’s store and pictures with Santa.** We do want to continue our tradition of baked goodies, candies, knits, food, and the Silent Auction. We will also be looking at a reduced number of vendors as well.

### So what can you do to help?

Have a great idea for the **Silent Auction**? We are looking for themed baskets and items that we can put in our Silent Auction. Individual items should be new (preferred) or in great condition if used. Themed baskets in the past have been children’s toys, puzzles, games, pet items, tea baskets, sports items (including tickets to sports events). **Items donated need to be dropped off by the beginning of November** as we will start off the Silent Auction online in mid-November before transferring to a live auction on the day of the Jolly Holly Fair. Please consider donating items to help make our Silent Auction successful! For more information and to donate to our annual Silent Auction, please contact Gail Luck @ [gail.luck@analog.com](mailto:gail.luck@analog.com)

More information will be coming from the leaders of the areas on exactly what is needed, so please keep reading those emails and the monthly Spire for more information!



### *Win a Lifesize Nativity for Your Lawn!*

As a part of the 2021 **Jolly Holly Fair**, we are raffling off a hand painted Lifesize Nativity! Tickets go on sale September 25<sup>th</sup> for the December 4<sup>th</sup> drawing. Three tickets for \$20 and one ticket for \$10. **Contact: Maria @ 508-794-1338.**



## ***Sunday Morning Volunteers***

**Lay Worship Leader:** Suzi Sennott

### **Fellowship Refreshments:**

**Oct. 3:** Bonnie MacDonald

**Oct. 10:** Volunteer Needed

**Oct. 17:** Men's Fellowship

**Oct. 24:** Volunteer Needed

**Oct. 31:** Volunteer Needed

### **Greeters:**

Volunteers Needed for all dates

### **Ushers:**

**Oct. 3** - Wendy

### **Acolytes:**

Volunteers Needed for all dates

### **Camera/Zoom:**

Doug Briggs

Suzi Sennott

The Men's Fellowship is coordinating after worship refreshments. If you would like to volunteer to provide food, please contact the church office.



Suzi running the camera for the worship service. Would you like to be a camera operator? Suzi would love to work with you! Contact the church office or Rev. Geary if you'd like to help.

## ***Welcoming Committee***

The Welcoming Committee will be hosting a **Book Talk** on **Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**. Our guest author, UCC minister, **Rev. Marcia Cham**, has written, ***"Holey Moley God! You've Got to be Kidding!"*** It is her search for holiness and the story of God's hunt for her. Through studies and travel, challenges and struggles, silence, and solitude, she has discovered that holiness is everywhere, and that God was not kidding when she heard the Holy One call her to ordained ministry.

When she meets with groups, her desire is to give the readers a chance to ask her a few questions and then she wants the time to be spent hearing from the readers—their stories, questions, and challenges as they've encountered God, the church, the Bible, issues of social justice, and their roads to freedom. She wants all to feel free to share their stories by responding to some of the questions in the book. Where have you encountered the holy? Where have you found God shaping your life? Where have you found courage when you needed it? Have you ever wrestled with the Bible? When and Why? Contact: Maria Melchionda for questions (508) 794-1338.

**This Book Talk Gathering will be held outside**, weather permitting. If not, then it will be in the Sanctuary according to CDC Guidelines, or Zoom, if necessary, at that point in time.

## Visitors' Group

The Visitors' Group will be meeting Thursday, October 21, at 10:30 in the church parlor. If you are interested in becoming a visitor, please speak to one of the visitors and plan to join us at our next meeting. It is a rewarding experience.

We want to thank Shirley Rowley for being a loyal and faithful visitor since 2004. Shirley has recently resigned from being a visitor. We will miss her and wish her the very best in her new adventure.

*"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

*Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)*

Prayer:

*"Oh, God, bring peace to all who are suffering and courage to all who are afraid." Adam Pitman, North Carolina*

The Visitors

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

## Trunk and Treat

Halloween falls on Sunday this year. We are offering Trunk & Treat, a fun child-friendly event in which everyone can participate that will begin **after worship on October 31st**. The wider community is invited to attend. Lauren Briggs is the point person and needs a few others to help her out. Interested? Contact the Church office.

Trunk & Treat is when church members park with their trunk or hatch open toward the middle of the parking lot. They decorate the space with a theme and hand out treats as the kids walk around the parking lot. Lots of examples can be found by searching on-line. See the Mid-month update for more details.

## 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!

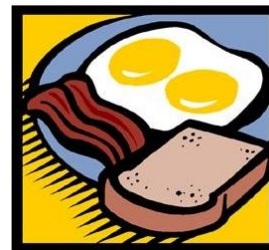
**By computer, click this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2987904285?pwd=VENBMmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQQjJUdz09>

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

**Meeting ID:** 298 790 4285

**Passcode:** 866156



## Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting In Person

**Sunday, Oct. 17th at 7:30am**

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

**\*\*Covid protocols will be followed\*\***

## Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday  
8:30am – 1:30pm



## Leadership & Committees

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

<b>Diaconate</b>		
Sue Conte	Wendy Schneider	Katelyn Andrews
Doug Briggs	Lauren Briggs	Joan Nichols
Suzi Sennott		
<b>Missions</b>		
Jan Krohn	Art Payne	Wendy Schneider
Mary Smith		
<b>Trustees</b>		
Kathy Stevens	Andy Bolton	Wayne Carlson
Bonnie MacDonald	Rich Manzano	
<b>Prudential</b>		
Bill Wright	Doug Coutts	
<b>Christian Education</b>		
Kelly Williams	Meghan Prescott	
<b>Welcoming Committee</b>		
Maria Melchionda	Katelyn Andrews	Judy Kosinski
Bonnie MacDonald	Myrna Rybczyk	
<b>At-large Members of Church Council</b>		
Judie Ackerman		
<b>Pastoral Relations Committee</b>		
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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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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