

HILLTOP HERALD

**FEBRUARY
2016**

**Rev. Angela V. Wells
Pastor**

**Deb Glancy
Moderator**

CONTENTS

Pastor Message	1
Book Study	
Music	
Meditation	2
Ash Wednesday	
Christian Ed	
Nursery	3
Joys	
Prayers	
Concerns	4
Missions	
Jazz & Chocolate	
Vision Info	5
Worship Schedule	6
Calendar	7

Dear Friends,

It feels like we have hardly gotten a chance to catch our breath from Advent and Christmas, and yet, Lent is upon us. This is the most holy season in our church calendar from Ash Wednesday (February 10th) through Easter Sunday (March 27th). Throughout these weeks, we will walk with Jesus through his temptation in the wilderness, then into Jerusalem where he's a wanted man, and all the way to the Upper Room for the Passover meal on Maundy Thursday to Calvary where he was crucified, and finally to the tomb where Mary and the disciples went to find him, and found it empty.

I know I shouldn't play favorites when it comes to liturgical seasons, but there is something overwhelmingly powerful about Lent that affects me differently than any other season. There's something so real and accessible about Jesus' journey. He's a mortal human, just like us. He faces danger and threats and an unjust criminal justice system, which sentences him to death. This sounds eerily familiar. During Lent, we aren't asked to believe the unbelievable or entertain the impossible. Lent is about reconciling our understanding of God's perfect love made known through Jesus Christ, with the very real blood and pain of this life that we all experience. Lent is gritty and tangible. I can read myself into the stories in a more authentic way than I can with the stories of the other seasons.

One recurring theme throughout Lent is death. Whether it's the reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday or Jesus' near-death experiences or his celebration of Passover in the face of his impending death on Maundy Thursday, or his triumph over death on Easter Sunday. This season is infused with death. You might be thinking to yourself that that's really morbid and awful, but it's real. And the truth is that it will happen to all of us and it's only healthy that we learn how to talk and think about death. This is why I am leading a Lenten Book Study for 5 Thursday nights in February and March, starting February 17th at 7:30pm. We will read the book "Being Mortal," by the surgeon Atul Gawande. You can find details about the book study in a separate announcement in this Hilltop.

So, while it might sound odd, I am looking forward to this season, and I hope you might be willing to trust God enough to entertain the idea of death, and know that you are held throughout the journey, by your church community and by our Creator. And I hope you have a blessed Lenten season.

In Faith,

Rev. Angela V. Wells

Rev. Angela Wells



We are on BCAT! Our services are being recorded so that they can be broadcast on BCAT, our local cable access channel. You can watch the service on Mondays at 4:30pm and Sundays at 6:00pm. Please note, the only people whose faces are on camera are the choir and those who lead the worship service.



LENTEN BOOK STUDY: BEING MORTAL

Join us for 5 Thursdays in Lent, beginning Thursday, February 18th at 7:30pm and ending on Thursday, March 17th. We will read the book, "Being Mortal," by Atul Gawande. He is a surgeon who practices here in Boston. Gawande believes that the medical profession does not address death appropriately, and that our end goal should be a good life, not a good death. He writes about our cultural understanding of mortality, death as failure, where faith fits into the picture (including the resurrection), elderly independence, the role of the elder in our culture, retirement, how to discuss our mortality with loved ones, and more.

All are welcome to participate in this book discussion. Please email Angela (RevWells@UCCBurlington.org) if you plan to participate. You can purchase your own book, or if you'd like Angela to purchase a book for you, please let her know by Sunday, February 7th. The cost of the book is \$15.00. If this is prohibitive for you, please speak with Angela. There will be assigned reading before our first gathering. This is sure to be a poignant and sacred conversation that will carry us through the Lenten season. Join us.

MUSIC NOTES

Music for Ash Wednesday

The Adult Choir and Youth Choir will join together on Ash Wednesday to sing the *Kyrie* from Franz Schubert's *Mass in G*. Our soprano soloist will be Diana Sears. The worship service begins at 7:30pm in the sanctuary on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Calling All Kids Under Age 12!

Joe Stoddard is looking to put together a group of young singers for Easter Sunday. This group – yet to be named – would get together to sing one song during the Easter Sunday 10:30 AM service. We will rehearse right after church (while parents are at coffee hour) for about 15 or 20 minutes on 4 Sundays: Feb. 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20. If you are interested in having your child sing, please speak with Joe on a Sunday morning or email him at music@uccburlington.org.

Join us for Lent and Easter!

Come join a choir for the Lenten season and in preparation for Easter! For Easter Sunday, the Adult Choir will be singing an arrangement of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" for choir and trumpet as well as the African-American spiritual "The Angel Rolled the Stone Away". The Youth Choir will be singing a setting of the *Alleluia* from Mozart's *Exultate, Jubilate*.

