

THE SPIRE

NOVEMBER 2021

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.

Sunday Worship in November

Come, praise God

November 7 – All Saints, Communion

Revelations 21:1-6a, Isaiah 61, Mark 12:30-44

November 14 – Congregational Conversation

Ruth 1:1-18, Ruth 3:1-5, Ruth 4:13-17, Matthew 1:1-16

**November 21 – Pledge dedications,
Thanksgiving**

Joel 2:21-27, Psalm 24, Matthew 6:25-33

November 28 – First Sunday of Advent

*Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1
Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36*

**To join Sunday worship services by Zoom,
use 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/u/kc6vTurh6j>



All Saints Day Sunday, November 7

We will celebrate and honor the saints of our lives during worship on **Sunday, November 7th**. During the service you are invited to light a candle to honor loved ones who have passed on from this life to the next. We will print in the bulletin the names of those who have died during this past year. **If you would like to submit a name, please have it to the church office by Wednesday, November 3.** This will also be a **Communion Sunday**. If you are worshiping on Zoom, consider having a candle with you to light and bread and juice to join in communion.

Pledge Sunday is November 21st!

The 2022 Pledge campaign is underway, so you should receive your mailing shortly. If you do not get your pledge mailing soon, please call the church office at (508) 376-5034 or send an email to: millisucc@msn.com.

As always, we are so grateful for your continued financial support, as it allows us to fulfill our mission to our church, our neighbors, our community, and our world.

See page 8 for a special Stewardship message.

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Congregational Conversation

All Members and Friends are encouraged to attend the Congregational Conversation scheduled for November 14th. The Prudential committee has some proposals to present in preparation for the upcoming Annual Meeting. Further conversation about **children's ministries** and an update from the **Transition Team** will be had. There will also be time for folks to raise pressing issues before the Congregation. **This will be the last gathering of this type for 2021.** Childcare and a light lunch will be provided.

25 people gathered after worship on October 24th for an upbeat conversation about church finances, building rent and renovation and other pressing matters currently before the congregation. An important conversation that began was how the church is ministering to children during this time. Many ideas were discussed. The conversation continues.

Healing Services

Two Healing Services will be offered in the coming months. The first will be **Monday, November 22 at 7:30 PM.** The services will be held in the parlor or sanctuary depending on the size of the group. **These services are open to anyone and everyone.** They will include music, prayer, anointing and the laying on of hands for those who wish to receive it. The service is appropriate for those seeking personal healing, healing for others and healing for the wider community and world. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Rev. Jennifer Geary: pastoruccmillis@gmail.com; 774-993-9407.



How We Serve

Our mission is to worship God, serve neighbor and to live together in love. This congregation has designated several positions and committees necessary to fulfill that mission. These positions and committees are: Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Diaconate, Education, Mission, Welcoming, Prudential, Trustee, and Pastoral Relations. In addition, we have the Collector and several assistants. We also have various Teams that form and reform such as Visitors, Jolly Holly Fair and Worship. And then there are the Fellowship groups: Womens, Mens and Youth. These officers and committees create the framework on which all the activities of the congregation are built.

Volunteers are needed to be voted in at the Annual meeting at the end of January, to serve for the coming year. Please take some time daily or weekly to pray over these positions and to pray over the Church Directory. Who has God best equipped to serve in what capacity? To what work is God calling you? Also, seek God's direction for alternative committees and/or teams.

The Church Council is seeking nominations for all positions. Please contact the church office, Moderator, Gail Luck or Rev. Geary, if you have suggestions or to volunteer.

Gratitude Corner



Thank You

Thank you to Sue Conte and Wendy Schneider for starting to transform the front flower bed into a pollinator garden, primarily of perennial plants. The idea was Sue's and most of the plants have come from cuttings and transplants from both of their gardens.

Thank you to Art Payne for organizing servers/food for Sunday morning fellowship.

