



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 –

The liturgical season of Lent starts on March 6th. During the season of Lent, Christians often choose to pick up a specific spiritual discipline. Some of us take up new activities, like a Lenten Bible study or prayer practice. Others engage in the ancient, spiritual disciplines of fasting.

People fast from food altogether for a period of time or from a particular kind of food. The purpose, of course, is to allow God to fill those spaces in ourselves that would otherwise be filled from that from which we are fasting. Instead of a handful of potato chips (or a bag full) to quell the anxiety or emptiness within, turn to God instead.

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30pm

Come join us for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Men's Fellowship. Bring a sense of humor and a love of carbs and bacon! This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

Lent 2019

Taizé Services

Mondays at 7:30pm

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

Lenten Book Discussion

Wednesdays 10:00-11:00am

March 6, 13, 27 (no meeting 3/20)

April 3 & 10

Bibles & Brews

Thursdays, beginning at 6:30pm

March 7, 14, 28 (no meeting 3/21)

April 4 & 11

See page 2 for details.

From the Pastor, continued from p. 1

A colleague of mine recently shared a passage he discovered written by Pope Francis which offers an alternative to traditional fasting. Pope Francis wrote:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

What a difference we would see in our lives and our world if we could observe just one of the disciplines suggested above. I offer them to you for your prayerful consideration this Lent.

The Church of Christ, Congregational remains an active place this Lenten season and I invite you to read this edition of the Spire carefully so that you don't miss out on the classes or special events taking place this month.

Blessings to you for a meaningful Lenten season.

With you on the Journey,
Rev. Jen

LENT

Taizé Services

Mondays at 7:30pm, Church Parlor

March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 8 & 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 Book Discussion

40-Day Journey with Julian of Norwich

March 6, 13, 27, April 3 & April 10

(Note NO meeting on March 20)

10:00-11:00am in the Church Parlor

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.

Thursday Evening Bibles & Brews

March 7, 14, 28, April 4 & 11

(Note NO meeting on March 21)

6:30pm gather & order food;

7:00pm discussion begins

Location: Mickey Cassidy's

116 Main St., Medway

Guided discussions about current events and faith as well as weekly readings from Julian of Norwich. If interested, let Rev. Jen know – or contact the church at: millisucc@msn.com or (508) 376-5034.

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.

You are formally invited to

A Magical Dinner

Saturday, March 23

6:30PM

Hosted by the Youth of the Church of Christ Congregational
142 Exchange St, Millis, MA

Costumed hosts will produce food for all ages and most dietary needs.

There will be gluten free and vegetarian options available
and everything will be nut-free.

**The feast will be for both your eyes and
your stomach, as magic will fill the space.**

**There will be a Disney Trivia contest,
with prizes. You are invited to wear your
favorite Disney costume, cos play,
or merch (merchandise).**

**Tickets are \$15 for adults &
\$10 for children under 12**

All Disney fans are welcome to this enchanting experience!

**Tickets can be registered for through a member of the
Youth Church of Christ Community or by
Emailing requests to jessalou@mac.com.**

Tickets must be requested before Tuesday, March 19th.

Due to an editing error, the Men's Fellowship Report was left out of the Church of Christ, Congregational's 2018 Annual Report. Here is a copy of that report:

Men's Fellowship Report

The Men's Fellowship Group gathers monthly to offer a forum for the men in our church to socialize, and it provides opportunities for the group to perform service projects for our church and community.

Men's Fellowship meets prior to worship on the third Sunday of the month for breakfast, to share fellowship and to discuss upcoming projects.

This past year Men's Fellowship had a very busy schedule during 2018, donating their time and services for the following events:

- Hosted coffee hour once a month
- Organized, supported and assisted with the monthly Dinner and Game Nights
- Organized and prepared the Easter Sunrise Breakfast
- Organized, hosted and prepared the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Stone Soup Luncheon
- Hosted Breakfast Church, the Holiday Cantata brunch, end-of-year and start-of-the-year church picnics
- With the help of Jen Payne and Sandy Raymond, organized and staffed the Snack Bar for the Jolly Holly Fair in December
- In December we celebrated Bill Raymond's 4th annual Holiday Meal extravaganza at the Charred Oak Tavern in Middleboro, the first time in Massachusetts, which was enjoyed by all.

Brian Hall took on the set-up and maintaining of the Men's Fellowship email chain that provided timely information about upcoming events and increased participation in our activities. If you'd like to be included in this information chain, please see a member and share your preferred email address.

Men's Fellowship also enjoyed the annual cookout and boating at Steve Howie's lakeside cottage. Clearly, food is a focal point of the group as we interact with each other and the community.

We are always looking for other activities to augment our schedule and further our Fellowship, our church community, and our community at large, so if you have an idea please share with us and we'll see if we can make it happen. We look forward to another active year with your support.

All men that consider the Church of Christ to be their spiritual home are automatically members of Men's Fellowship and we invite you to join us as you are able.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andy Bolton, Brian Hall, Rob Nathans, Art Payne and the rest of the crew



PIPS

Parents of Infants and Preschoolers Social Group

Next Dates:
March 14 & March 28

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.

Next Visitors' Group Meeting March 21 at 10:00am

The next Visitors' Group meeting will be on Thursday, March 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.

The Visitors' Group has set the date for the annual Visitors' Spring Luncheon. It will be on **Thursday, May 16 from 12:00 to 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall**. Mark your calendar – we'd love for you to join us! More details will follow.

Special Collection: Sunday, March 31



One Great Hour of Sharing is part of our Church's wider mission. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter and health care, as well as disaster relief for people around the world. The theme for this year is ***More Than We Can Imagine***. Envelopes will be distributed on March 31. **Please give generously!**

FREE!



DINNER & GAME NIGHT Friday, March 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! We'll have games for all ages! Call 508-376-5034 for more information.

MARCH YOUTH NEWS



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School meets most weeks for third graders and younger students. We do have a 4th -6th grade class that meets twice a month. For March that will be the 10th and the 17th.

Everyone is asked to be in Worship on the first Sunday of the month, which is communion Sunday. This is when children get a chance to practice and learn worship.



On the Sunday of **March 10th** we need adults to help in the Nursery room.

Our safe church policy requires two adults to be at any gathering of children or youth and we have more young ones visiting us every week!

This is an opportunity to live into the promises we make at every baptism – helping the children grow in Christ. Please reach out to Jess or Sondra.

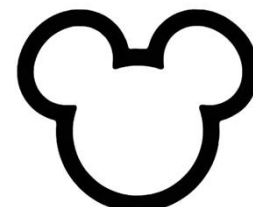
PATHFINDERS:

Youth Group – Sunday, March 3rd and March 17th. After our dinner we will finalize our plans for our Disney Dinner Event! Bring all your decorations and costumes and trivia ideas!

Friday and Saturday, March 22nd and 23rd: Cooking and Decorating!

Church Family – Do you have any Disney memorabilia that may help decorate for our dinner? If so, please talk to Jess

Annual Youth Dinner -- The annual youth dinner will transform Fellowship Hall into a most magical space this year on March 23rd! Ticket information is elsewhere in the Spire. Save the date!



Church of Christ
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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



March 10, 2019
Time to Spring Ahead!

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