

# THE SPIRE

April 2025

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.



Dear Friends,

Holy Week is nearly upon us, and I couldn't be more excited to walk through this sacred time with all of you. You may have noticed I've been a bit quiet recently—I've been under the weather this past week. But I'm feeling much better now and ready to rejoin our community for the season.

Holy Week begins next Sunday, as we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where He was welcomed by crowds waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" This marks the start of the most sacred week in the Christian calendar, leading up to His crucifixion and resurrection.

We have an event-filled week planned, and I hope you'll join us for these moments of reflection, worship, and celebration. While our services often focus on the key moments of Holy Week, you may wonder what

happens on *Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday* of this important week. Reflecting on these days reveals the richness of Jesus' ministry and his message.

## Lessons from Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

**Monday:** Jesus cleanses the Temple, confronting injustice and challenging the religious leaders by overturning the money changers' tables and driving out those who were buying and selling. He boldly calls out the corruption within the sacred space, declaring, "*Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers.*" (Mark 11:17) This act was not only a demonstration of righteous anger but also a powerful reminder of the purpose of worship spaces—to honor God and serve all people, not to exploit them.

**Tuesday:** Conflict continues with the Temple authorities, as they question Jesus' authority and challenge His teachings. Despite their attempts to trap Him, Jesus responds with wisdom and clarity. Ultimately, He shares the greatest commandments of all:

*“The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31)*

With these words, Jesus summarizes the essence of God’s law, calling us to prioritize love above all else—love for God with our whole being and love for others as we love ourselves. These commandments form the foundation of a life lived in harmony with God’s will and in service to those around us. They remind us of the simplicity yet profound depth of faith and human connection.

**Wednesday:** Jesus is anointed in Bethany with expensive oil, marking a significant act of love and devotion. The Gospels provide different details about this event—Mark does not name the woman, with John identifies her as Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. Mary pours the costly perfume, made of pure nard, over Jesus, anointing Him as a gesture of deep respect and preparation for His burial. This act stirs controversy among the disciples, with Judas Iscariot questioning why the oil, worth a year’s wages, wasn’t sold to help the poor. However, Jesus defends Mary, explaining that her actions are beautiful and

meaningful. This moment reflects the tension between material concerns and spiritual devotion that will continue through Maundy Thursday.

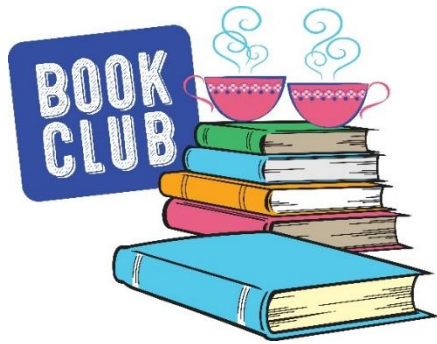
From these events, we move into **Maundy Thursday**, where we commemorate the Last Supper, the final meal Jesus shared with His disciples before His arrest. It’s a time to reflect on His teachings, the act of humility in washing the disciples’ feet, and the institution of the sacrament of communion. Then comes **Good Friday**, when we solemnly remember the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, a day marked by mourning and prayer. Finally, we arrive at **Easter Sunday**, the joyful celebration of Christ’s resurrection—a day filled with hope and renewal.

Friends, Holy Week is a time for reflection, commemoration, and community. I encourage you to take part in every opportunity to celebrate and remember the incredible gift of God’s love during this sacred season.

I look forward to worshipping and walking this Holy Week with you. Please plan to join us and invite others to experience the power and hope of this meaningful time.

With blessings and gratitude,

Rev. James Admans



### Progressive Christian Book Club

Grab a coffee hour snack and meet us in the Parlor. Our next meeting will be on Sunday April 13th after worship. Please have Chapter 5 and the Conclusion read and ready to discuss.



### M&Ms meet

Mondays, 10-Noon in the Parlor. Bring your handcrafts, or just come to socialize. We'd love to have you join us!



Monthly Sunday School Dates are now available!