Thank you to Art Payne, Casey Woodley, and Sue Bolton for collecting the donations weekly in the Food Pantry bin at Roche Bros and delivering them to the Food Pantry.

Super thanks for Andy Bolton & Rich Manzano for re-shingling and painting the shed in the backyard. It looks terrific!

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.



Don't forget to set your clocks back on November 7th.

A Note from Kathy Stevens

By the time you read this, I will, hopefully, be home recovering from lung surgery, done on Oct. 28th. I will be functioning, but at a much slower pace for several more weeks, and heavy lifting is not allowed.

I do plan to make my **cranberry chutney** as usual but **will need your help**. Jo-Ellen Briggs has offered to do my shopping. I will need one helper on **Friday, Nov. 19**, and one on **Sat, Nov. 20**, in the morning or afternoon. You will need to be able to carry the 20 lb pot from the stove to my deck, off the kitchen, to cool, then bring it back in a few hours later. You can stay and visit or return later. We can then ladle the chutney into the containers and store them in the fridge.

Please call me at 508-376-8124 if you can help.

The Candy Table!

The Candy Table requests donations of **Christmas Candies**, such as: **Hershey Kisses** and **other individually wrapped candies** only. Donations may be left at the church for **Linda Jones**.

Jar filling workshops will be at Linda Jones' house on the following dates: **November 30th, December 1st & 2nd**

Coffee will be ready at 9:30am!

All Candy "Elves" welcome to these workshops!



Missions In Action Update



The Missions Committee asks you to join us in this Thanksgiving season in a **clothing collection** for the non-profit organization **Our Daily Bread**. Our Daily Bread is a **non-profit, food, nutrition, and resource center** in Taunton. They provide a free nutritious meal in warm and welcoming atmosphere to those in need. **The Resource Center** also provides mentoring for basic life skills, empathizing, encouraging, and empowering a population that includes the homeless and disenfranchised.

We will be collecting **new** socks and **gently used** coats, sweaters, and sweat jackets/pants for both men and women.

The collection will be from **November 1 to November 21, 2021**. A collection box will be located at the back door of the church.

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Rev. Geary's Office Hours on Zoom or In Person

Rev. Geary will be available to church members on-line via Zoom, or in person from **10am-12pm on Mondays**, and from **12pm-2 pm on Wednesdays**.

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

In Memoriam

Bruce Barnes

July 4, 1939 – September 25, 2021



****The church office will be *closed* all day on Tuesday, November 2.****

Adult Education

No community education events are scheduled for November or December. We hope to start back up in January. Please give us suggestions for topics or presenters you would like to see. Contact Rev. Geary.

The Power of the Prayer Chain:

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, send an email to Mary Jensen at: mejensen7@verizon.net.

From the Deacons

"Don't wait until the fourth Thursday in November to sit with family and friends to give thanks. Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!".....Charmaine J. Forde

Advent will begin on November 28th this year. We are in the planning stages of services and events. One event that the Deacon's sponsored last year was the use of the Reverse Advent Calendar for donations for the food pantry. This year the event will be organized by the Missions Committee for the month of December.

A reminder to all that there are several pieces to the Sunday service that you can be involved in, requiring a small time commitment as your schedule allows. Specifically, we would love to give training on how to run the camera/Zoom for worship services, have extra greeters, and acolytes. Please contact any one of us for more information.

Thank you for your support as we continue to adapt our services keeping the health and safety of all in mind.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, peace, and good health.

Katelyn Andrews, Doug Briggs, Lauren Briggs, Sue Conte, Joan Nichols, Wendy Schneider, and Suzi Sennott.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday
8:30am – 1:30pm

It's Chutney Time!



Kathy Stevens will be taking orders for her *fabulous* **cranberry chutney** from Nov. 5 to Nov. 15 **BY PHONE ONLY**, as she will be recovering from surgery and will not be in worship. The cost will be \$5.50 per pint, and available Nov. 21 after worship.

Call her at 508-376-8124 and leave a message if needed.

