

*Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC*

142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054

www.millisucc.org • (508) 376-5034 • millisucc@msn.com



**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

Church of Christ Vision Statement:

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

## Come to Worship

As you are figuring out what to make part of your new routine as we move out of pandemic shut-down, please consider in-person Sunday morning worship. Making in-person Sunday morning worship part of your weekly routine has many benefits. It increases the circle of caring for our families. It nourishes our souls. It keeps us connected with scripture and prayer. It gives us time to settle, breath and listen to God. And studies show regular attenders have less stress related illness and longer lives.

Please know that I fully respect the decision by many of you to continue to worship on Zoom out of precaution for your own and your children's health. This is one of the reasons why we will continue to offer the Zoom option.

All ages and abilities are welcome to join in worship. If you think it would be too stressful to get the kids ready and keep them occupied, let us help. My children had their mother as pastor and father in the choir and so had to get themselves ready.

**...Article continued on page 3...**

## *In-sanctuary worship*

So much has changed recently in relationship with the Corona Virus. Here are our worship guidelines as we know them at this time. Please continue to be flexible as all society participates in the great experiment of how to move out of a pandemic.

- The windows and doors of the sanctuary will be open and the fans will be drawing air up regardless of the weather.
- Please bring a mask with you to worship as we request that everyone wear a mask during singing.
- For the remainder of the service masks are optional for those who are vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated folks are urged to wear a mask.
- Attendees will **not** be able to walk through the preschool area. Both bathrooms are open for use.
- The bulletin is available on the church's website. Some printed bulletins will be available at the door. Please take everything with you when you leave.
- Attendees are encouraged to visit with each other after the service – **outside**. Please no visiting in the sanctuary.
- All services will be recorded. By being present, attendees give permission for their image and voice to be recorded and shared.



## Sunday Worship in July

To join Sunday worship services by Zoom, click on this link:

<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>

During the month of July, we will continue to follow the story of King David, to hear the teachings of Jesus and to consider how the early church's struggles speak to us today. On July 4<sup>th</sup> we will worship in the sanctuary. During the rest of the month, it might be in the outside chapel or the sanctuary depending on a variety of factors. Keep checking.

### July 4 – Communion, “Rely on God’s Strength”

2 Samuel 5:1, 9-10;

2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6: 1-13

### July 11-“Glory & Gratitude & Praise, even when horrible things happen”

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19;

Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

### July 18- “It’s not always the way we think it should be”

2 Samuel 7:1-14; Ephesians 2:11-22;

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### July 25- “Rooted in Love”

2 Samuel 11:1-15; Ephesians 3:14-21;

John 6:1-21

### August 1 – Communion, “Grow up into Christ”

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13;

Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

## *The Biggest Little Farm* July 21 7:30 PM

Our community education series continues with a showing of the PG rated film “The Biggest Little Farm” on Wednesday, July 21 at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary.

“The Biggest Little Farm” follows two dreamers and a dog on an odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land. The engaging film chronicles eight years of daunting work and outsized idealism as John and Molly Chester attempt to create a working farm from drought damaged, depleted soil.

As their plan to create perfect harmony takes a series of wild turns, they realize that to survive they will have to reach a far greater understanding of the intricacies and wisdom of nature, and of life itself. Running time 1.5 hrs.

We will engage in discussion about the intricacies of life as we know it, following the film showing. Water and dry snacks are allowed. Nothing greasy or sticky please. For more information contact the church office.

## Rev. Geary’s Office Hours

Rev. Geary will be available to church members on-line via Zoom, or in person, from 11am-1pm on Mondays and 12am-2pm on Wednesdays.

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.

Phone: (774) 993-9407

Email: [pastoruccmillis@gmail.com](mailto:pastoruccmillis@gmail.com)



### ***Community Garden***

The Millis Community Garden has officially been opened! The Garden is located on the side lawn of the church, and we still have plots available if anyone is interested in gardening in them! There is no cost to use a plot—please see **Lauren Briggs** or email [millisuccgarden@gmail.com](mailto:millisuccgarden@gmail.com) for more information or to register for your plot!

