

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

Church of Christ Vision Statement:

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

Sunday Worship in May

To join Sunday worship services by Zoom, click on 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>

May 2 – Communion, Guest speaker – Rev. Mary from Common Cathedral

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 9 – Celebration of the Christian Home

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; **1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17**

May 16 – Eternal Joy

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; **1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19**

May 23 – Pentecost + Common Cathedral

Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; **John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15**

In-person worshipers will literally serve while worshipping by packing lunches for Common Cathedral. Parishioners are also encouraged to pack their own picnic and come into Boston for a picnic on the common and outdoor worship at 1 PM. (See related article)

May 30 – Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; **Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17**

A NOTE FROM THE COLLECTOR

Your First 2021 Donations Statement is In the Mail

Watch your mailbox for the first of four (approximately) quarterly statements of your donations to the church, which you will receive during 2021. Some things to know:

- Periods covered by your statement of donations will all be cumulative, starting with January 1, 2021. Closing dates will be about Easter, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and right after New Year's, 2022.
- Reviewing each statement will give you a chance to gauge your pledge progress as well as early progress toward your 2021 deduction for federal income tax purposes. Comparing it with your personal records will let you catch any discrepancies promptly.
- If your statement appears to have errors, a phone call to the church office (508-376-5034) will bring a timely response. If your call is not answered "live", please do leave a Voice Mail message. You could also e-mail to millisucc@msn.com.

THANK YOU for your support for the church during this most difficult time!

Brooks Corl, *Collector*

Transition Team Update

We again need your input!!!

We hope you will attend one of the following new group discussions.

Topics will address other areas we need to explore that will assist the search team in selection of a new pastor.

All sessions will be in Fellowship Hall with all COVID-19 precautions. Additionally, Zoom attendance will be available.

Sunday May 16 at 12Noon

Tuesday May 18 at 10:00am

Wednesday May 19 at 7PM

[Click here to sign up](#)

or call the Church to sign up (508) 376-5034



From the Visitors Group

The Visitors' Group would like to thank Eileen Yates for all the many different ways that she has helped us during the last ten years.

We want to wish Eileen and her husband the very best on their new adventure in North Carolina. We will miss you.

The Visitors



Furnishing hope with every stride.

Virtual | April 17 - May 8, 2021

This year, as we have done in the last two years, the church is a sponsor for the annual fundraiser for New Life Furniture Bank. The 2020 Trail Run is all virtual so you can run anytime between now and May 8.

The church has a team called the Walk-Ins Welcome, and we hope you will join us

To sign-up, or to learn more about the event, go to: <https://newlifefb.org/5k/> or contact Wendy Schneider or Jan Krohn.



Proposed Community Garden at the Church of Christ

We are exploring the idea of creating a Community Garden at the Church of Christ! We're in the process of developing a plan on how we might install a small number of raised gardening beds on the church property for community use. The vision is to have the garden beds be available for free, on a first-come, first-served basis, with the set-up costs of the beds being covered by individual, community, and business sponsors. Lauren Briggs is leading the project. If you would like to be involved, contact Lauren at briggself@gmail.com.

Some potential areas for help would be:

- Reaching out to local businesses or organizations who might be interested in sponsoring a bed
- Sponsoring a bed yourself
- Setting up the beds
- Gardening in a bed yourself
- Painting or decorating a garden bed
- Helping to staff/check in on the garden once it is set up
- Visioning other possibilities

Welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Shelley Goes



Shelley is a lifelong resident of Millis. She comes to us with an extensive customer service and administrative background. She is looking forward to meeting everyone. and helping however she can.

Rev. Geary's Monday Office Hours

Rev. Geary will be available to church members on-line via Zoom, or in person, from 11am-1pm on Mondays.

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

June 6 - Celebration of the Christian Home (Mothers & Fathers Day)

As part of our celebration of the Christian Home we will dedicate the **Church World Service Collection** for Blankets and Tools. Watch your Friday emails for the information and dedication forms.

