

THE SPIRE

April 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

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.



Farewell

It's been three years since you first saw me on Facebook Live and I first saw you on Zoom meet and greets. Yesterday, I drove to church from Burrillville, where I lived when I first started here. As I drove, the once familiar but now not so much, roads, memories flooded in of all that has happened in the last three years. We've been through a lot! In this short time, you have truly become my church family as we have been through so much together. I will miss you all dearly. I long for you to fare well. God is doing something important with this congregation. I think many of you feel it, like you are on the edge of something. I think it is the edge of something good. Have no fear; God will help you soar. Embrace the next, whatever it is, with Easter joy. Blessings for your continued ministry.

Grace, Rev. Jennifer Geary



Worship in April

April 2 – 10 AM

Palm Sunday, Communion, Sunday School, New members

Matthew 21:1-11

April 6 – 6 PM Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae
Begins with a simple supper

April 9 – 6 AM Outdoors

Sunrise Service

John 20:1-18

April 9 – 10 AM

Easter Sanctuary Service

Matthew 28:1-10

April 16 – 10 AM

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

April 23 – 10 AM

Third Sunday of Easter, Farewell to Rev. Geary

Luke 24:13-35

April 30 – 10 AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Mission Sunday, Sunday School

John 10:1-10; Psalm 23

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/kc6vTurh6j>



Come Join Us for breakfast on Easter Sunday! Breakfast will be served from 6:30a to 7:30a and will include:

- Eggs
- Bacon/Sausage
- Potatoes/Home Fries
- Pastries/Donuts
- Fruit
- Cereal
- Coffee
- Milk/Juice/Water

For more information, please contact Art Payne at aartpayne@verizon.net

**Calling All Children**

Bring you basket with you to worship so you can hunt for eggs following the service.

Maundy Thursday Readers

Readers are needed for Maundy Thursday. If you enjoy reading out loud and are available Thursday evening, April 6, we need 12 readers. Please let Rev. Geary know if you are willing to help out or if you have questions.

Speakers in Fellowship Hall

Can you wire speakers?! We would like to use the wireless microphones in Fellowship Hall for Maundy Thursday but to do that we need to have speakers wired into the sanctuary sound system. Is this something you could do? We have speakers and will cover the cost of the wire and any other supplies needed. Ideally, this would be a permanent change with wires run through ceilings and walls but temporary wires run across the floor would work for this one event. Please contact the church office to volunteer.



Maundy Thursday Supper

We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 6 PM for a simply elegant soup and bread supper. We will celebrate Communion around the table as Jesus did with his disciples and then move into the service of Tenebrae. The sanctuary will be open for silent prayer from 6:00-9:00 PM.

Soup and Bread makers needed for Maundy Thursday. Our Maundy Thursday service will begin with a special meal of soup and bread. The worship team is looking for one or two bakers and one or two soup makers to volunteer to provide the food for the event.

Prudential Corner

Thank you for everyone's support as we put together the budget for 2023. The budget will be a living and breathing document over the course of the year. We will do our best to keep everyone informed as to the fluctuations on a month to month basis. The changes may come in the form of more income into the church (ie. higher and/or more pledges) or reductions in our expenses (including change from full-time to part-time ministry). Every little bit counts!!

At the Annual Meeting, the Congregation approved a budget that had a shortfall of \$97,225, which is the amount of money we will need to take out of our investments in order to pay the bills. Within this budget includes a full-time ministerial compensation package totaling \$112,810.

As of 3/20/2023, our investments at Vanguard (VPGDX - Vanguard Managed Allocation Fund) total \$321,291. Of that amount, \$44,800 is "Board Restricted" (Missions, Capital Improvement, and Sabbatical) and \$42,000 is "Donor Restricted" (Youth Fellowship, Christian Education, Music Special, Memorial, Men's Fellowship, Community Garden). That leaves \$234,491 as unrestricted ("General Fund").

There has been some fluctuation since the Annual Meeting. As of 3/20/23, we are projecting that end of the year budget number to now be a shortfall of \$90,709 that would need to be taken out of our investments. This is mainly due to some more pledges that were received after the Annual Meeting and some other downward projections on the expenses side. We are hopeful to be able to make some more adjustments downward to our costs (is it too soon to consider that our snow removal totals Jan-Apr will be lower?) and look forward to any increases in the income side in the way of fundraising. Note that we have already withdrawn \$10,000 from our investments in the month of January and another \$6,000 in March to cover expenses.

