

THE SPIRE

JULY/AUGUST 2019



Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054
www.millisucc.org (508) 376-5034

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Church of Christ Vision Statement:
Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's love.

Dear Friends,

As the summer months embrace us, my prayer is that we may all pause and reflect on life. When we hide ourselves behind our busyness, we neglect the care of our souls. This is why vacation or sabbath days are needed.

I pray that each of us may find a quiet place this season for refreshment and replenishment. If you are fortunate enough to travel, may you be blessed with traveling mercies and the presence of God.

The poet and teacher, John O'Donohue, from his book, "To Bless The Space Between Us" (Doubleday, 2008), offers a blessing for travelers. It reads in part:

"A journey can be a sacred thing'
Make sure, before you go,
to take the time
To bless your going forth
To free your heart of blast
So that the compass of your soul
Might direct you toward
The territories of spirit
Where you will discover
More of your hidden life,
And the urgencies
That deserve to claim you.

May you travel in an awakened way,
Gathered wisely into your inner ground;
That you may not waste the invitations
Which wait along the way to transform you.

May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,
And live your time away to its fullest;
Return home more enriched and free
To balance the gift of days which call you."

With you on the Journey,
Rev. Jen

Photo by Forrest Cavale on Unsplash



Changes in Youth Ministry at the Church of Christ, Congregational

On Sunday June 23rd, we said goodbye to our youth minister, Jess Boose. We thank her for her leadership, her creativity and her abundant energy.

The youth group will continue next year under the direction of Doug Briggs and Marguerite Monahan. Doug and Marguerite have been working with the youth group for many years and are well known to the youth and the church. Please be sure to support and thank them for their ministry with the youth of the church. More hands are always needed, so if you can help out for a meeting, provide a meal, or even wash the dishes after a meeting, your support is greatly appreciated.

Save the Date for

WATER PLAY DAY

Thursday, August 22 ~ 1:00-4:00pm

Church of Christ, Congregational

142 Exchange St., Millis, MA

*This FREE event features fun & games and WATER!
We'll have a water slide, foam pit, water soakers,
and light refreshments. Children must be accompanied
by a responsible adult. All are welcome!*

For more information: (508) 376-5034 • www.millisucc.org

Update about Church Collations

A church collation is a function where the church facilitates a meal and offers a space for grieving families to gather following a funeral. At this point, no one has stepped forward to chair the committee and we are experiencing a lack of ability to staff the functions. Therefore, like many other churches, it seems as if this particular ministry has come to an end. Of course, the space will be available for church families if they choose, but the details of set-up, food delivery, and clean-up will have to be handled on an individual basis with the family or their designate arranging the details.

Share Your Flat Jesus Photos



This summer we invite all members of the church family to take a Flat Jesus with them and send pictures of your adventures together, back to the church. When you visit other churches, enjoy a morning cup of coffee, or any other moment, use Flat Jesus as a reminder that the moment is a gift from God, and share that gift in photo form with the church.

Copies of Flat Jesus are available under "About/Forms" on our website (millisucc.org), at coffee hour, in the church office, and on the table in the side door entryway. Add your personal touch by decorating with crayons, markers, stickers, etc. Once you're done, you can have your Flat Jesus laminated at the church. On the back of your Flat Jesus, you'll find details on how to share your travels and photos with the rest of the church.

SUMMER WORSHIP



This summer, all Sunday worship services will be held at 10am in Millis.

Rev. Scott Cousineau is moving to serve a church in Maine, so our usual tradition of sharing worship with the Norfolk Federated Church has been put on hold. A card to thank Rev. Scott for his ministry with us will be in Fellowship Hall until July 14th.

Saturday, July 27 at 11:00am

Men's Fellowship Cookout

The Men's Fellowship will be holding their annual cookout at the Howie's lake house at 25 Oakhurst Rd., Hopkinton, MA. BYOB.

Rain date: August 3rd.

RSVP by July 20 to Steve Howie at:
jshowie376@gmail.com
 or (508) 922-5099.

All men of the Church of Christ, Congregational are automatically members of the Men's Fellowship, so we hope you'll join us!

FINDING YOUR VOICE WRITING GROUP

Beginning September 17, 2019

Weekly at 10am on Tuesdays

We invite you to join the **Finding Your Voice Writing Group**, where the focus is on finding your voice and feeling comfortable writing. This is a non-judgmental and supportive group that embraces all genres of writing: essays, prose poetry, poetry, works in progress. Come get started on that book you always meant to write.

