

THE SPIRE

November 2022

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.



A Note from the Interim Pastor

We are entering the season of gratitude and giving. I'm not sure we really need a season for this as God calls us to live lives of gratitude and sharing always. Having a season does help remind us of this daily privilege.

I am grateful for each one of you. So many have stepped up to see this congregation through the pandemic and interim time. We have a bit more to do as we move into the next phase of ministry in this time and place.

At its last meeting the Church Council set a few short-term priorities for this congregation. These priorities provide a 1–3 month opportunity to get to know other folks as we serve God in the community. As the church revs up for the coming of a new pastor, for the increase of children in our midst and the loss of rental income, these tasks have risen to the top. Please read through the following items to see where your gifts best fit in. Please contact the church office or me with questions or to join in. I look forward to serving alongside you.

Rev. Jennifer Geary

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Imagining Effective Space Use

With the Center For Well-being moving to their new location we now have a lot of open space. How best can we use that space in service to our mission and as a producer of income? Who might be the right tenants to compliment the current building use? Do you have the vision and/or connections that can help? Consider sharing with this team.

Pledge Drive

This is an immediate 1-month commitment. The goal is to have 100% participation by our church members and committed friends by the 15th of December. Can you help make that happen?

Jolly Holly Fair

As the church's largest fundraiser, it is the top priority for the next month. It requires us all to participate in one way or another so we can generate revenue from outside the congregation. There are so many ways to help; check out the Jolly Holly section further on.

Officers and Committees

As a non-profit corporation we are required to have officers and some committee members. The Church Council serves as the nominating committee and is looking for suggestions and volunteers for almost all positions. Please see the related article.

Fundraising

Your help can be short term or just give some ideas. Please email or see **Jan Krohn** at church if you are willing to take on this short-term opportunity.

Grant Research and Writing

A small team is researching and writing for grants to help support our ministry. Do you have skills or connections that could help with this work?

Getting to Know Each Other and Making Connections

This is a top priority for 2023. One of the best parts of belonging to a church is that there are people available to help and support us throughout all of life. The pandemic has scattered us a bit. We want to find ways to truly connect with each other, so each person feels they belong, they are valuable and they are worthy of the support and care of others. If you have ideas in this area, perhaps you will join this team.

*Worship in November ~ Rev. Jennifer Geary***Sundays at 10:00 AM****November 6 ~ Communion**

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; Luke 20:27-38; Psalm 46

November 13 ~ Stewardship Sunday

Isaiah 12:1-6; Psalm 46

November 20 ~ Stone Soup

Psalm 46

November 27 ~ First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Worship Bulletin can be found at: www.millisUCC.org**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>**Pastor Away**Rev. Geary will be in Arizona for a workshop
November 13 – November 20.If you have a pastoral need, please contact a
member of the Diaconate.

There is a local clergy person on call.

**Sunday, November 6****November Holidays**
Church Office Will Be Closed**Friday, November 11 ~ Veterans Day**
Thursday, November 24 ~ Thanksgiving Day

CHURCH SAFETY**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 at 6:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

Police Chief Chris Soffayer will provide a workshop for all church members and friends. He will teach us what to do if a dangerous person enters the building when people are present. We will also talk about what to do in case of fire and walk through the building to identify where fire extinguishers and exits are located. This program will last approximately one hour.

**Southern New England Conference**

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Walk a Mile in My Shoes: Health and Wellness for Transgender/Non-Binary People
Wednesday, November 9 from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

[Click Here](#) for additional information.

The Prudential Committee

Please join us for this year's stewardship campaign on Sunday November 13th. Let us take time to intentionally rejoice in the ministry we have created together.

Hopefully, you have received in the mail the Stewardship letter and pledge card for 2023. If you have not, please let us know and we can get them to you.

Our only sources of income as a church and for our ministries are our pledges, gifts, and our rental revenue. Prayerfully consider what your tithe could mean to our church and give as generously as you are able. Please prayerfully fill out your pledge card and bring the pledge card with you on Sunday, November 13 or mail the pledge card to the church by the middle of this month.

To help simplify the payment of your pledges, donations, or gifts, we have set up a format to do so directly thru PayPal to make this as easy as possible. Just scan the QR code and you are good to go.

Thank you and know that every contribution to our church community helps all our missions here in town and around the world.



DEACONS

"At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by the spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

-Albert Schweitzer

November brings shortened days, a chill to the air and all our services will be indoors. We are looking forward to being in the Sanctuary, but ask everyone to use their best judgment for spacing when seating yourself and mask wearing if appropriate for you.

November services will bring Stewardship Sunday on the 13th, with the service being led by the Prudential Committee. We will enjoy a Stone Soup Service on the 20th, led by the Diaconate. The service will be in the Sanctuary, followed by the sharing of simple soups in Fellowship Hall. The first Sunday of Advent begins on the 27th.

This year there will be two different Devotionals available to take home. The Upper Room and the family oriented, On the Way to Bethlehem. We encourage you to take whichever of the two devotionals offered that may speak to you.