From the Deacons

Spring is a season of change and the month of May will be bringing changes to our church community.

We bid farewell to Eileen Yates at the end of April as she and her husband Jay start a new adventure in North Carolina. Eileen has been an integral part of the day to day functioning of the church as our Administrative Assistant for more than ten years. She was the first point of contact for many in our church and those seeking information and did it with a smile and kind words. We have been blessed to have her expertise, willingness to seek information and generally keeping the office in working order, especially during this past year.

We now welcome Shelley Goes to the Administrative Assistant position and are looking forward to getting to know and work with her.

May also brings the one year mark for Rev. Geary being with us as Interim Pastor. She has embraced the challenges of entering the church during this everchanging year of COVID with experience, humor and grace. Her contract has been renewed and we are looking forward to her guidance as we move forward to continue the work needed to finalize our search for a settled pastor.

Over the past several months the Deacons have been working on reviewing our church membership lists which had not been done in several years. We are currently contacting members and friends of the church to update contact information to produce a church directory.

During the month of May we are planning on phasing forward to in-sanctuary worship for those who are comfortable. We will continue to offer online worship services at the same time. COVID protocols per our church COVID policies will be followed and there will be pre-registration for the in-sanctuary services, for contact tracing and as space is limited. Please watch the Friday emails and church website for specific dates and information.

Lastly, a big thank you to Rev. Geary, Doug Briggs and Lauren Briggs for their ongoing work on the technology needed for online and phasing forward to in-sanctuary worship. We would also like to thank Myrna Rybczyk for continuing to provide music and Becki Abalutzk for her time and talent for being our song leader during worship over the past year.

Blessings,
Wendy Schneider and Sue Conte
Co-lead Deacons

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOME GUIDANCE ON UPDATING OUR CHURCH TECHNOLOGY

Are you savvy with technology? Do you have an Information Technology background? The church is looking for some volunteers to help review and assess our technology infrastructure including internet, laptops, applications, and to make recommendations on what our next steps should be. If you are interested in helping us get the church technology up to date, please email the church at: millisucc@msn.com.

A Note from Eileen

It has been a great privilege to work at the Church of Christ. As I said at my farewell gathering, from day one to year ten – I have always felt welcomed and supported. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know so many of you. And whether I spent a lot of time with you, or only a little, everyone I met had a positive impact on me.

I truly appreciate the thought that went into making my farewell gathering so special, including all of the personal recollections and wishes that were expressed, both in person and in writing from those who couldn't be there. I am incredibly grateful for the generosity of the gift from the church and a special thank you to all those who contributed.

As it has been said, church is not the building – it is all of you wonderful, dedicated, compassionate, faith-filled people. Thank you for making my time here such a joy; I am honored to have worked among you. I wish you all an abundance of blessings!

Camera Crew Needed!

As we move forward with more in-person events we want to be as inclusive as possible. We would like to offer an on-line option but that is dependent on volunteers being available to operate the camera. We are currently training folks to operate our camera and zoom set up. Please consider if this is a ministry for you. The more trained folks we have, the easier it will be for us to be fully inclusive at all our events. If you are willing to be trained and to occasionally help out with operating the camera for worship and other gatherings, please contact Rev. Geary. This is a time-sensitive request as we have several events coming up in May that will require a camera operator. Thank you for considering this ministry.

Common Cathedral

The Pathfinders, grades 7-12, are spearheading an all-church service project to support Common Cathedral on **Sunday, May 23**. The Youth and other volunteers will gather at the church at **9am** to make sandwiches. During our 10am worship service those present will assemble bag lunches using those sandwiches and adding fruit, cookies and other snacks to the bag. These lunches will be taken into Boston to be distributed as part of the outdoor worship service that happens there every Sunday afternoon at 1pm.

You can help out in several ways.

Make a financial donation to help purchase food.

Arrive at 9am to help make sandwiches

Attend in-person worship to help assemble the lunches

Drive into Boston to join the youth and unhoused for outdoor worship.