Any questions or comments, ideas for future Spire articles, please reach out to one of the Prudential Committee Members. Thank you.

From Your Deacons

As we move through Lent, the Deacons are looking ahead to Holy Week services, which will include a Maundy Thursday soup supper and service, a daytime vigil on Good Friday, and sunrise and family services on Easter. All are welcome to attend one or multiple of these services.

We are also considering how services will be run after Rev. Geary's final service with us on April 23, on which date we will have a luncheon after worship in her honor. The Deacons are looking at a mixture of pulpit supply and lay person leadership until a settled pastor arrives. If you have ideas for worship or would like to help lead a service as a lay person (including reading scripture, leading prayer, or giving a brief message), please speak to one of the Deacons.

Please keep an eye on the Spire and bulletin for important worship dates coming up.

Lauren, Allen, Kathy, Katie, and Doug

Save the Date Celebrating Rev. Geary

On April 23 following worship, we will be having a luncheon to celebrate Rev. Geary's final Sunday with us and all her work over the past three years.



Missions News

Service Opportunities



Again, this year South Shore Habitat has a house build in Kaua'i Hawaii. It will be the week of October 14 to 22, 2023. The cost of trip is \$1643 plus your air fare. Speak to Sue/Andy Bolton or Mary Smith or Wendy Schneider about their last year's rewarding experience.

Any questions or interest please contact Jan Krohn



The mission committee welcomes suggestions from the congregation of charitable organization(s) and/or a service activity we can contribute. Please contact any member. Art Payne, Judy Kosinski, Casey Woodley or Jan Krohn.

In Memoriam



Jean Brown

Please see the article below from the South Shore Habitat for Humanity



“You Don’t Have to Swing a Hammer to Build a Home

Volunteer to be a South Shore Habitat Ambassador

South Shore Habitat for Humanity needs Ambassadors as “Site Greeters” to greet the volunteers at its current build site at [302-304 Whiting Street](#) in Hingham and its future build site at [808 Jerusalem Road](#) in Cohasset.

Being a Site Greeter is an enriching experience that provides the opportunity to give back to the community while helping to build safe, healthy, and affordable homes for local families in need. It is truly a heartwarming act of kindness.

Each Build Day a Site Greeter welcomes the volunteers, provides a brief orientation, and then helps volunteers have a good experience. Training is provided to guide you through the Site Greeter steps.

As a Site Greeter you have the chance to help as often or as infrequently as suits your schedule.

Currently Build Days in Hingham on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Site Greeters are needed in Hingham from April to June, and then the second half of the year in Cohasset.

If you want to learn more about becoming a Site Greeter or other Habitat volunteer opportunities, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Janice Richards at 781-337-7744 x130 or jrichards@sshahabitat.org.

The generous donation of your time supports Habitat in its mission to provide strength, security, and stability through shelter.

Childcare

Children are welcome at all our services AND we know that sometimes parents want to have spiritual time for themselves. We are looking for a few folks who would volunteer to provide childcare during Sunday service. If you would be willing to donate one Sunday to provide childcare, please contact Wendy Schneider.

Christian Education

We are excited to begin offering family fellowship events after Sunday School! These events will be local, informal gatherings with activities offered to provide opportunities for the parents (and the children) to get to know each other. Events will be weather dependent, so we might not be able to say exactly what we'll be doing a week or so in advance, but within a few days we will have a plan. If you haven't yet shared your contact information with Doug, Kelly, or Brenda, please do, so we can contact you directly with updates. Upcoming dates for Sunday School and family fellowship will be April 2nd and April 30th.

We hope to see your families at these events. Please contact any of us with any questions.

Doug, Kelly, and Brenda

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.

Flea Market/Craft Sale/ Electronic Recycling

Mark your Calendars for Saturday, June 3rd 9-2 PM Rain or Shine, when we will be hosting The Green Day Recycling company for Electronics Recycling AND a Flea Market/Craft Sale. Flea Market and Craft Sale: Vendors, Crafters, host your own yard sale table - all for a \$15 fee.

Volunteers needed for the day of the event. Contact Wendy Schneider or the Church office - many hands make light work!

The Green Day Recycling fees are very reasonable and they unload the items from your car! A quick drive thru and you can get rid of all those hard to recycle items!