#### **We could still use help with:**

- Reaching out to local businesses or organizations who might be interested in sponsoring a bed
- Sponsoring a bed yourself
- Setting up the beds
- Gardening in a bed yourself
- Painting or decorating a garden bed
- Helping to staff/check in on the garden once it is set up
- Visioning other possibilities

#### **...Come to Worship, continued from Page 1...**

More than once my youngest showed up with misbuttoned shirts or two different types of shoes. Many in our congregation would love to have your children sit with them. It is ok for children to play quietly in the aisle. And if a child or adult can't hold it together, there is always Fellowship Hall as a refuge, or taking a walk when we worship outside.

Children who regularly attend worship learn very quickly the rhythms of the service and when it is OK to talk and when it is not (most of the time).

God, in the 10 commandments tells us to worship. This was not to burden us but to bless us. If worship isn't experienced as a blessing, then perhaps we need to consider making some changes. A worship team, to help plan worship is forming and you can be part of it. Let me know of your interest. The first meeting is July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Hoping to see you all soon.

Grace,

Rev. Jennifer Geary



## Gratitude Corner

*Thank you to:*

Sue Conte for her assistance in painting the bench for Pride Month/ONA.

Lucas and Patrick Smith for ringing the steeple bell in celebration of Juneteenth, along with Mary Smith and Sue Conte.

JoEllen Briggs for our first Adult Ed workshop on Vintage Glass.

Lauren Briggs for bringing the Community Garden idea to fruition.

Eileen Yates for teaching me so much about the workings of the Church office.  
~Shelley Goes~

Special thanks to Andy Bolton and Steve Howie for changing the direction of the fans to meet Covid protocols. It is so nice to be able to have them operational during worship.

Thank you, Deacons, for the countless hours you have put in to make worship on-line and in-person possible.



*If you would like to express your gratitude to others, either anonymously or with your name attached, email the church office at [millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com).*

### August Newsletter



The deadline for entries for the August Spire will be **July 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please have all of your info in by then. Thank you.

### On-line Bible Study

Online Bible Study is taking a hiatus and will not be meeting during the month of July.





### **You are invited to participate in UCC General Synod**

The entire United Church of Christ gathers every two years to conduct business, worship and study together. This is usually some place far away that require travel, hotels, etc. This year it will be 100% on-line so anyone who wants to attend can. The Synod meets July 11 – 18. Here is the link to register or to find more information: [United Church of Christ General Synod 33 General Synod 33](#)

There is a cost to attend all the sessions, but worship is free. The opening worship occurs at 5pm on July 11. We will broadcast that worship service on the screen in the sanctuary.



### ***Study Leave***

Rev. Geary will be away on retreat July 26 – 31. Please contact the Deacon of the Month if there is a pastoral emergency during that time.

### ***Worship Team***

Our worship team is forming and will hold its first meeting **Wednesday, July 14 at 10 am** in the parlor. The time can be moved to later in the day if working folks want to join us. This team is open to anyone who would like to share ideas and plan some of the upcoming worship services.

### ***Pledges and offerings***

Thank you to everyone who has continued to mail in your pledge and offerings. Have you found it difficult to remember to send it in? Consider using Bill-Pay through your bank. It is easy to set up an account with your bank and usually there is no fee. You can set it up as an automatic payment and the bank will send your offering to the church weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. In the back of the sanctuary are cards which say "I gave electronically" so you have something to put in the plate even when you are giving on-line.

### ***HELLO FROM EILEEN!***

I had a wonderful phone conversation with Eileen recently. She and Jay are settling into NC life, awaiting the end of July when their new house will be ready. They have visited with their daughter Rachel, who lives on the other side of Raleigh. Eileen has been job hunting, with little success, in the vicinity of their new home. She loves the weather so far since it hasn't been too humid. We will touch base again soon.

**Kathy Stevens**

## ***From the Deacons***

July brings the hot lazy days of summer, but the Deacons will continue to meet as we work our way back into a familiar form of worship on Sundays. Your well being is important to us and we will continue to make every effort to maintain a healthy environment in our church that is welcoming to all.

The month of June was the celebration of Pride Month. As we are an Open and Affirming congregation the Deacons and the Welcoming committee placed ribbons on the side door, as well as wreaths on the front doors. In addition, a bench painted with the colors of the Progress Pride flag was placed on the front yard with a sign saying "There is a seat here for all." These items will stay in place to show our ONA commitment.