Memories, and our reflections on our lives and the world, can be as meaningful and important as photographs. Children, and especially grandchildren, enjoy and savor reading about the childhood, and really, the whole life of their families. One of our original members has completed her memoir, achieving her goal of writing her life story as a gift to her family.

Writing those stories, sharing the special events, thoughts, recipes and observations is a precious gift, whether to family or simply to ourselves. We hope you will join us as we start back up on September 17th.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have.

Myrna Rybczyk, Music Director, at
myrnmusic@comcast.net
Lisa Priest at LMPriest@yahoo.com

Thank You!

After many years of service, Candy Carlson is stepping down from chairing the collation committee. Let's join in thanking Candy for the service and comfort she provided to families from within our church and within the community. Organizing a collation is a true ministry. It offers comfort, sustenance and a place for family and friends to gather, share stories, and grieve. Thank you, Candy for your ministry.



PIPS

Parents of Infants and Preschoolers Social Group

Next Dates: July 11 & 25

The PIPS group was formed to provide a shared and supportive space for parents to visit, exchange ideas, and connect. The group meets in the church parlor from **9:30-10:30am on the second and fourth Thursday of the month**. Visit millisucc.org for details.



Summer Socializing with the M&M's

The M & M's Monday Morning Needlework Group will continue to meet over the summer. Join them on Monday mornings, anytime after 10:00am, in the church parlor. All are welcome – even if you don't have a needlework project, just come for the socializing!



Sharing the Choir Experience



Joining and singing in the choir is a beautiful and deeply gratifying experience. Our choir is open to anyone who has an interest in singing, so we hope you will join us when we start back up in September.

Here are a few of the responses, when the choir was asked: Why Did You Join the Choir?

From Beth Dowdell:

When asked why I joined choir 26 years ago it was an easy answer, to sing. It was local, non-judgmental and accommodated my young family. Why I've stayed 26 years is entirely different. After a short time, I felt a sense of camaraderie. The choir became friends, a group that truly cares about one another and the church. The choir has always been an outlet to share concerns and always has people to lend an ear and a helping hand. I've enjoyed many Sunday anthems as well as challenging concerts. It has offered security, friendship and family.

From Jen Payne:

I joined the Choir when I saw *Choir for a Day* advertised in the Spire. I never left! I went to a rehearsal before the Sunday we were to sing. I was welcomed immediately and felt to be part of the group right away. I enjoy Choir so much that I became the Choir Librarian -- I love keeping the music organized and making it easier for everyone to have everything that they need. I have loved music all of my life and feel closer to God when I sing. Music touches me at a deeper level than the spoken word. I am always eager to come to Choir rehearsal especially when I have had a rough day. This group is so supportive. I heard that Myrna is going to have another *Choir for a Day* time. I'm hoping that you will give it a try if you like to sing. I will be happy to make sure that you have the music that you need!

From John F. Smith:

In the spring of 1995, Peg Smith suddenly turned around in church, handed me her copy of "The Messiah", and said, "Take my copy and get up there!"

What dear Peg did for me that day we first met was invite me into a circle of friends who freely open up to each other, and help each other open up to God. Does this sometimes involve howls of laughter? Yes! Occasional craziness? Yes! Therapy through mutual prayers. And songs? Yes!

Singing in our choir has opened me:

1. to freely express my heart with words and music, to God and to others.
2. to confirm my still-developing faith with others' still-developing faith.
3. to bond with others while expressing what is sometimes difficult to share.
4. to remember, and help carry on, where other loved ones once sang.
5. to feel useful.

Every day, I am deeply grateful for our choir. And every week, I just can't believe we are so few in number!

From Kathy Stevens:

I Love to sing!

After high school, I did not have the opportunity to sing in a chorus or choir, so I forgot about it. I came to this church in 1985 looking for a spiritual home and found the people in the congregation and the choir family. I hope that what I sing is a comfort and a joy to someone listening.

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT

Tuesday, August 6

The Church will be participating in the National Night Out community-building event sponsored by the Millis Police Department. The event will take place at the Millis Town Fields on August 6th. Please see Rev. Jen if you are available to assist with staffing the table or running a children's game.

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