

# THE SPIRE

January 2023

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](http://www.millisucc.org) • (508) 376-5034 • [millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com)



**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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



## Happy New Year!

Rev. Jennifer Geary

I woke up this morning to a very red sky and thought "oh, no, a storm". I clicked the weather app on my phone, which didn't show any storms at all. Hm, which do I trust, the sky or the Weather Channel? From where do I get information on which to base my daily decisions? Who are the prophets of our time?

We began the Christian Year in November, listening to the prophets tell us about the coming Messiah. We just celebrated the birth of Jesus that was broadcast to the world through signs and wonders. What are the signs of our time? Are you hopeful? I am. There are some signs of decline and fears of loss, but God's app gives us possibilities and promises.

We can pick any day of the year to say it is a day of new beginnings – an anniversary of a birth or death, of a marriage beginning or ending, of a career change. We can pick everyday to start anew.

As I've talked with many of you, we've discussed a general malaise, an exhaustion from big outside-us events, sucking up our energy. I invite us to gather during this month to recharge and reconnect with the hope of the Christ child.

The Diaconate purchased a worship series focused on overcoming the blahs. Come be in the sanctuary, surrounded by God's comforting love, and feel the regeneration in your spirit that the plants and trees are, right now, feeling in their roots and stems, even as their bare branches clatter in the wind. Together let's see the signs of hope. Together, let's be gentle and compassionate with each other and the world, as we find our way into the new season of faith.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Immediately following worship

In person

Warrant to be published in a few weeks.



## From Your Deacons

Lauren Briggs, Suzi Sennott and  
Wendy Schneider

“Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day.” -*Michael Josephson*

We are thankful to all of you who have stepped in to assist us this year as lay readers on Sundays and during Advent, helping to set up for outdoor services, assisting in funerals, and so many more tasks.

We know the Search Committee has been diligently working on the call of a new settled Pastor. The Deacons work closely with the Pastor in many capacities. This month brings the end of terms for both Suzi Sennott and Wendy Schneider, leaving Lauren Briggs as the remaining Deacon. We feel many hands make light work and would like to add at least four new Deacons this year. With more members, there would be flexibility in weekly Sunday tasks and other Diaconate duties with a new Pastor, easing the time commitment for all. Please prayerfully consider your time and talent if you are contacted to become an active member of the Diaconate.

Best wishes for the New Year

## In Memoriam



Barbara Hansen

July 22, 1929 - December 19, 2022



## Worship in January

**January 1 - Communion; Epiphany**  
Psalm 148; Matthew 2:1-23

**January 8 – Baptism of Jesus; Flip the switch**  
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 3:13-17

**January 15 – Pastor away;  
Soothe a Savage**  
Psalm 40:1-11; John 1:29-42

**January 22 – Annual Meeting; Lighten Up**  
*Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23*

**January 29 – Make My Day**  
Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

## Worship Bulletin

The bulletin can be found at:  
[www.millisUCC.org](http://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*

*Find your local number:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc6vTurh6j>

### Prudential Committee

Bill Wright & Doug Coutts

Thank you to everyone that sent in a pledge card for 2023, we very much appreciate your support of the church. We are in the process of working with the Church Council on next year's budget so stay tuned for that to come out. There are going to be challenges next year, and we are hoping to find ways in the coming months for additional support of the church and look forward to this ride together. We are always looking for new members, if crunching numbers and finance is something that interests you, or if you are interested in the inner workings of things, then please reach out to us as we would love to have you join us even for a meeting or two on an unofficial basis. We would also welcome ideas for any fundraising events next year as well - every little bit helps! Thanks again for your support!

### Closure

The Church Office will be closed on 1/2.

### Inclement Weather

Please use good judgement and only come to worship and other events if you feel safe to drive or walk. Most events can be joined via Zoom. If in-person worship is cancelled, a message will go out via email.



### Trustees

Kathy Stevens

Welcome to 2023! We are starting this New Year with an old project - the replacement windows in the parlor and Minister's office. These windows cannot be opened, allow heat to escape in winter, and retain it in summer. The storm window in the Minister's office is badly cracked, held together with tape.

We have asked Don May to quote on this project. His plan will use three large, double hung sash windows to completely fill the existing window space of each of the three spaces. The price for each set of three windows will be about \$2,700, installed or \$8,100 for all of them.

We have asked Don to order ALL the windows now (not including casings, jams, etc.), so they will match, eliminate price increases, and be available when weather permits for installation. The cost of just the windows will be \$3,150. It will take four to six weeks for delivery.

Women's Fellowship has agreed to give us \$4,000 toward this project, which will run about \$2,700 per set installed.