### **A note on the meaning of the Progress Pride colors on the bench:**

Designed in 2018 by Daniel Quasar, a five-colored chevron was added to the classic Rainbow Flag to place greater emphasis on "inclusion and progression." The colors represent as follows: Red- Life, Orange- Healing, Yellow- Sunlight, Green- Nature, Indigo- Harmony/Serenity, Violet- Spirit. The additional colors of Black, Brown, Light Blue, Pink, and White represent marginalized LGBTQ+ Communities of Color, Transgender individuals, those living with HIV/AIDS and those who have been lost.

Rev. Geary took a well deserved week's vacation in the middle of June. The Deacons led the worship service on June 13th. Thank you to all who participated. In the coming months there will be other Sundays that we will need pulpit supply. We are a creative and talented congregation. If you have an idea for an alternative worship service, would like to participate in leading the worship or any suggestions, please reach out to any of the Deacons. We would love your input.

The Deacons continue to run the tech support needed to record the Sunday services. The process is relatively easy to set up and run. We are happy to give a tutorial and have you shadow the process if you are interested in assisting with this during worship. If you are going to be in church anyway, this would be a great assist to the Deacons and to give your time and talent.

With COVID restrictions being lifted, remember to be kind as we all become comfortable with venturing out once again.

Blessings,

Wendy Schneider and Sue Conte  
Co-lead Deacons



## Visitors' Group

The Visitors' Group will not be meeting in July and August. Our next meeting will be in September.

Please let us know if you or someone you know would like to be visited.

Each of us hopes that you will enjoy the summer.

"True prayer is simple, quiet, sincere, genuine conversation with God. It is a two-way dialogue between friends." (W. Philip Keller)

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance of our God and of Jesus our Lord."  
(2 Peter 1:2) NIV

### The Visitors:

Judie Ackerman, Ellie Costa, Ginny Demery, Linda Jones, Judy Kosinski, Pam Johansson, Shirley Rowley, Pat Spearing, Kathy Stevens, and Rev. Jennifer Geary.

## Millennial Ministry

### Millennials' Retreat

July 16-17 at Killam's Point

Conference Center in Branford, CT

For SNEUCC young adults and friends.

[Click here](#) to register!

Contact [Katie Howe](#) for information.

## Socializing with the M&M's Mondays on Zoom!

The M & M's Monday Morning Needlework Group gathers virtually on Zoom! Join the Zoom meeting on Monday mornings, any time after 10am. All are welcome – even if you're not working on a needlework project, join in for the socializing!

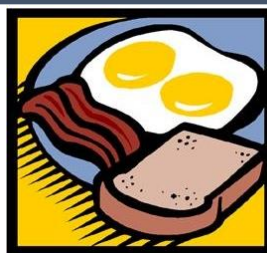
**By computer, click this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2987904285?pwd=VENB MmRob2krQW83RFJhNGJQQjJUdz09>

**If using a phone, dial:** 1-646-558-8656

**Meeting ID:** 298 790 4285

**Passcode:** 866156



## Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meeting In Person

**Sunday, July 18th at 7:30am**

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

**\*\*Covid protocols will be followed\*\*.**



Church of Christ  
142 Exchange St  
Millis, MA 02054

Phone:  
508-376-5034

E-Mail:  
[millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com)



---

*We're on the Web!*

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

---

### IMPORTANT COVID SAFETY REMINDERS

Currently, even when there are people in the building, the exterior doors are kept locked as a Covid safety measure.

If work needs to be done in an area used by any of our tenants, please schedule it through the office ([millisucc@msn.com](mailto:millisucc@msn.com) or 508-376-5034) or through the pastor ([pastoruccmillis@gmail.com](mailto:pastoruccmillis@gmail.com) or 774-993-9407), so that we can coordinate it with the tenants.

If you are at the church property during school hours:

- Observe posted signs and safety protocols (copies of the church's protocols are posted on our website and the office door)
- Wear a mask (masks are optional at other times)
- Use hand sanitizer & wipe down surfaces

Thank you for helping us function  
in a safe environment!



Church of Christ, Congregational  
142 Exchange Street  
Millis, MA 02054

