

THE SPIRE

May 2026

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

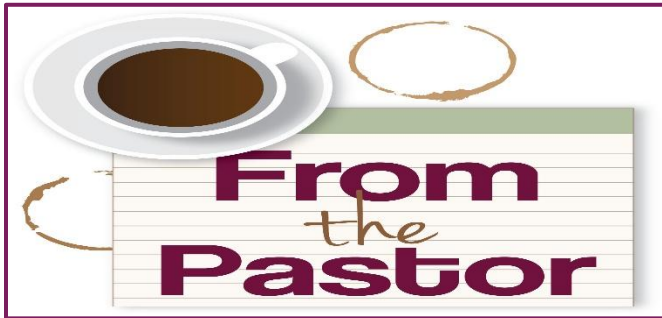
142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054

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An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Dear Church,

As the days grow longer and the earth turns green again, we are reminded that God is always at work bringing new life, fresh strength, and steady hope. May invites us to notice what is growing. In our worship, in our service, and in our care for one another, we see signs of God's grace all around us. Whether you have been part of this church family for many years or are finding your way here more recently, we are grateful to walk this season with you.

Spring arrives slowly, often quietly, and then suddenly the world looks different. Faith can work the same way. God often shapes us through ordinary acts of prayer, worship, and kindness until one day we realize something new has taken root in us.

May is a good month to pause and ask where God is bringing renewal in your life. It may be in your home, your

relationships, your sense of purpose, or your ability to keep going through a hard season. New life is not always loud. Sometimes it begins with a whisper of courage, a moment of peace, or the steady presence of Christ meeting us right where we are.

As a church, we do not need to pretend everything is easy. We can be honest about what is heavy while still holding onto hope. The good news of the gospel does not deny struggle. It tells the truth: God is with us and making all things new.

With gratitude,
Rev. James Admans



By now, I'm sure all the Easter candy has been devoured as well as the Easter eggs, and the last of the ham! Time to get back to regular Sunday worship. We started May with our Star Wars themed service.

May 10th has Kathy Stevens relating the story of an African Minister who

got into the adoption business. You will be astounded by this man's life.

May 17th James will be celebrating Ascension Sunday followed by May 24th and Pentecost Sunday—wear red, yellow and/or orange to symbolize the tongues of flame as we celebrate the birthday of The Church.

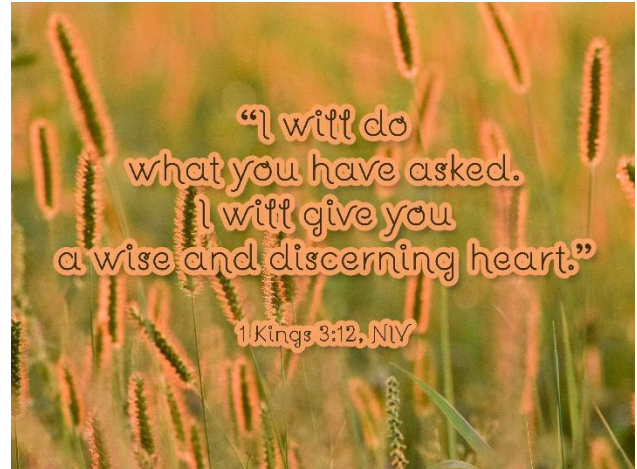
May 31st is Trinity Sunday with James in the pulpit. We will also be celebrating Pride Day with a choir from Holliston that Rev. James sings in—who knew?

As we start June, we hope the weather will cooperate so we can be outdoors. The Deacons will take charge of June 14th and 21st, Father's Day. If any of you have an idea for a service or two in July, August or September, please contact Kathy or Art so we can fit you in.

James is here July 5th and 12th, Deacons have July 19th and we hope Rev. Mary will be here the 26th for Baseball Sunday—bring out the Crackerjacks.

As always, we will need folks for coffee hour—we will keep you posted!

Kathy, Art and Jen



Legacy & Redevelopment Update

Dear Beloved Congregation,

I hope you've been able to enjoy the warmer days we've been blessed with here in Millis and the surrounding areas. As we move through this season together, I want to share an important update about the future of our beloved church, the Church of Christ, Congregational, also known as Millis UCC.

Earlier this year, during a council meeting, we began discussing the challenges we face as a church particularly in the areas of finances and volunteership. It takes both people and resources to sustain our church, and the lack of these presents a significant challenge as we look to the future.

