



## A Message from the Moderator

### URGENT HELP NEEDED – A CALL TO ACTION BY YOUR CHURCH MODERATOR

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> this year, there was a “tragedy” that happened after church. No coffee for coffee hour as no one had signed up to lead coffee hour! All joking aside, this lapse in coffee hour shows a continuing trend of fewer people volunteering to help with the church.

As your church moderator, it is my job to point out the obvious. The number of volunteers continues to decrease to a point where our traditions, like coffee hour, are being impacted. As someone who grew up in this church, it makes me sad.

While our numbers are small, it doesn't mean we are on the edge of catastrophe!

Many of the tasks going undone don't require a significant commitment of time. A lot of the things people could help with, would take less than a few hours of time, and do not need prior experience.

What do we need help with?

- Help teach Sunday school during a Sunday service. You don't need to have teaching experience. You just have to care.
- Sing in the choir one Sunday – choir rehearsal is now on Sundays at 8:30 am. You don't need to have singing experience or even sing on key. You just have to listen.
- Run the coffee hour after church. It's easy and a great way to meet everyone!
- Assist with one of the Jolly Holly tables. You don't need to be crafty. You just need to be there.
- Help with the youth fellowship – make dinner or help with one of the activities. You don't need to be a gourmet chef. You just need show the youth that they matter.

If you feel inspired, there are several openings on our committees that could use some help.

Yes, we need to get creative to welcome new folks into the church. If anyone has ideas, I'd love to hear them. But right now, we need volunteers. So my call to action to the church is the following: If we could all commit to two Sundays in the next Church season to volunteer in some way, we can not only function, but maybe grow stronger as a congregation.

As Reverend Jen said in her sermon from September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we can ignore the situation we are in (like putting band-aids on broken bones, or just dealing with a broken faucet), or we can rip open the wound we have, and come together as a balm to heal our church. I hope this plea will help motivate everyone to take some time to consider helping out. Our church needs us right now.

In Faith,

Gail Luck, Moderator





## October is Stewardship Month

**Sunday, Oct. 20**

*following 10:00am worship service*

### **Coffee Talk with Prudential**

Prudential Committee member John Hiss will provide an overview of the church budget and financial outlook for the coming year.

**Sunday, Oct. 27**

*10:00am worship service*

### **Pledge Sunday**

Pledge mailings will be sent out on October 17, so call the church office if you don't receive one soon after that. Sunday, October 27 is Pledge Sunday, and we ask you to bring your church pledge cards that day so Prudential can begin to build the budget for the coming year. If you can't make the Oct. 27 service, please mail in your pledge card as soon as possible to: Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054.

## **NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

**Special Collection – Oct. 20**



**Love of Children**

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of the funds raised support the Council for American Indian Ministry and two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC justice and witness ministries to support a wide range of grants and initiatives promoting justice work in the community. Donation envelopes will be available during worship on October 20. Please give generously!

## **VISITORS' GROUP NEWS**

The next Visitors' Group meeting will be Thursday, October 17, at 10:00am in the church parlor. Anyone who is interested in becoming a visitor is welcome to join us at the meeting. If you know someone who would like to receive a visit from us, please let us know.



**Tuesdays**  
**October 8, 15, 22 & 29**  
**Adult Bible Study**

**Morning session 9-10am ~**  
**Evening session 7-8pm**

“For Such a Time as This.” This class will fearlessly and critically examine both the Bible and the daily news. We’ll seek to find the “Good News” for us and to determine what consequences “fake news” has on our faith.

**Next month:**  
**November 5, 12, 19 & 26**



**Wednesday, October 9**  
**from 9:00-10:30am**  
**Community Office Hours**

Once a month, Rev. Jen will hold community office hours at Country Kitchen, on Rt. 109 in Millis.

**Next date: November 13**



**Thursday, October 17**  
**Bibles & Brews**  
**6:30pm gather & order food;**  
**7pm discussion begins**

We meet monthly at Mickey Cassidy’s at 116 Main St. (Rt. 109) in Medway. Bring a sense of humor and an open mind as we take on some of the hot topics of the day from a theological perspective.

**Next date: November 21**



**PIPS**

**Parents of Infants and**  
**Preschoolers Social Group**

**Next Dates: Oct. 10 & 24**

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](http://millisucc.org) for details.

***A Memorable Welcome Sunday***

Thank you to all who contributed their time and talent to make Welcome Sunday a special celebration! One of those contributing her talent was artist Kathleen Conroy Pueschel, who sketched a caricature of John and Janet.





# The Jolly Holly Fair Will Be Here on December 7<sup>th</sup>



## It's Time to Start Planning!

**Time flies so quickly it's already October!  
Before you know it, it will be the first Saturday in December  
which is our church's annual JOLLY HOLLY FAIR!**

The annual Jolly Holly Fair is our largest fund raiser and it takes all of us to make it a success. In addition to helping the church financially, the Jolly Holly Fair is a popular event for the community, and it's a great way for us to welcome everyone into our wonderful church!

**Here are some of the ways you can help out:**



**FOOD TABLE:** Provide homemade baked goods for the food table, including cakes, cookies, brownies, bars, pies, breads, etc. Homemade jams, jellies, relishes, and pickles are also popular items.

**CANDY TABLE:** Provide homemade candies or fudge. We also need donations of bags of candy, such as M & M's (regular or peanut), Mike & Ike's, red and green jelly rings, Skittles, jelly beans, individually wrapped hard candies, and Christmas foil wrapped candies including Hersey Kisses, miniature Hersey bars, and Reese's peanut butter cups.

