

THE SPIRE

February 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

www.millisucc.org • (508) 376-5034 • millisucc@msn.com



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Greetings, Friends!

As I write this message for this month's edition of *The Spire*, I am returning, refreshed and recharged after taking some time off. The opportunity to step away for a bit allowed me to rest, reflect, and spend some time with friends. I am excited to be back and look forward to reconnecting with you again this Sunday for worship.

In other news, February is here—a month known for Groundhog Day's predictions, Valentine's Day celebrations, and the observance of Black History Month. In particular, it is a time to both celebrate and deepen our understanding of the world and each other.

As we honor Black History Month, I am reflecting on the wisdom and

legacy of Rev. Dr. James Cone, often recognized as the Father of Black Liberation Theology. Dr. Cone was a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and a distinguished professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where his teachings left a mark on generations of students.

Here's a little bit more about him:

Over the course of his career, Dr. James Cone authored numerous pivotal works, including the groundbreaking books *God of the Oppressed* and *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. These texts continue to challenge readers to confront the intersections of faith, justice, and systemic racism.

To describe his work as powerful feels inadequate—his theology was (and still is) revolutionary, drawing deeply from the Hebrew Bible prophets, the radical ministry of Jesus, and the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. He demanded Christians understand the Gospel as a call to action for the oppressed and demonstrated how liberation is central to our sacred stories and the Christian faith.

Dr. Cone boldly proclaimed the necessity of liberation as a core component of Christianity. He said, *“Any theology that is indifferent to the theme of liberation is not Christian theology.”* The work of liberation is not optional, but essential. For Dr. Cone, the Gospel was not merely about personal salvation through belief alone. Being a Christian is about dismantling systems of oppression and advocating for the equality and dignity of all people.

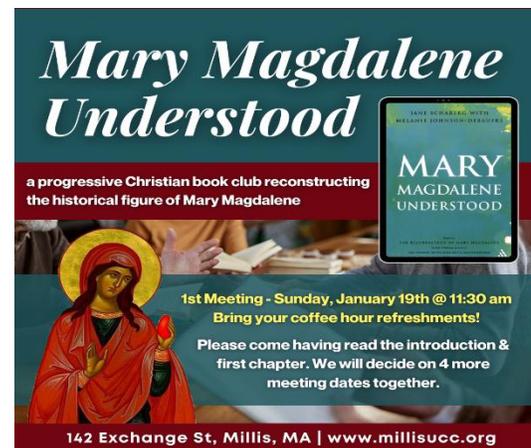
As people of faith, we are not only called to accept God’s boundless love and grace, but also to put that faith into action for the collective liberation. Dr. Cone’s writings remind us that faith and justice are inseparably linked. They challenge us to ask hard questions: How are we using our faith to confront racial and social inequality? How does our understanding of God inspire us to seek justice?

Let us take the time to honor the legacy of Dr. James Cone and others who have dedicated their lives to the fight for justice and equality. Let us deepen our understanding of racial injustice, reflect on its impact, and recommit ourselves to building a more equitable society.

Peace,
Rev. James



Due to weather, we have rescheduled our Annual meeting for **Sunday, March 2nd** directly after our Sunday worship service. Please plan to attend.



Progressive Christian Book Club
Grab a coffee hour snack and meet us in the Parlor. Our next meeting will be on Sunday February 23rd after worship. Please have chapters 2 & 3 read and ready to discuss.





Monthly Sunday School Dates are now available!