Please contact Doug Briggs with any questions or to volunteer.

In-sanctuary worship to begin May 9th

The worship leaders will be leading worship from the sanctuary beginning Sunday, May 9. A limited number of seats (40) are available for parishioners to attend in-person. All services will continue to be broadcast on Zoom and recorded for later viewing. There are many protocols we must follow to keep all who will enter the sanctuary safe.

- All attendees must pre-register using sign-up genius or by calling the church office. Phone: 508-376-5034. ***Registration must happen by 1:30pm on Friday. Sign-up genius registration will be printed at 8:30am on Sunday.***
- All attendees must wear a mask to cover their nose and mouth and hand sanitize upon entering
- Please enter the church through the front doors unless you need to use the elevator
- Attendees will not be able to walk through the preschool area
- Attendees will be interviewed for COVID screening before entering the sanctuary
- Bring your own liturgy either printed out or on your electronic device. Some printed bulletins will be available at the door. Please take everything with you when you leave.
- Attendees will sit in the seat assigned to them by the Deacons.
- All visiting will happen outside before or after worship. No visiting in the building.
- The windows and doors will be open
- Attendees can participate in responsive and unison reading/prayers and may sing softly behind their mask. Bold singers are asked to remove themselves to the outdoors during hymn singing. Singing still appears to be one of the bigger spreaders of this virus and we want to err on the side of caution.
- All services will be recorded. By being present, attendees give permission for their image and voice to be recorded and shared.

This is an exciting and nerve-wracking time as we experiment with worship forms. Please be flexible and generous with each other. Also, please add constructive ideas as we figure out how this should/could look and feel.

[Click here to sign up](#) or call the Church at (508) 376-5034

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Please make sure to set aside **May 23rd** as we will assemble 150 bag lunches in the morning, and travel (in family units) to Boston to provide a meal to the unhoused population, and experience the Common Cathedral service on Boston Common.

Also, try to attend the **May 2nd** service, as Reverend Mary, from Ecclesia Ministries (responsible for the Common Cathedral services) will be delivering our sermon.

What's happening: Let's watch a movie together!

Date: (corrected date!) **Friday, May 7**

Time: **8-10:00 pm**

We will gather in the backyard at church to watch *The Map of Tiny Perfect Things*. It is an awesome story about two youth who are repeating the same day over and over again, and how they resolve the issues that are keeping them in the loop. Very topical due to our existence during the past year+, but not dealing with COVID! There will be a firepit and smore ingredients.

What do you need to do?: Wear weather appropriate clothing, invite a friend, or two, and RSVP either yes or no [HERE](#).

WEDNESDAY CHURCH CHECK-INS

Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00pm (or whenever it's convenient) for a weekly check-in where you'll hear a brief devotional, along with the latest news and announcements from the church.

You don't need a Facebook account to access the Church Check-In. Just click the link below to get to our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MillisUCCChurch/>

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 May" section on page 2 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



Gratitude Corner

Thank you Kathy Stevens and Jan Krohn for putting together the farewell event to celebrate and bless Eileen.

Thank you Eileen, for your committed service to this community over the past 10 years.

Thank you Visitors for sharing Easter joy.

Thank you Andy Bolton for running cables to the second floor of the building so we can include at-home folks through zoom.

Thank you Doug and Lauren Briggs for recording and sharing the Holy Week and Easter services.

Thank you Happy Hours for painting the Preschool School Hallway.

Visitors' Group Meeting May 20th at 10:30am *In Person*

The Visitors' Group is planning to meet on Thursday, May 20, at 10:30 AM, either in the Church Parlor or outdoors, weather permitting.

The Easter Services are still available online if you have not seen them and are interested. We hope that everyone is doing well and enjoying the warmer weather.

If you would like a visitor to visit or know someone who you think may like a visit, please, call the church office or let one of the Visitors know.

