

Church of Christ, Congregational *United Church of Christ*

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Our Mission

We seek to be a Christian community
by worshiping 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.



March 19, 2023

Rev. Jennifer Geary, Interim Pastor
Rebecca Abalutzk, Music Director
Julie Desmond, Administrative Assistant

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www.millisucc.org

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Worship God, Serve Our Neighbors, Share God's Love

March 19, 2023 – Lent 4

*Indicates standing if you are able

B = Black Hymnal R=Red Hymnal

Prelude: *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

Stuart Townend, arr. Tom Fettke

Welcome

Introit – #B 192 ~ Choir & Congregation Sings

**When Jesus wept, the falling tear
In mercy flowed beyond all bound;
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear
Seized all the guilty world around.**

Call to Worship

Unison Invocation

God, we have gathered. A ragtag group who love and frustrate each other. We earnestly want to be your servants and to share your power and glory with the world. We place ourselves in your presence. Help us hear what needs to be heard. Help us see what needs to be seen. Help us feel what needs to be felt. Help us give you our undivided attention for this moment in time. Surround us with your Spirit. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #B 303 ~ Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing**

A Time for Children of All Ages “Unbelievable”

Scripture: John 9:1-41

Sermon “Believing is Seeing”

***Hymn #B 207 ~ Just As I Am**

***Confession**

God we come to you as a community of faith seeking your forgiveness. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not treated our neighbor as ourself. We have erected barriers between us. We waste the precious time you've given us. We do not do all we can to take care of your creation. Help us to care, really care, for all your people, including ourselves. Hear us as we share our private confessions: *Silence*. In Jesus name. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

May the Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory: *All I Ever Want to Be/Lord, Be Glorified*

Stevens & Kilpatrick

***Sung Presentation:** *Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above you heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God, restored to you and each other, we humbly lay this offering before you. Bless it and us as we continue to grow in your love and your way. Amen.

Prayers

Sharing

Pastoral Prayer

Personal Prayers

Lord's Prayer *(Most in our congregation use "B" on page 9 in the black hymnal. Use the words that work best for you).*

Musical Response: *Spirit Divine, Hear our Prayer*

Announcements

***Hymn #B565** ~ *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

***Benediction**

***Postlude** ~ *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

Kirk Dearman

Today's alter flowers are donated by Sue Conte
in memory of Frank Conte
September 21, 1946 – March 20, 2013

Narrator 1: Kathy Stevens

Neighbors: Judy Kosinski

Narrator 2: Sue Conte

Pharisees: Allen Williams

Disciples: Jen Payne

Parents: Katelyn Andrews

Jesus: Judie Ackerman

Blind Man: Wendy Schneider

Fellowship Refreshments: Men's Fellowship

Childcare: Wendy Schneider & Suzi Sennott

Fellowship Hour: Please join us for food and fellowship in the dining room following worship.

Childcare is available for those age 4 and younger following the Scripture lesson. Two adults will take the children downstairs to the preschool room, so they are nearer the bathroom. Parents should pick up their children immediately after worship.

Prayer Chain

Have a prayer request?

**Please contact Mary Jensen to
add it to the prayer chain at
mejensen7@verizon.net**



The season of Lent is marked by Christians focusing on Fasting, Worship, Generosity, Prayer, & Penance.

“Generosity is the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. It is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action entailing both the inclination and actual practice of giving liberally. It is not a haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life. What generosity gives can vary: money, possessions, time, attention, aid, encouragement, and more but it always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver. Like all virtues, generosity is in people’s genuine enlightened self-interest to learn and practice.” (Christian Smith, The Generosity Project, Notre Dame University).

One License #A-732166; CCLI # 1300459

For your convenience, you can now make donations and pay your pledge on-line. Just scan this Giving QR code.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral/Financial Discernment

Please plan to participate in each of the parts of the discernment process.

- March 19-24 Discuss and amend the proposal as needed
- March 26 Vote

Are you interested in becoming a member?

New members will be joining the church on Sunday, April 2nd. If you are interested in being part of that group, please contact Rev. Geary.

