

THE SPIRE

November. 2025

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

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An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



FROM
THE
PASTOR

A Letter from Pastor James

Friends,

As November arrives, we watch the last of the autumn leaves fall, leaving the trees bare. This change in season is a reminder of the constant change in our own lives, and an invitation to turn inward and practice gratitude. It's a time to pause and reflect on the abundance that comes not from what we own, but from what we mean to each other.

Scripture compels us to this practice of gratitude. As Psalm 107:1 reminds us, *"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever."* This practice demands spiritual discipline. It challenges us to find joy even in hardship, to find grace in both the simple and the complex, and to forge a gratitude that fuels our work for justice and peace in the world.

Our life together as a congregation offers many opportunities to live out this faith. I invite you to join us for these upcoming event:

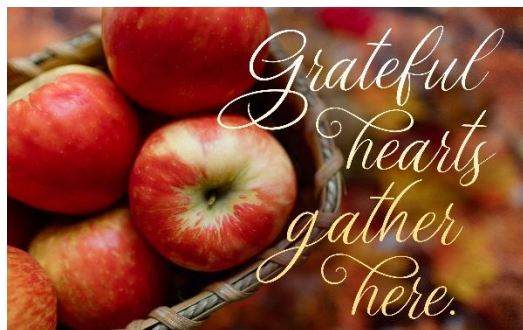
- **All Saints Worship:** This Sunday, November 9th, at 10a.m., Rev. Mary will lead us in a special service. We will honor the memory of the saints who have gone before us, and you will have an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones.
- **Stone Soup:** Mark your calendars for November 23rd! We will gather for our beloved Stone Soup tradition after worship.
- **Advent Begins:** The season of hopeful anticipation begins the Sunday following Stone Soup. Prepare your hearts for the journey to the manger.

As we look toward the holidays, let us extend our spirit of gratitude into tangible care for our neighbors. The Second Chance Closet is in great need of your support. We are currently accepting donations of clothing, toiletries, and bedding. Donations can be dropped off on Wednesday and Friday 10am-3pm or on Sundays before worship. It is a

direct way to serve with love and make a difference.

May this month be a time of deep reflection and even deeper thanksgiving for each of you. Wishing you and yours a season filled with peace, warmth, and abundant blessings.

Rev. James



Church Friends,

We have a busy month ahead as we look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sunday Nov. 23rd, Stone Soup Luncheon—a long-time tradition at our church. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, we share homemade soups, remembering the pilgrim story of a stranger coming into a town and no one was willing to feed him—but when he started a cooking fire, he put stones into a pot of water, then spoke out loud, “This would taste better with a carrot in it or an onion.” Then slowly, the town opened its doors with food for the pot and history was made. Please consider making a

soup to share—see the sign-up sheet on the kitchen counter, or sign up to bring breads, desserts etc.

Nov. 30th we begin Advent—the story of the birth of Christ and we set up Fellowship Hall for the Jolly Holly Fair just 6 days later. We need all hands to put up tables, decorations etc. We hope all of you have signed on to work that day at a table and/or hang around to clean up! And by then we are in December!

Rev. James will be with us for all our Advent Services—please come and hear the good news story of Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the angel and the star!

From, Your Deacons

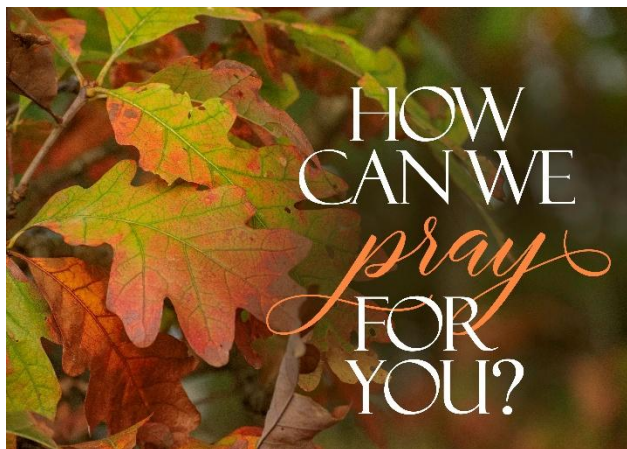


Cranberry Chutney Time!

Kathy Stevens will be making her fabulous cranberry chutney in time for Thanksgiving. She will be taking orders from Nov. 2nd-Nov. 19th.

She will distribute the chutney at the Stone Soup Luncheon on Sunday

11/23. The cost will be \$7.00 a pint and all the money goes to the church. If you cannot attend the luncheon, please make other arrangements with her for chutney pick-up.



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.



This year, our theme for Stewardship Sunday is Welcome Home! Stewardship is our support for the ministries and services of our spiritual home, the Church of Christ Congregational. Stewardship is our opportunity to show what the Church has meant to us over the last 311

years and what we can do to offer our support for its ministries through our financial pledges, time and talents. Pledges are the framework on which we plan for church programs and maintenance of our historic building. We welcome contributions of any amount.

On Sunday Nov. 9, we will explain the importance of stewardship and how your support is vital to the operations of our church.

On Sunday, November 16, or before, you can return pledge cards, scan QR code or make cash contributions for Stewardship Sunday. You do not have to be a church member to pledge. We will present our offerings at the altar and bless them during worship. Please give generously as we celebrate the role of our wonderful church in our spiritual and everyday lives.



Jolly Holly Fair Time!

Have you started baking yet?? The Fancy Foods table needs items from all of you! So, get out your recipe books, cookies, cakes, cupcakes,

squares—whatever you want to bake! More than 1 item is always accepted!

Remember—The Board of Health needs to know **ALL** ingredients in each of your food items. Forms will be available from Kathy or shortly made available to print from our website. Please complete one for EACH item you bake. If you are using a package mix, cut out the list on the box or bag and tape it to the Board of Health form.

Hint: for early bakers—when item has cooled, wrap in waxed paper, then in foil or plastic wrap, then in freezer bags. Include your ingredients on a slip of paper. Two days before the fair, take your items out and remove the freezer bag and let defrost. The waxed paper will absorb the moisture from the item. Rewrap any way you can to make it festive for the holidays!



If you have any articles for the next issue of the Spire, please email them to Laura **No Later Than Nov. 20th!**



Attention Candy Elves!

The Candy Workshop will be re-opening soon to stuff the paper rolls, fill the jars, and cut fabric circles to cover the jar lids. Donations of homemade fudge, plain and peanut M&Ms, Kisses, Reeses, and Christmas candies are welcomed. Please contact Linda Jones for more info.



We enjoyed another year of fall family fun at our annual Trunk or Treat! Thank you to everyone who decorated trunks, donated candy or helped with planning and promoting our event. Special thanks to Millis Fire Department for the Touch-a-Truck opportunity. Here are some photos highlighting the festivities.





Upcoming Events!

Don't miss out on our upcoming events!



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

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