



Rev. James Admans

[Schedule an Appointment
to speak with the Pastor](#)



Dear Beloved Congregation,

I've been thinking about this past Sunday. We rolled out the whiteboard with a purple marker and the question: ***What do you believe about Jesus?***

This type of question comes from Jesus himself. In Matthew 16, he and his disciples are passing through Caesarea Philippi. Historically, this was a place filled with temples and power and competing claims about who and what deserved devotion. Right in the middle of all of that, Jesus gets personal. He stops and asks his disciples: "*But who do you say that I am?*"

This past Sunday, we answered that question too. Teacher. Healer. Friend. A really nice person. The one we can invite into our own lives.

This is what it looks like when a community of faith takes a theological question seriously. No one held the whole picture. But together, something fuller came into view.

Keep adding to the picture

Our conversation doesn't have to be over. I'd love for you to head over to our church Facebook page, where I shared a photo of the board. Take a look at what your neighbors wrote. Sit with it. And then add your own answer in the comments. There's still room.

[Join the conversation here](#)

Dive deeper with us

If this exercise has stirred something in you, I want to invite you to our next Book

Club gathering on Sunday, September 27th.

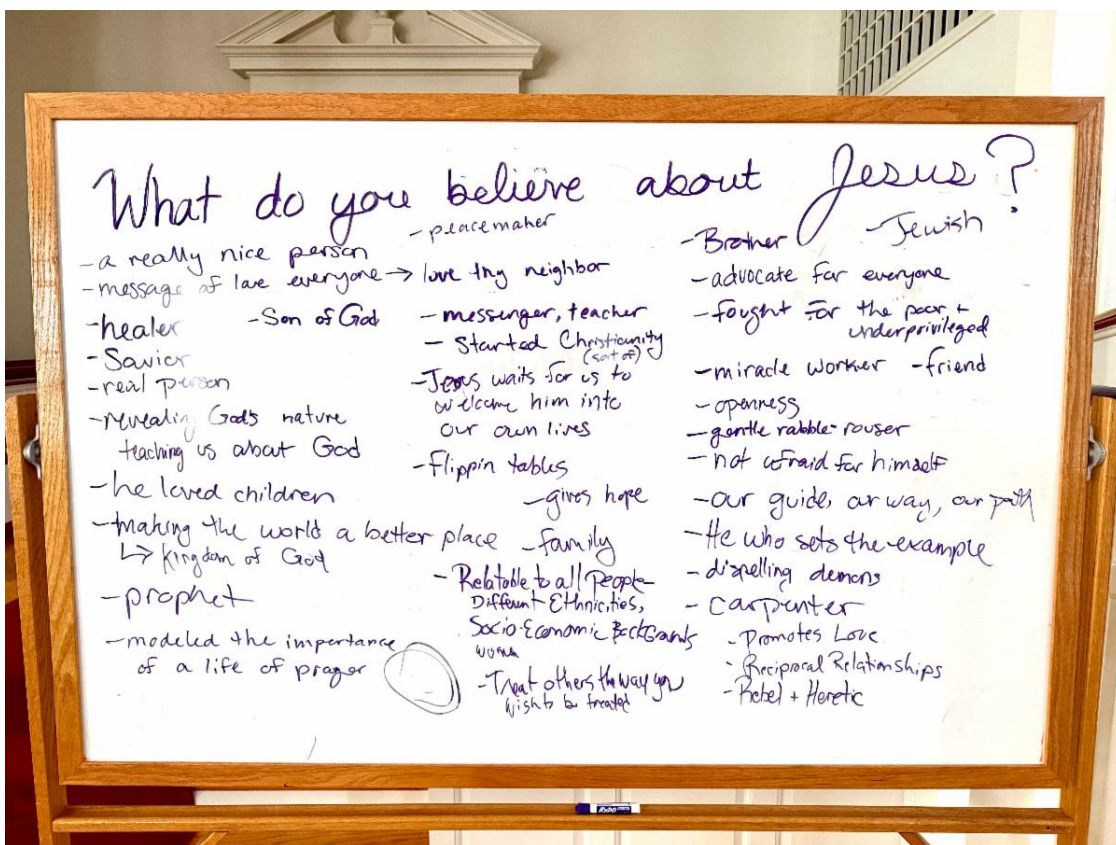
We'll be reading *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* by Marcus Borg, a theologian I return to again and again because he takes both Jesus and good questions seriously.

Borg writes for people who love Jesus but have sometimes felt like the version of Jesus they were handed doesn't quite fit. He helps us meet Jesus with fresh eyes, not to tear anything down, but to open something up. I think it will be a rich conversation, and I'd love for you to be part of it.

I'm so grateful to serve alongside a community that's willing to take a question like this seriously. Who we say Jesus is really does shape how we love, how we show up for each other, how we treat the stranger and the neighbor and the person who is struggling.

May we keep asking. May we keep listening. May we keep becoming the answer, together.

In faith and solidarity,
Rev. James Admans (they/them)



How can we pray for you?

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 email the church office at millisucc@msn.com, and we will forward your request on to Mary Jensen.



Save The Dates!

