

# THE SPIRE

April 2024

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

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An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



## FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings Church of Christ, Congregational! I extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. My name is Pastor James, and I am honored to have joined your wonderful community as the new settled pastor. I am filled with excitement as we embark on this journey together.

As I immerse myself in this role, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you already, including our dedicated staff members Becki and Laura, and the hardworking volunteers who selflessly support our church, day in and day out. Your congregation is truly

a beacon of talent and devotion, and I am humbled to be a part of it.

Stepping into this ministry at such a pivotal moment in the church's trajectory is both thrilling and inspiring. I am energized by the promising opportunities that lie before us. I am eager to walk alongside each and every one of you as we navigate the path ahead.

In the days to come, I am looking forward to meeting with each of you individually or with your families. It is my priority to get to know you and what matters most to you. Keep an eye out for detail on scheduling a meeting with me following our Easter celebrations.

I encourage you to take a moment to look through the announcements in this edition of the Spire. Your active engagement and participation are essential as we move forward together. I am excited to see you all and share in the journey ahead!

Prayer:

Loving God, we gather seeking your guidance. Fill our hearts with peace, and our minds with understanding as we reflect on love and redemption this time signifies. Help us follow Christ with humility and faith, drawing closer

through our thoughts, prayers, and actions. May this time bring spiritual reflection, renewal and connection within our congregation and our wider community. AMEN.

## From the Deacons

The Deacons would like to officially welcome Pastor James and thank them for their flexibility and willingness to listen to our ideas. We have noticed increased attendance in person, and online, the past few weeks, and are hopeful this is just the beginning of a trend.



### Millis Community Garden

It's almost time for the fourth season of operation of the Millis Community Garden, hosted by the church on our side lawn! If you are a Millis resident and you would like to enter the lottery for a free plot in the garden please fill out the Google form linked on the Millis CommunityGarden Facebook page or email

[millisuccgarden@gmail.com](mailto:millisuccgarden@gmail.com) by **April 5<sup>th</sup>**. (Please reach out to Lauren Briggs if you miss the

deadline but would still like to garden.)

We are also hoping to host some events throughout the season. If you, your organization, or your business would like to host a brief presentation or event structured around themes such as:

- Agriculture
- Plant identification
- Food justice
- Unique uses for plants
- Similarly related topic

Please email

[millisuccgarden@gmail.com](mailto:millisuccgarden@gmail.com)



Friendly Reminder! Spire Articles are due each month by the 20<sup>th</sup>.



*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.*



During the week of April 3rd – 11<sup>th</sup>, regularly scheduled office hours will not be held. The office will be staffed by volunteers as available. You can continue to reach the office via phone or email. Phones will be checked regularly by our volunteers. If you have urgent business with the church during this time, please contact Pastor James on their cellphone: 774-993-9407



### Electronics Recycling Day

May 4<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm Rain or Shine,  
Cash or Check

Clean out your unwanted junk and feel great about it! A portion of the proceeds goes to the church!

Bring these items to the parking lot:

Small electronics items: Computer towers, Scanners, VCR, Printers, Copiers, DVD, Stereo Equipment, Computer Tower, Lighting, Vacuum, Answering Machine, Fax, Speakers, Compact disc., Circuit Boards, Radios, Record Players, Modems, Word Processor, Fans, Video equipment, Game Console, Xbox, etc., Tape Players, Typewriters .\$.5 each.

Appliances: Dishwasher, Dryer, Stove. \$20  
Microwave, ...\$15 (small) Large \$20  
TV's and Monitors/Flat panel monitors: 18" - 26" ...\$20.00 ea  
27"- 35" ...\$25.00 ea / Over 35" Projection TV...\$40.00 ea  
AC \$25, Dehumidifier...\$20,  
Refrigerators..\$20 (dorm) \$40 Large  
Grill, \$20, Empty propane tank \$15, Ex. equipment. \$20-40 weight sets...\$10

NO CHARGE on these items

:Keyboards, Car, Boat, Lawn Mower, Motorcycle Batteries , Cables, wire and cell phones.

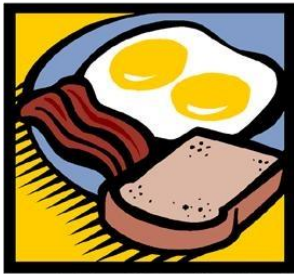
Household items: ( GOT JUNK ) Wood Chair \$5 each, Table, Dresser, Headboard and rails, Bookcase, Bureau, Tv stand, Entertainment Center, Wood door, Coffee Table, Sinks...\$10-\$20 each  
Sectional Furniture (By the piece), Sofa, Recliner, Love Seat..\$20-\$40, Mower..\$20, Ride on mower.\$40. Snow Blower..\$40  
Anything including the kitchen Sink, EXCEPT PAINT AND CHEMICALS Pricing may vary with size.