From Green Day Recycling:

All electronics, appliances, items with a plug and/or batteries, as well as bicycles in any condition will be accepted and recycled for a small cost as follows:

Cost to You:

- \$5 each for Computers, Laptops, Video Game Consoles, DVD Players, VCR's, Small Printers, Radios, Speakers, Table Lamps, Fans, Hair Dryers, Curling Irons, Projectors, Drills, Digital Cameras, Clocks, Trophies, Frying Pans and Cookware, Holiday Lights, Other Small Electronics.
- \$10 each for Vacuum Cleaners/RoboVac, Toaster Ovens, Ceiling Fans, Floor Lamps, Air Fryers, Electric Grills, Hot Plates, Small Radiators, Keyboard Pianos, Coffee Makers, Ice Makers, Small Household Appliances
- \$15 each for Flat Screen Computer Monitors, Small Microwaves
- \$20 each for CRT Computer Monitors, TVs up to 24," Dorm Sized Refrigerators, Dehumidifiers, Air Conditioners, Water Coolers, Large Printers/Copiers, Heat Lamps, Heaters, Propane Tanks (Empty), Range-Top/Large Microwaves
- \$25 each for TVs between 25" and 31," Washing Machines, Stoves, Dishwashers, Large Appliances, Outdoor Grills,

Treadmills, Exercise Equipment, Snow Blowers, Lawn Mowers, Rototillers, Power Washers, Large Yard Equipment, Water Tanks

- \$30 each for TVs between 32" and 35," Large Refrigerators, Ride-On Lawn Mowers
- \$35 each for TVs over 36"
- \$40 each for Projection TVs
- NO CHARGE (Cash Donation Recommended): Cell Phones, Bicycles in any condition, Wires, Cables, Chargers, Car Batteries, Household Batteries Keyboards, Tablets.

Residents from all towns are welcome to recycle. Computer hard drives will be destroyed during the recycling process but can be removed on-site at the event for an additional charge. Cash payment is preferred, but checks will be an acceptable form of payments over \$30.

Hope to see you there!



Is Golf your Game?

We have received a request for a golf enthusiast, who would be interested in taking an 80-year-old gentleman from the community to a short course and/or driving range once or twice a week throughout the season. If you or anyone you know would be interested in this opportunity to brighten someone's day and enjoy a bit of golf as well, please contact the church office for more information.

Host with the Most?

As the church expands the rental of the building to more one-day users, we are in need of 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 Julie in the office

Wi-Fi Changes

Sometime over the next month the Wi-Fi name and password will change. If you find yourself not getting service like you used to at church, you will probably need to update your settings. We will let you know when the change happens.



Thank you to the anonymous donor of the new refrigerator for the first floor of the church. This will make summer fellowship much easier and will enhance the rental opportunities for first floor spaces.



The Spire deadline for May is
April 20th, 2023

Worship Bulletin

The 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=MVpJT21NelpRck9wM1UyaUtBalZs
Zz09](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>



Ordering Flowers for Easter Sunday

*Last day for order will be Palm
Sunday, April 2nd.*

*Lily and tulip prices this year are
\$12.50/each*



Refreshments

Each Sunday we all enjoy a drink and snack following worship, but these don't magically appear. Everyone sharing a little, creates a feast. Please look through your calendar and pick a Sunday - next month, during the summer, next fall – when you will provide the refreshments. When we all take a turn, we only need to do it once per year. Please contact the church office with your preferred week. If when the time comes you cannot be there, we'll just find someone to swap Sundays with you.



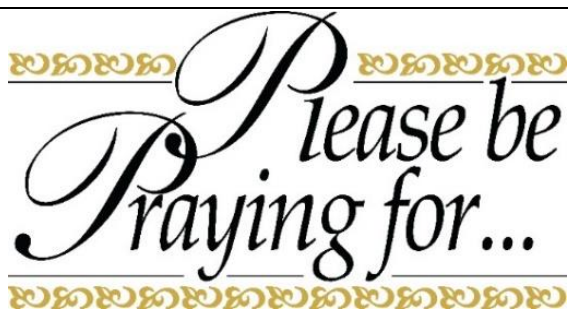
**Sunday School for Children
April 2 at 10 AM**

One Sunday a month, Sunday school is offered for those in grade 8 and younger. We divide the students into two groups by age depending on who is there on a certain week. Children in grade 3 and older are encouraged to bring their Bibles with them.

Mark your calendar, so you don't miss the April classes on the 2nd!

Please contact Doug Briggs or Kelly Williams for more information or to volunteer to help.

You can find the registration form and policy information on the church website www.millisucc.org under the "about" tab/forms.



