

THE SPIRE

September 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

As I begin my 60th trip around the sun, I am mindful of having experienced decades of Autumns but not one of them being the same as the ones before. Oh yes, the leaves change color and fall. The temperatures drop. The garden produces heartier vegetables. But how I see those things was different when I was a child, when I was a college student, when I was a young parent, when I was the parent of teenagers, as a grandparent and now in my “pre-golden” years. Each of those stages of life were their own season.

For two and a half years we have been in the season of Corona Virus, but we are transitioning out. We have been in the season of interim, but we are transitioning out. What will our next season look like? Seasons don't abruptly start and stop; they have soft edges. We are in the soft edges of transition.

Three years ago, I doubt most of you would have imagined how much you enjoy worshipping outdoors. Would you have imagined Bible study and meetings on Zoom? These are all just regular parts of life now. The fact that average worship attendance has increased over the summer is not how it has been in the past. Successful Sunday School through the summer – who would have thought? Our mindsets and language are slowly catching up with our actions.

As we move into Autumn, it will feel different than past Autumns. We are a changed and changing people. In some ways bolder; in other ways more contemplative. We've been through a lot together and now we begin preparing to go our separate ways. There are still a few interim tasks that need to be completed but our focus now is on the future, not the past. I'm excited about this new season and what God is doing within us and between us. Let's keep listening to each other and to God. Let's look up and out to enjoy the beauty and wonder that will come with the transition to the next season.

Rev. Jennifer Geary

Worship in September

*We will continue to worship outdoors through September 18
(weather permitting)*

Sundays at 10:00 AM

September 4 ~ Communion

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Luke 14:25-33

September 11

Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 18 ~ Church Picnic

1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 25 ~ Baptism

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 6:19-31

October 2 ~ Communion

Lamentations 3:19-26; Psalm 137; Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

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/j/87562091923>



*On Sunday, September 25, we will
celebrate the Baptism of
Jack Joseph Yurovich
during worship*

**Healing Prayer Service
Monday, September 19
at 7:30 pm**

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

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has been working diligently to review candidates, hold interviews and discussions. Our profile has been posted for approximately 4 months, and in that time, we have received a total of 8 ministerial profiles. We conducted several interviews and have not found a candidate we feel comfortable recommending to the congregation at this time. More profiles are slowly arriving, and we continue with the process. We have also been in touch with Rev. Alex Shea Will, and he has assured us that things are moving in the customary fashion.

As with many things, Covid has altered traditional timelines for the Search process. We thank you for your continued patience, prayers and understanding during this time of Search and discernment.

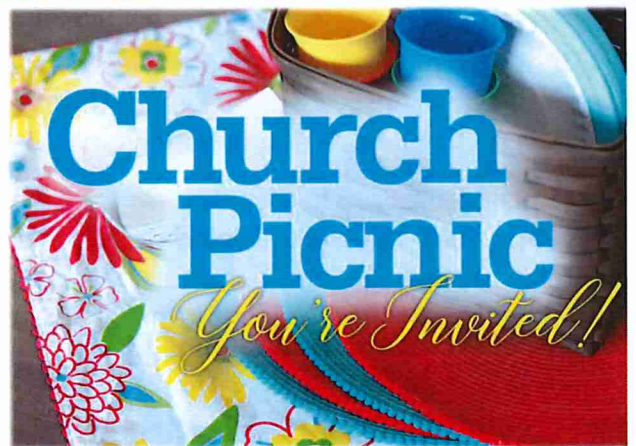
- Rebecca Abalutzk
Search Committee Chair

A Note from Christian Education

On Sunday, September 18, fun activities will be offered to all children attending Worship.

Come see us after
the Children's Message.

We hope to see you there!
Christian Education Committee
Kelly Williams ~ Doug Briggs
Meghan Prescott



Come One, Come All to the
End of Summer Church Picnic
on Sunday, September 18
Immediately Following Worship
All Are Welcome!

Please bring a salad or desert to
share. The Men's Fellowship will
supply burgers and hot dogs.
If you need something else on the
grill, please bring.
Hope You Can Join Us!

From Your Deacons

September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours, but in their lengthening evenings a prophetic breath of autumn.”

– Rowland E. Robinson

We hope everyone was able to enjoy the slower days of summer and relax, refresh and regroup. We realize for many the cooler weather of September brings them joy.

We will continue with outdoor worship on Sunday mornings through September 18th. Following worship that day we will be having a church and friends picnic. Information regarding sign-ups for food and/or assistance will be available over the upcoming Sunday mornings.

Sunday, September 25th we will be celebrating a baptism in the sanctuary and look forward to seeing you there for this joyous occasion.

We welcome anyone who would like to be a lay leader on Sunday mornings to read scripture or to participate in the service in other ways. Feel free to speak to one of us if you would like to participate in this opportunity.

The next few months will pass quickly and the time to nominate new Deacons will be upon us. This will be Wendy Schneider's last year as a Deacon, leaving Lauren and Suzi as Deacons. We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity to be an active participant in the life of our church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask any of us.

A Music Director Update ~

The position has been posted on the SNEUCC website classified section, INDEED.com, on our social media sites and our church website. A search committee has been formed consisting of Katelyn Andrews, Jo-Ellen Franklin-Briggs, Judy Kosinski, Wendy Schneider and Pat Spearing, who will review resumes and interview applicants. We will keep the congregation posted as to the progress of the search.