Also included: Bicycle Recycle Day, no fee. Bring your unwanted old or new bicycle and drop it off, it will be reused again. Mountain, Road, BMX, Cruiser, ( Old to current)/New, Kids, etc.

We also take working or non working mini bikes and mopeds

Our aim is to keep bikes from being thrown out when they can be reused.

## BREAKFAST



## FELLOWSHIP

Join Us for Fellowship Breakfast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month!

**NEXT MEETING: April 21st 8-9am**

Cooking starts around 7:30am. Please bring a breakfast item to share.

All are welcome!



The Upper Room devotionals are available in the rack by the side door. Please help yourself. If you enjoy these and they are all gone, please let Laura in the office know so we can order more copies going forward.



In an effort to spruce up James' office and make things more functional, we are in search of the following items:

- A curtain suitable for covering the window in the Pastor's door to provide some privacy
- A free-standing or folding room divider
- A white noise machine
- Two multi-line phones
- Small bulletin board
- A desk

If you know of someone getting rid of any of these items, or have a lead on where to obtain them at a reasonable price, please contact Laura in the office.



Paul Rice submitted to the Mission committee a need from the Africa Exchange Project. He is a member of their Board of Directors. Africa Exchange Project is a non-profit focused on improving the maternal healthcare in the village of Pomerini, Tanzania. Tanzania has one of the highest numbers of maternal deaths in the world.

[The Africa Exchange Project's](#) past efforts include equipping the clinic with new sterilizer and oxygen concentrator, new hospital beds and their first electrical connection. They are asking us to supply a ultrasound machine, which will provide avenues to diagnose congenital anomalies.

The missions and council reviewed the request and approved \$6800.00 for the ultrasound. More information on this organization and their needs will be presented on a TBA Sunday service.



One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. One Great Hour of Sharing supports life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and lives. They empower partners worldwide in their labors to build sustainable futures. They plant seeds of peace where war has multiplied despair and destruction. Thank you for your contribution of \$218, which we sent to OGHS.



Sign up sheets will be going up for coffee hour help. We are extremely

grateful for the help we've received on the clean-up end, and the occasional help with set-up is also warmly appreciated. We just need a better organized way to ensure we have consistent coverage while Jen and I are at Choir, or otherwise unavailable. Using the counter has made the job much easier! Tasks include:

- Arrive around 9:15-9:30am for set-up
- Leave service at the last hymn to put out the juice and creamer
- Then stick around for clean-up

Please consider signing up so we can continue to provide this enjoyable time of fellowship. For any questions or concerns, please contact Jen or Kathy.



The Deacons are thankful for the continued support from everyone who does little things, (and some big!) to enhance our worship services. Many thanks to you all!

Thank you to all involved with putting on a lovely Easter Breakfast.

Thank you to Sue Conte for planting cheerful little pansies prior to Easter to brighten our celebrations.

Thank you to Jan Krohn for office coverage while our admin was away.



**Monday Morning Fellowship**

Every Monday from 10am-noon in the Parlor

All are welcome! Bring your handwork if you have it, or just come to socialize. We'd love to see you there!



**Youth Ministry**

Do you feel called to work with kids? Are you interested in helping to breathe new life into our youth ministry? We would love to hear your ideas and put your talents to work! Please contact Doug Briggs or Kelly Williams.



Join our  
**BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesdays at 7:00pm  
Beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup>

All are welcome to join us for a Hybrid Bible Study with Pastor James. You may attend in-person in the Parlor or via Zoom. We will gather to read scripture and talk about our faith in today's world.

Join Zoom Meeting

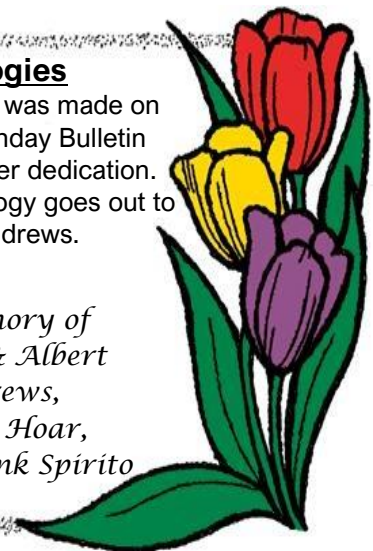
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832179786?pwd=L1lrMjNRWjEzNGxzZnRpdmc5RmlWZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3217 9786  
Passcode: 181480

**Apologies**

A clerical error was made on the Easter Sunday Bulletin omitting a flower dedication. My sincere apology goes out to Katie Andrews.

*In Memory of  
Joanne & Albert  
Andrews,  
Shirley Hoar,  
Pat & Frank Spirito*



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