Let me be clear: this does NOT mean the church is closing. Instead, we are entering a time of discernment.

What is discernment? It's one of those "churchy" words that can feel a bit abstract. Discernment is the process of seeking where God is leading us. It's about making decisions in alignment with God's will for our community. This process often involves prayer, reflection, and seeking guidance from scripture and one another. Think of Jesus in the wilderness—a time of reflection and listening for God's call. This is our season of wilderness, a time to figure out what God is calling us to do and where God is calling us to go.

For the sake of transparency, I want to share where we are in this process. Earlier this year, I reached out to the Southern New England Conference ([sneucc.org](https://www.sneucc.org)), our regional denomination office within the United Church of Christ ([ucc.org](https://www.ucc.org)). Since then, I've been in touch with Rev. Kaite Omberg, our Area Conference Minister (you may remember them as our guest preacher for Pride Sunday last June), and Rev. Chris Mereschuk, the Director for Legacy & Church Redevelopment.

Last month, Doug Briggs, Suzi Sennott, and I met with Revs. Katie and Chris for an initial conversation. As a result, a discernment task force has been formed and approved by the Council. The team includes:

- Doug Briggs
- Suzi Sennott
- Sue Conte

- Becki Abalutzk
- Rev. Mary Perry
- Myself, Rev. James Admans (ex-officio)

The group is still in its early stages and currently does not have a name. Stay tuned for updates on that. We've had the opportunity to meet as a team and are awaiting another meeting with Rev. Chris Mereschuk. We may also be joined by Rev. Julia Kahn, Associate Director for New Church Development. (You can learn more about Revs. Chris and Julia and their work [here](https://www.sneucc.org/legacy-corporation): <https://www.sneucc.org/legacy-corporation>).

As we enter this time of collective discernment, I want to emphasize that all is not lost. We have not yet discerned where God is leading us, but we will figure this out together. This is not a process the task force will undertake alone. You, the congregation, will have opportunities to provide input and be part of the conversation.

Please remember, we are in the very early stages of this journey. We are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way, including opportunities for wider discussion.

I know how deeply many of us love this church, and I understand how unsettling this process may feel. Please know that I am here for you. If

you need pastoral care or simply want to talk, please reach out. This resource has been and will continue to be available to you.

In faith and solidarity,

Rev. James Admans



From: Kathy Stevens

It's been a long stretch since I came home from rehab in February. I received a lot of support from my church family—for calls, visits, and lots of cards.

My special thanks for those who drove me to all my appointments—Sue Conte, Judy Kosinski, Art Payne, Chris Myles, and Rick Jones.

I got clearance in April to drive again. I was in my car within 15 minutes of getting home, with a shopping list in my hand!

God bless you all!



Needed!

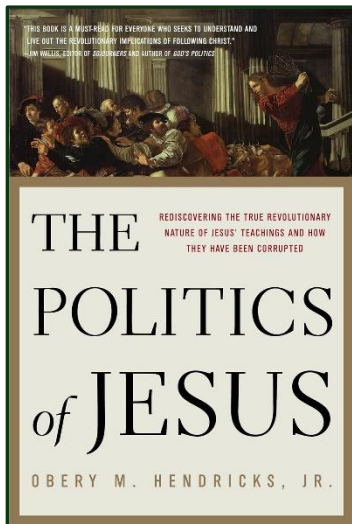
The Second Chance Closet is currently in need of toiletries:

- Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste

Our PRC members have been busy this year establishing our Second Chance Closet. Pastor James, together with Millis Fire Department, identified a need in our community for replacement clothes in the event of fire or other significant household disasters. Donations have been generous and volunteers have been at the ready to sort, fold and hang clothes. If you, or anyone you know of, are in need of “shopping” (clothes are free) at our Second Chance Closet, appointments can be made by calling the office, and monthly open hours will be posted as the schedule evolves. Our May Open Closet hours will be Saturdays, May 9, 16 & 23, 2026 from 10:00am-noon. No proof of hardship or residency required.



Gentle Reminder: *Spire* content is due by the 20th of each month.



Book Club

This summer, the Book Club will be reading one book – *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus' Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted* by Obery M. Hendricks, Jr.