There are a variety of opportunities during the month for participating in worship activities. Do you have a favorite soup you would like to share at Stone Soup? Have you always wanted to do a reading and light the Advent Wreath? Would you like to help decorate the Sanctuary? Please contact the church office or a Deacon if you are interested.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, Peace and Good Health.

Your Deacons ~ Lauren, Suzi and Wendy



I'm grateful for the ministry of Ann Marie Ubertini, who so ably ran the church office for these past 10 months. She went above and beyond making sure all her work was beautiful and error free. She has been a positive first impression for the church.

Thank you! - Rev. Jennifer Geary

Thank you, Missions Committee, for providing the Fellowship Refreshments in October.

Every Sunday in October was a specialty Sunday. Thank you to everyone who helped make each of them wonderful. - Rev. Jennifer Geary

MISSIONS TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS GIVING



Millis Food Pantry Holiday Helpers program provides gifts to individuals and their family members who service the Food Pantry. For many years we the congregation have given generously along with other Millis churches to provide the gifts. We hope you keep this tradition and participate again this year.

The Food Pantry has asked, as last year, that the gifts be \$25 gift cards for Walmart or a Visa/Master card. Or give any amount of money and Missions will use the money to purchase cards.

A basket for collections will be at the collection table in the Sanctuary or can be sent in or left at the church office. Please add on the memo line "Holiday Helper" or on the envelope if cash.

Please have contributions in by December 3rd.....so our food pantry friends can shop early.

Another Christmas tradition has been our reverse Advent Giving collection of food for the Pantry. This year we asked them what items they needed most! We chose 4 of them and ask that each Sunday of Advent you bring in the weekly item.

Sunday November 27

Hope ~ Shampoo/ Conditioner

Sunday December 4

Peace ~ Laundry Detergent

Sunday December 11

Joy ~ All-Purpose Cleaner

Sunday December 18

Love ~ Liquid Hand Soap (not sanitizer)



Nominations Needed

There are several positions open within the church at this time. Please prayerfully review our church directory to discern who God might be calling to serve. It might even be you. Please send your suggestions to **Jan Krohn the Moderator** or the church office. There is a helpful form available on the Church's website with the positions and descriptions of the tasks.

Go to: www.millisucc.org; click on "About"; click on "Forms"; click "Nominations"

Stone Soup



Sunday, November 20

November is the month of gratitude and the beginning of Advent.

The Millis United Church of Christ congregation is planning a Stone Soup service and luncheon for Sunday, November 20th.

If able, each participant is invited to bring one non-perishable food item to the worship service. During the telling of how Stone Soup is made, these items will be symbolically added to the soup pot.

All donations will go to the Millis Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Following worship, the congregation and guests will move to Fellowship Hall for a free soup lunch and time of fellowship.

All Are Welcome!

Sunday School November 13 at 10 AM

The Christian Education Committee is committed to providing a meaningful religious experience for our children and youth. A half-hour program for children, grade 6 and younger, will be offered monthly.

You can find the registration form and policy information on the church website www.millisucc.org under the "about" tab/forms.

Please contact a member of the committee for more information and/or to volunteer to help.

Doug Briggs, Kelly Williams
and Meghan Prescott



Healing Prayer Service Monday, November 21 at 7:00 pm

All are welcome to these meetings which take place in the Parlor. We begin with discussion and then move into prayer together.

~ Rev. Jennifer Geary

IT'S CHUTNEY TIME!

If you would like my Cranberry Chutney for your Thanksgiving table, I will take orders beginning Tuesday, November 1 through Tuesday, November 15.

The price per pint will be \$6.00. Delivery will be on Sunday, November 20 in Fellowship Hall at the Stone Soup Luncheon.

Please call the church office if you need my telephone number.

SEE YOU THERE!

Kathy Stevens





Jolly Holly Fair
Saturday, December 3 from 9 AM – 2 PM

Many hands make light work!

And we can use your natural gifts and talents!

Like to bake? There's a spot for your goodies at the Fancy Foods or Candy table! Is needlework your craft? Our knit table is always looking for knitters and crocheters. Our Silent Auction (one of the biggest draws to the fair!) needs donations of items, gift cards, etc., and we could certainly use help the day of the fair. We also need more vendors for the fair. If you, or someone you know, has a small business we can help support, please have them contact Becki Abalutzk.

For additional information, please contact
Becki Abalutzk or Gail Luck



IT'S TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE JOLLY HOLLY FAIR
SILENT AUCTION

We are looking for baskets and auction items for our Silent Auction. Silent Auction will be fully on-site this year, and we need to make sure we have a lot of great ideas. Please consider donating either a theme basket, large singular items, or gift cards or tickets.

Please let me know what you are planning to donate so we can plan accordingly. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and man the day of the auction. Please let me know if you can help out!

Gail Luck

Fancy Foods Table

**The Fair is just around the corner - December 3rd to be exact!
It's time to get out your Cookbooks!**

It is our tradition to ask EVERYONE to bake a Cake, Cookies, Brownies, Pies ~ and did I say COOKIES ~ or whatever is your specialty. Did you make Jelly or Jam this Summer? That counts too!