M&M’s (Monday Morning Group)

Mondays at 10:00 am in the Parlor. Join in the fun of socializing with others. Many bring hand work, but you can just come to visit. All are Welcome!

Zoom Bible Study

Join us each Wednesday at 9:30 am. A group gathers on Zoom to listen and discuss one or more passages from the upcoming Sunday's worship service. Each gathering a stand-alone event. The weekly passages are listed under the Calendar of Events in the bulletin and on the website

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.millisucc.org for all Zoom links

Sunday, March 19, 2023

7:30 am ~ Men's Fellowship Breakfast

10:00 am ~ Worship Service

11:00 am ~ Discernment Discussion

Monday, March 20, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00 pm ~ M&M's in the Parlor

11:00 am – 1:00 pm ~ Reverend Geary Office Hours
Spire Deadline

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

1:00 pm ~ Discernment Discussion - Hybrid

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

9:30 am ~ Bible Study on Zoom (John 11:1-45)

Sunday, March 26, 2023

10:00 am ~ Worship Service

11:00 am ~ Congregational Vote on Discernment

Warrant

For a

Special Congregational Business Meeting
Sunday, March 26, 2023

To the Members of the Church of Christ, Congregational, in Millis, County of Norfolk, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

You are hereby notified that a Special Congregational Business Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, the 26th of March, 2023 immediately following worship, at approximately 11:00 am for the following purpose, to wit:

Article 1. To authorize the Search Committee to update the current profile and immediately begin to search for a $\frac{3}{4}$ solo settled pastor.

Article 2. To authorize the Diaconate to search for and select pastoral coverage until a settled pastor begins.

Article 3. The Congregation commits to make an intentional effort to increase revenue.

Susan Conte, Clerk
March 15, 2023

Easter Lilies and Tulips



ORDER FORM
2023



Flower	Number of Plants
Lilies (\$12.50)	
Tulips (\$12.50)	

In Memory of _____

In Celebration of _____

In Honor of _____

From _____

*Orders will be taken through Sunday, April 2nd. Lilies and Tulips are \$12.50. Checks and order forms may be left in the offering plate or in the church office. Make checks payable to: **Church of Christ** and write "**flowers**" in the memo section of the check.*

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

Phil. 4:4; Rev. 3:7; 19:6-7

Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.

1 Re - joice, give thanks and sing; your Sov-ereign God a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 Christ Je - sus can - not fail to rule both earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,

For Christ has robbed death's sting and tri - umphs ev - er - more. Lift
 The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power a - bove. Lift
 The keys of death and hell are to the Sav - ior given. Lift
 And take the faith - ful up to their e - ter - nal home. We

up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
 up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
 up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice.
 soon shall hear a heaven-ly voice a - bove the trum-pet's sound, "Re - joice!"

This Ascension text, one of the festival hymns by Charles Wesley, was published originally in John Wesley's Moral and Sacred Poems (1744). Somewhat altered, it appeared in this familiar version in Charles' 1746 collection, Hymns for Our Lord's Resurrection.

Tune: DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8.
 John Darwall, 1770

Just as I Am

207

Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.
William B. Bradbury, 1849

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Robert L. Edwards, 1961; alt.

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for serv - ing, that your will, on
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your
 4 Lend your joy to all our giv - ing, let it light our

end - less store, Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's
 earth be done: All at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the
 grace con - ferred; Ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the
 pil - grim way; From the night of anx - ious keep - ing, loose us in - to

shat - tered door: Gift - ed by you, we turn to you
 Church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor,
 gos - pel Word. O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing
 gen - erous day. Then when years on earth are o - ver,

of - fering up our - selves in praise; Thank - ful song shall
 lest we strive for self a - lone; born with tal - ents,
 as we heed Christ's age - less call, Heal - ing, teach - ing,
 and we've lived our hu - man span, God, ful - fill be -

Robert L. Edwards, an ordained United Church of Christ minister, has served several churches in Connecticut. He wrote this text for a competition of The Hymn Society, and it was subsequently published in Ten New Stewardship Hymns in 1961.

Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.
 Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL