

THE SPIRE

February 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

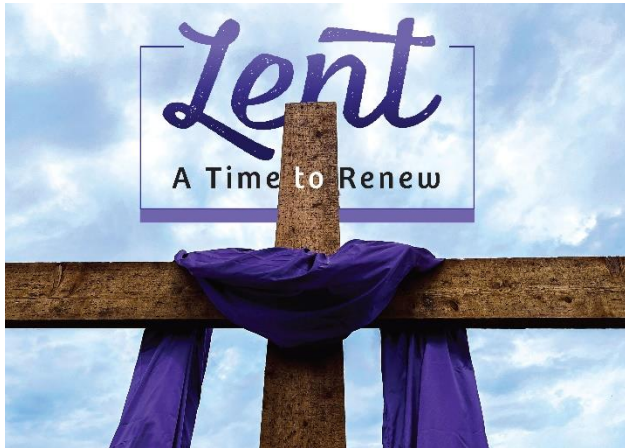
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An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Perspective From the Interim Pastor

When I was in High School I backed our family suburban into a pole. I was parked in a wide open parking lot and wanted to back up to the far end. I put the car in reverse, I hooked my right arm over the back of the seat looking backwards and stomped on the gas (because, you know, I was a teenager), when BAM!, I hit something.

I was stunned. Our suburban had two doors on the back that opened sideways. The pole lined up exactly with where those doors met. From my perspective, I never saw it. From the perspective of those watching from the edge of the parking lot, an idiot lined up their car with a pole and then stomped on the gas to ram it. From my parents perspective...

During this month of February, we as a congregation are going to do a lot of talking and doing. We will each be "seeing" the topic and process from different vantage points. We all come from different places and stand in different places. Some will

see the details while others focus on the big picture. It will be important for us to use the words, "From my perspective..." and to listen and try to "see" the topic from another point of view. None of us can see everything all the time. We must rely on each other to see it from all the angles so we can, together, paint a true picture.

I also invite us to spend time in prayer, asking God to show us God's perspective. For all time and eternity, what's important now?



Worship in February

We continue to Shine a Light on the Winter Blahs. Each week we will consider an everyday activity that can be used as a spiritual practice. See you in the sanctuary!

February 5 – Altars Everywhere; Communion
Psalm 112:1-9; Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 – Walk This Way
Psalm 119:1-8; Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 – Leaving Room;
Transfiguration
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Matthew 17:1-9

February 22 – Ash Wednesday Lent Begins
1:00p & 7:00p In the Chapel

February 26 – Get Up Without Fear
Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1-11

From Your Deacons

This month, we are introducing four new deacons: Kathy Stevens, Allen Williams, Katie Andrews, and Doug Briggs. Lauren Briggs will remain a deacon, and we will say goodbye to Suzi Sennott and Wendy Schneider. Thank you to Suzi and Wendy for your hard work, dedication, great ideas, and energy over the past two years!

In January, we have been implementing a series on Spiritual Affective Disorder, with discussion and reflection around bringing light into the dark winter months through purposeful daily and weekly actions. The Worship Team will help to decide whether or not to continue this series in February, but so far it has been very helpful in providing a framework for services and reducing the workload of Rev. Geary, the deacons, and the Worship Team.

We are hoping that an increased number of deacons will mean less stress on the deacons overall to carry out worship responsibilities and other tasks. However, we welcome any and all volunteers who might be willing to participate with various tasks during worship, including reading scripture, managing filming for Zoom, passing the microphone and/or offering plates during service, or any other areas where you might see a need or opportunity. Please contact any of the deacons if you would like to volunteer.

We pray for a good year ahead for all. Lauren, Allen, Kathy, Katie, and Doug

Deciding how to Decide

February 5th immediately following worship
11a – 3p

This congregation has many important decisions to make in the next few months. All members and friends are encouraged to join together to design the best process to involve all voices in that decision making.

