

THE SPIRE

December 2024

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

142 Exchange St., Millis, MA 02054

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



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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



Dear Members and Friends,

As we enter the Advent season, I am reminded of the incredible strength, unity, and love present within our congregation. This is a season of anticipation and joy, a time when we gather not only to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ but also to celebrate the blessings of our faith and community.

Our Advent Sermon Series is entitled "Journey to Christmas." As we enter this season, I invite everyone to reflect on this meaningful path together, drawing our hearts closer to the joy of Christmas. I encourage you to join us at our Sunday services as we explore the messages of the season and prepare ourselves for the arrival of Christ

I'm thrilled to share two important events this December. First, the annual Jolly Holly Fair will take place on December 7th, from 9AM to

2PM. It's always a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship, shop for handmade treasures, and support the church. I hope to see many of you there – bring your friends and neighbors! Second, please mark your calendars for our special Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 6:30PM. This gathering is always a deeply moving celebration of Christ's birth, filled with carols, lessons, and community spirit.

None of what we do would be possible without the continued support and involvement from the congregation. Whether you volunteer, participate in our events, or simply tell others what goes on at the Church of Christ, you are an essential part of our church community. I am truly grateful for each and every one of you, and I encourage you to remain active in the life of your church in this festive and holy season.

May this Advent fill your hearts with hope, peace, joy and love as we all travel together on our Journey to Christmas.

Blessings,
Rev. James





A Holiday Tradition for more than 60 years! Come join us for our annual fundraiser and shop from local vendors, get your face painted, take a photo with Santa or buy your decorative greenery. Don't shop hungry, we also have a snack bar with lunch options that will help you feel warm, cozy and well-fed. Just the perfect way to get in the holiday spirit!



The Candy Table at the Jolly Holly Fair needs donations of Fudge! You don't have to cut and package it, just drop it off at the church on Friday, December 6th. No ingredient lists necessary, but please do indicate if your fudge contains nuts.



Dedication/Memorial Poinsettias will be available again this year for \$16. Be on the lookout for order forms in the Sunday Bulletins or contact Laura in the office by December 18th.



In this season of giving, we ask that you keep in mind our Food Pantry and the families it serves. Some items are more costly to stock than others. Here is a quick guide to stocking the food pantry during advent. All your donations are gratefully accepted at the church or also at the bin located in Roche Brothers.

- 1st Advent: pasta / pasta sauce
- 2nd Advent: canned vegetables
- 3rd Advent: Soup
- 4th Advent: Crackers



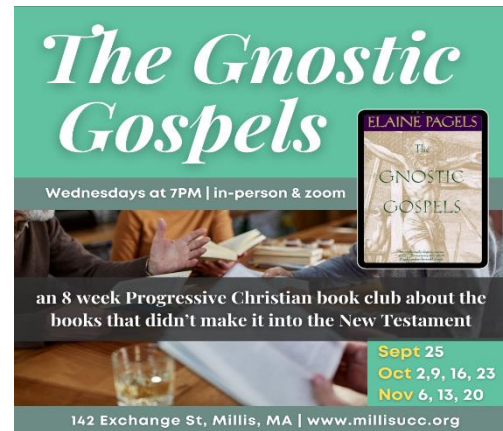
Do you enjoy baking?
Packaging up cookie trays for
neighbors and friends?
Consider gifting cookies and
other homemade treats to our
food pantry! This is a simple
way to spread holiday cheer.
No ingredient forms necessary,
but please do let us know if
your donations contain nuts.
We can take donated items on
Fridays from 10-3pm at the
church, or every Saturday
morning when the pantry is
open.



Our Christmas Eve service will
be held on Tuesday, December
24th at 6:30pm



Articles for the Spire are due by
the 20th of each month.