With the balance of the Women's Fellowship Funds, and existing Capital Fund money, we hope to have the Minister's office completed by early March, hopefully by the time a new Minister has been chosen.

We will keep you updated.

## Gratitude Corner

“Sweet Thank Yous” to everyone who donated candy to the Candy Table! This year the fudge makers were Myrna Rybczyk and Suzi Sennott. Jan Krohn made peanut brittle. The candy Elves are temporarily laid off until their workshop re-opens in November 2023.



Thanks also to Ellie Costa, Lisa Priest, and Vickie Jones for waiting on customers at the Jolly Holly Fair. The Candy Table is very popular with customers of all ages and is a fun table to have at the fair! I'll be recruiting elves next November!!

Linda Jones  
Head Elf

Thank you to everyone who made the Jolly Holly Fair a success.

Thank you to Doug Coutts, Wendy Schneider, and Jan Krohn for creating and sending out over a hundred postcards inviting folks to worship.

Thanks to all the creative people who created angels to decorate the sanctuary tree.

Thank you for all the holiday wishes given to us through gifts and cards.

– Jennifer and Bud Geary



## Visitors' Update

Myrna Rybczyk  
508-376-3729

Christmas cards and addresses were the focus of our November 18 meeting. We were joined by Karen Hatch, who is new to the group, and sent cards to another new Visitor, Marsha Mancuso who is now at home and recovering from surgery. She and Lisa Priest are Visitors' at Large and also new to the group and visiting when they are available. We are using cards and calls as our primary means of outreach.

Try as we might, we cannot know of everyone who should receive a card/call/visit, so, please be in touch with one of the Visitors or me with information. Perhaps your new next door neighbor? Or anyone who would be cheered by a seasonal greeting. We're all beginning to realize that there are many people who are burned out and lonely in the aftermath of the various strains of Covid. We suggest that if you choose to send an extra card or two that you sign it From your Friends at the Church of Christ. Perhaps, Thank You For Your Service or some other appropriate note.

If you need a stamp or two, stamps and return address stickers can be obtained through the church office.

God Bless us all as we enter a new year.

## Sunday School & Bible Class for Children January 22 at 10 AM

We offer two classes, one Sunday per month. Primary: Grade 2 and younger  
Secondary: Grade 3 and older  
(Bring your Bibles)

Mark your calendar, so you don't miss the January classes.

Please contact Doug Briggs or Kelly Williams for more information or to volunteer to help.



You can find the registration form and policy information on the church website [www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org) under the "about" tab/forms.

### **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



### **Online Bible Study**

Each **Wednesday at 9:30 am *and* 7:45 pm**, two different groups gather 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 January" section on page 2 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



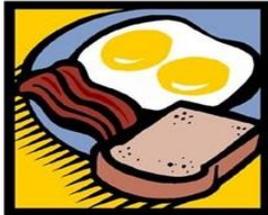
### *The Power of the Prayer Chain:*

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, January 15 at 7:30 AM



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

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

The M & M's (Monday Morning Needlework Group) gather in person in the Parlor every week!

Join in the fun on Monday mornings, any time **10 AM – 12 PM.**

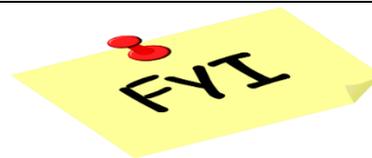
All are welcome – bring hand work if you have it or just come to socializing!

## 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*



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.

## 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, 1/16, 1/23 and 1/30.**

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.

## 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.

## January Spire Deadline

The deadline for entries for the January Spire is January 20. Please send all information by then.

Thank you

### Leadership & Committees

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

<b>Diaconate</b>		
	*Lauren Briggs	*Wendy Schneider
	Suzi Sennott	
<b>Missions</b>		
Casey Woodley	Art Payne	Wendy Schneider
*Jan Krohn	Mary Smith	
<b>Trustees</b>		
*Andy Bolton	*Kathy Stevens	Wayne Carlson
Rich Manzano	Bonnie Mac Donald	
<b>Prudential</b>		
Susan Bouchard	Doug Coutts	*Bill Wright
<b>Christian Education</b>		
*Doug Briggs	Meghan Prescott	*Kelly Williams
<b>Welcoming Committee</b>		
Judy Kosinski	Bonnie Mac Donald	Maria Melchionda
	Myrna Rybczyk	Katelyn Andrews
<b>At-large Members of Church Council</b>		
Art Payne	Judie Ackerman	
<b>Pastoral Relations Committee</b>		
*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. The person with the \* is the chair of the committee.

### 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, 7:00 PM
- Prudential – Second Tuesday, 12:00 PM
- 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

**Church of Christ  
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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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