Jolly Holly Fair Fancy Foods Table

We are planning to be live and in person this year!

To make money for the church, you need to BAKE!

Start now and freeze some of your favorite cakes and cookies – **don't forget the ingredient list!**

If we get shut-out – well, you have your Christmas desserts already done!

If you can, bake again the days before the Fair. Cupcakes, cookies, pies – whatever you like – and **deliver everything on Friday afternoon or evening, or Saturday by 9 am!**

CAN YOU GIVE AN HOUR OR TWO TO HELP MAN OUR TABLE? PLEASE LET KATHY STEVENS KNOW!
508-376-8124.

The Jolly Holly Fair

Attention all Jolly Holly Fair Volunteers and Participants!

Silent Auction is still in need of baskets or items for baskets! Whether you can donate a few themed items, or some gift certificates, or a fully filled basket, anything is welcome! We do ask that if you are donating a used item that the item is of very good value.

To donate your items, please go to the google form:

[Silent Auction Donation Form \(google.com\)](#) You will be asked to give your name, email, phone, basket (or item) and value. Remember, please do not wrap up the basket as we will be taking pictures of individual basket items.

We will be starting to receive donations on November 14th. More information will be sent out in the mid-November email as to where to drop it off.

The Silent Auction is one of the biggest money makers for the church, so please help make it successful! For more information, contact Gail Luck @ gail.luck@analog.com or (508) 450-5025.

Thank you for your support!



Win a Lifesize Nativity for Your Lawn!

As a part of the 2021 ***Jolly Holly Fair***, we are raffling off a hand painted Lifesize Nativity! Tickets go on sale September 25th for the December 4th drawing. Three tickets for \$20 and one ticket for \$10. **Contact: Maria @ 508-794-1338.**



Sunday Morning Volunteers

Lay Worship Leader: Joan Nichols

Fellowship Refreshments:

Nov. 7: Volunteer Needed

Nov. 14 Transition Team

Nov. 21 Men's Fellowship

Nov. 28: Volunteer Needed

Greeters:

Volunteers Needed for all dates

Ushers:

Nov. 7 Volunteer Needed

Nov. 14 & 21 Art Payne

Nov. 28 Volunteer Needed

Acolytes:

Volunteers Needed for all dates

Camera/Zoom:

Doug Briggs

Suzi Sennott

The **Men's Fellowship** is coordinating after worship refreshments. If you would like to volunteer to provide food, please contact the church office.

Missions in Action Update

... continued from page 4



We joined the South Shore Westwood home build for a day in October. It was a great day with lots of seeping and filling holes for insulation. **We have another build day December 18th - if you want to join in, please contact a mission member.**



Communication

Last Saturday I attended a baby shower. At the beginning of the shower, those in attendance introduced themselves and gave a piece of advice to the soon-to-be parents. Over and over folks told them to communicate with each other.

Good communication makes for better relationships. Talking a lot, isn't necessarily good communication. Good communication requires intentional listening and thoughtful speech. When we practice good communication in our daily living, the occasional hard, emotion-filled conversations are a little easier to have. Our quarterly **Congregational Conversations** are one such tool. Consider attending the next one **on November 14th following worship.**

Good communication can also be light. I occasionally send postcards to my grandchildren. There is nothing deep in the message but getting mail lets them know I'm thinking of them. Staying in touch lets others know we care. And the little bits of information shared give us beginning talking points when we do talk on the phone or see each other in person no matter how long we've been apart.

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COVID Protocols

We continue to follow current Health Department COVID protocols. Masks are to be worn in the building and during worship. Please continue to maintain a distance of at least six feet between you and others. Thank you for caring for others by engaging in these simple acts.

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 November" section on page 1 in this newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2I2aGExMU1IS0NHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054



December Newsletter



The deadline for entries for the December Spire will be **November 20th**. Please have all your info in by then. Thank you.

