

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.

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

This has not been a particularly hard winter as winters go, but I am oh so ready for spring. I've tried to get out to walk or run each day but am still feeling cooped up. It's actually been getting harder for me to make myself go out. As I look at the church events calendar for March, I see that it is sparse. The image that comes to my mind is the life cycle of a butterfly/caterpillar.

I wonder if this March will be like the chrysalis stage for us as a congregation. The Transition Team has decided to pause for the month. It seems that right now, most in the congregation are just not in a mental state to participate in the vital activities that make for a positive transition. We are stressed in ways we haven't experienced before, and we are tired. Many members will be getting their vaccines this month which leads to yet more decisions. We are holding our collective breath that the vaccine will be successful. We want to gather in person; we want our children to go to school safely. The hope is great, but we don't want to be too hopeful just yet. We are happy for Eileen as she prepares to move and wonder, how will we possibly find an adequate replacement. Our anxiety is mounting. And so, we need this month to breathe deeply and work through the anxiety. We crave spring, literally and figuratively.

- continued on p. 2 -



Are You Interested in
Becoming a Member
of the Church?

Join Us on Zoom at 7pm
March 8 & March 15
(note date change)

Join others at 7:00pm on March 8th and 15th to explore what church membership means and what is involved in joining. The sessions will be held on Zoom.

RSVP to Rev. Geary at: (774) 993-9407 or
pastoruccmillis@gmail.com.

To join zoom meeting with a computing device, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86249918201?pwd=V2hN-UWhHUFJoaWRKV29WRkVzdExjUT09>

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

Meeting ID: 862 4991 8201
Passcode: 02054

Or, find your local number:

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

**Learn about
the United Church of Christ**
Monday, March 15 at 7pm on Zoom

This is part of the membership class, but is open to everyone in the congregation who would like to better understand our denomination.

See the article above for zoom link information.

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR – cont. from p. 1

Like the caterpillar that looks dormant while actually actively transforming within the Chrysalis, like the seed that disappears into the ground for two weeks, causing us to wonder if it will ever sprout, like the sap that is invisibly running through the trees, soon to burst into buds, our calendar looks empty while much is happening.

What's on the calendar? Worship, Scripture, Prayer. Soul work. Personal interior work, done together. The simple act of getting together for an hour each week is the sun that warms the soil, the tree, and the chrysalis, allowing for the internal work, which leads to blossoms and new life.

Mentally and emotionally, we continue to seek out the path of God's plan for ourselves, our families, and our congregation. While each of us needs to do our own internal work, none of us need to do it alone. We are here for each other.

The Spirit in me, greets the Spirit in you, as we pathfind side-by-side on the way to Easter. May God bless us as we emerge from winter and the pandemic as changed people.

Grace,

Jennifer



LENT MISSION PROJECT

New Life 
Furniture Bank of MA

Recycling furniture. Rebuilding lives.

This Lent, Join Missions in an Act of Kindness for New Life

During Lent we typically fast or give something up, but this year consider committing to an act of kindness. For the month of March, we are asking you to join the Missions committee in collecting needed items for New Life Furniture Bank.

New Life is non-profit organization that assists individuals and families who are transitioning out of homelessness, victims of fire, those escaping domestic violence, military veterans and refugees. Regardless of the situation they are striving to overcome, they share a common theme, the need for a new beginning. New Life collects high-quality gently-used furniture and household essentials that are then made available at no cost to individuals and families in need.

Collection Details

What: New or slightly used towels/hand towels/face cloths and kitchen utensils

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, during the month of March, between 9:00am-5:30pm

Where: Place items in the large collection bin, outside the side door of the church.

If you have any questions, email Mission member Jan Krohn at janicekrohn@gmail.com, or call the church office at (508) 376-5034.

Sunday Worship in March

There will be two opportunities for live worship each week and you can worship via recorded sessions at any time. Sunday mornings we gather on zoom at 10am. See below for the link. On Wednesday evenings we gather on Facebook Live at 7 pm, on the church's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MillisUCCChurch/> (You do not need a facebook account to participate.) To view the recorded services, visit our YouTube Channel: [Millis UCC - YouTube](#)

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 **Password:** 02054

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87562091923?pwd=MVpJT21NelpRck9wM1UyaUtBalZsZz09>

- (Wed.) March 3 Reckoning faith
Romans 4:13-25
- (Sun.) March 7 Path of Firm Foundation** Communion
Exodus 20:1-17; John 2:13-22
- (Wed.) March 10 God's Foolishness
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- (Sun.) March 14 The Path through**
Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21
- (Wed.) March 17 God's Great Love
Ephesians 2:1-10
- (Sun.) March 21 Path of the heart**
Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33
- (Wed.) March 24 Reverent Submission
Hebrews 5:5-10
- (Sun.) March 28 Palm Sunday - Path to the tomb**
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-16
- April 1 Maundy Thursday** 7 PM sanctuary (tentative) & on-line
- April 2 Good Friday** – weather permitting, outdoor walk of the cross
- April 4 Easter**
Sunrise service - 6:30am Outdoors
Morning Worship - 10:00am on-line with communion



Missions Special Collection

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday March 14, 2021



Each year as a church we “let love flow” giving to this important need, we hope you will do so again this year. Please send donations made out to: Church of Christ, and put OGHS in the memo line.