Let's hope the Fall brings us much needed rain!

Your Deacons,
Lauren Briggs, Wendy Schneider, Suzi Sennott



MISSIONS

Millis UCC on the MOVE

Each year besides giving financial assistance we seek ways we can directly help others in our community. We invite you to participate in these action mission projects.



**Saturday, October 29
from 8AM to 3PM**

We will help build a South Shore Habitat house in Hingham, MA.

Since COVID the group size is smaller so if interested please let us know soon. We have only six spots. Many times, you work alongside the future family homeowners.

Blessings,

***Jan Krohn, Art Payne,
Wendy Schneider, Mary Smith,
and Casey Woodley***



**Sign up for a fun
hammer banging time!!!**

Join us in a group furniture building event. We will be building small kitchen tables or small dressers. These items help ensure families transitioning out of homelessness have a place to eat and store their belongings. The project usually takes about 60 to 90 minutes. All supplies are provided. Missions will cover the fee of \$25 for the furniture kit.

We have not determined the date of activity until we know how many will participate. This is a great family activity. If you are interested, please contact any member of the missions committee.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT/IDEAS

We are brainstorming ideas to assist our community needs. Some ideas we have explored are providing first aid/hygiene kits to community drop off boxes within Millis. Placement, size, etc. of boxes TBD. Organizing with other community groups to provide weekly lunches. If you have other suggestions or want to participate in getting these ideas off the ground, please contact mission members.



Visitors' Group News

The Visitors' Group will be meeting on
Thursday, September 16 at 10:00 AM
in the Church Parlor

We hope everyone had a good summer
despite of the hot weather.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will
be with you wherever you go."*

~ Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Prayer:

"Loving God, help us always to put our trust in
you when we are anxious. Thank you for giving
us peace in our times of need and blessing us
with moments of joy. Amen."

~ Bob Baer (Kansas, USA)

The Visitors

Judy Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery,
Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Myrna Rybczyk
Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, Rev. Jennifer Geary



*I'd like to thank everyone for the
card, emails, well wishes and
prayers during my recent medical
illness.*

*It is so nice to have a church
family that looks out for each
other!*

- Gail Luck-DiGioia

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.

Trustees

We are looking forward to Fall after a
very warm Summer.

Let's hope we get the rain to revitalize
our lawns!

The ramp will be rebuilt as the sun
heated it to a point that the nails popped
in places and the boards lifted.

The handicap spaces will still be redone
to put them all on one side of the
parking lot.

Don May has repaired the exit door at the
far end of the 1st floor hallway.

The Nursery School floors have been
waxed and buffed.

Our biggest project will be obtaining
quotes for a new roof over the Sanctuary.

We are always looking for help!
If you see a project you would like to
work on, please let us know.

Kathy Stevens

Celebrating Summer Baptisms

Two baptisms were held at the Church of Christ this summer during outdoor worship.

On July 10, 2022, Sylvie Corbin Nadeau was baptized by Rev. Jennifer Geary. Sylvie is the daughter of Hilary and Paul Nadeau and the sister of Charlotte and Zoe. Arielle DeLorie and Chris Nadeau are Sylvie's Godparents.



On August 14, 2022, Fitzgerald Reese Prescott was baptized by Rev. Jennifer Geary in a service that was witnessed by his big brothers Gavin, Cameron, and Eamon. They are the sons of Meghan and Jim Prescott.



The Homeless Among Us

Members of this congregation have become more aware of the homeless population in and around Millis. There have been informal and formal conversations at various committee meetings. While we have received many talks on homelessness from our Common Cathedral partners, it might feel different when it is us needing to be in charge rather than just joining someone else's program. What do we need to know to do effective ministry with the unhoused? This is the best first question. Many other questions need to follow.

A few things to think about. When a person who is unhoused attends our worship service are they looking for a handout or do they just want to worship God like we do? Do we assume that the only relationship we can have with an unhoused person is us giving something we have to them? Can we be open to what they have to offer? Can we be conscious of the we – them language and simply experience them as a visitor like all other visitors? What is our responsibility to help those who are unhoused? How do we discern what they want or need? What services are already available to them and how do we connect folks with those existing services? How do we help preserve dignity? As spiritual people what do we have to offer to the soul of anyone who reaches out to our congregation regardless of their economic or social status?

The Church Council has agreed that this topic must be part of our October 2 Congregational Gathering (see related article).



Sunday, October 2
Immediately following Worship
Light Lunch Served

Last year we agreed to gather quarterly to check in and discuss important topics for the congregation. Your elected leadership has been dealing with a lot of things and we have missed a few quarters. To get back on track the Church Council has set October 2 for the next congregational gathering. Sandwiches will be served. If you need childcare, please let the office know at least a week ahead of time.

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 "Sunday Worship in September" section on page 2 of this newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2I2aGExMU1ISONHVHRycjVldz09>

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.

FAITH
HOPE
LOVE

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!

885 Main St
Millis MA

**FREE
CAR SEAT
CHECK**

IS YOUR CHILD IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT?

SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE

10a-2p
Sat. Sept. 10th

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, 6:00 PM

Prudential – Second Tuesday, 11:00 AM

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.

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



The deadline for entries for the October Spire will be **September 20**. Please have all your information in by then ~ 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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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org



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