

THE SPIRE

MAY 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,

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who cooked, cleaned, read, sang, played an instrument, waved a banner and chased errant butterflies to make this Holy Week and Easter morning so deeply meaningful. It was a delight to look out on Easter morning and see people smiling and singing the hymns with gusto! Surely, the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Community spirit is abundant at the Church of Christ, Congregational and we serve God by serving our neighbors in many different ways. This month, we will be acting as a host site for the town Memorial Day parade. While this is nothing new, our parking lot has been used as a staging area for years, this year, the welcoming committee is working to ensure the church's hospitality is abundant and extravagant. See more information about this event in this Spire.

**Join Us for
these May Events!**

**Spring Luncheon
May 16 from 12:00-2:00pm**

**Dessert Pot-luck
May 19 from 6:30-8:30pm**

Details inside.

Poet Ann Weems, in her work entitled, "In Search of New Resurrections" wrote:

*We spend our energy in complaining,
gloomily forecasting our future together.
We panic for positions
in employment and committee,
with each special interest group
vying for first place in the kingdom.
Perhaps it's time for remembering
that Jesus stood in the Jordan
to be baptized with the others,
long ago casting His lot,
not with the good church people,
but with the poor
wherever that poverty might emerge.
His name is Emmanuel,
and yet, individually and corporately,
we have named Him "GOD-WITH-ME."
Have we not seen?
Have we not heard?
In the light of the cross,
the alternative is anything but hopelessness.
On the contrary!
There is every scriptural indication
that we are called to change
who we are into the kingdom of God.
Where change is possible,
new resurrections loom!*

I find her words both comforting and challenging. They remind me that the resurrection is not just an event we commemorate on Easter morning, but also a way to live each and every day. As we move deeper into Spring, may we find all the places where change is possible and new resurrection looms for us.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Jen



You are invited to attend a
Springtime Luncheon!

Hosted by the Visitors' Group

Thursday, May 16, 2019

12:00-2:00pm

Fellowship Hall

*Enjoy an afternoon of fun, friends, fellowship,
and a delicious feast of sandwiches,
salads, deli and desserts!*

**All Are Welcome! Call the church office at
(508) 376-5034 if you have any questions.**



MAY 11, 2019

Medfield State
Hospital Grounds

5K Trail Run to support the New Life Furniture Bank!

Experience some Spring fun and great mission at New Life's 2nd Annual 5K Trail Run! Join Church of Christ Mission members on the "Walk-ins Welcome" team and walk, run, jump 5K (3 miles) to support New Life Furniture Bank. This event is for all ages -- the more, the merrier!

The event will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Check-in takes place from 7:30-9:00am, and the 5K begins at 9:00am. The registration fee is \$25/person if you sign up with our team (\$30 if you register separately). For more info or to register for the 5K, see Mary Smith (team captain) or visit the NewLife 5K website page at: <https://www.newlifefb.org/5ktrailrun>. The Church of Christ's team name is: Walk Ins Welcome.

New Life Furniture Bank of MA helps restore hope, dignity, and stability by recycling donated furniture and household goods to people in need.

BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day - Monday, May 27 - the church will be offering simple refreshments to the townspeople gathering for the parade and service. It would be very much appreciated if you can help by providing an easy-to-eat baked good such as cookies.

A sign-up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall. Food donations can be dropped off in the kitchen on Sunday, May 26.

Please include a list of ingredients. Easy-to-use ingredient forms will be available in Fellowship Hall, the church office, and on our website at millisucc.org.

Contact June Murphy with any questions, 508-246-9111 or juneinthewoods@me.com.

Thank you!
The Welcoming Team



Photo by Emily Watson
on unsplash



PIPS

Parents of Infants and Preschoolers Social Group

Next Dates: May 9 & May 23

The PIPS group was formed to provide a shared and supportive space for parents to visit, exchange ideas, and connect. The group meets in the church parlor from **9:30-10:30am on the second and fourth Thursday of the month**. Visit millisucc.org for details.

The Women's Fellowship is Celebrating
its 60th Birthday with the Annual



SALAD SUPPER & YANKEE SWAP



**Tuesday, June 11th 6:30pm
in Fellowship Hall**

Bring a salad for the buffet table and a Yankee Swap gift, placed in a brown grocery bag. This event is always full of laughs, great conversation and delicious food! Sign up in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour, or call the church office at (508) 376-5034.

*All women of the Church of Christ,
Congregational are automatically members of
Women's Fellowship, so we hope you'll join us!*

Blanket & Tool Sundays

Special Collections

May 12 & May 19

In honor of our mothers and fathers, the church will hold its special "Blanket & Tool" Sunday collections on May 12 & May 19. The collections benefit Church World Service programs, disaster relief around the world, and other needed services such as clean water and educational programs.

Cards in honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day will be available in Fellowship Hall following the services on May 12 & May 19, and collection envelopes will be placed in the pews. Please support this worthy cause!



Saturday May 4th – Millis Town Beautification Day!

If you would like to help out our town TOGETHER then let's take on some spring cleaning Saturday morning. Jess will be coordinating a group. Rakes and gloves and appropriate clothing are required. Trashbags will be provided!



Pathfinders

Youth Group on May 5th – 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Dinner, games, future event planning. Friends are welcome to join us!

Parents – if anyone is up for providing dinner for this gathering, or making it a pot-luck with one another, please let Jess know.

*Kaitlyn Stallings will be leading a small group visit to Common Cathedral this Sunday afternoon as part of her senior project. Please hold her in prayer, as well as those she is walking alongside with her work.

Gathering on Mother's Day, May 12th, is being discussed. Many families will have plans but others have expressed that they would enjoy a gathering. Please let Jess know your thoughts.

Save the Date: May 19th Dessert Pot-Luck with Slide Show!

6:30 – 8:30 PM

This is a fun church tradition. Start planning your contribution to the sugar rush now!

Memorial Day Weekend – no Youth Group.

There will be a welcome table at our town's Memorial Day ceremonies. If you wish to provide some baked goods for that or just to come visit, please let us know!

A Message from Jessica Boose

Dear Church of Christ Congregational Church Family,

As you may have heard, I have given my resignation at the Church of Christ, Congregational.

I have greatly enjoyed my time at this church.

You have created a wonderful family here. The way you reach out to one another, reach out to the community of Millis, and reach out to serve the wider world, is inspirational. My whole family has been blessed to be a part of this family of God. Thank you for that.

My resignation is prompted by our family's need to move to Connecticut. There are multiple reasons why we are moving, as I am certain most of you can understand.

To the families who have allowed me to be a part of their children's lives, thank you. It has truly been my pleasure. Know that I have thought of your children while my family was making this decision. There are remarkable, kind, curious, imaginative, and ambitious children among you, at all ages. Listen to them. Nurture them. Help them become all that God has created them to be. I am blessed with countless memories of my time here that I will carry with me forever. That is a gift you have given me.

I will be working through June, which is the end of our program year. Before then, I am very willing to work with you to set up some plans for the Youth and Sunday School programs for next year. The church family will need to work together in new ways but there are also many great traditions here that I trust you will easily support and move forward with. There will be opportunities to say good-bye on Children's Sunday, June 23rd, when we will have an all church picnic after worship. I also look forward to one last magical trip to Maine that very day, with the youth group.

However, in God, nothing is a permanent good-bye.

With much fondness –
Jessica



Church of Christ
142 Exchange St
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Phone:

508-376-5034

E-Mail:

millisucc@msn.com



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



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