

# THE SPIRE

FEBRUARY 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](http://www.millisucc.org) • (508) 376-5034 • [millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com)



**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

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

## Sunday Worship in February

***Come, praise God***

**February 6 – Baptism, Communion**

Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11

**February 13th –**

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26

**February 20 – Guest Preacher**

Genesis 45:3-11; Luke 6:27-38

**February 27 – Transfiguration**

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

**March 2 – Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;

2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Worship 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/u/kc6vTurh6j>

## **All Officers and Committee Members**

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Leadership Retreat**

Saturday, February 5, 2022

8:00 am – 12:00 pm, in Fellowship Hall

All elected leaders, officers, and committees will gather to map out the year together, identifying priorities and responsibilities.

Breakfast will be served

## **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.

Jo-Ellen Briggs: [dcb.joel@verizon.net](mailto:dcb.joel@verizon.net)

Linda Jones: [pariswoman44@gmail.com](mailto:pariswoman44@gmail.com)

Jennifer Payne:

[paynejenpayne@verizon.net](mailto:paynejenpayne@verizon.net) *ave ideas*

John Smith: [jfs249@comcast.net](mailto:jfs249@comcast.net)

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

*John Smith*

*For the PRC*



## *From the Interim Pastor*

Brrr. It's cold out. As it should be. It's winter. Winter is doing what winter is supposed to do. We in the northern hemisphere are tilted away from the sun, so yah, it's cold. What are the things that we can do or see only when it's cold? Skiing, snowboarding and sledding; clear, clear night skies due to the low humidity; beautiful frost patterns on single pane glass; walking or driving on "water"; appreciating the gift of housing and heat. I'm sure you can think of many more gifts of winter. Take a moment to celebrate and offer gratitude for Winter.

It's cold out, but it won't stay this way. It is already quite noticeable that daylight is lengthening. Gardeners are reading catalogs (or searching on-line) and making plans. The Summer Camp brochures have arrived in the church office. The worship team is planning Lent and Easter.

Ecclesiastes 3 tells us there is a time for every season. There is a time for every annual season we experience as we make our earthy trip around the sun. There is also a time for every season of our living. The writer of Ecclesiastes continues, encouraging us to eat, drink and work the work that is before us. This gives glory to God. Find joy in the rhythms of winter. Before we know it, it will be gone. Find joy in the rhythms of your life today. Before we know it, it will be gone. Take a moment in this month of Love to list all the ways you are blessed and loved by God. Offer God praise and thanksgiving. See you at worship, in-person or on Zoom.

## **Healing Services**



Going forward, there will be a healing service on a Monday evening each month. These services will take place in the parlor unless numbers dictate otherwise. The service will begin with a presentation on a certain type or form of healing prayer. The gathered body will then experience healing prayer in that form. This service is open to all. Some might have an acute or chronic need for healing of body, mind, or spirit. All of us have been dinged and dented by life and can use healing. Consider putting these services on your calendar.

***We will gather on February 21 at 10:00 am & 7:30 pm***

## ***From the Deacons***

*"If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way"*  
- Napoleon Hill

February brings the number of Deacons from seven to three. Lauren Briggs, Suzi Sennott and Wendy Schneider are your Deacons for 2022. Obviously, this makes attending to the many facets of Sunday worship a bit challenging. For this reason, we are going to be planners and assigners, as well as doers. For many years each committee was assigned a month to either carry out or find members of the congregation to cover coffee hour, be greeters, ushers and otherwise assist the Deacons as needed for worship. Over the past two years we found when we contacted members of the congregation to carry out a specific task as part of Sunday service – Advent readers, scripture readers on Zoom, etc. they were very excited to participate. In that light we will be forming a phone team of 2-4 people who will be contacting church members this month for Sundays beginning in March. Opportunities will be greeters, ushers, scripture readers and tech support for Zoom. Individuals, couples, and families are all encouraged to take this opportunity to reconnect with Sunday worship as we begin Lent on March 6th. We thank you in advance for your participation. - Lauren, Suzi and Wendy



## *Trustees Report*

As I write this on January 21, a letter is being sent to the congregation explaining the steeple repairs and the choices to be made about the clocks at the January 30 annual meeting. It is important that we hear from you. The decisions you make will be reported in the bi-weekly notice in mid-February and also in the March Spire. Our old copier died in late December and a replacement was installed in early January; a newer version of the old one.