**NEEDLEARTS TABLE:** Donate any handcrafted articles that you have made by knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, counted cross stitch, sewing, etc. Some things that we have sold in the past are mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, doll clothes, dog sweaters, and knit toys.

**SILENT AUCTION:** Donations for the Silent Auction can be anything that catches your fancy. You can donate a themed basket, such as items for a children's birthday party, an at-home spa day, or a cozy afternoon with tea, blanket and books. Get a group together and use your imagination! You can also donate individual items that people would be likely to bid on, such as coffee makers, sports tickets, bottles of wine, etc.

**If you have any questions, feel free to ask in the church office or at Coffee Hour after worship and someone will be able to give you more details. Remember, we're all working together to make the Jolly Holly Fair a great day!!**



# Look Who's New at Youth Group!

*Or should we say, look WHAT's new at Youth Group!*

*The fall opening of the Millis UCC Youth Group brought many familiar faces back to our semi-regular Sunday night meetings! Two faces that are VERY regular, but have new roles this year, are Doug Briggs and Marguerite Monahan. Doug and Marguerite take on the role as Youth Leaders Extraordinaire, as they look to fill the incredibly large shoes of the Youth Ministers who came before, Jess and Sheri.*

*Doug has been an active member of Millis UCC since the mid 2000's. Residing in Hopedale, Doug and his wife, Jo-Ellen, brought up their two wonderful daughters, Lauren and Alexa, at Millis UCC. Both girls are graduates of Hopedale High School, and are off pursuing greatness in the professional world and the academic world! Lauren, a graduate of UMass, and Alexa, a first-year at RIT, were both very active in the Millis UCC Youth Group, and helped to make our group as strong as it is today.*



*Marguerite has been an active member of Millis UCC since the late 2000's. Just over the town line in Medway, Marguerite and her husband, Chris, raised their two fabulous children, Aidan, Medway HS Class of '17, and Julia, Tri-County HS Class of '18. The entire family found a wonderful spiritual home at Millis UCC. Coincidentally, (or not so), both Monahan children also were active members of Youth Group, and are, also, off in the world of academia pursuing amazingness: Aidan at UNH and Julia at UMass.*

*Hmm...one might say Youth Group made a huge contribution to the success of these children...Don't you think?*

*Doug and Marguerite, both big kids at heart, are excited to take over the reins of this active group of middle and high schoolers! Check out the upcoming year's activities calendar on the 2nd floor of the stairwell. You will also find contact info, and ways that adults can be active participants in helping to make lasting memories for the youth at Millis UCC.*

*Feel free to reach out to Doug, [dcb.joel@verizon.net](mailto:dcb.joel@verizon.net), or Marguerite, [tiariri@gmail.com](mailto:tiariri@gmail.com), with any questions.*



## JOIN THE PATHFINDERS FOR DINNER

An easy way to support the Pathfinders Youth Group is to serve us dinner once in a while. We dine together in community, just as Jesus and his disciples did, every time we gather on a Sunday evening.

We meet at 6:30pm and have a simple game going until everyone shows up. ***If you can come by with a meal to share, it will be a true blessing***, appreciated by every member of the youth group.



**Need some dinner ideas? How about:** breakfast for dinner, mac and cheese, pasta and meatballs, tacos, grilled cheese, hot dog bar, chicken and broccoli, baked potato bar, etc. Sign up on our calendar in the 2nd floor landing, or contact Marguerite (tiariri@gmail.com) or Doug (dcb.joel@verizon.net).

## Hello Families of College Students!

Church of Christ Pathfinders would like to support the church family's college student population, as they work to succeed in their higher education! Every fall, the Pathfinders create College Care Packages for any Millis UCC family's college students, regardless of whether or not they were in Pathfinders. We spend a meeting building the packages, and then mail them during November, when students away from home struggle the most. Please help us support as many college students as possible! **All you need to do is supply your student's name and current mailing address, and we will do all the rest!**

Please email or text names and addresses to Marguerite (tiariri@gmail.com) (508-277-4115). **Thank you!**



## **Sunday, 10/6 @ 6:30 – 8:30pm YG Meeting**

Students in grades 7 through 12 are invited to come for a potluck dinner, discussion, and games.



## **Sunday, 10/27 @ 5:30-7:00pm TRICK-or-TREAT So All Can Eat!**

We will gather at 5:30pm in the Ticonderoga Neighborhood. After photos of everyone's costumes have been taken, we will divide up into groups and go collecting. Wagons, adults and snacks will be needed. Grades 4 though 12 are invited to join us, and bring your friends! This is a fun evening and we're done by 7:30pm.



## **Monday, 10/28 @ 6:00-7:00pm *Stock the Food Pantry Shelves!***

All the food we collected on Sunday needs to be sorted and checked and put away properly in the Food Pantry on Monday. Many hands make light work – bring your friends and we'll have fun filling the shelves quickly.

**Our mission is to support our church and serve the world around us.**



Church of Christ  
142 Exchange St  
Millis, MA 02054

Phone:  
508-376-5034  
E-Mail:  
millisucc@msn.com



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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org)

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## Join the "M & M's" (Monday Morning) Group



**Mondays at 10:00am  
at the Church of Christ**

Join the "M & M's" Needlecraft Group on Monday mornings to work on needlecraft projects and to relax and spend time visiting with others. You don't need to bring a project; you can just come for the socializing. Stop by to say a quick hello, or stay for awhile; come one week or every week. Whatever works with your schedule. Everyone is welcome!

Church of Christ, Congregational  
142 Exchange Street  
Millis, MA 02054