- Ask the Pastors! 8/23 @ 10:00am
- Welcome Sunday w/ Potluck 9/13 @ 10:00am
- Fairy Houses in the Garden 9/27 @ 4:30pm-6:00pm
- All Saints Worship 11/1 @ 10:00am
- Trunk or Treat 11/1 @ 11:30am-12:30pm
- Authentic Italian Night 11/21 @ 5:30pm
- Thanksgiving Service w/ Stone Soup 11/22 @ 10:00am
- Jolly Holly Fair 12/5 9:00am-2:00pm
- Christmas Eve Service 12/24 @ 6:30pm



Change of Date:

Be advised, our Authentic Italian Night fundraiser has been changed to November 21st 2026 at 5:30pm.

Newsletter Deadline Reminder



Gentle Reminder: Spire content is due by the 20th of each month!

Deacons Notes

It has been a strange summer! Rain and super heat, days at a time; with little comfortable weather in between. We had our only outside service in July with Rev. Mary's Baseball Sunday – Terrific!

Rev. James will lead September 6th with communion and Welcome Sunday will be on the 13th. You are all invited to the potluck luncheon – salads, sliced meat and cheese plates for sandwiches, rolls, casseroles, and of course, desserts – whatever you choose! Bring your whole family!!

Rev. James will be off on September 20th and the Deacons will lead the service. Any sermon ideas are always welcome.

We need your help with setting up the tables, etc. for the lunch – please come on Saturday, September 12th at 5PM to the fellowship hall. Many hands make light work!

Contact Kathy Stevens, Art, or Jen Payne if you can help!

Baseball Sunday Recap

We were blessed to gather outdoors on July 26 for our fourth annual Baseball Sunday! Guest pitcher Rev. Mary Perry took to the mound where she led us in a lighthearted yet reverent service. We sang our favorite baseball themed tunes, "Take Me Out to God's Game" and "Sweet Caroline" and praised God

with our unique rendition of the “The Wave.” Rev. Mary’s message, “What Is Your Walk Up Song?” encouraged us to consider the music in our own lives that inspires us to step up the plate of life with gratitude and courage. Thanks go out to the grounds crew, aka the Deacons, for their help in setting up for the service and to Concession Manager Doug Briggs, who prepared the hot dogs we enjoyed afterwards.

Get Involved!



*Love your neighbor.
One Saturday at a time.*

Volunteer at the Second Chance Closet

-  **What we do:** Free clothing, shoes & toiletries for neighbors in need.
-  **What you'll do:** Sort donations, welcome guests, organize shelves.
-  **Where:** 142 Exchange St, Millis, MA
-  **When:** Saturdays, 10 AM–12 PM



*Faith looks like showing up for
your community. Will you join us?*

Sign up by filling out the form on our
website or scanning the QR code

millisucc.org



Volunteer at the second chance closet! Sign up by filling out the form on our website, scan the QR code attached, or click the link.
Email millisucc@msn.com for more information!

Sign up to volunteer for Second Chance Closet

The Second Chance Closet is in need of toiletries of all kinds. Please give as you are able.



The Millis Farmers Market is returning later this month! Mark your calendars for Tuesday afternoons this summer and stock up on fresh produce, local goods, and more.

If you're interested in being a vendor at the market, please message us – tables will be available for \$25/afternoon.



Join us for a magical night in the Garden! This is a free, family-friendly event, all are welcome to come and admire the fairy houses at any point throughout the evening.

Art submissions for fairy houses will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the summer—please fill out the following form to register:

<https://forms.gle/3dqCHsyfV1NwN5e29>.



MILLIS UCC BOOK CLUB

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

***The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith
by Marcus Borg***

Discussions led by Rev. James Admans

**A narrative-driven exploration of Jesus' life
and teachings, blending historical scholarship,
intellectual thought, & spiritual reflection.**

**Sunday, Sept 27th
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
in the Church Parlor**

**Church of Christ, Congregational
142 Exchange St
Millis, MA 02054**

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**Meeting Jesus Again
for the First Time**

**The Historical Jesus and the
Heart of Contemporary Faith**

MARCUS J. BORG
Author of The Heart of Christianity

What if the Jesus you thought you knew has been waiting to surprise you? That's the heart of our next book club selection, Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time by Marcus Borg. We'd love for you to join us as we read it together!

Borg invites us to set aside the assumptions and inherited images many of us carry, and to encounter Jesus fresh: as a teacher of wisdom, a voice for justice, and a living presence who calls us toward compassion.

MILLIS UCC BOOK CLUB

God's Monsters

Vengeful Spirits, Deadly Angels, Hybrid Creatures, and Divine Hitmen of the Bible
by Esther J. Hamori

A fascinating exploration of the monstrous and Divine in the Bible, examining how these creatures challenge our understanding of God and humanity.

**Discussions led by
Rev. James Admans**

**Sunday, Oct 18th
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM**
in the Church Parlor
or attend on Zoom

**Church of Christ, Congregational
142 Exchange St
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Join us on Sunday, October 18th at 11:15 AM in the Church Parlor or attend online on Zoom!

Understanding PRC

What is PRC and what is its role? The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) regularly meets with Rev. James to foster communication between the Pastor and the congregation, and to support our Pastor in their efforts to connect the

church with the community We seek your feedback and ideas for our church, and assure you a safe, confidential welcome for your closely held concerns. We are striving to be 'One Body in Christ'. Please remember, Rev. James truly welcomes your voice. For ideas, questions, or concerns, please contact any member of the PRC committee:

Suzi Sennott, Jo-Ellen Briggs & Maria Melchionda



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.

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www.millisucc.org

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