February Rehearsals

The Adult Choir will rehearse on Feb. 3, 17, and 24 from 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm.

The Youth Choir will rehearse on Feb. 3 and 24 from 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm.

Brass Quintet on Easter Sunday!

Our principal service at 10:30 on Easter Sunday, March 27, will feature a brass quintet conducted by Ipswich musician Kevin Carubia. Make sure to come early to hear their magnificent prelude!

This joyous musical offering is made possible by your support of the Special Music Fund managed by the Deacons and the Music Committee.

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org

Twitter: [@uccbmusic](https://twitter.com/uccbmusic)

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

Google+: Joe Stoddard

(music@uccburlington.org)



SUNDAY MORNING MEDITATION!

All are invited to join the Sunday morning meditation circle starting January 10th. Sessions start at 8:45 a.m. at the far end of the Montessori hall. Come when you can. There is no commitment required. The group will explore different types of meditation and different ways of using meditation to enrich life. See Deb Claar or Janet Knudsen if you have any questions.



**FEBRUARY 10TH AT 7:30PM
SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY**

If Easter Sunday is the end of our Lenten journey, then Ash Wednesday is the beginning. Please join us as we mark this sacred beginning of our Lenten season, with a traditional Ash Wednesday Service. We will acknowledge our shortcomings and be relieved of the burdens which make our hearts heavy. In this way, we may begin Lent rooted in honest relationships with God. Come, and be anointed with ashes and know that you a perfectly imperfect child of God. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The CE committee would like to thank all the volunteers who recently signed up to assist as both Sunday school and nursery assistants. It was wonderful to see some new names on the list! There is still a need for nursery assistants, and after March we'll be looking for Sunday school assistants again.

Sunday School teacher Laraine Wilson reports:

"We are starting a NEW theme in Sunday School: "We Have This Ministry." It is our 4th Unit this year and will run from 1/17 - 2/7. The unit logo is in the form of an unfinished quilt (see attached). Each quilt piece shows some aspect of life related to Christian ministry. We will discuss what ministry is --- essentially being about "God's business" - serving the world that God loves. The quilt reminds us that the church is a supportive community where personal and spiritual needs are recognized, valued and nurtured as well as a place where we are challenged and called to go out and serve others in the world."

The January 10th Youth Skating Event hosted by CE at the Burlington Ice Palace was a lot of fun for those attending. A small, but determined group happily supported each other as they slid gracefully across the ice!

Our next youth group event is on Friday, Feb. 12 (snow date Feb.13) 7-9pm. We plan on making Valentine bookmarks for the congregation, and perhaps bake cookies too!

Also in the planning for March is our intergenerational bowling event at King's Lanes.



Nursery CHURCH NURSERY ATTENDENT NEEDED!

Job Opening! We are in need of a Church Nursery Attendant! They must have transportation and be available 10am-12pm on Sundays, including special services such as Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve. If you know of someone that is 18 or older and has excellent interpersonal skills, especially dealing with parents and children please have them contact Rev. Wells at UCCBurlington@gmail.com, (781-272-4547) or Jan Costa at jancosta124@gmail.com for further details.

PEOPLE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Dick Rockwell's daughter Anne
Janet Knudsen's friend Helen
Rev. Mike O'Brien
Jessy McNeil's mom, sister Grace and
Brother Mel
Anne Stafford's grandsons Tyler and Zach
Bill Hitchcock's daughter, Isabella, and her
grandmother Carol
Dorothy Murdoch's daughters and
her granddaughter
Nancy Todd's Mom
Ruth Roach
Lucy's cousin Brad Standley
Rose Porter
Dot Drinkwater
Frank and Ruth Reddig
Dot Talalas
Everett Langley and his brother George

John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
Aimee Tredeau's friend Amanda
Barbara Moran's friend Heather
Kerry Beyer
Nancy Playle
Joe Stoddard's parents Joseph & Lillian,
and Aunt Jacqueline
Bobbie's sister Karen and family
Carolyn Hart's cousins, Marie and Tim
Ginger Mungillo's son, Jim Mungillo
Paula Surette, friend of Kristin Duran
Joyce Carpenter and her grandnephew
baby Logan

The people of Syria, Iraq, Sudan, the Central
African Republic and all places where war and
violence persist

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to the Ciano family on the recent passing of Nick's father Gerry Ciano. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers at this very sad time.

