

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

Church of Christ Vision Statement:

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

Outdoor Worship

September 12th & 19th we will worship in the outdoor chapel, depending on the weather.
Bring your chair.

Sunday Worship in September

September 5 – Communion – **In sanctuary**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Mark 7:24-37

September 12 – “Common cathedral” –

-Outdoor Service

Guest speaker Jessica Boose

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12;

Mark 8:27-38

September 19 – Blessing of the Animals –

-Outdoor Service

(non-animal lovers are encouraged to attend also)

Psalm 1; Mark 9:30-37

September 26 – Healing Community

– In sanctuary

James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

**To join Sunday worship services by Zoom,
click on 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>

In-sanctuary worship

So much has changed recently in relationship with the Corona Virus. Here are our worship guidelines as we know them at this time. **Changes have been made.** Please continue to be flexible as all society participates in the great experiment of how to move out of a pandemic.

- The windows and doors of the sanctuary will be open and the fans will be drawing air up regardless of the weather.
- **All worship attendees are asked to wear a mask during the entire service.**
- Please sit in such a way that there is an empty pew in front of you and behind you.
- Attendees will **not** be able to walk through the preschool area. Both bathrooms are open for use.
- The bulletin is available on the church's website. Some printed bulletins will be available at the door. Please take everything with you when you leave.
- Attendees are encouraged to visit with each other after the service outside or in Fellowship Hall. Please no visiting in the sanctuary.
- All services will be recorded. By being present, attendees give permission for their image and voice to be recorded and shared.

From the Interim Pastor

“Forward through the ages in unbroken line, move the faithful spirits at the call divine.” When I think of September these words from a familiar hymn come to mind. There is something about this month and the march of time. Perhaps it is because as children we started a new school year with a new teacher, in a new room, at a new grade level. Perhaps the 12+ years we spent stepping into the new in September has left a lifelong mark.

Somehow as we age, we seem less excited about all the new possibilities the future holds. Stepping into the new requires us to be facing forward. Sure, we can use the rearview mirror and back our way into the future, but it is a lot more difficult. During times of great change, we often face backwards wishing for the past and blindly stumbling our way into the future. We can never go back to the past. Sometimes we try by seeking out a place or a person from the past. We are often disappointed because what we experienced in the past occurred due to the unique set of circumstances at that time; that same place, that same person, don't bring the same experience now. We have great memories, but the moment is gone. We need to turn around and continue to create new memories.

I invite you this September to be like a school child who excitedly moves into a new school year to learn more, to experience more, and to grow more. No matter our age we can still do all those things. God has yet more planned for us. If you find yourself doing more remembering than planning, take a moment to have a conversation with God. Ask God for the hope of what is yet to come whether that is in this life or the next. What new spaces will you enter? What new teachers will share their knowledge and guide you through change to the future? What new skills or activities will you try? It is easier if we stop using the rearview mirror and face forward into what God has planned next.

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits, at the call divine.
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
Manifold the service, one the sure reward.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.



Pledges and Offerings

Making a financial pledge to the church changes everything! Jesus talks, again and again, about the immensely intimate relationship between money and our “everything else.” It isn’t magic or gimmick - it’s simply one of the central spiritual principles of our Lord’s teaching. When we connect money to our faith, priorities get rearranged. Why? Because money IS spiritual. Money and spirit are connected! “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Pledging and following through with regular offerings is also an act of thanksgiving. “Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High”. (Psalm 50:14) Through our offerings, we thank God for all the blessings God has given us.

Giving pledged offerings is also serving. All the wonderful ministries of this congregation depend upon the pledged giving of its members and friends. Through pledging, you transform your life, and lives around you.



October Newsletter

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for entries for the October Spire will be **September 20th**. Please have all your info in by then. Thank you.

On-line 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 September” section on page 1 in the 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



Trustees Report

- We are working to get another one or two quotes for repairing the steeple.
- By the time you read this, we will have changed the side door lock to a combination lock. If you are a current key holder, you will be notified of the new combination.

**IF YOUR KEY CURRENTLY ALLOWS ACCESS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE,
DO NOT THROW IT AWAY**

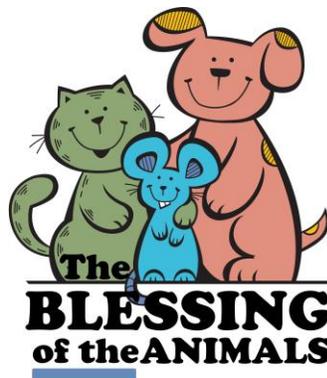
The office lock remains as-is.

- We will be installing a bell at the side door for delivery people and others.
- Finally, if you haven't noticed, the green sign board now has Rev. Geary's name on it.

