



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,

Wasn't it just June? Where did the summer go? The days seem to be speeding up. Meteorologist Dave Epstein thinks that this sensation of speed can be explained by basic math. He wrote:

*When we are 5, a year seems like an eternity, and it's actually a whopping 20% of our lives. Summer itself is about 5% of a first grader's life up to that point. Fast forward to being 30, 40 or 50 years old and the percentages drop rapidly. At 50, a year is now just 2% of your life and the three months of summer a fraction of that. It's no wonder the days fly by so fast, they are such a small part of what we have already experienced.*

Soon enough, school starts again. Soon enough, the leaves start changing colors and the night air becomes crisp. Soon enough, the pace of life quickens and the routine of the day becomes second nature. We shuffle into the autumn season of harvest and the blessing of abundance.

*~ continued on p. 2~*

*Welcome Sunday – September 8<sup>th</sup>*  
*See page 3 for details.*

*From the Pastor continued from p. 1 ~*

While the calendar marks the first day of January as the start of the year, the month of September always seems like a second start. We begin again now. We reestablish habits and routines packed away for the summer. We connect again with our communities.

Here at the Church of Christ, Congregational, we mark the start of another program year by celebrating our Welcome Sunday on September 8th. Please come to church on that day to share a worship service and picnic. Sign-ups will also be held then for Sunday school, adult Bible studies and other small group opportunities. Bring a side-dish, your calendar and a sense of fun to celebrate homecoming for our community.

May we be blessed as we join together in community to be God's people.

With you on the Journey,

Rev. Jen



## Blessing of the Backpacks



### Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Worship Service

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Church of Christ, Congregational will have the Blessing of the Backpacks. Students (preschool through graduate school), teachers, and school staff can bring their backpacks to the Sanctuary at the beginning of our 10:00am worship service for a special blessing.



## CALLING ALL YOUTH GRADES 7-12!

**Youth Group Meeting**  
**Sunday, September 15**  
**6:30-8:30pm**

All youth, grades 7-12, are invited to be part of the Youth Group. At this first meeting, we'll have dinner, games, surprises, and lots of laughs! We'll also discuss plans and ideas for upcoming events and activities. Invite your friends too -- you don't have to be a church member to join the Youth Group. (Save the date for the next Youth Group meeting on Sept. 22.)

And join us at Welcome Sunday on September 8 (details on p. 3). We'll have forms that you will need to fill out and bring to the first meeting.

You are Invited to  
*Welcome Sunday*

September 8, 2019

at the Church of Christ, Congregational

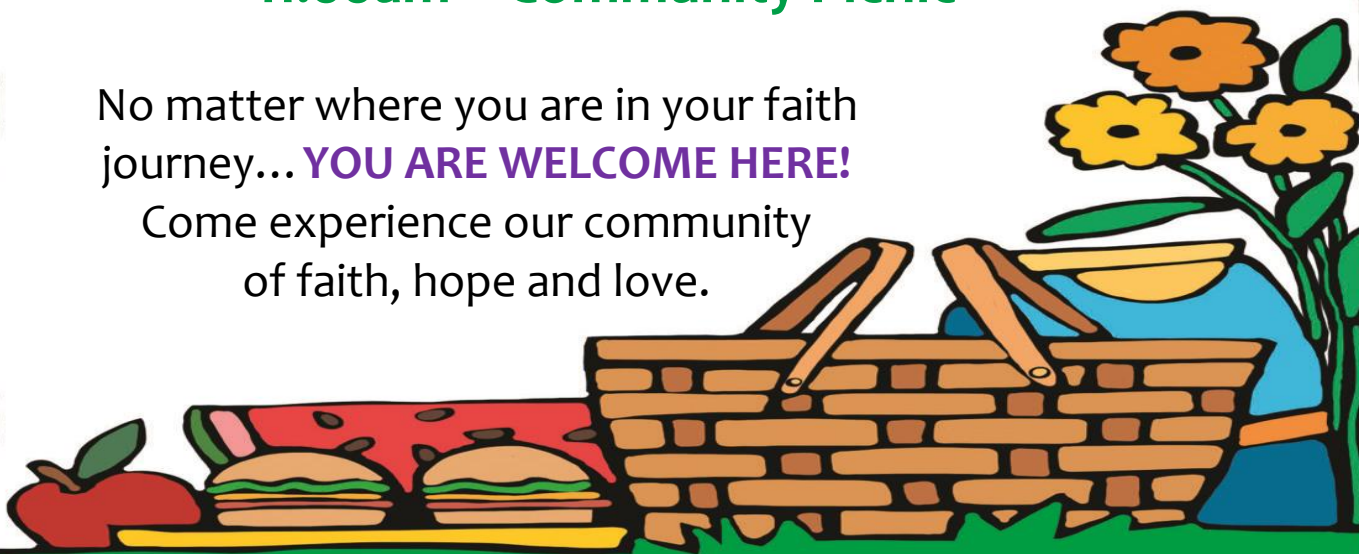
9:30am – Sunday School Registration

10:00am – Worship Service

11:00am – Community Picnic

No matter where you are in your faith journey... **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Come experience our community of faith, hope and love.