Immediately after worship we will have lunch and launch into the program. Please let us know of food allergies or bring your own food. Childcare will be provided in the Nursery School Area. Please **pre-register** for childcare.

The first part of the program will be getting to know ourselves and each other and how we operate when things are calm and when they get heated. With that knowledge in mind, we will then design the best process for including all types of people when the congregation makes decisions such as What part-time pastoral ministry might look like? How to balance the budget? What should the church's official name and/or nickname be? How can the congregation best use its building and property to further its mission? Just to name a few.

In preparation, each attendee is asked to complete a brief style inventory and to share your scores with Rev. Geary. This information will be used extensively throughout the program. Please register ASAP by contacting the church office or Rev. Geary to receive your password so you can complete the inventory.

If you want to take advantage of the provided childcare, please let the church office know so we can be appropriately prepared for the actual number of children attending and their ages.



Trustees Notes

We had a quiet month. There was a blockage in the skinks in the Ladies Room. An outside drain company was bought in to clear them.

Last weekend, Andy cleaned, waxed, and buffed the landing floor outside the Choir robe door – looks better than ever. Thank you, Andy!

We were informed of a water leak in the skink in the parlor. The water has been shut off, as the pipes are corroded and need to be replaced. The cost to rebuild that area is more than the church has available to spend at this time.

It has been our pleasure to care for our church building over these many years. Thank you for your support.

Andy, Bonnie, Wayne, Rich, and Kathy



Are You Interested in Joining the Church?

A few folks have expressed interest in becoming members of Church of Christ, Millis. I'm looking to schedule two sessions to explore what church membership means and what is involved in joining. If you are interested in being part of these sessions, please let me know so I can find a few dates that work for everyone. - Rev. Jennifer Geary

Sunday, February 12th is Millis Fund Sunday!



is our annual collection for the Millis Fund. Founded in 1996, the Millis Fund, Inc. is a 501c3 (not-for-profit) community organization providing financial assistance to Millis residents in emergency situations, such as: medical needs-fuel aid-utilities and much more. The Millis Fund helps Millis families with temporary financial emergencies by paying bills directly to creditors. Applications for assistance are available at our church office or the Millis Senior Center. They are reviewed and evaluated by an eight-member Operating Board of Millis citizens. Three Millis churches including ours, Saint Thomas, Saint Paul's, Ael-Chunon Congregation, and a generous Millis business gave founding donations in 1993.

Our collection for the Millis Fund will be on February 12, 2023. Missions will match dollar for dollar all donations made.

Please consider making a generous contribution to the Millis Fund on or around "Super Sunday", February 12th. You can donate by placing a check or cash in one of the envelopes available at worship (*be sure to write "Millis Fund on the outside of the envelope"*), or by sending a check made to The Millis Fund to the church office any time.

Did you know that:

- The Millis Fund has helped more than 450 Millis families cope with financial emergencies since its founding.
- 99% of funds collected by the Millis Fund go directly to aid families rather than to administrative costs.
- The Fund is administered by an ALL VOLUNTEER OPERATING BOARD of Millis citizens, including two from our Church.
- Your donation is tax deductible for 2023 under IRS Code 501(C)(3). The Millis Fund's Tax Identification Number is 04-3228631.
- If your employer matches charitable contributions, the Millis Fund may qualify to be included. Please consider applying for this match if it's available to you.

For more information on the Millis Fund, please see Steve Howie or myself; call the church office, or visit <https://www.millisfund.com>

THANK YOU for prayerfully considering a generous donation on Sunday, February 12th!

Jan Krohn and
Brooks Corl, Millis Fund Operating Board
Member and Treasurer



The Spire deadline for March is
February 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>

Closure

The Church Office will be closed on
Monday, February 20th in honor of
President's Day.

Inclement Weather

Please use good judgement and only come to worship and other events if you feel safe to drive or walk. Most events can be joined via Zoom. If in-person worship is cancelled, a message will go out via email.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5:30

Come join us for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Men's Fellowship. Bring a sense of humor and a love of all things bacon! This event is open to the public and free. Donations will be accepted.