-Kathy Stevens

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, Sept. 19 at 10am

In honor of St. Francis, patron saint of animals and ecologists, we will gather to bless the animals, wild and tame, on Sunday, September 19th at 10 AM in the Outdoor Chapel. Bring your pet or a picture of your pet to worship with you. Plush pets are also welcome. Please bring pets on leash, crated, caged or bowled. If your animal doesn't do well around people or other animals, please bring a picture for everyone's safety. If you have neighbors who love their animals, invite them to join you for this outdoor service.



Common Cathedral and the Boston Marathon

We are excited to have **Jessica Boose** return on Sunday **September 12** to lead our service. She will be leading us in a common cathedral based service along with youth members of the church. Weather permitting the service will be outdoors.

The service is to bring awareness to **Rev. Laura Shatzer** who will be running the Boston Marathon on October 11, raising funds to benefit common cathedral. Common cathedral is an ecumenical congregation that builds bridges between the housed and unhoused people and fosters a beloved community among unhoused folks through opportunities for leadership, service, creativity, and rest in downtown Boston. For many years we have supported their work through service and donations.

In Rev. Laura's words:

One of my lifelong dreams is coming true -- I'm running the Boston Marathon! Even better, I'm running it to raise money for the ministry of *common cathedral* (via sponsor Boston Medical Center). As many of you know, my first call to ministry was as Associate Pastor and Chaplain at *common cathedral*, from 2015-2020. I never could have imagined that I'd have to say goodbye to this beloved community in the early intensity of the COVID-pandemic when my family moved to Iowa. And, a year ago, I never would have dreamed I'd have the opportunity to run the Boston Marathon for such an amazing ministry that empowers people to believe in themselves, in each other, and in something greater than us all.

This year has been a marathon. Unhoused and low-income folks have persevered through the pandemic with resilience and care for one another. When so many places were closed, *common cathedral* remained open, with precautions to gather safely for those who had nowhere else to go. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the massive health inequity in our country -- a gap that sponsor Boston Medical Center and *common cathedral* are both working to address in their own ways.

This is my dream race for my dream team! Please give generously in celebration of *common cathedral*, and with the hope that all of us -- housed and unhoused -- might keep on moving from surviving to thriving.

Ways to donate:

- 1) Send a donation to the church with common cathedral, Boston Marathon on the memo line.
- 2) Place your offering in the offering plate on Sept. 12
- 3) Directly on Rev. Laura's fundraising page:

<https://www.givengain.com/ap/laura-shatzer?fbclid=IwAR3ZvRE0S75B33npKkJMtfKW4KDjd2YIGk4UrOOX3CI1GTMMX9ueigiDIDM>

Gratitude Corner



Thank you to Steve Howie for all the lawn care he has done this year – mowing, trimming, tree disposal, and more. God Bless you.

-From The Congregation

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Thank you to Rev. Geary for continuing the bible studies on Wednesday mornings on Zoom. It has helped many of us stay “connected” to God and each other.

Thanks to Art Payne and Doug Briggs for spearheading the cellar “Green Room” clean-up. Many hands made lighter work.

-From Kathy Stevens

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If you would like to express your gratitude to others, either anonymously or with your name attached, email the church office at millisucc@msn.com.

Large Group – All Church Gathering

Sunday, September 26, Following Worship

It's time to paint the picture of our future.

The Transition Team has spent a year gathering information and facilitating discussions to move this congregation forward to its next phase of ministry. Surveys have been collected, small and large group discussion has occurred. Policies and procedures have been written, new programs started, and old programs put to rest. We have made changes to the building and to the way we interact with each other. We are not only surviving the pandemic and great change, we are being creative in fulfilling our mission as we look to a bright future.

Now is the time to have conversation about the next steps to be taken in fulfilling our mission in this time and place and next steps when projecting 3-5 years into the future. Part of this is hiring a new pastor. Part of this is realizing and implementing new ways of being church that fit our current situation.

At this gathering the Transition Team will present a draft of the church profile, the Diaconate will report on our current membership and the Prudential committee will report on our current finances. Our Moderator, Gail Luck, will facilitate a conversation based on the information shared in the hopes of creating a clearer picture of who we are and who we need to lead us. We will also identify a few clearly defined action items needed to be taken as this congregation continues to go through major transition. No votes will be taken. A light lunch will be served. If you need childcare in order to attend, please let the office know so we can help facilitate that.

Missions



Are you looking for a fun and rewarding volunteer experience? Join us for a work day at the South Shore Habitat for Humanity build site in Westwood. Our dates are **Tuesday, September 28** and **Saturday, October 9**. Participants must be at least 16 years old. Due to COVID protocols work groups are limited to 6 participants per day.

If you are interested, please call the church office to leave your contact information and preferred work day. A member of the Missions Committee. will be in touch with you.

