

THE SPIRE



FEBRUARY 2019



Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054
www.millisucc.org (508) 376-5034

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Church of Christ Vision Statement:
Worship God, serve our neighbors, share God's love.

FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their
nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought
to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.
~ Isaiah 60:1-6*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the season of Epiphany! This year it lasts until the first week of March when we transition to the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday on March 6th.

The story from Matthew's Gospel about the Magi ushered us into this season of light and pondering and new vision. It is reflective of the vision of Isaiah, in which the prophet speaks hope to a people groping in the darkness, recovering from exile, seeking a way forward, and dreaming about their future.

Epiphany offers us images of light in the darkness and the brilliance of a guiding star. It promises that God's love will bring clarity and hope. God's promises are real. We lift up our eyes and can see the light.

Isaiah calls us to "Lift up your eyes and look around!" Epiphany encourages us to keep our eyes open for the light of God's truth and hope, life and love...and to follow where it leads.

The Church of Christ, Congregational, continues to look for God's light and love to guide us. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on February 3rd. At the meeting we vote to accept the reports of the committees, a new budget and new committee members.

My thanks to all of the leaders who work hard behind the scenes each year to keep the church running. I'd like to offer a special thank you to Becki Abalutzk as she steps down as church moderator. Her grace and grit are true gifts to the Church of Christ, Congregational. We welcome Gail Luck into the role of Moderator (pending vote, of course!) and I know you'll join me in supporting Gail as she acclimates to her new role.

Let us all keep our eyes open for the light and love that surrounds us.

With you on the journey,
Rev. Jen



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 3
10:00am

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of the
Church of Christ, Congregational.
The Annual Meeting will take place as part of
the morning worship service.
See Page 2 for the Agenda.

SPECIAL NOTICE ABOUT SUPER BOWL CHILI ORDERS



Chili Orders must be picked up
right after worship
on Sunday, February 3rd.

Next Visitors' Group Meeting

The next Visitors' Group meeting
will be on Thursday, February 21,
at 10:00am in the Church Parlor.

Please let us know if you would
like to be a visitor or if you know
someone who may like to be
visited. It is a very enjoyable and
rewarding experience.

AGENDA

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 3, 2019

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Determining a Quorum
- Acceptance of Reports
- Acceptance of Nominating
Slate
- Motion to Accept Changes to
Church Constitution
- Review of 2018 Financials
and Presentation/Acceptance
of 2019 Budget
- Other Business
- Motion to Adjourn



FREE! JOIN IN THE FUN!

DINNER & GAME NIGHT
Friday, February 8 at 6:30pm

Are you looking for something easy and entertaining to do on a Friday night? Join us at the Church of Christ for a free, delicious dinner, followed by a fun night playing board games and sharing conversation and fellowship. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Feel free to bring family, friends, and a favorite board game! There will be games for all ages. Call 508-376-5034 for more information.

Sunday, February 3rd Is Millis Fund Sunday!

The Millis Fund helps Millis families with temporary financial emergencies by paying bills directly to creditors. Applications for assistance are reviewed and evaluated by a nine member Operating Board of Millis citizens. Three Millis churches including ours, Saint Thomas, Ael-Chunon Congregation, and a generous Millis business gave founding donations in 1993.

Please consider making a generous contribution to the Millis Fund on or around “Super Sunday”, February 3rd. You can donate by placing a check or cash in one of the specially marked envelopes that will be available at the February 3rd worship service, or in one of the “pots” placed by our sanctuary entrances. Or, you can send a check to the church office any time. Checks should be made out to The Millis Fund. Did you know that:

- The Millis Fund has helped more than 400 Millis families cope with financial emergencies since its founding.
- 99% of funds collected by the Millis Fund go directly to aid families rather than to administrative costs.
- The Fund is administered by an ALL VOLUNTEER OPERATING BOARD of Millis citizens, including three from our Church.
- Your donation is fully tax deductible for 2018 under IRS Code 501(C)(3). The Millis Fund’s Tax Identification Number is 04-3228631.
- If your employer matches charitable contributions, the Millis Fund may qualify to be included. Please consider applying for this match if it’s available to you.



*Help for Those
in Need*

For more information on the Millis Fund, please see Steve Howie, Joan Nichols or me; or call the church office.