All are welcome!





Gratitude Corner

From Rev. Geary,
Thank you to:

Wendy Schneider for taking care of the
swing sign in front of the church.

Andy Bolton, who stripped and waxed the
second-floor landing – beautiful.

Linda Jones, Art Payne, Kathy Stevens who
have stepped in to assure that Fellowship
refreshments happen when no one signs
up.

Those who have faithfully completed their
term of office:

Assistant Treasurer – Mary Smith
Assistant Collector – Maria
Melchionda

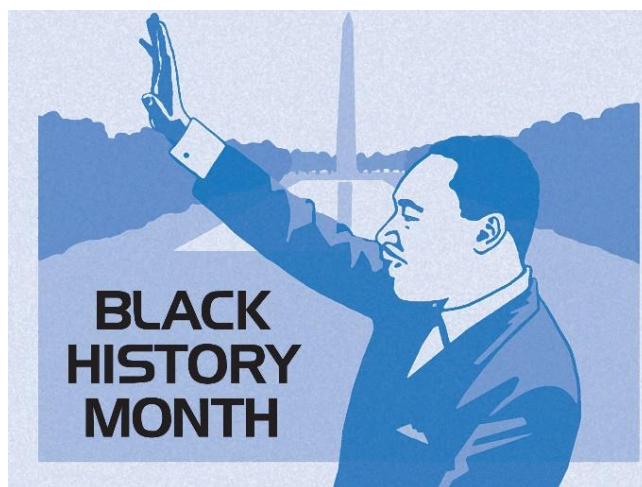
Deacons – Wendy Schneider,
Suzi Sennott

Missions - Wendy Schneider,
Mary Smith

Trustees – Kathy Stevens,
Andy Bolton, Wayne Carlson,
Bonnie Mac Donald, Rich Manzano

Welcoming – Maria Melchionda
Bonnie Mac Donald, Katie Andrews,
Judy Kosinski, Myrna Rybczyk

And to all the Elves who cleaned and
organized the kitchen.



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.



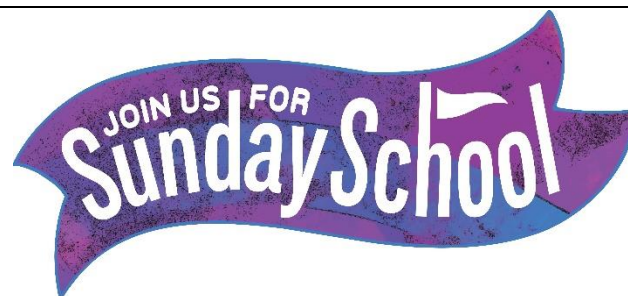
If you would like to be added to the prayer
chain, or if you or someone you know wants
to receive prayers for a specific situation,
please contact Mary Jensen



Visitors' Update

Myrna Rybczyk

The Christmas Card project must have been a challenge for the Post Office since they were short-handed. We do not have numbers on how many were sent, but it was a hefty amount and next we will be doing Easter cards. That meeting will be on February 9th - please note the change of day. Cards will be available on the small table on the left as you enter the church. Also on that table will be a box for cards you would like to donate. Easter, Birthday Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and blank "thinking of you cards" are all welcome.



Sunday School & Bible Class for Children

February 12 at 10 AM

We offer two classes, one Sunday per month. Primary: Grade 2 and younger
Secondary: Grade 3 and older
(Bring your Bibles)

Mark your calendar, so you don't miss the March classes on the 12th!

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.

Got Refrigeration?

Do you have a small refrigerator just taking up space at your house. Julie and I would like to have a small refrigerator on the first floor for our lunches and to keep a few items over time. If you have one in good shape that's not being used, let us know. Please do not just bring it to the church.

-Jennifer Geary



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 and 7:45 pm**, 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 February" 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



Men's Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, February 19 at 7:30 AM

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



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.

