



Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC  
142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054  
[www.millisucc.org](http://www.millisucc.org) (508) 376-5034

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Church of Christ Vision Statement:  
*Worship God, serve our neighbors, share God's love.*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Advent is the church season of wondering, watching and waiting. It is a season of covering darkness and heavy pregnant pauses. It is also, for too many of us, a season of stress and hurry and overflowing to-do lists.

This December, I invite you to be intentional about finding a corner of quiet and reflection. To aid in this challenge, there will be a Taizé service held at the church on Mondays in December. (Dates are December 9, 16 and 23 at 7:30pm.) This service is very simple and involves short songs, stretches of silence, prayer and candle lighting. If you're not sure it is right for you - give it a try. Many people find the experience soothing balm for the season.

Additionally, we will have a Blue Christmas service on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This service honors those for whom the holiday season is difficult. Those who have experienced a loss, an illness or are just not finding peace in this season are welcome. It is a time to be present with all of our emotions, even the ones we try to hide in order to fit in with the "festive mood" of the season.

Christmas will come soon enough. In the meantime, remember that no journey across holy ground should be rushed. Walk slowly through this time. Breathe in the balsam scented winter air. Stop. Wonder. Watch for the light to come.

In the words of the Taizé song,  
*Wait for the Old, whose day is near.*  
*Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.*

With you on the journey,

Rev. Jen



## *Christmas Eve Services* *Tuesday, December 24*



**6:30pm**

### **Family Service**

This service uses interactive stories and familiar carols to joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior.

**10:00pm**

### **Candlelight & Communion**

This service is a more relaxed and quiet time where everyone is welcome to share communion.

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**MILLIS UCC**

**JOLLY HOLLY FAIR**

**9AM - 2PM**

**KNITS & NEEDLE CRAFTS**

**HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**

**WHITE ELEPHANT**

**SNACK BAR**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**GIFT BASKETS**

**FANCY FOODS &  
CONFECTIONS**

**HOLIDAY GREENS**

**JEWELRY**



*A holiday market of unique gifts*

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

142 EXCHANGE ST. (ROUTE 115), MILLIS, MA

[WWW.MILLISUCC.ORG](http://WWW.MILLISUCC.ORG) 508-376-5034



## Calm & Candlelight

TAIZE SERVICE

Join us at the Church of Christ,  
Congregational

**Mondays at 7:30pm on**

**December 9**  
**December 16**  
**December 23**

**Come for quiet reflection,  
gentle music,  
and peaceful prayer.**

## Visitors' Group News



**The Visitors' Group's next meeting is Thursday, December 19 at 10:00AM in the church parlor.**

If you would like a visit, or if you know someone who would like a visit, please let us know. Following our meeting, we will be going to lunch at Restaurant 45 in Medway, MA. If you would like to join us for lunch please speak to one of the visitors.

We want to wish everyone a blessed Christmas.

*There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

The Visitors: Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Pam Johansson, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Shirley Rowley, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, Rev. Jen Munroe Nathans



## Blue Christmas Service

**Wednesday, December 18**  
**7:00pm**

If you are grieving or experiencing any difficult life event, please join us for a time of worship and support at our Blue Christmas service. This service acknowledges that for some of us this is not "the most wonderful time of the year."

## HOLIDAY HELPER PROGRAM

This holiday season our church will once again help to support the Millis Food Pantry Holiday Helper Program. This is an opportunity to give gifts to less fortunate families in Millis. **We will be in Fellowship Hall following worship services on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with gift tags.**



Each anonymous tag will have the age and gender of the recipient and their gift request. Come choose a person or family that you would like to help, making sure that we record your participation. We have found this to be a perfect opportunity to teach our children the true meaning of giving at Christmas!

**All gifts, including gift cards, need to be wrapped with the gift tag securely fastened and returned to the church by December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

We will then work with the Food Pantry to make sure they reach the right families. This is a chance to bring happiness to families in our own community.

Thank you for your help!  
Deb Whitney



## All Church Christmas Caroling

**Tuesday, December 17**

**6:30-8:30PM**

Our Youth groups invite the whole church family to join us as we go Christmas Caroling around Millis. We will travel in cars, going house to house to sing and spread holiday cheer to church family members who have a hard time getting out. **Youth grades 4-12, can come without an adult, but they need to have a permission slip, and must let Marguerite ([tiariri@gmail.com](mailto:tiariri@gmail.com)) or Doug ([dcb.joel@verison.net](mailto:dcb.joel@verison.net)) know by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> that they are joining us so they can be sure we have enough drivers.** Enjoy cookies and hot cocoa after caroling. Dress warmly!

