

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

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

April will be a month of transition. Right now, the trees are bare, and the grass is brown. By the end of the month, both will be fully greened, flowers will be blooming, and the birds will have returned. Our personal lives will see many transitions as more and more people receive the vaccine.

Here at the church, there will also be transition. Over the month I am going to experiment with a variety of schedules hopefully landing on a manageable one where I am in Millis at least three full days per week. By the end of the month, we will have a new administrative assistant, a big change for all of us. The Diaconate is experimenting with a variety of technology that will allow us to safely worship in-person and eventually, in sanctuary, while continuing to include those who must be at home or away.

Most of us are tired and tender from a year of pandemic and we might not make it through the transitions of April as gracefully as we would like. Please be gentle with yourself and with others. There really isn't a hurry. Let's see and smell the flowers, let's listen to the choir of birds, let's take time to reconnect in body and soul with one another.

Happy Easter! Happy Spring! - Jennifer

Holy Week Worship

All worship services except Good Friday will be available on zoom. Links and liturgies can be found on the website: www.millisucc.org. Good Friday and Easter Sunrise have an in-person option.

Please pre-register at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA8A82EA0FBCF8-good>

or by calling (508) 376-5034 and leaving a message.

- **Maundy Thursday service on April 1st at 7:00pm via zoom.** We will partake in the last supper and experience the service of Tenebrae where we move into darkness as we hear the story of Jesus' final days.
- **Good Friday Walking the Way of the Cross on April 2nd at 1 pm** on the back lawn of the Church. This is an experiential stations of the cross which will last about 1 hour. Masks required, please bring your own chair. Please pre-register.
- **Easter Sunrise service on April 4th at 6:15am** on the back lawn of the church. Bring your own chair or stand for the service. Masks required. Please pre-register.
- **Easter Worship on April 4th at 10:00am via zoom.** Including the sacrament of communion. Please bring your Lenten plants to this service. If possible, take a picture of your plant, no matter how big or small, and send it to pastoruccmillis@gmail.org by Wednesday, March 31st, to include it in our Easter slide show.



Sunday Worship in April

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

Passcode: 02054

Find your local number:

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



The Great 50 Days of Easter
Let us worship the Risen Savior

April 4: Christ Has Risen

6:15am Sunrise

John 20:1-18; Acts 10:34-43

**10:00am Easter Celebration
including communion**

Mark 16:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11;
Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 11: Wonder and Doubt

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133;
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 18: Christ Among Us

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7;
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25: We Are Sheep

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24;
John 10:11-18

Administrative Assistant Position Available at the Church

We are looking for an Administrative Assistant to work 20 hours a week helping to support the pastor, council, committees, ministries, and operations of the church.

[Click here](#) for the job description and details on how to apply, or contact the church at: millisucc@msn.com or (508) 376-5034.



Furnishing hope with every stride.

Virtual | April 17 - May 8, 2021

In-person* | May 8, 2021

**Pending we move into the stage of Phase 4 that allows road races.*

This year, as we have done in the last two years, the church is a sponsor for the annual fundraiser for New Life Furniture Bank. The 2020 Trail Run was all virtual and they had great participation.

For the 2021 Trail Run, you have the opportunity to participate virtual or in person. **The church has a team called the Walk-Ins Welcome, and we hope you will you us!** We signed up as a virtual team -- however, you can also run May 8th.

To sign-up, or to learn more about the event, go to: <https://newlifefb.org/5k/> or contact Wendy Schneider or Jan Krohn.



Proposed Community Garden at the Church of Christ

We are exploring the idea of creating a Community Garden at the Church of Christ! We're in the process of developing a plan on how we might install a small number of raised gardening beds on the church property for community use. The vision is to have the garden beds be available for free, on a first-come, first-served basis, with the set-up costs of the beds being covered by individual, community, and business sponsors. Lauren Briggs is leading the project. If you would like to be involved contact Lauren at briggself@gmail.com.

Some potential areas for help would be:

- Reaching out to local businesses or organizations who might be interested in sponsoring a bed
- Sponsoring a bed yourself
- Setting up the beds
- Gardening in a bed yourself
- Painting or decorating a garden bed
- Helping to staff/check in on the garden once it is set up
- Visioning other possibilities

Spring Cleaning

As we approach the day when we can have services in the Sanctuary again, we would like to have it look its best. For starters, the pews need cleaning, as well as all the doors and window sills.

Many of us have had our Covid vaccines, and would like to "get some exercise." Spring cleaning is a great way to do that!

Possible dates are Tuesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 8, at 10:00am. Please contact Kathy Stevens at 508-376-8124 to sign on. All Are Welcome!

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

Farewell Gathering for Eileen Sunday, April 25 from 12-2pm*

Mark your calendar! The church wants to give Eileen Yates, our Administrative Assistant, a jolly send-off before she heads down south to her new home.

The party will be on Sunday, April 25th from 12-2pm in the backyard of the church – *weather permitting! Bring your own chair and mask, and join in. Help is always welcome – Please call Kathy Stevens at (508) 376-8124.

From the Music Director

In 2020, we thought we were having a very different Easter, and it was. We weren't in the sanctuary with lilies and tulips. The choir wasn't there in their robes, in fact we had no music. At least none that I recall. But, through the magic of the internet, we did have a service that Rev. Nathans conducted on a card table in her living room.

