



Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054
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,

We've had some changes in my family this year already. On January 3rd, we welcomed a fluffy black ball of energy and teeth into our home. This puppy (we call him Sully), has certainly made life interesting. For one thing, we are getting more exercise walking him around the yard and running in the house to fish out of his mouth whatever non-edible thing he could reach. And then there is the puppy biting. Living with a puppy who is teething is a lot like what I imagine it would be like to live with a genetically engineered combination of a wolf and velociraptor.

My plan for Sully before he even arrived in our lives was for him to train to be a ministry dog. This is a dog who has passed all of the certifications and can accompany me to rehab hospital visits and can be in the church as a comforting presence for people. I needed him to be smart and friendly. Sully, however, is smart and terrified of everything and everyone except me. This is frustrating. I really wanted him to enjoy being around a lot of people not hiding behind me. I've been following the suggestions of a dog behaviorist to help him socialize but it is a long, slow process. He came to church with me and hid under my chair. It seems like a lost cause.

Then I remembered something about Sully and something about all of us. What we are is not what we shall be.

For Sully, that means, with enough time and training, he might become more social and acclimated to the world. I shouldn't toss out his potential just because he isn't where I expected him to be at 17 weeks old. For us, it means we shouldn't toss out our potential just because we aren't where we expected to be at our age. For all of us, each day brings new opportunities for growth and learning. For all of us, each day brings an opportunity to develop or deepen relationships. For all of us, each day gives us the gift of becoming something more than we were when we went to sleep.

Perhaps it is easier to see the potential for change and growth in a puppy than in an adult human but it is there all the same. What a blessing.

With you on the Journey,

Rev. Jen



ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday, February 2 - 10:00am



Please join us for the Annual Meeting of the Church of Christ, Congregational. The Annual Meeting will take place as part of the morning worship service. *See Page 2 for the Agenda.*



On January 26th, we welcomed six new members into the fold of the Church of Christ, Congregational. Please make sure you reach out to welcome them. Read on to learn more about our newest members:

Kelly Williams: I'm a pretty easy going individual (for the most part) and try to live my life as positive as I can. My interests are spending as much time with my family as possible, and my hopes are to keep improving as a person, always trying to be a better person not only for myself and friends and family, but for strangers and others that don't know me.

Allen Williams: I'm very crafty and enjoy making home a cozy haven for our family. I'm also willing to help others, always have an open ear and I'm always willing to listen. I enjoy working from home and raising Ezekiel at the same time!

Cynthia Graham: I'm senior sales manager at the Embassy Suites Boston/Waltham Hotel. My interests are gardening and cooking, and my hope is to retire!

Steven Domenikos: I was brought up as a Greek Orthodox.

Sandra Domenikos: I was born in Mexico, I'm mother to Adela, and I love nature.

Adela El Khoury: I enjoy hanging out with my friends, and being with my family. I also enjoy playing soccer. I also hope to be happy when I grow up, and make a change in our world.



Church of Christ, Congregational Annual Meeting Agenda February 2, 2020

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Determining a Quorum
- Acceptance of Reports
- Acceptance of Nominating
- Review of 2019 Financials and Presentation/Acceptance of 2020 Budget
- Other Business
- Motion to Adjourn



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 25 at 5:30pm

Come join us for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Men's Fellowship. This event is free and open to the public.

From the Usborne books blog, "Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras ('Fat Tuesday') is the last day before the period Christians call Lent. Traditionally, during Lent, Christians are supposed to give up certain foods, including eggs, butter and fat. Pancake Day was a way of using up these ingredients before they were forbidden."

[Click here for a link to the Usborne blog](#) to read about Lent traditions in other countries.

And join us for pancakes on February 25!

Lenten Studies are Coming!

During the season of Lent there will be two study opportunities at the Church of Christ, Congregational in Millis. Both Studies revolve around the works of C.S. Lewis and are based on the devotional book, *Preparing for Easter*.

PREPARING FOR EASTER STUDY GROUP

**Wednesdays at 10:00am
Beginning March 4th**

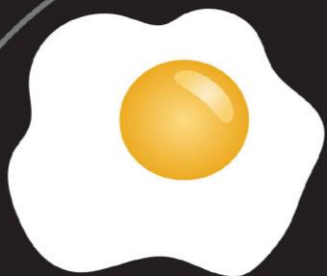
The study group will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in the parlor to discuss the daily readings and scripture associated with the passages. The book will be required for full participation. Please sign up for this class so Rev. Jen knows how many books to order. (A few books are available free of charge so please do not let cost prevent you from participating.)

BIBLES & BREWS

**Thursdays at 6:30pm
Beginning March 5th**

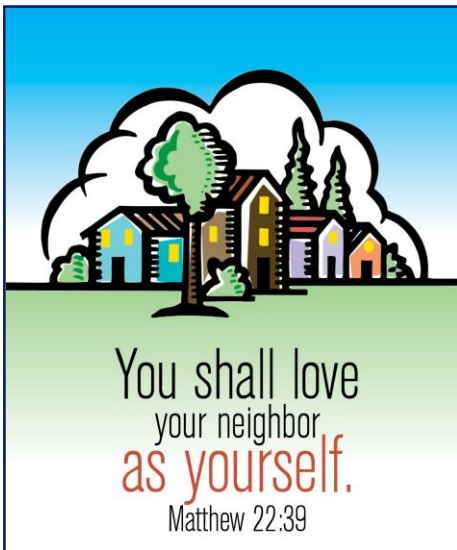
The Bibles and Brews meetings will be held on Thursday nights during Lent at Mickey Cassidy's pub in Medway. We gather at 6:30pm and the facilitated discussion starts at 7:00pm. The discussions will focus on some of C.S. Lewis' writings and ideas about faith. All are welcome. While Bibles and Brews is a drop-in event, please sign up if you are interested so Rev. Jen knows how many handouts to make (no worries if you can't make it!).