## CHOIR REHEARSALS TO RESUME



**First Rehearsal: Wed., September 4 from 7:00-8:30pm**

Everyone is welcome! There are no auditions, so if you like to sing, please join us! At our first rehearsal, we will hand out music and we will also discuss the possibility of changing our rehearsal date and time to Sunday mornings at 8:30am. We are looking for input, so we hope you can make it on September 4<sup>th</sup>.



# september activities



**Tuesday, September 10**

## **Adult Bible Study Begins**

**Morning session 9-10am ~ Evening session 7-8pm**

“For Such a Time as This.” This class will fearlessly and critically examine both the Bible and the daily news. We’ll seek to find the “Good News” for us and to determine what consequences “fake news” has on our faith.

***Dates: Tuesdays from September 10 through November 26***



**Wednesday, September 18 from 8:30-10:00am**

## **Community Office Hours**

Once a month, Rev. Jen will hold community office hours at Country Kitchen, on Rt. 109 in Millis.

***Other dates: October 9 & November 13***



**Thursday, September 19**

## **Bibles & Brews**

**6:30pm gather & order food; 7pm discussion begins**

We meet monthly at Mickey Cassidy’s at 116 Main St. (Rt. 109) in Medway. Bring a sense of humor and an open mind as we take on some of the hot topics of the day from a theological perspective.

***Other meeting dates: October 17 & November 21***



**Thursday, September 26 at 7:00pm**

## **New Member Information Meeting**

Rev. Jen will hold an information meeting in the church parlor for those who are considering becoming a member of the Church of Christ, Congregational. If you would like to join but are unable to attend the meeting, please speak with Rev. Jen either in person or by calling the office at (508) 376-5034.



## USE OF KITCHEN REGULATIONS



The Head of the Millis Board of Health carried out an inspection of the church kitchen on August 9, 2019, with the Trustee Chair Kathy Stevens in attendance.

There are some new state regulations which we will need to put into practice.

- 1) One sink must be a designated "Hand Washing Only" sink. That sink will be the one closest to the refrigerator. Identifying signage will be taped to that sink, with paper towels and hand soap next to it.
- 2) Everyone who uses the kitchen will have to disinfect the areas they use with a special mild bleach solution and paper towels. All outside groups that use the kitchen will be notified of this regulation. This is to slow the spread of the noro-virus and other highly infectious germs.
- 3) As always, anyone handling food must use the plastic/latex gloves which are on the counter under the window.
- 4) The Recycling Barrel – The Millis Transfer Station has certain rules as to what and how they accept cans, bottles, and paper. For our efforts to save the planet, we accept clean glass and plastic bottles, capped, and clean metal cans. Plastic-coated milk and juice containers are also accepted. A complete list of proper items is in the kitchen next to the "Recycling" Barrel.

**WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY PAPER IN THE RECYCLING BARREL!!** All paper goes in the trash barrel next to the recycling one. We go one step further and pull out all the soda containers and donate them to the Lions Club at the Donald Ackerman Recycling Trailer at the Millis Transfer Station.

The Trustees ask for your cooperation with these new and existing regulations.

Kathy Stevens, Andrew Bolton, Wayne Carlson, Rich Manzano

## VISITORS' GROUP

**Our Visitors' Group will meet on Thursday, September 19 at 10:00am in the Church Parlor.**



We hope you all had a good summer and had an opportunity to spend some time relaxing. If you are interested in joining our group, we invite you to come to our next meeting. If you can't make the meeting, leave a message at the church office at (508) 376-5034, and someone from the group will contact you.

## *Finding Your Voice Writing Group*

**Meeting Weekly, beginning Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>**

Do you dream of getting your thoughts, ideas, and stories written down, but never seem to have the courage, motivation, or time to do it? You are invited to join the **Finding Your Voice Writing Group**, where the focus is on finding your voice and feeling comfortable writing. This is a non-judgmental and supportive group that embraces all genres of writing: essays, prose poetry, poetry, and works in progress. Come get started on that book you always meant to write.

Memories, and our reflections on our lives and the world, can be as meaningful and important as photographs. Children, and especially grandchildren, enjoy and savor reading about the life of their families. Writing those stories, sharing the special events, thoughts, recipes, and observations is the sharing of a precious gift, whether to family or simply to ourselves.

**The group will meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00am, beginning on September 17**, at the Church of Christ, Congregational, 142 Exchange St., Millis, MA. For more information, please contact Myrna Rybczyk at [myrnmusic@comcast.net](mailto:myrnmusic@comcast.net); or Lisa Priest at [LMPriest@yahoo.com](mailto:LMPriest@yahoo.com).

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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 Dates: Sept. 12 & 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.

