

THE SPIRE

October 2022

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

www.millisucc.org • (508) 376-5034 • millisucc@msn.com



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



A Note from the Interim Pastor

I've been pondering how groups get from gathering ideas to completed projects. Sometimes this is as challenging as driving down a rutted dirt road and other times as smooth as a German autobahn. Often, the easiest path is for a key person to listen to the ideas and then do the project on their own. If getting the project done is the key goal, this works fine. But usually, the goal is to include others and to have the project done in a way that gets approval from the group.

Many times, when we think we are sharing ideas we are actually jockeying for getting our idea chosen. What if our goal was to come up with something completely new from our ideas coming together? Sometimes if I bring yellow and you bring blue, we might get blue and yellow checks or stripes or swirls. We also might get green. We might get blue with a hint of yellow around the edges or the other way around. We don't always have to use some of each person's idea but if we are really collaborating, the product will be something that neither one of us could have come up with by ourselves.

.... continued page 2



.... *continued*

Sometimes it is just fine to let a person run with their idea with the rest of us there to support in whatever way we can. When that person steps down from leadership (And we do have to let them step down.) they understand that if the project continues with different leadership, things will change. Even when the same person does the same project twice it is changed simply by being implemented.

Perhaps the hardest is to have an idea that is taken over by someone else. You think it up, someone else thinks it's great and runs with it, but they don't do it the way you would have. And so, you drift away or storm away, not participating.

Sharing leadership is difficult. We all have had many years of living to help us get set in our ways. Sometimes we simply do not have the imagination to grasp how another person's idea will turn out and we aren't sure we are ready to put our trust there. Also, there are times we do not want to share our ideas for fear that we might be ridiculed.

Going from idea to product is a challenge for the church that vests its decision making in the congregation. The congregation needs to grapple with and settle on the vision it wants to achieve. It then entrusts that vision to a smaller group to design the plan to bring the vision into focus and success. This often takes several back & forths between large and small groups before the plan can be implemented.

The key in all this is to make sure that everyone's ideas have been fully acknowledged. It can be terribly disappointing to get to the end of the project and have someone say, I think we should have done "xyz", which is exactly what you had suggested in the first place, but no one seemed to be able to hear it then.

We are headed into the season of decision making. The Prudential committee is going to ask each of us to decide how much we will give financially to support the church's ministry. The Council will ask us to nominate folks to serve in 2023. Each committee needs to discern what work they will do in 2023 and submit budget requests. Those not on committees can also be suggesting future plans for the worship and service of God. The search committee will present a candidate about whom the congregation will vote. May we truly listen to each other and listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we share ideas and make decisions together.

~ Rev. Jennifer Geary



Worship in October ~ Rev. Jennifer Geary
Sundays at 10:00 AM

October 2 ~ World Wide Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Offering
Lamentations 3:19-26; Luke 17:5-10

October 9 ~ Blessings of the Animals (Outdoors)
Psalm 111; Luke 17:11-19

October 16 ~ Bibles
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 23 ~ Guest Preacher
Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

October 30 ~ All Saints / Halloween

(Please submit names of those who have died in the past year. These will be printed in the bulletin and read during this service).

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Worship Bulletin can be found at: www.millisUCC.org

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

The Music Director Search Committee

After interviews and auditions conducted on September 1st, we are pleased to announce that Rebecca Abalutzk accepted the position. Her first worship service will be on October 9th.

Rebecca (Becki) received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and her Master of Music in Vocal Pedagogy & Performance from Westminster Choir College.

For nearly 20 years she has been a music teacher in a variety of capacities, including public school, private voice, and piano instruction along with musical director for choirs and musicals.

She is presently the Vocal Director and Director for Music for Young Children® at Encore Music Academy & Recording Studios in Franklin, MA. She also serves as Adjunct Voice Faculty and ballet accompanist at Dean College.

We welcome Becki in her new role and are excited about her ideas and plans for the music of our church.





**Sunday, October 2
Immediately following Worship**

The Church Council has set October 2 for the next congregational gathering.

We will hear from the search committee and the prudential committee.

We will talk about homelessness in Millis and also start preparing for the decisions that need to be made at the Annual Meeting.

Sandwiches will be served.



The annual Neighbors in Need offering will be held on **Sunday, October 2**, which is also World Communion Sunday. In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on an economic justice. Inflation is impacting all of our households and this year the UCC wanted to provide a way to discuss this through a faith lens with the NIN campaign. As a reminder, one -third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and two -thirds are used by the Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects.

~ Missions

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 9 at 10 AM

Outdoors on the Back Lawn

In honor of St. Francis, patron saint of animals and ecologists, we will gather to bless the animals, wild and tame. Bring your pet or a picture of your pet to worship with you. Please bring pets on a leash, crated, caged or bowled. If your animal doesn't do well around people or other animals, please bring a picture for everyone's safety. In case of inclement weather, we will worship indoors and ask that you bring a photo only of your special friend.



