

# THE SPIRE

December 2023

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**

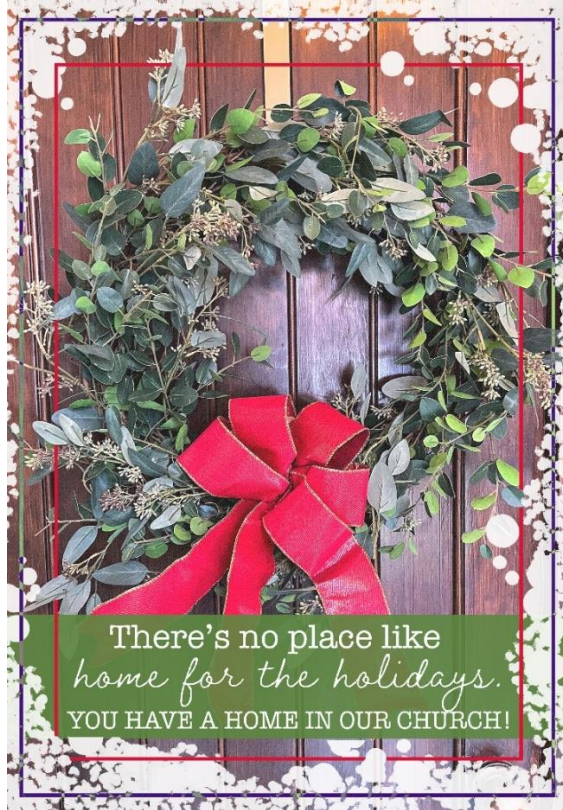
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**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

*Worship God, Serve our neighbors, Share God's love.*



## **A Message from the Moderator**

Jan Krohn

Good news! We have hired a new Administrative Assistant Laura Kohring. She has already started working with Julie the last few weeks to get oriented to the position.

However, with this good news we are saddened to say goodbye to Julie. Julie has been a steadfast and positive contributor to our church staff. She has been outstanding in the coordination of our church rental program. Since March when Rev Jennifer left Julie has been a rock of support for me, the Deacons, and Rev Mary. I can't thank her enough. We wish her and family best wishes in their new endeavors.

## **Meet Laura Kohring.**

I may be new to the position of Administrative Assistant, but I'm likely a familiar face around Church to some of you. I lived in Millis for the better part of ten years. My Dad, Larry, sang in the Church choir, and my Mother, Chris Davis, is remembered for her extensive work with Millis Girl Scouts. I basically grew up in this Church, with fond memories of working the Jolly Holly Fair as one of Santa's elves, and enjoying the youth fellowship on Hiking Camp trips to the White Mountains.

Shortly after my Dad's return from Desert Storm, our family was stationed overseas, ending our time in Millis. I eventually made my way back to New England to attend Wheaton College, met my husband, and finally set down roots in Lincoln, Rhode Island, where we live with our two kiddos, and a couple of reptiles. Myrtle, our rescue turtle, just celebrated her 70th birthday! I love sharing her story and adventures with people so feel free to ask me what she's been up to lately. When I'm not working or homeschooling our son, I enjoy kayaking, camping, reading and a whole list of handcrafts. After spending the last 15 years raising my children, I appreciate this opportunity to return to the workforce in a capacity to help with the daily workings of the Church. I look forward to putting together names and faces. If you feel inclined to pop into the office and say hello please do.

I will be in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-3pm.

### From Your Deacons

"The Deacons are excited to enter into the season of Advent! We celebrated the First Sunday of Advent on November 26, and will continue with the Sundays of Advent until Christmas Eve. Rev. Mary will be leading worship on December 3 and 17.

On Christmas Eve, we will celebrate Christmas with an evening service at 6:30 p.m. with carols and candles. There will not be a regular 10:00 a.m. service on Christmas Eve. The Deacons will need volunteers in order to run our Christmas Eve service—please see a Deacon if you would like to volunteer to help, including greeting, passing out bulletins/candles, collecting offerings, and reading the Christmas story.

The Deacons thank all those who have helped us to host worship in 2023!

Lauren, Allen, Kathy, Katie, and Doug



***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***

### Prudential Corner

Here is a summary of our finances over the first ten months of this year (1/1/23-10/31/23)

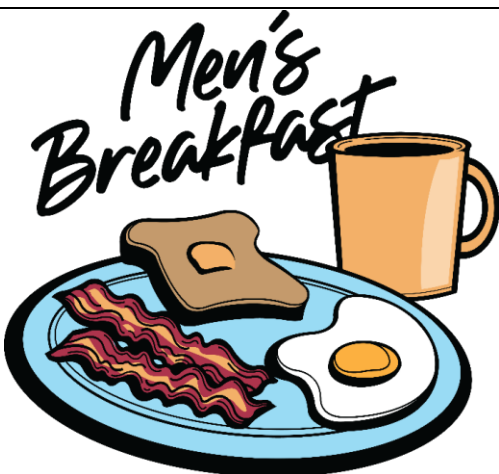
	Thru 10/31/23 YTD Actual	Thru 10/31/23 YTD Budget	difference
Pledges	78,570.57	84,006.70	-5,436.13
Total Income	132,896.26	130,548.50	2,347.76
Total Expenses	135,700.92	200,336.25	64,635.33
Net Inc/Exp	-2,804.66	-69,787.75	66,983.09

We continue to report the financials up against the budget that was approved at Annual Meeting, which included a full time salary for a settled Pastor. At this point, looking at our actual income versus expenses, we are only \$2,804.66 from breaking even on the year. Income from rentals continues to outperform what was budgeted, which we hope will continue into 2024 as people realize that our space is available for multiple uses. We are hopeful that between the Jolly Holly fair and some pledge catch ups, we can end 2023 on a financially positive note.