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST MEETING



Men's Fellowship meets at 7:30am on the third Sunday of each month to share breakfast, conversation and prayer, and to plan upcoming events. All men who consider the Millis Church of Christ to be their spiritual home, are welcome to join us.

**Sunday
February 16
7:30am**



Sunday, February 2nd Is Millis Fund Sunday!

The Millis Fund helps Millis families with temporary financial emergencies by paying bills directly to creditors. Applications for assistance are reviewed and evaluated by a nine-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.

Please consider making a generous contribution to the Millis Fund on or around "Super Sunday", February 2nd. You can donate by placing a check or cash in one of the specially marked envelopes available at worship; in one of the "pots" placed by our sanctuary entrances; 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 400 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 three from our Church.
- Your donation is tax deductible for 2020 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, Joan Nichols or me; or call the church office.

THANK YOU for prayerfully considering a generous donation on Sunday, February 2nd!

Brooks Corl
Millis Fund Operating Board member and Treasurer

MISSIONS

Update

The Missions Committee has responded to the recent global disasters by making donations directly to the following Charity Navigator 4-star non-profit organizations:

- **GlobalGiving Project # 44385** will go directly to support the Australian Wildfire project that initially aids First Responders in search and rescue operations and aids survivors' urgent needs for shelter, medical care, food, and clean water. After initial work, they assist in long term recovery efforts led by vetted local organizations.
- **The Hispanic Federation- Puerto Rico Relief and Recovery** has had a team in place since the hurricanes in 2007. They provide emergency funds for local health and human service providers working in affected communities. They have also partnered with Puerto Rico University to provide Mental Health services.

South Shore Habitat for Humanity update- The house build in Easton is planned to begin in March. Once we know of available dates we will be organizing volunteers for a group build.

New Life Furniture Bank of MA in Walpole is one of our ongoing local non-profits we support as a church. Please check out their website <https://www.newlifefb.org/> to see how you can get involved by donating goods, your time or a monetary donation. We don't know the 5K Trail Run date as yet but will keep you posted regarding the formation of a team.

We welcome ideas to further our mission outreach. Feel free to speak with any committee member or leave a message at the church office and we will contact you.

Jan Krohn, Art Payne, Wendy Schneider, Mary Smith

Warning: Email and text message scams targeting church members by impersonating clergy.

There has been a scam going on in Massachusetts using the contacts and names of area clergy people. Please know that Rev. Jen would never ask anyone for a gift card via text message or email.

If you are contacted by text and it seems fishy -- please follow your instincts and do not respond. If Rev. Jen needs to reach you, she can call you. NEVER give anyone payment by gift card.

Call Rev. Jen if you have any questions. For more information on this scam, [click here](#) to read a message from the Southern New England Conference of the UCC.

REMINDER:
PICK UP YOUR SUPER BOWL CHILI
ORDERS AFTER WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd

Next Visitors' Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Visitors' Group is Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 10:00am in the church parlor.

If you or anyone that you know would like a visit, please tell one of the Visitors. You are also welcome to attend one of our meetings if you think that you may be interested in becoming a visitor. We usually meet on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00am in the church parlor.

We love because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19 NIV

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



PIPS

Parents of Infants and Preschoolers Social Group

Next Dates:
February 13 & 27

The PIPS group was formed to provide a shared and supportive space for parents to visit, exchange ideas, and connect. No registration required.

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

Lift Your Voice and Join the Choir!

As always, we are very much in need of choir members. The only audition held is just coming to rehearsal. If you can talk you can sing, and there are so many wonderful benefits to group singing. Increased energy and alertness and reduced stress and anxiety, to say nothing of the fellowship. Meanwhile, we are creating harmony that ripples out into the world! We also welcome any instrumentalists. Dust off that trumpet, flute, guitar, or those drumsticks.

Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 9:00am, prior to the 10:00am worship service. If you are interested in joining the choir, call the church office, see me during coffee hour, or come to one of our Sunday morning rehearsals.

Myrna Rybczyk, Music Director





Youth Group is open to anyone in grades 7-12. We have a ton of fun, so come join us and invite your friends! You don't have to be a member of the church to participate.

Chili Sales Distribution: Right after worship on Sunday, February 2, people will be lining up in Fellowship Hall to pick up their chili orders. Please be there to help us hand out the orders.

Next Youth Group Meeting

Date: February 23

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Description: We will gather for dinner, connections, and games. We will also be planning our dinner event that will take place on March 21.

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

Save the Date for the Annual Dinner
Event, hosted by the Youth Group

“A NIGHT IN CHICAGO”

MARCH 21, 2020

Details to follow.



Church of Christ
142 Exchange St
Millis, MA 02054

Phone:
508-376-5034
E-Mail:
millisucc@msn.com



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.millisucc.org

Join the "M & M's" (Monday Morning) Group



**Mondays at 10:00am
at the Church of Christ**

Join the "M & M's" Needlecraft Group on Monday mornings to work on needlecraft projects and to relax and spend time visiting with others. You don't need to bring a project; you can just come for the socializing. Stop by to say a quick hello, or stay for awhile; come one week or every week. Whatever works with your schedule. Everyone is welcome!

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