Founded in 1986, South Shore Habitat for Humanity has delivered 62 homes in 21 communities. Our mission is to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter by partnering with families in need of affordable housing.

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Looking for Volunteers:

The **Millis Food Pantry** is in need of volunteer(s) to pick up food donations from Roche Brothers midweek and deliver to the Food Pantry. If you are interested in helping, please call or email the church office. Questions please email **Jan Krohn** at janicekrohn@gmail.com.

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 **10am-12pm 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

Pastor Geary Away

Rev. Geary will be unavailable **September 6-12**. The Diaconate has arranged for pastoral care during that time. If you have need, please call the church office or one of the deacons.



In Memoriam

Laura Warren

February 3, 1931- July 20, 2021



From the Deacons

All at once, summer collapsed into fall. -Oscar Wilde

Summer has flown by and here we are in September. The Deacons continued to work throughout the summer on a variety of projects including the membership lists/directory, technology for services, outdoor and special services, name tags for any persons who desire one, and establishing new members for the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC).

Mark your calendars for two special services this month at 10:00AM:

First, on **September 12th**, we will welcome the return of **Jess Boose** to lead the service which will mirror **Common Cathedral's** conducted on Boston Common each week, no matter the weather. The youth of the church will be assisting in the service. Then on **September 19th** we will have an **outdoor service** for **Blessing of the Animals**. Bring your pet or working animal to receive a blessing.

A reminder to all that there are several pieces to the Sunday service you can be involved in, requiring a small time commitment as your schedule allows. Specifically, we would love to give training on how to run the camera/Zoom for worship services, have extra greeters, acolytes, sign up for hosting fellowship time after the service, and assist in setting up equipment for outdoor services. Please contact any one of us and we can get you started.

We hope to continue with outdoor services as weather allows. Thank you in advance for your patience as we move forward and will need to be ready to adapt as circumstances change and restrictions may again be put in place.

Wishing you peace and good health.

Your Deacons,

Katelyn Andrews, Doug Briggs, Lauren Briggs, Sue Conte, Joan Nichols, Wendy Schneider, and Suzi Sennott

Church Directory Coming Soon!

Shelley Goes, our administrative assistant, has been working diligently over the summer to update our data base, Servant Keeper. In the very near future, she will be sending out a draft copy of the proposed church directory for your inspection. The directory will be sent to only those whose names are in it; it is not a public document. Please make sure you check your listing and send any corrections to the church office ASAP. It would be great to have a finished product by the end of the month.

The Jolly Holly Fair

Attention all Jolly Holly Fair volunteers and participants!

While the world is still uncertain regarding Covid-19, we have started planning an in-person Jolly Holly Fair to be held the first Saturday in December! Between now and then, we will be monitoring the situation and adjusting as needed per Millis Board of Health rules and CDC guidelines.

What we do know is that we will not have a Green Zone (so do not bring in any of your “treasures”), nor will we be having a Children’s store and pictures with Santa. We do want to continue our tradition of baked goodies, candies, knits, food, and the Silent Auction. We will also be looking at a reduced number of vendors as well.

So what can you do to help? Any or all of the following!

- We need Silent Auction items and baskets by November 1st. We will be starting the bidding online mid to late November and will be switching it to live the day of the fair. For baskets, we are asking to not wrap them up, so we can take pictures of individual items in addition to the completed basket.
- Bake some goodies – those would need to be dropped off the day before the fair, but please note all ingredients must be written on a tag per Millis BoH.
- Knit something for the Knits table.
- Bake some fudge for the candies table or donate some individually wrapped candy.
- Donate food items for the breakfast/lunch group.
- Volunteer to help out at the fair, especially with setting up and taking down the weekend of the fair

More information will be coming from the leaders of the areas on exactly what is needed, so please keep reading those emails and the monthly Spire for more information!

Managing Your Money

A Community Education Event

September 15, 7pm, Sanctuary

In response to several requests for a speaker to address household budgets, savings, investing and general long term financial planning, we are pleased to have **Jon Loer** of **Renaissance Wealth Advisors**, a **Millis resident**, lecture and lead a discussion on this topic for the September event.

Jon’s entire working career has been dedicated to helping clients with providing sound financial advice and proper investment guidance. The financial industry has changed drastically over the years. To meet these financial changes and complexities, **Jon** and his business partner, **Lauris**, decided to launch their own firm- Renaissance Wealth Advisors.

Renaissance Wealth Advisors is a **Financial Planning and Investment Management Firm** that helps create and sustain your Long-Term Financial Well-being. They recognize that each client has a unique family logic in considering and making complex financial decisions. The Renaissance 8-step process gives their clients the ability to enjoy today, a retirement without financial worry and a legacy of shared values.