Isaiah 49:8-12 articulates a stunning vision for a world of justice and equity; a world where everyone has enough, and all live in safety and abundance. It is also a vision for a world of *interconnectedness*. In this vision, what is good for you is also good for your neighbor; what is good for one country is good for the whole world; and what harms any one of us harms us all.

In order to help bring about that more just, abundant vision for humanity, **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports projects around the world that create opportunity and empower communities. Through global partnerships, your offerings promote food security; enable health and wellness programs; support education and vocational training; and of course—provide access to clean, safe water.

But you aren't just sharing water...when you share what God has given, you “*let love flow.*” That love crosses all sorts of spaces and dividing lines, knitting together a better human story, and bringing the Kingdom of God about in our time.

When you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you support water and other sustainable development projects all over the world. When you “*let love flow,*” lives are not just saved—they are transformed.



Water, after all, is life.

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 March” section on page 3 in the newsletter.



Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2I2aGExMU1SONHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054

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.](#)

Rev. Geary's Monday Office Hours on Zoom

Rev. Geary will be available to church members on-line via Zoom, from 10am-Noon 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



Many thanks to all who participated in the sign/snowman fundraiser for our friends at Common Cathedral. We were able to send a donation of \$215.66 thanks to your efforts.

Our Church has a long history of supporting the awesome work this organization does for people in great need, and we are going to continue this relationship on May 23rd by providing lunches for the Common Cathedral service on that day.

Some of you may choose to participate by making a small donation to help us buy the food, some of you may choose to participate by making sandwiches at your home (we will provide the ingredients), and some of you may choose to participate by driving into Boston with your family and experiencing the amazing service on Boston Common with us.

More details will follow as we get closer! For more information on Common Cathedral, check out their website commoncathedral.org or contact Doug at dbriggs498@gmail.com or 508-498-0927.

Youth Group members and families look for March events information arriving by email soon! *(As always, remember to check your spam folder in case an email lands there.)*

The youth group is open to anyone grades 7-12. If you're interested in joining or learning more, contact Doug at: dbriggs498@gmail.com.

News from the Deacons

The deacons have welcomed three new members to the diaconate: Suzi Sennott, Katelyn Andrews, and Lauren Briggs. We are so pleased that they agreed to join us when asked and know that each will add a welcome voice to our church.

We also say goodbye to departing deacon, Paul Rice and express our gratitude for his long-term service. Paul has always willingly helped with everything asked of him; from setting up chairs on the front lawn for a Christmas in July service on the hottest day of one summer, ringing the church bells on Juneteenth, tying bows on numerous Advent candles, or unloading bags of food from many cars dropping off reverse Advent Food Pantry items and carrying them downstairs. Paul's sense of humor and wise counsel will be greatly missed, but we know that he will continue to be an important member of our congregation.

Deacon's Fund

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact Rev. Geary. We have funds available for just this type of situation. Please do not struggle alone. Taking care of each other is an important part of being a faith community. At any given time one of us is in need. At other times we can be the one reaching out and helping others. Please do not hesitate to access the care and compassion of this congregation if you are struggling financially or in any other way. We have lots of resources and are here to share with each other.



WEDNESDAY CHURCH CHECK-INS

Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00pm for our live weekly check-in where you'll hear a **brief Lenten liturgy**, 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/>

Visitors' Group Meeting March 18 at 11:00am on Zoom

The Visitors' Group will be meeting on Thursday, March 18 at 11:00AM on Zoom. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us.

We hope that everyone is doing well and getting their vaccine shots. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

"Peace I leave you with you, my peace I give you...Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

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

Zoom Meeting Information

To join using a computing device, click the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86275723058?pwd=MVp4MytmMXUwaDJobnQwZ04rVlVNUt09>

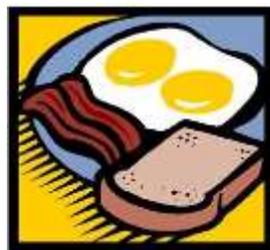
If using a phone, dial: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 862 7572 3058

Passcode: 02054

To find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kAmy1fD5j>



Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting on Zoom

Sunday, March 21
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/j/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



Gratitude Corner

We're having an impact in the community...

The church has recently received several letters from organizations, grateful for the support our church has provided. Here are excerpts from their letters...

Ron Yates, Co-founder and Chairman of New Life Furniture Bank, thanked us for our contribution to their Annual campaign:

The furniture and household goods that we supply to people generates feelings that they finally have a HOME! The result is increased security, improved health, better opportunities for employment and a better environment for education of their children.

You are a large part of the impact that New Life has on our clients' households. We are proud to have you as a partner and your support as we scale up our operations.

Beth Lyons, Executive Director of South Shore Habitat for Humanity, thanked us for our contribution to their fall appeal:

This year more than ever, our community's low-income families needed a hand up – not a hand out. The pandemic has been unforgiving for many families in our community who have endured significant financial hardships and uncertainty. Your gift means families can partner with South Shore Habitat and build a strong foundation for the future. Thank you for helping us bring joy to so many!

Courtney Spellacy, Deputy Director and Chief Development Officer of the ACLU Foundation of Massachusetts, thanked the church for our contribution:

For 100 years, the ACLU has stood strong for justice, equality, and democracy. Your support comes at a critical time: The ACLU has a powerful, proven track record of defending fundamental freedoms even in the most difficult of circumstances...This work is made possible because of you.



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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!



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