*Kathy Stevens*

## *Missions Update*

### **Food Pantry Project**

The first phase of our Food Pantry update has been completed. Thanks to Andy Bolton he installed new lights and updated some electrical outlets. Benny Kessler a local artist has complete the Food mural. It is quite colorful and welcoming. Benny also painted the mural on the big shipping container at the Clyde Brown field. We are so happy with her great talent.

The second phase is to clean and paint the other walls and floor. Erin LeBlanc at the Millis Rec Department will be helping us coordinate town youth to complete the project. We are delaying starting phase two with the increase of COVID and hope to begin in the next two months.

If you are interested in helping contact the church office or member of the mission committee.



We have another build day for the South Shore Habitat project in Westwood. We will be building on January 29th. Paul, Emily, Nate Rice along with Nate's girlfriend, Stephanie, Wendy Schneider, and Casey Woodley will be working!! Thankful most of the outside work is done and they will not have to be out in the cold.

## Gratitude Corner



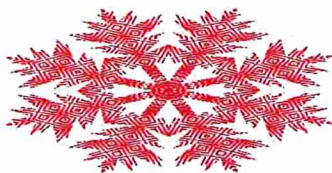
*From Rev. Geary*

*Thank you to everyone who served as an officer or committee member during the past year. So much has been accomplished.*

*Thank you to the Transition Team for offering many opportunities for members and friends to celebrate the ministry of Rev. Jen, to mourn her leaving and to look to the future with energy and excitement. Thank you for completing your difficult task of writing the Church Profile. Blessings upon you as you pass the torch on to the Search Committee.*

### Adult Education

Please give us suggestions for topics or presenters you would like to see from the free adult education presentations. Contact Rev. Geary for more information, or to make a



### *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, send an email to Mary Jensen at: [mejensen7@verizon.net](mailto:mejensen7@verizon.net).

## Rev. Geary Engaging in Study

Rev. Geary will be participating in Clergy Clinic February 7-9. She will be available for emergencies only. Clergy Clinic meets three times per year for three days each time. It involves clergy from many denominations from all over the country. They gather to spend time deepening their own spiritual lives and sharing case studies to help improve congregational life. The program is based on Bowen Family Systems Theory.

### Pastor on Vacation

Rev. Geary will be on vacation  
February 14 – 20.

### 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**, and from **12pm-2 pm on Wednesdays**.

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.

Phone: (774) 993-9407

Email: [pastoruccmillis@gmail.com](mailto:pastoruccmillis@gmail.com)



## Socializing with the M&M's Mondays on Zoom and In Person!

The M & M's Monday Morning Needlework Group gathers virtually on Zoom, and in person in the Parlor! Join in the fun on Monday mornings, any time after 10am. All are welcome – even if you're not working on a needlework project, join in for the socializing!

### By computer, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2987904285?pwd=VENBMmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQZjJUZDZ09>

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

Meeting ID: 298 790 4285

Passcode: 866156

## March Newsletter



The deadline for entries for the March Spire will be **February 17**. Please have all your info in by then. Thank you.

## COVID Protocols

We continue to follow current Health Department COVID protocols. Masks are to be worn in the building and during worship. Please continue to maintain a distance of at least six feet between you and others. Please note, food will not be served. Thank you for caring for others by engaging in these simple acts.

## Online Bible Study

Each **Wednesday at 11:00am**, 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 February" section on page 1 in this newsletter.

### Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2l2aGExMU1ISONHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054

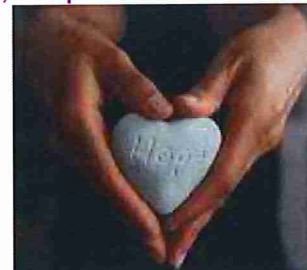


## Super Saturday

March 19, 2022

9a – 3p

"A Future With Hope:  
Relevant, Prophetic and Transformative"



Due to the increase in Covid cases, Super Saturday is now Virtual.

**Registration Deadline: March 13, 2022**

[Super Saturday - Southern New England Conference of the UCC \(sneucc.org\)](https://www.sneucc.org)

## Visitors Group

The Visitors' Group will be meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 10 A.M. in the church parlor. You are welcome to join us if you would like. We hope that each of you is doing well. We also hope that it will be safe to visit soon. "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans, to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Prayer: "Loving God, grant us the courage to help others in any way we can. May we glorify you and show your love through acts of charity."