Sunday School

October 23 at 10 AM

The Christian Education Committee is committed to providing a meaningful religious experience for our children and youth. A half-hour program for children, grade 6 and younger, will be offered monthly.

You can find the registration form and policy information on the church website www.millisucc.org under the "about" tab/forms.

Please contact a member of the committee for more information and/or to volunteer to help.

Doug Briggs, Kelly Williams
and Meghan Prescott



Christian Education News

For the past 14 years, members of the Youth of the Church of Christ, Congregational in Millis have maintained a tradition of Trick or Treating for canned goods and non-perishable food items for the Millis Food Pantry in order to assist people in need in our community.

This year the tradition will continue, on **Friday, October 28th beginning at 5:30 PM.**

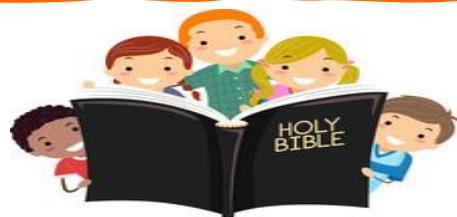
All youth of the church are invited to participate
in costume, or not.

(Any youth under grade 4 will need a parent attending)

We will gather in the circle on Clark Road closest to Pollard Drive and end at the church. This is an any weather event, so dress accordingly. As this event cannot happen without adult support, I would appreciate volunteers to walk the route.

(Doug will be driving a car collecting the donations)

**Please contact Doug Briggs to RSVP,
to offer assistance or ask questions.**



The Diaconate has purchased a quantity of Bibles. Several of them will be given to our children and youth on Sunday, October 16th. The remainder are available for purchase by members of the congregation.

They are the Contemporary English Version. Classes taught by Linda Jones will be offered for children grade 3 and up during worship, October 16, 23, & 30. If you are interested in purchasing a Bible, please contact a member of the Diaconate or the Church office.

**Healing Prayer Service
Monday, October 24
at 7:00 pm**

All are welcome to these meetings which take place in the Parlor.

We begin with discussion and then move into prayer together.

~ Rev. Jennifer Geary

(Note the change of time)



**Trunk and Treat
October 30 from 11:30-12:30
Lower Church Parking Lot**



This event is free and open to the Millis community. Bring your little ones (and the young at heart) for a fun time!
Show off your costumes and get some candy!
If you would like to decorate a trunk or help to plan or run this event, please contact Lauren Briggs.

From Your Deacons

The end of summer is not the end of the world. Here's to October... A. A. Milne

The end of September and beginning of October brings a return to indoor worship services. We are looking forward to being in the sanctuary, but ask everyone to use their best judgment for spacing when seating yourself and mask wearing if appropriate for you.

Upcoming events for the month include the Congregational Meeting in Fellowship Hall after worship on October 2nd and Blessing of the Animals on October 9th which will be held on the back lawn of the church. Please bring your animals either leashed, in a crate or a photo of them, if they don't like crowds. **In case of inclement weather, we will worship inside and bring a photo only of your special friend.**

The distribution of Bibles to children grades 3 and up has not taken place for several years. Families have been contacted and those children interested will receive a Bible during Worship on October 16.

The Worship Team and Deacons are in the process of planning for the season of Advent which begins on November 27th. If you are interested in being part of the Worship Team, please let us know. More information will be in the November edition of the Spire.

The Deacons and the Music Director Search Committee are pleased to announce Rebecca Abalutzk as our new Music Director. Her first worship service with us will be on October 9th. Please see the related article in this Spire for further information.

Enjoy the cooler weather along with the sights and sounds of Fall.

Your Deacons,

Lauren Briggs, Wendy Schneider, Suzi Sennott

Thank you!



Wendy Schneider and Jan Krohn deserve recognition for their hard work freshening up the Food Pantry spaces. They have put in many hours painting the walls and floors and arranging for a beautiful mural to decorate a wall. Others have pitched in, but Wendy and Jan deserve most of the credit.

I would also like to thank Wendy for helping me as I try to establish a pollinator garden around our sign and flagpole. Wendy watered for me while I was away for a week this summer of drought and most recently helped me plant 18 new perennials. She has also contributed plants as we continue to establish a butterfly friendly garden that everyone can enjoy.

~ Sue Conte

Thank you, Trustees, for providing the Fellowship Refreshments in September.

Thank you, Men's Fellowship, for putting on the End of Summer Picnic.

Thank you, Ellie Costa, for decades of service as the Chair of the Visitors.

Thank you, Congregation, for the Chrysanthemum that now graces my front steps.

Thank you, Deacons, for luging all the furniture in and out each week for outdoor worship.

~ Rev. Jennifer Geary



**Has it been a while since somebody dropped by for a cup of coffee or tea and a chat?
Have you wished you could share the news of your grandchild's new baby?
Or just wondered, "What's new?"**

We used to enjoy these visits before Covid turned the world upside down and there were new rules for getting together and daily updates on the increasing status of Covid. Who was sick, who wasn't? Were you lonely and wished to see a familiar face?