Stewardship Message

Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC has been an anchor in Millis for over 300 years. Through the centuries, church members have given of their time, talent and treasure to ensure the gift of God's grace, and a ministry of caring, continued in this area.

Now is our opportunity to be part of such a great cloud of witnesses. At the beginning of November, you will receive a letter from the Prudential Committee asking you to complete a pledge card. Pledging is a faith commitment. It asks us to believe in the future that God has planned and to participate in the coming of the God-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Our community, and the world, need the hope for which we stand. Our spire points toward heaven to remind all who pass, that God is great and greatly to be praised.

When the pledge card arrives, please prayerfully consider what portion of your income you can share with the world through the church. God, through the church, has blessed your life. What can you give to ensure others will also know that blessing? Please bring your pledge card with you to worship on November 21st.

We will have a special worship service on November 21st to share gratitude and to consecrate our commitments. If you are unable to attend, please return your completed pledge card to the Church office by November 17th so it can be included in the worship service. You can mail it in, or you can place it in an envelope addressed to "Church of Christ" and drop it in the mailbox to the right of the side door of the church building. Thank you for being God's hands and feet here in this place.

Visitors' Group

The visitors will be meeting on **November 18, at 10:30** in the church parlor.

We welcome anyone who may be interested in becoming a visitor to join us.

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."
Genesis 1-31 (NIV)

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, always be our guide, for without you are truly we lost. A-men. (Mark A. Carter)
(Oregon, USA)

The Visitors:

Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Pam Johansson, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, Reverend Jennifer Geary.

Communication - continued from page 7...

Another key to good communication is access. We need to be able to reach each other. Soon you will have a Church Directory that will include a variety of ways of connecting with other members and friends of this congregation. When you receive it, please read it; see who is listed. Consider making contact with some of the folks with whom you haven't communicated in a while. This pandemic has created so many barriers, it's time to break some of those barriers down.

As you gather with family and friends over the next month, may you be blessed with good communication.

Grace,
Jennifer

Socializing with the M&M's Mondays on Zoom and In Person!

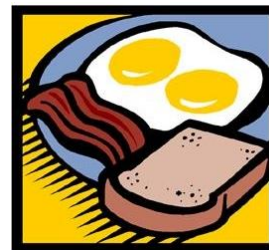
The M & M's Monday Morning Needlework Group gathers virtually on Zoom, and in person in the Parlor! Join in the fun on Monday mornings, any time after 10am. All are welcome – even if you're not working on a needlework project, join in for the socializing!

By computer, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2987904285?pwd=VENBMmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQQjJUdz09>

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

Meeting ID: 298 790 4285
Passcode: 866156



Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting In Person

Sunday, Nov. 21st at 7:30am

Please join the Men's Fellowship in Fellowship Hall for our monthly Breakfast Meeting. Hope to see you there!

****Covid protocols will be followed****



Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Gail Luck
Church Clerk	Nydia Rice
Treasurer	Mary Smith
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Brian Hall

Diaconate		
Sue Conte	Wendy Schneider	Katelyn Andrews
Doug Briggs	Lauren Briggs	Joan Nichols
Suzi Sennott		
Missions		
Jan Krohn	Art Payne	Wendy Schneider
Mary Smith		
Trustees		
Kathy Stevens	Andy Bolton	Wayne Carlson
Bonnie MacDonald	Rich Manzano	
Prudential		
Bill Wright	Doug Coutts	
Christian Education		
Kelly Williams	Meghan Prescott	
Welcoming Committee		
Maria Melchionda	Katelyn Andrews	Judy Kosinski
Bonnie MacDonald	Myrna Rybczyk	
At-large Members of Church Council		
Judie Ackerman		
Pastoral Relations Committee		
Jo-Ellen Briggs	Jen Payne	John Smith
Linda Jones		

*The Pastoral Relations Committee is formed based on nominations from the Pastor, the Moderator and the Senior Deacon.

**Church of Christ
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Millis, MA 02054**

Phone:
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E-Mail:
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We're on the Web!

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