See you on September 15th at 7:00 PM for this free, informational event. Spread the word and invite others. Any questions, please contact the church office at 508-376-5034.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Lay Worship Leader: Doug Briggs

Fellowship Refreshments:

Sept 5: Volunteer(s) needed

Sept. 12: Volunteer(s) needed

Sept. 19: Men's Fellowship

Sept. 26: Volunteer(s) needed

Greeters:

Volunteers Needed for all dates

Ushers:

Sue Conte & Wendy Schneider

Acolytes:

Volunteers Needed for all dates

Camera/Zoom:

Suzi Sennott

The Men's Fellowship is coordinating after worship refreshments. If you would like to volunteer to provide food, please contact the church office.

Academic Honors

These church youth are to be commended for their academic achievements during Quarter Four of the Millis High School 2020-21 school year.

Grade 12 Honors

Lucas Smith

Grade 11 High Honors

Anthony Coutts

Andrew Hatch

Grade 11 Honors

Adela El Khoury

Allison Stallings



Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee will be hosting a **Book Talk** on **Sunday October 17th at 2:00pm**. Our guest author, UCC minister, **Rev. Marcia Cham**, has written, ***"Holey Moley God! You've Got to be Kidding!"*** It is her search for holiness and the story of God's hunt for her. Through studies and travel, challenges and struggles, silence, and solitude, she has discovered that holiness is everywhere, and that God was not kidding when she heard the Holy One call her to ordained ministry.

When she meets with groups, her desire is to give the readers a chance to ask her a few questions and then she wants the time to be spent hearing from the readers—their stories, questions, and challenges as they've encountered God, the church, the Bible, issues of social justice, and their roads to freedom. She wants all to feel free to share their stories by responding to some of the questions in the book. Where have you encountered the holy? Where have you found God shaping your life? Where have you found courage when you needed it? Have you ever wrestled with the Bible? When and Why? Contact: Maria Melchionda for questions (508) 794-1338.

This Book Talk Gathering will be held outside, weather permitting. If not, then it will be in the Sanctuary according to CDC Guidelines, or Zoom if necessary, at that point in time.

For the **Jolly Holly Fair**, the Welcoming Committee will have tickets for a **life-size Nativity** available for purchase in September. Three tickets for \$20 one ticket for \$10. The goal is to sell 600 tickets and books of 20 tickets will be given out to people willing to help. Winner of the raffle can take home this Nativity for their lawn and enjoy it for years to come!

Visitors' Group

The Visitors' Group will be meeting on **Thursday, September, 16, at 10:30 AM**, in the church parlor.

We are sad to report that we lost a dear friend, Bob Zabe on July, 22. He was 95 years old. A private graveside service was held by Reverend. Geary on Saturday, August 7. We will miss him.

We hope that you each of you enjoyed your summer.

"Peace I leave you; my peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

(John 14:27)

"...I Should not be. ...greatly distressed by anything at all, for all will be well...the fullness of joy is to contemplate God in everything." Julian of Norwich

The Visitors:

Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Pam Johansson, Shirley Rowley, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, and Rev. Jennifer Geary.



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!

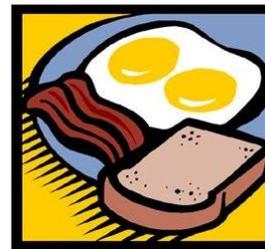
By computer, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2987904285?pwd=VENBMmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQJjJUdz09>

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

Meeting ID: 298 790 4285

Passcode: 866156



Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting In Person

Sunday, Sept. 19 at 7:30am

Please join the Men's Fellowship in Fellowship Hall for our monthly Breakfast Meeting. Hope to see you there!

****Covid protocols will be followed****



Leadership & Committees

Moderator	Gail Luck
Church Clerk	Nydia Rice
Treasurer	Mary Smith
Collector	Brooks Corl
Assistant Collector	Brian Hall

Diaconate		
Sue Conte	Wendy Schneider	Katelyn Andrews
Doug Briggs	Lauren Briggs	Joan Nichols
Suzi Sennott		
Missions		
Jan Krohn	Art Payne	Wendy Schneider
Mary Smith		
Trustees		
Kathy Stevens	Andy Bolton	Wayne Carlson
Bonnie MacDonald	Rich Manzano	
Prudential		
Bill Wright	Doug Coutts	
Christian Education		
Kelly Williams	Tammy Coutts	
Welcoming Committee		
Maria Melchionda	Katelyn Andrews	Judy Kosinski
Bonnie MacDonald	Myrna Rybczyk	
At-large Members of Church Council		
1. Judie Ackerman	2.	
Pastoral Relations Committee		

*The Pastoral Relations Committee is formed based on nominations from the Pastor, the Moderator and the Senior Deacon.

**Church of Christ
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We're on the Web!

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