Also our heartfelt sympathy to Janet Knudsen and her entire family on the passing of her dad, Art Mills. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

Prayers for Diane Higden's family on the recent passing of Diane's mother Jeannine Haywood. Our sympathy to Diane her family and friends.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

1 Craig Baker	14 Karin Keyser
1 Ted Brierley	15 Elaine Carpenter
2 Gordon Brown	16 Ginger Mungillo
3 Diana Barry	19 Donna Flecchia
5 Mark Flecchia	22 Robert Knudsen
7 Karen Crossman (Beck)	24 Julia Lynch
7 Kellsee Lynch	27 Lynn Tirrell
7 Chris Cahoon	27 Sharon McDonough
10 Kelly Forbush	27 David Williamson
10 Sue Staten-Kassier	27 Carolyn Hart
11 Frank Ayer	
13 Amy Todd	



BOARD OF MISSIONS

ROSIE'S PLACE

Thank you to those who volunteered on January 6th. We will be volunteering in Boston on May 7th (Sat) to prepare, cook, serve and cleanup for lunch at this homeless shelter for women. If you would like to volunteer please contact Jan McSheffrey at afdove@verizon.net

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be on March 6th. This offering is one of the UCC 5 for 5 offerings. More info coming!

RED WAGON



The last Sunday of the month we take a collection of specific items needed at the Burlington Food Pantry.

We have been asked to donate the following:

Coffee
14 oz dish soap
Disposable razors
Bars of soap

Please bring items to worship on February 28th and we will bring them forward during the service.



Jazz and Chocolate - February 6th 7-9pm

A special event for music loves and chocolate lovers alike! Bring your valentine (or come solo- there will be plenty of folks to talk with).

Jazz singer Lydia Harrell and her amazing piano man Steve Higgs will entertain us while we enjoy an array of delicious chocolate desserts!

Also take a chance on the Raffle Basket!

Tickets are \$15 per person! Call 781-272-4547 to reserve now!

UPCOMING VISION MEETING!

We launched the Vision Team conversations in November and we are grateful to all of you who have participated so far. Your honest and thoughtful contributions have affirmed that this process is valuable, meaningful and an opportunity to truly be the enlightened church we are and can become. We will be available after the services at coffee hour to sign up or you can email Debbie dsclaar@bu.edu or Ted tedtina@rcn.com with your choice of dates. We look forward to meeting with ALL of you over the next few months. Here are the dates and times available for January and February and thank you for your participation! When we reach out to confirm with you, we will give you the address at that time.

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, 2/2	7PM	Janice Grace's house
Saturday, 2/6	2PM	Debbie Claar's house/has cats
Tuesday, 2/9	7PM	UCC Conference Room
Thursday, 2/11	7:30P	Debbie Claar's house/has cats
Saturday, 2/20	2PM	Debbie Claar's house/has cats
Tuesday, 2/23	7PM	UCC Conference Room

FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Montessori School M-F 8-5:30pm	1 3:30p Irish Step No Body Sculp 7:30p Trustees 8p AA	2 4-6p True North Pastor Hours No Body Sculp 7p Vision Mtg 7:15p Deacons	3 1p C4C 5:45p Jr Choir 7-9p Scouts 7:45p Choir	4 9-11a True North Pastor Hours 6p Body Sculp	5	6 2p Vision Mtg  7-9p Jazz and Chocolate Event
7 8:45a Meditation 10:30a Communion 11:30a Annual Meeting and Luncheon	8 3:30p Irish Step 6p Body Sculp 8p AA	9 10a Missions 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6p Body Sculp 7p Vision Mtg	10 1p C4C  7:30p Ash Wed Service	11 9-11a True North Pastor Hours 6p Body Sculp 7:30p Vision Mtg	12  7-9p Youth Group Event	13 (Youth Group Snow Date)
14 8:45a Meditation 10:30a Worship - Church School 11:30a Called to Care Happy Valentine's Day! 	15 President's Day! Elegant Luncheon 6:30p CE Mtg No Irish Step 6p Body Sculp 8p AA	16 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6p Body Sculp 7:15p PC	17 1p C4C No Jr. Choir 7-9p Scouts 7:45p Choir	18 9-11a True North Pastor Hours 6p Body Sculp 7:30p Lenten Book Study	19 Deadline for March Hilltop Articles!	20 2p Vision Mtg
21 8:45a Meditation 10:30a Worship - Church School Noon Confirmation Class	22 3:30p Irish Step 6p Body Sculp 8p AA 7:30p Vision Team Meeting	23 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6p Body Sculp 7p Vision Mtg	24 9:30a Hilltop Folding 1p C4C 5:45p Jr Choir 7-9p Scouts 7:45p Choir	25 9-11a True North Pastor Hours 6p Body Sculp 7:30p Lenten Book Study	26	27
28 8:45a Meditation 10:30a Worship - Church School-Red Wagon  Noon Music Committee Meeting	29 3:30p Irish Step 6p Body Sculp 8p AA					

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested



FEBRUARY 2016

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 7TH (SNOW DATE FEBRUARY 14TH)
FOLLOWING WORSHIP
ALL WELCOME!