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



Visitors' Update

Myrna Rybczy

Our next meeting is April 13th. Please make myself or a member of the Visitors aware if you know of someone who needs a lift in their day with a card, call or visit

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



Online Bible Study

Each **Wednesday at 9:30 am**, two different groups gather 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 "Worship in April" section on page 1 of this newsletter.

Bible Study Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641484473?pwd=aGM2c2I2aGExMU1IS0NHVHRycjVldz09>

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

Meeting ID: 876 4148 4473

Password: 02054

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 hand work if you have it or just come to socializing!



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.

Opportunities to Serve

On the next page you will see the new committees for 2023. There are several open slots where you would be welcomed to serve. Terms of commitment are 2 years for committees, 1 year for officers. Please contact the church office or Moderator, Jan Krohn if you would like to be an officer or join one of the committees.

April Committee Meetings

5/5 7:30 PM ~ Christian Education - Zoom
 4/11 12:00 PM ~ Prudential - Zoom
 4/13 10 AM ~ Visitors Group - Parlor
 4/14 10 AM ~ Worship Team - Parlor
 4/16 11:30 AM ~ Deacons – Parlor
 4/19 7:00 PM ~ Church Council – Chapel
 4/25 7:00 PM ~ Missions - Zoom

Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Jan Krohn (22)
Church Clerk	Sue Conte (22)
Treasurer	Gail DiGioia (22)
Assistant Treasurer	Open
Investment Fund Manager	Open
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Open

Diaconate		
Katelyn Andrews (23)	Doug Briggs (23)	Lauren Briggs (21)
Kathy Stevens (23)	Open	Open
Allen Williams (23)	Open	////////////////////
Missions		
Casey Woodley (22)	Jan Krohn	Art Payne
Open	Open	////////////////////
Trustees		
Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	////////////////////
Prudential		
Open-2 yrs	Doug Coutts (21)	Bill Wright
Open-2 yrs	Open-2 yrs	////////////////////
Christian Education		
Brenda Marrero (23)	Doug Briggs (22)	Kelly Williams (21)
Open-2 yrs	Open- 2 yrs	////////////////////
Welcoming Committee		
Wendy Schneider (23)	Open	Open
Open	Open	////////////////////
At-large Members of Church Council		
Art Payne (21)	Judy Ackerman (21)	////////////////////
Pastoral Relations Committee		
Linda Jones (21)	John Smith (21)	Jo-Ellen Briggs (21)
Jen Payne (21)	Open	////////////////////
Memorials Committee		
Sue Conte (21)	Open	////////////////////
Delegate		
Open	Open	Open

**Church of Christ
142 Exchange St.
Millis, MA 02054**

Phone:
508-376-5034

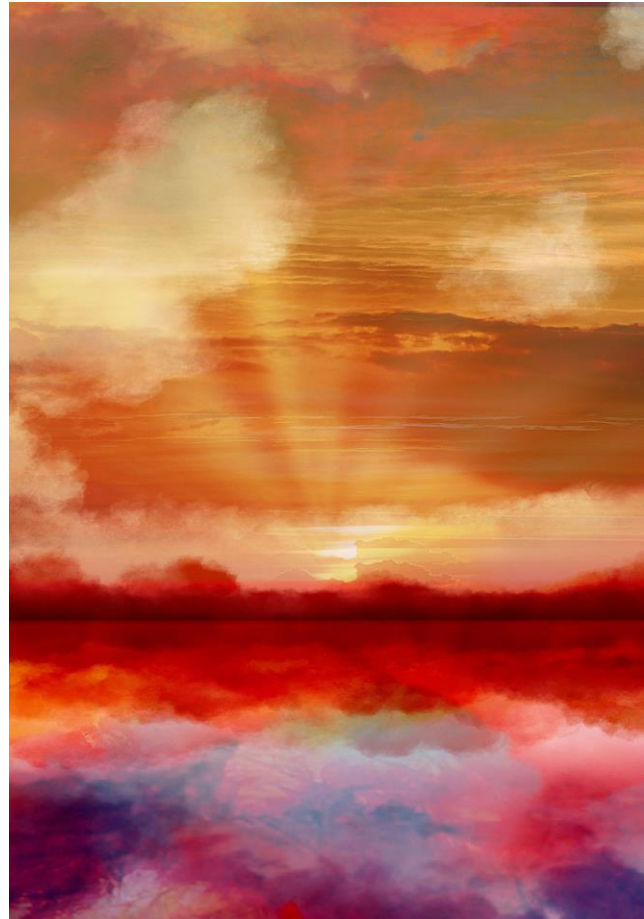
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