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 **11am-1pm on Mondays, 2/6, 2/13, 2/27.**

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

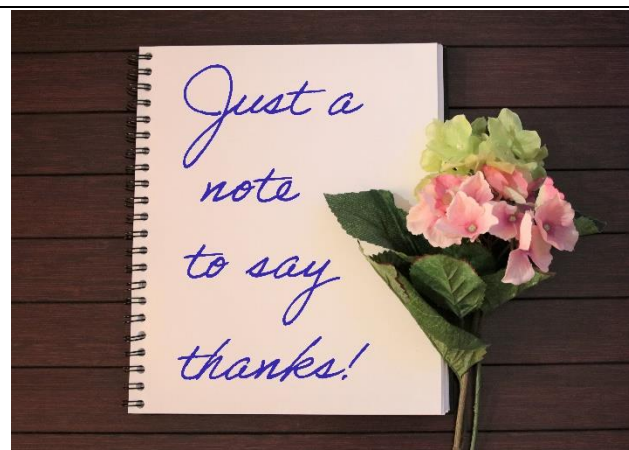
You can call, text or email Rev. Geary at other times, but might need to leave a message.

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.

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.

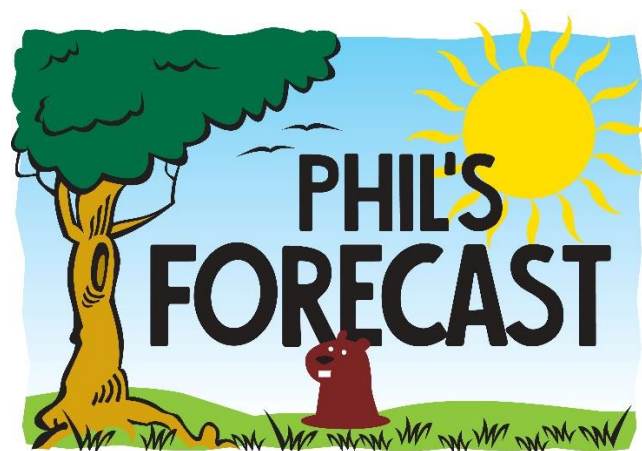


To our anonymous Jolly Holly Fair Visitor

Thank you for the Edible Arrangements - fruits and candy and the flowers – what unexpected gifts! We are pleased that you liked the pickles and banana bread and the publicity done by our Administrative Assistant.

With grateful thanks,

Kathy, Ellie and Julie



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:
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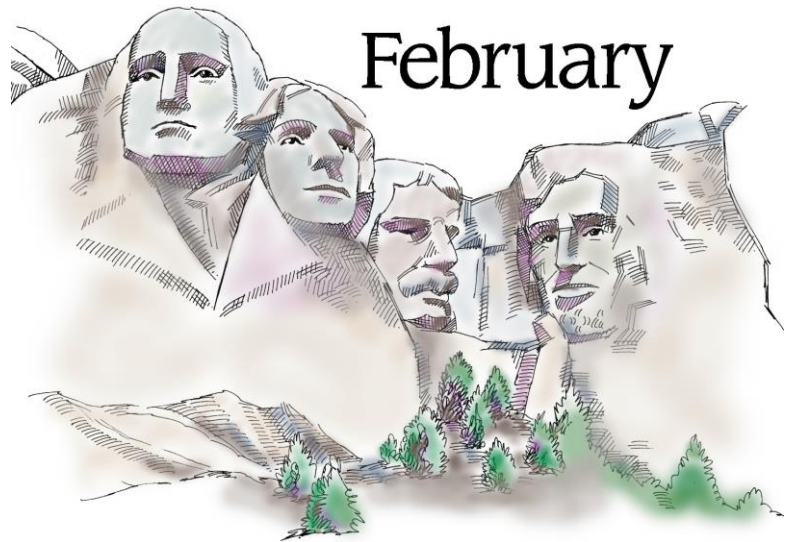
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We're on the Web!

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