Bible Study Updates

Hybrid Bible Study will meet in
December on Tuesday the 3rd in the
Parlor and on Zoom at 7PM. Please
come having read all the chapters
including the conclusion. Then we
will take a break until the New Year,
and resume in January. Stay tuned
for the new Bible Study topic.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832179786?pwd=L1lrMjNRWjEzNGxzZnRpdmc5RmlWZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3217 9786

Passcode: 181480



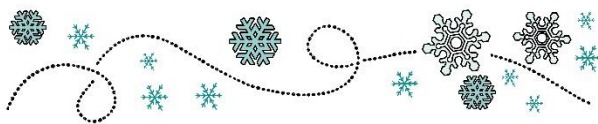
If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, or if you or someone you know wants to receive prayers for a specific situation, please

Contact Mary Jensen.



M&Ms are still meeting through December 9th, when they will discuss their Jolly Holly sales and formulate a plan for the New Year.

Mondays, 10-Noon in the Parlor.



OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

Jolly Holly Fair Edition

By Art Payne

As the first Saturday in December approaches, that can only mean one thing – it is time for the Jolly Holly Fair! The Jolly Holly Fair is the longest running annual fair in Millis and offers something for everyone – crafts, gift baskets, raffles, attic treasures, fabulous food, children's activities and of course – a visit from Santa Himself! The fair had its beginnings in the early 1960's and was then known as simply the Christmas Fair. Inspired by the popular Burl Ives song Holly Jolly Christmas, the fair was renamed in 1963. Concerned with copyright issues led to the reversal of Holly Jolly to give the fair its name. This was revealed to me by Judy Ackerman, who provided baby sitting services at the December 7, 1963 Fair. The 1963 Fair was organized by the Women's Fellowship Group and was chaired by Mrs. Henry Bogins and Mrs. Roger (Peg) Smith. Movies were shown for the kids and unusual flower arrangements were offered. Evelyn

Anderson ran the Country Store, Honey Whitney led the decorating committee and the snack bar was chaired by Barbara Hansen. Preparation for the early fairs began at the end of July and was duly noted in local newspapers.

The 1964 Fair was held on December 5th, and was chaired by Renee Todd and Betty Bicknell. The men of the Church sponsored an auction with the legendary Earl Merkle serving as auctioneer. Popular tables were the apron and doll's clothes – these items being handcrafted by work bees in the months leading up to the Fair.

The 1965 edition of the Jolly Holly Fair was held on December 4th and was chaired by Elaine Woods and Sheila Bowman. Popular features were a religious articles table, antiques table, and for the kids, movies and pony rides (weather permitting)! Free baby sitting was provided by the Pilgrim Fellowship whose members included current Moderator Jan Krohn.

Chairs for the 1966 Fair, held on December 3rd, were Marian Boodry and Flora Leontie. Evelyn Anderson requested donations of old Christmas cards to be made into gift tags.

An interesting feature of these early years was the parcel post table. This was the concept behind this – People of the Church would encourage friends, relatives and neighbors to send parcels to the Church, designating them as for lady,

gent, boy or girl. These would be sold unopened on the day of the Fair, providing many surprises!

In preparation for the 1967 Fair, Wayne Hansen and Newell Bicknell decorated the Church grounds with a lighting display. The newly renovated Sanctuary would be dedicated at Christmas Services that year.

Marian Boodry chaired the December 7, 1968 edition of the Fair which provided a welcome respite from the tumultuous events of that year. The 1969 Fair offered trays and boxes decorated by a photo-engraving process. Fair-goers could bring a glossy photo and have these personalized for gifts.

The Jolly Holly Fair has been a holiday tradition for Church and Community in Millis for over sixty years.

I am interested in compiling a comprehensive history of the Jolly Holly Fair. I invite those who have participated in past fairs to share artifacts and memories with me.

Upcoming in 2025

millisucc.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Messages from Beyond:
An Evening of Mediumship

May 10th
7PM

tickets on sale
in the new year!

KAY REYNOLDS
psychic medium, bestselling author,
& spiritual mentor

AS SEEN ON:

abc FOX
NBC CBS QM
TIMES RADIO



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