Please put Cookies and Brownies into baggies or onto small plates well wrapped in plastic.

The Board of Health states we need a FULL LIST OF INGREDIENTS for EVERY ITEM you donate. Forms will be available after Church or in the Church Office by mid-November. Bring everything for the Fair on Friday afternoon or evening, or early on Saturday morning.

We can't sell it if YOU don't bake it!

Kathy Stevens



CALLING ALL CANDY ELVES FOR THE JOLLY HOLLY FAIR ~ DECEMBER 3, 2022

It's that time of year again when the Candy Elves will be gathering to fill jars with holiday candies. Your candy donations of Christmas Kisses, M&M's, Chocolates and more will happily be accepted as soon as they appear on store shelves. Donations may be left in the church office for Linda Jones.

The Candy Table is also looking for donations of homemade Fudge and any other homemade holiday candies. These items can be dropped off on December 2.

Candy Elves will be filling jars on November 29 and 30 at Linda Jones' house.

Workshop will be open at 9:30 AM

For additional information, please contact Linda Jones





CHRISTMAS TABLE

There will once again be a Christmas table at the fair. Let me know if you have any new Christmas items or used ones in excellent condition to donate and/or if you are interested in making Christmas tree ornaments. I'll give you the pattern.

Rev. Jennifer Geary



Can you "Ho Ho Ho"?

We need a Santa Claus for the Jolly Holly Fair!!

We will once again be offering Pictures with Santa and are in need of a Santa, some helpers and a photographer.

If you or someone you know can help out, let the church office know.



*The Center for Well Being will be moving on November 1.
Mathieu Bermingham has been here for approximately 20 years.
~ We will miss him and wish him well ~
Your Friends at the
Church of Christ, Congregational*

Trustees

We are still hoping to get the handicap parking redone to just the tree side before long.
The ramp re-build should also be completed soon.
Kathy Stevens

A Few Special Moments Captured Last Month During the Blessing of the Animals



As my time working at the Church of Christ comes to a close in the next few weeks, I would like to take this moment and give a special thank you to Rev. Jennifer Geary for giving me the opportunity to work as the church Administrative Assistant for the past ten months. I have truly enjoyed learning new tasks such as putting the Spire Newsletter together each month, but mostly, I enjoyed getting to know so many wonderful people from this church and the Millis Community.

The warmth and love shown to me will remain in my heart forever!

Thank you ALL and God Bless!

Ann Marie Ubertini

Online Bible Study

Each **Wednesday at 9:30 am and 7:45 pm**, 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 "Worship in November" section on page 3 of this newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2I2aGExMU1lS0NHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

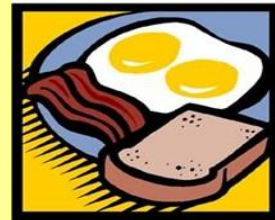
Password: 02054



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, please contact Mary Jensen.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting in Person Sunday, November 13 at 7:30 AM



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

Socializing with the M&M's Mondays in the Parlor!

The M & M's Monday Morning Needlework Group gathers in person in the Parlor!

Join in the fun on Monday mornings, any time after **10 AM**.

All are welcome – even if you're not working on a needlework project, join in for the socializing!

Do You Like Writing Policy?

A Team is being formed to read through and propose updates to the current Constitution. Please consider sharing your skills in this important task.



Contact the church office or Moderator, Jan Krohn.

YOUR VOICE AT THE PRC

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is meeting with Rev. Jennifer Geary, our Interim Pastor, on a regular basis. We individually seek your feedback and ideas for our church, and assure you a safe, confidential welcome for your closely held concerns.

We are all striving to be one Body in Christ. Please remember, Rev. Jennifer Geary truly welcomes your voice.

*John Smith, Jo-Ellen Briggs, Linda Jones
and Jennifer Payne*



To protect our members from scammers, we will no longer be publishing personal phone numbers or email addresses in the Spire.

All members and friends should have a copy of the Church Directory where that information can be found.

You can always contact the church office as well.

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 **11am-1pm 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.

Committee Meeting Times

All the committees of the church have met, selecting their chair and meeting time as follows:

Diaconate – First Tuesday, 6:00 PM

Christian Education – First Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Trustees – Second Monday, 7:00 PM

Prudential – Second Tuesday, 12:00 PM

Visitors – Third Thursday, 10:00 AM

Church Council - Third Thursday, 7:00 PM

Missions – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Welcoming – TBD

Pastoral Relations – As Needed

See the list of all elected leaders on the last page of the Spire.

The person with the * is the chair of the committee.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



The deadline for entries for the December Spire will be **November 20**. Please send all your information to the church office by this date ~ Thank You!

COVID Protocols

We continue to follow current Health Department COVID protocols. Masks are optional in the building; however, we ask that you please continue to maintain a distance between you and others. Thank you for caring for others by engaging in these simple acts.

Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Jan Krohn
Church Clerk	Sue Conte
Treasurer	Gail DiGioia
Assistant Treasurer	Mary Smith
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Maria Melchionda

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

*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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Phone:
508-376-5034

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millisucc@msn.com



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



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