Amen

*Becca Stigelmar (Texas, USA)*

## Summer 2022 at Silver Lake

*Come to Camp!*

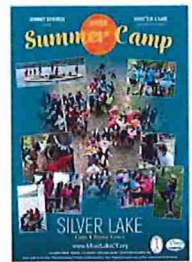
Registration Opens January 15th!

SUMMER 2022  
CONFERENCE DATES:  
Pioneer: June 19-25  
Week 1: June 26-July 2  
Week 2: July 3-9  
Week 3: July 10-16  
Week 4: July 17-23  
Week 5: July 24-30  
Week 6: July 31-Aug. 6  
Week 7: Aug. 7-13

**Save \$50!** Register by  
Jan. 31 and use the code  
**EARLY22** at checkout.

 facebook.com/SilverLakeCT

 @silverlakecenter



Summer Camp for grades 4 through 12; register online at  
[WWW.SILVERLAKECT.ORG](http://WWW.SILVERLAKECT.ORG)

*Change A Life This Summer*

**SILVER LAKE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER**

**SUMMER CAMP 2022**

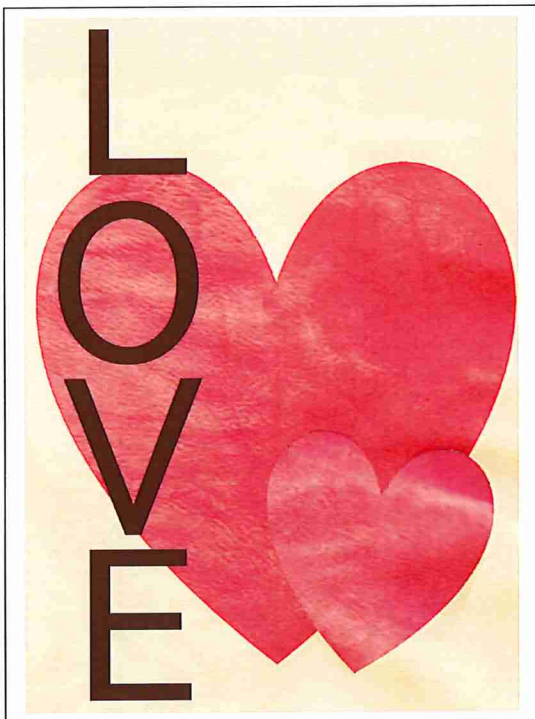
*Now Hiring*

- COUNSELORS
- LIFEGUARDS
- ROPES FACILITATORS
- PROGRAM STAFF
- KITCHEN STAFF
- MAINTENANCE STAFF

**PAID AND VOLUNTEER  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**16 AND OLDER**

[www.SilverLakeCT.org/Employment](http://www.SilverLakeCT.org/Employment)  
[JennKC@SilverLakeCT.org](mailto:JennKC@SilverLakeCT.org)





## Leadership & Committees

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Moderator</b>           | Jan Krohn        |
| <b>Church Clerk</b>        | Sue Conte        |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Gail DiGioia     |
| <b>Assistant Treasurer</b> | Mary Smith       |
| <b>Collector</b>           | Brooks Corl      |
| <b>Assistant Collector</b> | Maria Melchionda |

|   |                   |                  |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Diaconate</b>                          |                   |                  |
|   | Lauren Briggs     | Wendy Schneider  |
|   | Suzi Sennott      |                  |
| <b>Missions</b>                           |                   |                  |
| Casey Woodley                             | Art Payne         | Wendy Schneider  |
| Jan Krohn                                 | Mary Smith        |                  |
| <b>Trustees</b>                           |                   |                  |
| Andy Bolton                               | Kathy Stevens     | Wayne Carlson    |
| Rich Manzano                              | Bonnie Mac Donald |                  |
| <b>Prudential</b>                         |                   |                  |
|   | Doug Coutts       | Bill Wright      |
| <b>Christian Education</b>                |                   |                  |
| Doug Briggs                               | Meghan Prescott   | Kelley Williams  |
| <b>Welcoming Committee</b>                |                   |                  |
| Judy Kosinski                             | Bonnie MacDonald  | Maria Melchionda |
| Lisa Priest                               | Myrna Rybczyk     | Katelyn Andrews  |
| <b>At-large Members of Church Council</b> |                   |                  |
|   | Judie Ackerman    |                  |
| <b>Pastoral Relations Committee</b>       |                   |                  |
| 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  
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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