Most of us have had these feelings and all of us have wondered, "When will things go back to normal?" Well, your church is still here, and we are steadily returning to normal even as we search for a settled Pastor, revive our Sunday School, and have a new Music Director. One of the programs that we've had for seventeen years and have been unable to fully fulfill is the Visitors' Group. Due to the rules regarding contact during that time, visits in person were limited and our only connection was through sending seasonal cards and making phone calls.

Now as Covid begins to be beaten back, we can begin to enjoy visits once again with our church friends. Some haven't had a visit in over two years, but the program started by Ginny Krohn and Ellie Costa is still with you, and now we know how to determine when it's safe to drop by for an in-person visit. The only change is that Ellie has passed the torch to me and along with current members, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens and Rev. Jennifer Geary, **we continue on.**

Here's where you come in... Please let us know who needs a visit. What, you say you don't know how to do that? Simply contact me directly or you can call the church office. A visit can be as simple as a phone call or opening a card with a note that says "Hi".

We miss you - how are you ...Let us hear from you!

Myrna Rybczyk ~ Visitors' Group



Trustees

Due to conflicting schedules, we did not meet in September.

Now that the weather is cooler, the outside projects will be able to be completed, namely the change in the handicap parking area to just one side and rebuilding the ramp.

Kathy Stevens

Online Bible Study

Each **Wednesday** at **9:30 am and 7:45 pm**, 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 "Worship in October" section on page 3 of this newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2I2aGExMU1IS0NHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054



Socializing with the M&M's Mondays in the Parlor!

The M & M's Monday Morning Needlework Group gathers in person in the Parlor!

Join in the fun on Monday mornings, any time after **10 AM**.

All are welcome – even if you're not working on a needlework project, join in for the socializing!

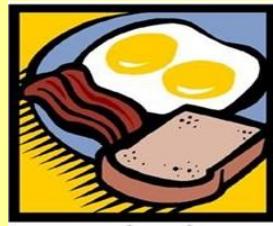


The Power of the Prayer Chain:

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 contact Mary Jensen.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting in Person

Sunday, October 16 at 7:30 am



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

Do You Like Writing Policy?

A Team is being formed to read through and propose updates to the current Constitution.

Please consider sharing your skills in this important task.



Contact the church office or Moderator, Jan Krohn.

YOUR VOICE AT THE PRC

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is meeting with Rev. Jennifer Geary, our Interim Pastor, on a regular basis. We individually seek your feedback and ideas for our church, and assure you a safe, confidential welcome for your closely held concerns.

We are all striving to be one Body in Christ. Please remember, Rev. Jennifer Geary truly welcomes your voice.

*John Smith, Jo-Ellen Briggs, Linda Jones
and Jennifer 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 **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.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



The deadline for entries for the November Spire will be **October 20**. Please send all your information to the church office by this date ~ Thank You!



To protect our members from scammers, we will no longer be publishing personal phone numbers or email addresses in the Spire.

All members and friends should have a copy of the Church Directory where that information can be found.

You can always contact the church office as well.

Committee Meeting Times

All the committees of the church have met, selecting their chair and meeting time as follows:

Diaconate – First Tuesday, 6:00 PM

Christian Education – First Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Trustees – Second Monday, 6:00 PM

Prudential – Second Tuesday, 11:00 AM

Visitors – Third Thursday, 10:00 AM

Church Council - Third Thursday, 7:00 PM

Missions – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Welcoming – TBD

Pastoral Relations – As Needed

See the list of all elected leaders on the last page of the Spire.

The person with the * is the chair of the committee.

COVID Protocols

We continue to follow current Health Department COVID protocols. Masks are optional in the building; however, we ask that you please continue to maintain a distance between you and others. Thank you for caring for others by engaging in these simple acts.

Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Jan Krohn
Church Clerk	Sue Conte
Treasurer	Gail DiGioia
Assistant Treasurer	Mary Smith
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Maria Melchionda

Diaconate		
	*Lauren Briggs	*Wendy Schneider
	Suzi Sennott	
Missions		
Casey Woodley	Art Payne	Wendy Schneider
*Jan Krohn	Mary Smith	
Trustees		
*Andy Bolton	*Kathy Stevens	Wayne Carlson
Rich Manzano	Bonnie Mac Donald	
Prudential		
Susan Bouchard	Doug Coutts	*Bill Wright
Christian Education		
*Doug Briggs	Meghan Prescott	*Kelly Williams
Welcoming Committee		
Judy Kosinski	Bonnie Mac Donald	Maria Melchionda
	Myrna Rybczyk	Katelyn Andrews
At-large Members of Church Council		
Art Payne	Judie Ackerman	
Pastoral Relations Committee		
*Linda Jones	John Smith	Jo-Ellen Briggs
Jen Payne		

*The Pastoral Relations Committee is formed based on nominations from the Pastor, the Moderator and the Senior Deacon.

**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



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