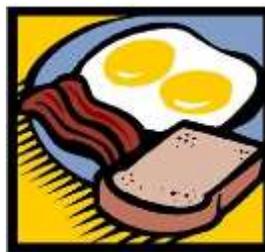
"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well." Psalm 139: 14 NIV

The Visitors: Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Pam Johansson, Linda Jones, Judy, Kosinski, Shirley Rowley, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, Reverend Geary.

Resources for Children, Youth & Young Adults

Parents – Each week in the Friday email and on the church [website](#), we post children's activity sheets to go along with the liturgy.

Millenials – For the 20-30 crowd, Southern New England United Church of Christ (SNEUCC) has a Millennial Ministry, which includes monthly virtual meetings. [Click here to check it out.](#)



Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting on Zoom

**Sunday, May 16
at 8:30am**

Grab some breakfast and join us for a virtual get-together on zoom where we can catch up with each other and discuss future projects. All men who consider our church to be their spiritual home are automatically members of Men's Fellowship. So even if you're new to the group, you are welcome to join us!

To join meeting using a computing device, click the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83545179309?pwd=ckVZK3daOGkwRDBmSINFbkg1OEpwdz09>

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

Meeting ID: 835 4517 9309

Passcode: 02054

To find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcxEas5lr3>

Socializing with the M&M's Mondays on Zoom!

The M & M's Monday Morning Needlework Group gathers virtually on Zoom! Join the Zoom meeting 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=VENB MmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQqjJUdz09>

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

Meeting ID: 298 790 4285

Passcode: 866156



From the Interim Pastor

As we begin our second year together, I am mindful of all that has happened these past 12 months. So much got done that we didn't know needed doing and many things that once seemed so important have fallen by the wayside. We focused on the important stuff and found creative ways to engage in ministry to and with each other while continuing to reach out and bless the world.

Thank you for observing appropriate boundaries with your former pastor and her family. This has allowed her to form important bonds with her new congregation. I hope I have inspired confidence that you will feel comfortable turning to me for pastoral care. Rev. Jen no longer provides you with pastoral care but it is OK for you to be friendly with her. Please continue to respect her space by not talking about the workings of this church as that might be difficult for her.

Please participate in the Transition Team small group meetings and the upcoming large group meetings. These will be in-person and on Zoom to include as many as possible. There are some challenging questions to be answered by you to guide the search committee. Once the profile is prepared and approved, a search committee will be formed and the search will begin. This process has been slower than anticipated as the Corona Virus brought us unexpected challenges. Thank you for your patience and continued participation in the process.

I feel blessed to have spent this year with you and look forward to continuing on this path of transition.

Grace,

Jennifer Geary

Farewell Eileen

During a festive Farewell Party on Sunday, April 25th we said goodbye to our long -time Administrative Assistant, Eileen Yates. Her last day was April 30th, completing more than 10 years of service. Folks attended in person and via Zoom.

We gathered in the sanctuary - safely spread out - joining in the refrain "Goodbye Eileen" to the tune of "Goodnight Irene" after each person shared thoughts and good wishes. Many came forward to share memories and two speeches were given by Jan Krohn and Kathy Stevens.

Thank you to all who donated to the monetary gift given to Eileen to use toward their new home in North Carolina. And one final thank you to Eileen for her hard work and dedication to her Church of Christ family.

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

IMPORTANT COVID SAFETY REMINDERS

Currently, even when there are people in the building, the exterior doors are kept locked as a Covid safety measure.

If work needs to be done in an area used by any of our tenants, please schedule it through the office (millisucc@msn.com or 508-376-5034) or through the pastor (pastoruccmillis@gmail.com or 774-993-9407), so that we can coordinate it with the tenants.

If you are at the church property:

- Observe posted signs and safety protocols (copies of the church's protocols are posted on our website and the office door)
- Wear a mask
- Use hand sanitizer & wipe down surfaces
- Sign the contact tracing sheet

Thank you for helping us function in a safe environment!



Church of Christ, Congregational
142 Exchange Street
Millis, MA 02054