**April 27**

**June 1**

Sunday School takes place during our Sunday Worship and is taught by adult volunteers. All adult volunteers working with children are background checked.



The Millis Community Garden is opening up for the season! If you are interested in gardening in one of the beds for free, please contact Lauren Briggs.

The Garden is currently planning community events throughout 2025, and we are looking for event leaders to help make them happen! If you or someone you know would be interested in hosting an event in the



Garden, such as a presentation or an activity for children, please contact Lauren Briggs. This could be a great opportunity for a small business owner or organization leader to gain exposure for their business or organization. Additionally, if you are doing some spring cleaning and have gardening materials, seeds, outdoor furniture, or outdoor planters that you are no longer using and want to donate to the Garden, please contact Lauren Briggs.

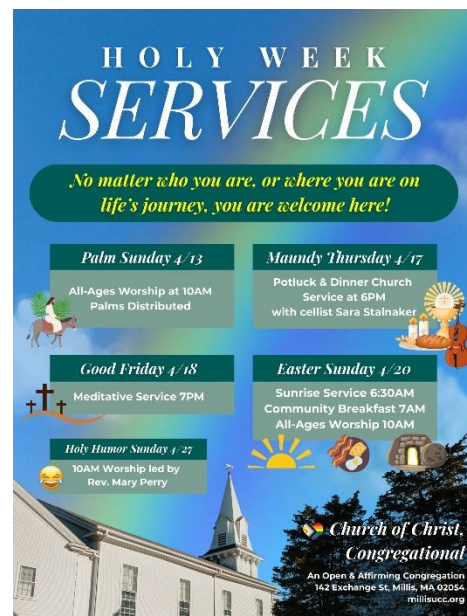


*If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, or if you or someone you know wants to receive prayers for a specific situation, please Contact Mary Jensen.*

**Be sure not to miss out on our upcoming events:**



Our Missions partner, New Life Furniture Bank of MA, is teaming up with Soles of Medfield to host their annual 5K/10K race and Fun Run. As one of the sponsors for the event, we are allotted 2 complimentary race registrations. If you would like to walk or run this event for free, contact Jan Krohn as soon as possible. Race is held at McCarthy Park & Fields, 44 Hospital Road, Medfield, MA. Fun Run begins at 9am with 5K/10K starting at 9:30am. Proceeds from this event go to helping families transitioning out of homelessness, with 10% going to Soles of Medfield Scholarship Fund.





**POSTPONED**



**Instructions for Submitting An Event**

- Please contact Rev. James if you have an idea for an event / church fundraiser.
- 
- Laura will check the calendar to reserve your event.
- 
- The event details must be sent to Rev. James and Laura no later than 4 weeks in advance for marketing.

**NEW!!**

**Starting Easter Sunday:**

You've heard of *Elf on the Shelf*, now meet our *EWE in the PEW!* Each Sunday our fluffy friend will be hidden somewhere in the Sanctuary for children to find. If you find her, keep her with you until after service and bring her back to Pastor James for a prize!

Here's what you're searching for.



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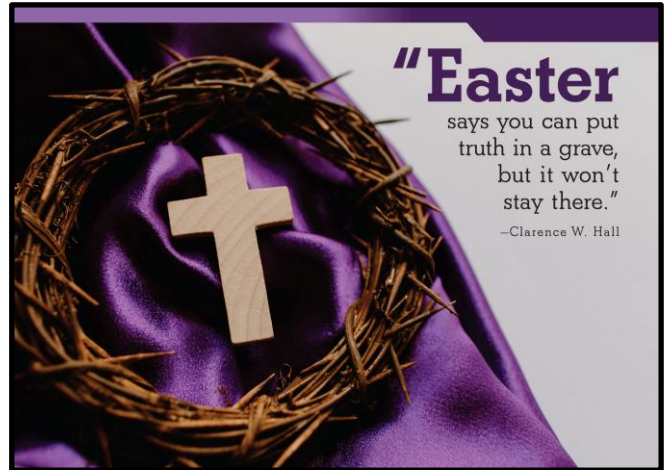
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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

**[www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org)**

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