We were all in a state of disbelief and confusion. What would this mean for us going forward? Would we all be trying to learn programs that made it possible to at least see one another? How long would we be worshipping this way? Surely this couldn't last very long...

But, it did. We have adapted to Sunday morning services on Zoom. Zoom has been around since 2008, but was used primarily for business. However, it met most of our needs except unison readings and singing together.

More solutions were found, Zoom instruction videos and meetings became a large part of our lives. I'd like to say it was easy, but it wasn't. Recordings of scripture and prayer were made and sent to Rev. Geary, I recorded some hymns and she inserted them into the Sunday Worship Service. We all scrambled to get the service heard outdoors when summer came and we continued to stumble and fall, get up and try again, and learn.

Our Becki Abalutzk became the song leader and by Christmas we were able to make a small recording of carols with several choir members.

Now a year later, we are still on Zoom and You Tube. In almost every service there has been a glitch and we have learned that that's just the way it is. We are not professional sound engineers and it's stressful when you record at home with phones ringing, deliveries being made – lots of interruptions just when you thought you were getting a perfect recording. And so another attempt is made – sometimes it's the 6th or 7th attempt. And we learn and are humbled. Yet, I celebrate the support of all concerned. All of you who have tuned in and listened and been generous in your positive comments. Thank you.

Soon we will be able to be together and we will continue to build on what we have. Our church, our choir, our congregation – we are the church.

Happy Easter,
Myrna

P.S. We have made another recording.
Listen for it on Easter.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOME GUIDANCE ON UPDATING OUR CHURCH TECHNOLOGY

Are you savvy with technology? Do you have an Information Technology background? The church is looking for some volunteers to help review and assess our technology infrastructure including internet, laptops, applications, and to make recommendations on what our next steps should be. If you are interested in helping us get the church technology up to date, please email the church at: millisucc@msn.com.

Transition Team Update



The transition team is back to work!! We thank you for all the input you have provided but we need your continued assistance.

In the next few months, we will offer various avenues for you to communicate your desires, insight and concerns of the church so we can move together in the search for a new pastor.

So please note: Our next group meetings will be the first week of May. Date and time to be determined so watch for the dates! We need you!!

Understanding the United Church of Christ Tuesday, April 20th from 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom

Rev. Jennifer Geary will give a presentation about the history and current work of the United Church of Christ, the denomination of which we are a congregation. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers. Knowing that this time slot is difficult for those with younger children, she is happy to share the talk another time at your request. Let her know what works best for you. To join on April 20th from a computing device, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82938228646?pwd=SnMwN1k1d05TTINpRWR1a1RSUGdyQT09>

If using a phone, dial: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 829 3822 8646 Passcode: 02054

Wider Church events in which you might be interested:

Service of Covenant for Rev. Dr. Audrey Price, the new Executive Minister of Strategic operations for the Southern New England Conference UCC

April 17, 1p [Service of Covenant for Rev. Dr. Audrey Price](#)

Faith Formation/Christian Education Training

April 24, 8:30a – 12:30p [Faith Formation 101 - Practices for a Sustainable Ministry](#)

Summer Camp Preview at Silver Lake

April 24, 10a – 4p [Silver Lake Sampler - Silver Lake Spring Program Day](#)

Silver Lake is hiring full-time summer staff

If you are looking for a Summer job that looks great on resumes and will give fantastic life experiences, consider working at Silver Lake. [Silver Lake: Volunteer? Employee? Where Do You Fit In? \(silverlakeect.org\)](http://silverlakeect.org)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Common Cathedral Service Project

Our Church has a long history of supporting the awesome work that Common Cathedral 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 April 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.

WEDNESDAY CHURCH CHECK-INS

Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00pm (or whenever it's convenient) for a weekly check-in where you'll hear a brief devotional, along with 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/>

On-line Bible Study

Note: No Bible Study on March 31

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 April" section on page 2 in the newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2l2aGExMU1lSONHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054



Gratitude Corner

Thank you to everyone involved in helping to prepare and present the Easter music. We are grateful for the joy and beauty you've added to our worship experience.

Thank you to all those who made donations of towels and kitchen utensils throughout the month of March for the New Life Furniture Bank. Your generous donations were wonderful, heartfelt expressions of kindness during the Lenten season. To learn more about the New Life Furniture Bank, [click here](#).

If you would like to express your gratitude to others, either anonymously or with your name attached, email the church office at millisucc@msn.com.

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.](#)

Visitors' Group Meeting April 15 at 10:30am on Zoom

The next Visitors' Group meeting will be on Thursday, April 15, at 10:30 on Zoom. We hope that each of you will have a blessed Easter. We hope and pray that everyone is doing well and that we will be able to visit in person in the near future. If anyone is interested in becoming a visitor, please let one of us know.

"Jesus' love has no end. It never runs out. His love for us is limitless. His commitment to us never fails." -Whispers of God's Love, Devotions for Women

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." -1 John 4:11

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

Zoom Meeting Information

To join using a computing device, click the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86275723058?pwd=MVp4MytmMXUwaDJobnQwZ04rVlVNUT09>

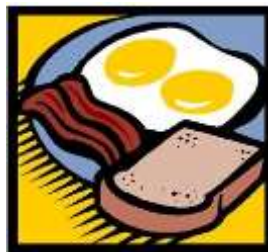
If using a phone, dial: 1-646-558-8656

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, April 18
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



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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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