We are projecting that we will not require more withdrawals from our investments, holding at the \$25,000 we have already liquidated from our account this calendar year. Though the market has fluctuated back and forth, not having to remove a lot of funds has had the added benefit of these funds providing us income and expounded growth. At the end of August, our balance with Vanguard was \$316,210.94. This leaves us with \$253,148.15 in the General Fund, \$50,986.18 in Board Restricted Funds, and \$42,106.05 in Donor Restricted Funds.

The annual Stewardship letter and pledge cards were sent out in mid-November, we hope that we can continue to count on the support that so many of you have provided in the past. The future of this 300+ year old institution depends on all of us and all of those that live around us. There are exciting things happening in and around our community, with many new folks moving into our wonderful area. We look forward to welcoming back those that have taken a step away as we see great things happening with our church and its people in 2024.

We thank you for your support



**December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30**



In place of our gift card donations to the Food Pantry this year, we have been asked to participate in a themed weekly donation for each week of Advent. You can bring your items in each week, or all at once

First Week: Laundry Soap

Second Week: Dish Soap

Third Week: Kleenex

Fourth Week: All Purpose Cleaner



Food Pantry guests enjoy baked goods and treats. If you are interested in baking for the Food Pantry, items need to be dropped off on Saturday mornings before they open. Missions will help in collecting the items to deliver. Casey Woodley will be point person on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> while we are busy with the fair, otherwise please touch base with any member of Missions: Art Payne, Judy Kosinski, Casey Woodley and Jan Krohn.





## Notes From the Office

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.



The next edition of the Spire will be January and the deadline will be Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Worship Bulletin

The bulletin can be found at: [www.millisUCC.org](http://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/kc6vTurh6j>



## JOLLY HOLLY TIME!

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Our Annual Jolly Holly Fair runs

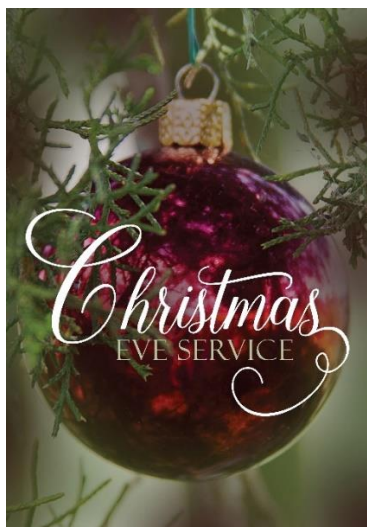
Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-2!

If you have an hour or two to help with set-up on Friday evening, clean-up on Saturday afternoon, or anytime during the fair for general support, please contact Becki Abalutzk or the church office 508-376-5034



Please Note!!!

Santa will be available only from 11:00-1:00pm. Don't miss your chance to visit and take photos.



There will be no morning Worship on Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>. Instead, we will celebrate our Christmas Eve service at 6:30pm.

The Deacons will need volunteers to help run our Christmas Eve service. Please see a Deacon if you would like to volunteer. Jobs include greeting people, handing out bulletins/candles, collecting offerings and reading the Christmas story.

### Host with the Most?

As the church expands the rental of the building to more one-day users, we need a cadre of Church Hosts. These Hosts would unlock the church and make sure lights and heat are working and then lock up afterwards, making sure lights and heating are off. There would be no monthly meetings other than to coordinate who's covering which days. There's no heavy lifting or moving of furniture. You would not need to be on-site the entire time. It will require a brief training about the facility. If you are interested in being a Church Host, please contact Laura in the office.

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

The M & M's (Monday Morning Needlework Group) gather in person in the Parlor every week! Join in the fun on Monday mornings, any time **10 AM – 12 PM**. All are welcome – bring handwork if you have it or just come to socialize!



**Judy Kosinski-** for stepping up to greet at anytime.

**Jan Krohn-** for wearing multiple hats to keep things running smoothly.

**The Deacons-** for all their dedicated efforts to our Worship Services.

**Art & Jen Payne-** for all the Coffee Hour details.

**The Search Committee-** for your continued efforts.

A huge Thank You to everyone who has helped out with Jolly Holly preparations and everyone who brought food or set up tables for our November events as well.



Thanks for the donations of candy to fill the jars, the fudge, and other contributions to the Candy Table at the Jolly Holly Fair! A specially sweet thanks to my loyal candy elves who filled the jars this year!!

-Linda Jones  
Chief Elf



Order forms will start appearing in the Worship Bulletins. Cost for Poinsettias this year is \$16.



Thank you to everyone who made this such a successful event! Special thanks to Lauren for organizing our Trunk or Treat. Please enjoy this selection of photos from our event.





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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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