

THE SPIRE

June 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.



A Message from the Moderator

Jan Krohn

The women's fellowship has donated money to purchase new windows for the pastor's office and parlor which were in very bad condition. Their generous contribution of \$4000 covered the windows and a small amount towards installation. But we still need some help in raising \$4000 more to complete the project. Any contributions would be helpful! Please send to church or place in offering on Sunday and mark "for windows". Thank you.

The council will be changing the church's building entry code on July 1, 2023. All committee members and officers will be given the new code. If you have need for access, please let one of the council members know.

The council and Becky Abalutzk completed the revisions of the church profile for ¾ pastor, and it has been submitted. Hopefully, we will receive candidates soon. The search committee will keep us posted.

Julie will be working more from home this summer thus in person coverage of church office will be less. However, leave messages on phone church: 508-376-5043 and she will contact you. Or please call me.

Prudential Corner

Here is a summary of our finances over the first four months (1/1/23-4/30/23) of this year:

	Thru 4/30/23 YTD Actual	Thru 4/30/23 YTD Budget	difference
Pledges	31,321.10	33,602.68	-2,281.58
Total Income	54,318.78	54,552.72	-233.94
Total Expenses	79,437.18	82,855.68	-3,418.50
Net	25,118.40	28,302.96	-3,184.56

MANY thanks to everyone for keeping up with their pledges, which are close to being on budget. Our total Income also remains on budget, thanks in part to "Other Facility Rentals", which has been a good source of revenue. We see this as a continued area of opportunity, so spread the word!

Our expenses are close to being on budget and we look forward to the warmer months and a reduction in the expenses to keep the building warm. The transition from our Interim Pastor to a weekly coverage structure will also curb expenses in the coming months, though we look forward to the process of finding a permanent Pastor restarting again.

By the time this goes to print we will have withdrawn \$25,000 from our investment account to cover expenses. This will leave us with a balance of \$239,577.54 in the General Fund, \$50,840.81 in Board Restricted Funds, and \$42,106.05 in Donor Restricted Funds.

From Your Deacons

The Deacons are pleased to announce that Rev. Mary Perry will be providing pulpit supply for two Sundays each month. She will be with us on June 11 and 25, July 16 and 23, and August 13 and 27, with the potential to continue with us into the fall. The other two Sundays every month will be covered by the Deacons, so we ask you to continue thinking about any ideas you might have for worship. If you 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.

Instead of the first Sunday of the month, June 11 will be our Communion Sunday for the month of June. We are also looking for stories of fathers that you would be willing to share or have shared on your behalf during our Father's Day service on June 18, in a similar fashion to our Mother's Day service. If you have a story of a father or fatherly figure in your life to share, please contact one of the Deacons.

We plan on worshipping outside (weather permitting) throughout July and August, with the potential to worship outside on June 18 and 25 as well, which will be determined and announced as soon as possible. We will also be continuing our joint worship activities with the Federated Church of Norfolk this summer! Their congregation will be joining us on July 16 and 23, and we will worship in Norfolk on July 30 and August 6.

Please keep an eye on the Spire and bulletin for continued information about worship.

Lauren, Allen, Kathy, Katie, and Doug

Reverend Mary Perry

Rev. Mary Perry is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. For the past ten years she served as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Stoughton, retiring in March. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School (now part of Yale University) and has a Post-Master's Certificate in Spiritual Formation from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Before her call to ministry, Mary worked as a registered nurse. She and her husband Robert have lived in Norfolk for the past 30 years. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren. In addition to all things church-related, Mary enjoys spending time with her family, walking in the woods, yoga, and cooking. She is delighted to be providing pulpit supply this summer and looks forward to getting to know everyone.

Missions



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



Thank you to all who participated in our Sunday Mission Service. The message was how giving is good for the giver. Generosity brings one Joy! The true message of Jesus. We put together 60 hygiene kits and 24 School bags which were sent to World Church Services. They distribute the kits to areas of need. This last year they shared kits with Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and provided them to disaster victims in Kentucky, Florida, and other states across the U.S. to ensure children had supplies for school.

Mission's welcomes your input to both our financial giving and areas we could participate in to help others.



The next edition of the Spire will be August and the deadline will be July 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=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>



June 14th

**Come One, Come All
to the Church Picnic on
Sunday, June 4th**



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 feel free to bring it!

Would you like a nametag made for you for Church?

We offer nametags to all our members or friends that attend church with us for free. There's no requirement to wear them, it's just very helpful to newcomers, new friends and old friends who are terrible with faces and/or names. The name tags come in a plastic sleeve with a metal clip, but feel free to bring a lanyard instead!

The basics of each name tag are:

- First Name (can be legal name, nickname, or both) & Last Name
- A Title, such as Member, Friend, or a position you hold in our church (such as Deacon, Welcoming Committee, Trustee, etc.)
- Your pronouns, such as He/Him, She/Her or They/Them
- If you belong to a marginalized group and would like to make that public by including the flag for that group

What's that flag/icon?

If you see a flag or icon on a nametag, that indicates that this person is a member of a marginalized group and has chosen to publicly display that to help reduce stigma of these groups and to make other people (who may also belong to marginalized groups) feel more welcome.

An example that has both the legal name and nickname:

Katelyn (Katie) Andrews

Deacon



 She/Her

Name tags are made in batches to not waste materials.

If you would like a name tag, please reach out to Katelyn Andrews via email or contact the church office with the below info for each name tag:

Name (First & Last):

Title:

Pronouns:

Any flags:

Visitor's Tea



Thursday, June 29th at 2:00, the Welcoming Comm. will be hosting the Visitors Tea in Fellowship Hall.

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 Julie in the office.

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.



The Deacons in acquiring pulpit supply and organizing lay leader Sunday services; Jan Krohn for her work as moderator and more; Missions for the CWS Sunday; Sue Conte for keeping the gardens beautiful; Karen Hatch and Sue Conte for being church hosts.

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!

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.

⌘⌘⌘⌘ Please be Praying for... ⌘⌘⌘⌘

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



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.

June Committee Meetings

- 6/7 - 7:30 PM ~ Christian Education - Zoom
- 6/8 - 10 AM ~ Visitors Group – Parlor
- 6/11 - 11:30 AM ~ Deacons – Parlor
- 6/13 - 12:00 PM ~ Prudential - Zoom
- 6/21 - 7:00 PM ~ Church Council – Chapel
- 6/27 – 7:00 PM ~ Missions

Opportunities to Serve

On the next page you will see the new committees for 2023. There are several open slots where you would be welcome 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.

Congratulations to Patrick, Andreia, and Gina on their graduation from High School and their future endeavors!

Sunday, June 18th

Juneteenth

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

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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