THANK YOU for prayerfully considering a generous donation on Sunday, February 3rd!

Brooks Corl

Millis Fund Operating Board member and Treasurer

LENT

Taizé Services

Monday evenings at 7:30pm ~ Church Parlor

March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 8 and 15

During the Lenten Season, you are invited to slow down to experience a series of quiet, peaceful and contemplative services with Taizé music, prayer and candlelight. Use this time to strengthen your faith and renew your soul.

Lenten Studies

Wednesday Morning Sessions – Book Discussion

40-Day Journey with Julian of Norwich by Lisa E. Dahill

We will use a guide book that invites us to deepen our spirituality with the words of 14th century spiritual thinker and mystic, Julian of Norwich. Rev. Jen has copies of the book. Please sign up with her to receive a copy.

Dates: March 6, 13, 27, April 3 & April 10 (Note NO meeting on March 20th)

Time: 10:00-11:00am

Location: Church Parlor

Thursday Evening Sessions – Bibles & Brews

Guided discussions about current events and faith as well as weekly readings from *Julian of Norwich*.

Dates: March 7, 14, 28, April 4 & 11 (Note NO meeting on March 21)

Time: 6:30pm gather & order food; 7:00pm discussion begins

Location: TBD

CHURCH OF CHRIST MILLIS TO HOST SOCIAL GROUP FOR NEW PARENTS BEGINNING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Have you recently welcomed a newborn into your household? Could you use some "time out?" Do you want to leave the house and socialize with other parents who are also juggling the demands of parenting infants and toddlers. If so, come join the Parents of Infants and Preschoolers Social (PIPS) group!



The PIPS group is forming to provide a comfortable space for parents of infants and preschoolers to visit, chat, exchange ideas, and offer support. Beginning on Thursday, February 14, 2019, the PIPS group will meet on the second and fourth

Thursdays of each month from 9:30-10:30am. The group will gather at the Church of Christ, Congregational at 142 Exchange St. in Millis, MA. Please bring your own peanut-free and tree nut-free snacks.

The primary focus for this group is to establish a social and support network for parents, so it's not a play group for children. However, there will be games and activities in the meeting space to help keep youngsters occupied.

The PIPS group is open to parents in Millis and surrounding towns. There is no charge to attend the gatherings, and you do not need to pre-register. Just show up if you can!

For more information, call the church office at (508) 376-5034, or email your questions to millisucc@msn.com.



February Youth News!



Super Bowl Super Chili will be for sale after worship on Sunday February 3rd!

Pick up some chili and corn bread and support the youth programming of our church!

Pathfinders' Youth Group

We will be gathering Sunday the 10th and Sunday the 24th.

6:30 – 8:30 PM

If anyone would like to sign up to provide dinner, please reach out to Jess Boose. We gather at the table sharing bread (or pizza) to connect and remember that Jesus did the same with his friends.



SUNDAY SCHOOL in FEBRUARY



Feb 3rd: There will be a Bible Story Time during the Annual Meeting, open for all young, non-members.

Feb 10th: Both the younger class and grades 4-6 will meet.

Feb 17th: Only the younger class will gather this week. Older kids, take worship notes, tell us what you like and what you don't.

Feb 24th: Both the younger class and grades 4-6 will meet.



Looking Ahead:

You are cordially invited to save the date of Saturday, March 23rd for a magical meal with a Disney theme. Hosted by the Youth of the Church!

Comedy Night

Friday, March 15th 7:30 PM

At the Church of Christ, Congregational
142 Exchange St., Millis, MA

*Join the crowd for a special night of laughter
featuring Rhode Island comedian Frank O'Donnell.*



Frank O'Donnell has been performing and writing comedy since the early 1980s, earning his spot as one of Rhode Island's best known and most well-respected comedians. He has performed at comedy clubs and colleges throughout the United States, and written material for such distinguished performers as Jay Leno and the late Bob Hope. He's the house comic at Catch a Rising Star Comedy

Club in Lincoln, RI, and has been the opener for acts including Chicago, Michael Bolton, Kathy Mattea and The Harlem Globetrotters.

Tickets are \$15 per person and are available by calling 508-376-5034 or at the door the night of the show.

Visit our website at www.millisucc.org for more info.

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We're on the Web!

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