# YOUTH GROUP DECEMBER NEWS

## WHAT DO WE NEED?



We need everyone (Youth Group members and Parents) to help set up the Green Zone this Friday night – 12/6 from 6-9PM! We need Youth Group members to RSVP Doug ([dcb.joel@verizon.net](mailto:dcb.joel@verizon.net)) or Marguerite ([tiariri@gmail.com](mailto:tiariri@gmail.com)) times they can help out at the Green Zone during the Jolly Holly Fair on Saturday!

We need everyone who is going to the CityReach event to bring in the permission slip, medical form and payment (\$25) by our 12/8 meeting.

## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

### What's happening: Jolly Holly Setup

**Date:** December 6

**Time:** 6 PM- 9PM

**Description:** One of our major fundraising events is the Green Zone at the Jolly Holly Fair. We need to bring the donations up from the basement and organize them in the Happy Hours classrooms.

PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED!!!!!!!!!! (counts as community service hours!)

*We have an historically large amount of donations, so we really need all hands on deck for this one! Adult volunteers are essential, and will get pizza too!*

**What do you need to bring?:** Just bring yourself.



### What's happening: Jolly Holly Fair

**Date:** December 7

**Time:** 9 AM-4 PM, with cleanup after!

**Description:** We need members from the Youth Group to represent our group to the community at the Jolly Holly Fair (counts as community service hours!). Show up for a few hours, or stay for the whole event! Adult volunteers needed and welcomed! Extra help needed for cleanup!

**What do you need to bring?:** Just bring yourself.

- continued -

**What's happening: Meeting****Date: December 8****Time: 6:30-8:30PM**

**Description:** We will gather for dinner (Thanks to the Sennotts!) and connections. We will prepare for Friday's CityReach trip!

**What do you need to bring?:** Just bring yourself and your payments, forms, and questions about the CityReach trip!

**What's happening: CityReach****Date: December 13- December 14****Time: 5:30 PM- Late afternoon (we'll call when we get off 128)**

**Description:** We will gather at church at 5:30 PM (bring your dinner to eat on our way in to Boston). We will experience the reality of homelessness, and offer food, clothing, and fellowship to those in this situation.

**What do you need to bring?:** Bring yourself, dinner, and a snack to share. Also, bring a sleeping bag, sleeping pad, pillow (optional), deodorant, toothbrush and paste and winter clothes for our outside walk. The less you bring the better. We are attempting to experience the reality of homelessness. Permission slip and medical form must be turned in by December 8th meeting. Cost- (\$25)

**What's happening: Caroling****Date: December 17****Time: 6:30-8:30PM**

**Description:** We will gather at church to tour the town and spread Christmas cheer with our songs. All ages and abilities invited! We will return to church for hot chocolate and cookies.

**What do you need to bring?:** Just bring yourself and a friend! Cookie donations are welcome! Dress for the weather!

**What's happening: Party, Yankee Swap and Alumni Homecoming****Date: December 22****Time: 6:30-8:30PM**

**Description:** We will gather at church to celebrate with current members and any alumni who can attend. Bring a recycled gift (do your shopping at the Green Zone at the Jolly Holly Fair!) Pizza will be served!

**What do you need to bring?:** Just bring yourself and a simple, but fun gift!

## Message from Missions

Need help with your Christmas Shopping?  
Need ideas for those who have everything?  
Need a gift that helps a worthy cause?



Consider... Heifer International!



Give a... Flock of Chicks-Sheep-Ducks-Llamas-  
Honeybees-Rabbits-Fish-Cows-Goats-or a Water  
Buffalo.

Missions will provide information about the  
program and how to send your gift.  
Please see table set up at coffee hour or at the Jolly  
Holly Fair, or go on line to [heifer.org](http://heifer.org)

### Greetings from your Church Collector:

You will be receiving your 2019 third-period statement early this month. This is timed to allow you to reconcile your pledge and other church accounts with your personal records and make any adjustments prior to year's end. Please call the office or see me at coffee hour to let me know of any discrepancies. Shortly after January 1st, there will be one final statement for the full 2019 year which will be for your personal and tax records. PLEASE NOTE: the church books close shortly after December 31st. You should not expect any donations made after December 31st to apply to 2019. Thank you again for your excellent financial support for the church this year!

Brooks Corl, Collector

### It's Time to Order Your Poinsettias



Orders for poinsettias will be taken through Monday, December 16. The cost is \$13.00 each. Order forms will be available in the bulletins, on the web site (under "About" and "Forms") and in the church office.

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*We're on the Web!*

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

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# PIPS

## Parents of Infants and Preschoolers Social Group

**Next Date: December 12**  
***(no meeting on December 26)***

The PIPS group was formed to provide a shared and supportive space for parents to visit, exchange ideas, and connect.

The group meets in the church parlor from **9:30-10:30am on the second and fourth Thursday of the month**. Visit [millisucc.org](http://millisucc.org) for details.

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