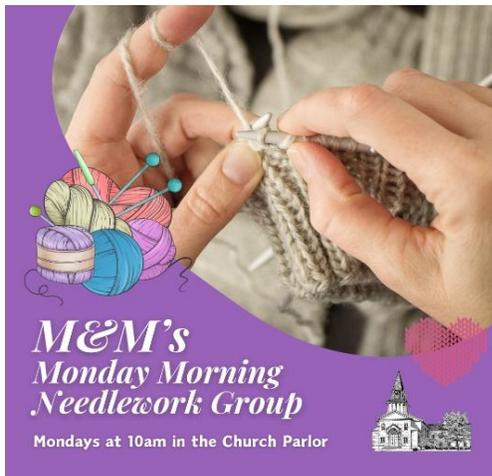
February 23

March 23

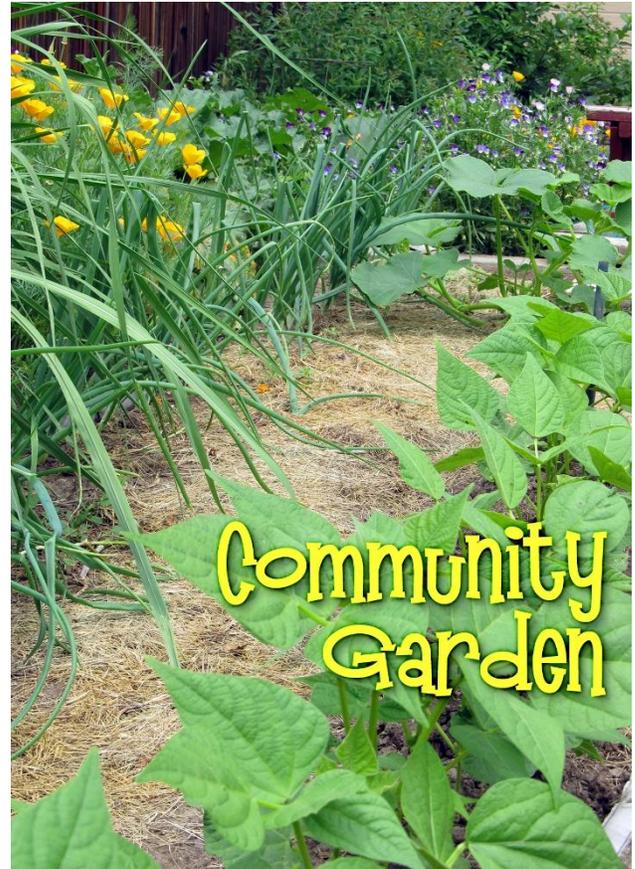
April 27

June 1

Sunday School takes place during our Sunday Worship and is taught by adult volunteers. All adult volunteers working with children are background checked.



M&Ms meet
Mondays, 10-Noon in the Parlor.
Bring your handcrafts, or just come to socialize. We'd love to have you join us!



The Community Garden is gearing up for the 2025 season, and we need your help! We're planning some community events, and we would love your feedback on the types of events you would like to see and attend in the Garden. Please fill out the following form, or contact Lauren Briggs for a physical copy of the survey:

<http://forms.gle/zhSrNT6FrsEX3V619>





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.

Ashes2Go

Ash Wednesday, March 5th @ 8am-9am;
4:30pm-6pm

Come on down to the Church of Christ, Congregational to get your Ashes 2 Go! Rev. James & Rev. Mary will be distributing ashes outside.

Ash Wednesday Service 7PM in the Sanctuary

Church of Christ, Congregational
142 Exchange St, Millis MA 02054 millisucc.org

ASH
Wednesday

Service in the Sanctuary

March 5, 2025 @ 7PM
millisucc.org

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Upcoming Events!

1st Annual **CHILI COOK-OFF & MOVIE NIGHT!**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22ND 5PM-8PM

Calling all chili enthusiasts and culinary wizards!

WHY JOIN?

- Delicious Chili
- Fun for All Ages
- Win a Prize!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Let us know you're bringing a chili dish to share!
pastoruccmillis@gmail.com
(508) 376-5034

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

March 4th at the Church of Christ, Congregational
4:30pm - Cooking begins; 5:30pm - Pancakes served
millisucc.org

TRIVIA NIGHT

MARCH 7
6:30 P.M.
AT MILLIS UCC

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