Who was Jesus? And how was this first-century political revolutionary, whose teachings are meant to lead the way to freedom, turned into a meek and mild servant of the status quo? How is it possible to profess a belief in Jesus, yet ignore the suffering of the poor and the needy? Just how truly faithful to the vision of Jesus are

the many politicians who claim to be Christian? These are the kinds of questions Obery Hendricks, a biblical scholar, activist, and minister, asks in this provocative new book. In this day and age of heated political debate, Hendricks's *The Politics of Jesus* stands out as much for its brilliant recreation of the life and mind of Jesus of Nazareth as for its scathing critique of modern politicians "of faith."

This book is split up into 3 parts. We will meet once in June, July, and August to discuss one part at a time. Our first meeting is Sunday, June 7th after worship. We will meet in the Parlor.

Don't miss this!


 A hand-drawn style magnifying glass with a yellow handle and a black frame, positioned over the text "Don't miss this!".


It's not too late to make headway on your spring cleaning! \$20 gets you a parking spot to sell your items. Tables available for rent at \$5/each if you'd like a little more room to spread out. Need more space? We have 10'x10' yard spots for \$30 perfect for a pop-up shelter. (bring your own) Payments can be made the day of, or at the church office during open office hours. Please make checks payable to Millis Church of Christ.

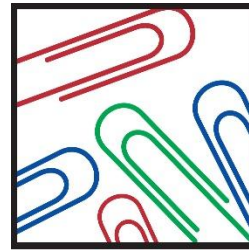
IMPORTANT DETAILS:

Set up begins at 7:15am. You can price your items as you see fit and handle your own transactions. We ask that all participants be packed up no later than 1:30pm. Any unsold items need to be donated or disposed of somewhere else. Please DO NOT leave anything stacked beside the dumpster or next to the church door.



Change of Date:

Be advised, our Authentic Italian Night fundraiser has been changed to September 12th 2026 at 6:30pm.



Office Hours

Church Office hours have returned to Wednesday/Friday 10am-3pm until mid June when our administrator goes on leave. For questions, please contact Rev. James, Becki, or Laura in the office.

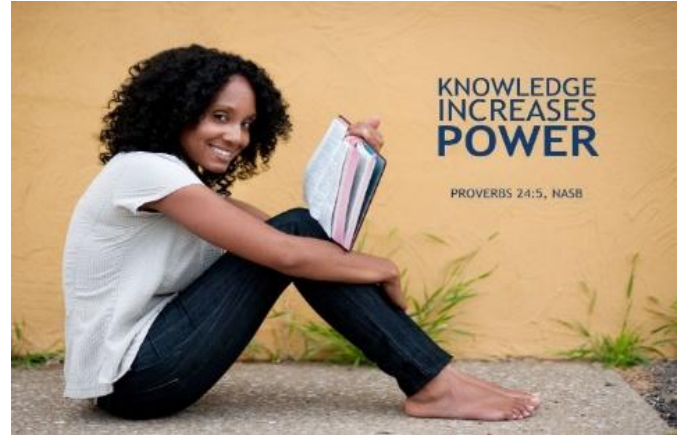


The Millis Community Garden is gearing up for the 2026 season! If you are interested in gardening in one of the beds for free, please contact Lauren Briggs or fill out this Google form:

<https://forms.gle/w15Vbn7jUvKBmSZL8>

If you are doing some spring cleaning and have gardening materials, seeds, outdoor furniture, or outdoor planters that you are no longer using and want to donate to the Garden, please contact Lauren Briggs.

Additionally, if you or someone you know would be interested in hosting an event in the Garden, such as a presentation or an activity for children, please contact Lauren Briggs. This could be a great opportunity for a small business owner or organization leader to gain exposure for their business or organization.



Understanding PRC

What is PRC and what is its role? The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) regularly meets with Rev. James to foster communication between the Pastor and the congregation, and to support our Pastor in their efforts to connect the church with the community. We seek your feedback and ideas for our church, and assure you a safe, confidential welcome for your closely held concerns. We are striving to be 'One Body in Christ'. Please remember, Rev. James truly welcomes your voice. For ideas, questions, or concerns, please contact any member of the PRC committee:

Suzi Sennott, Jo-Ellen Briggs & Maria Melchionda



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 email the church office at millisucc@msn.com, and we will forward your request on to Mary Jensen.

**Church of Christ
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We're on the Web!

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