

HILLTOP HERALD JANUARY 2020

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
Pastor

Chris Silva
Moderator

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Dear Church Family,

I am writing this letter in that blurry time between December 27th and December 31st. This time off has given me a chance to reflect on what I am grateful for, although this hasn't been too difficult for me because we try to practice gratitude in our house on a regular basis. We have a tradition that we do each night before dinner. We go around the table and everyone says something they are thankful for about that day. Andy and I have had my family in town this past week, so we have heard quite a bit from each other about what we are thankful for. While the rest of us change our prayers daily, one member of our family stays constant. My older brother, ever the optimist, always says, "Once again, I am grateful that nothing went wrong today, there were no tragedies or crises." I hope this can be his prayer, our prayer, every day.

While the holidays can be stressful, one thing I love about Christmas and Thanksgiving is the opportunity for us to take time to step back and really take stock of what we are thankful and grateful for. As a child, I never thought that time with family and a delicious meal would make me so happy. And yet here we are. Maybe I am becoming an adult after all.

The word holiday comes from Old English and the origin of the word is holy + day. Imagine if we were to be able to greet each new day as if it were a holiday? I don't mean the stress, anxiety, debt, or to-do list, but the gratitude we feel on holidays, what if we could feel that daily? That deep breath we take when we take that moment to pause and celebrate the fact that it's finally here, this holiday, holy day, this good day, is here. And we can rejoice in it. What if we greeted each day with such gratitude? What if we woke up each morning and thanked God for this new holy day? Since we have started this tradition in our family of sharing that which we are thankful for, we have come to realize that even on the most mundane of days, we can still find something to celebrate.

I am not big on new year's resolutions because I rarely follow through with them, however, starting in 2020, I am going to try to treat each day as if it is holy. On a more regular basis, I am going to take the time I take on holidays to take note of what I am grateful for. Even if it is just a 10 second pause to take a deep breath and name one thing I am thankful for, I am committing to doing this on a more regular basis.

After all, each day that we are blessed with is a gift from God. Each day is a holy day and we should treat it as such. And even if you feel like you have nothing to be grateful for, remember that if your day didn't have any tragedies and crises, you can always celebrate that.

I hope you all have a blessed new year, and I can't wait to see what 2020 has in store for our congregation.

With Love,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

ANNUAL MEETING-FEBRUARY 2ND



Please join us immediately following worship
for our Annual Meeting/Luncheon
Even if you aren't a member, please join us and hear articles to be discussed
for the upcoming year!

TRUE NORTH HOURS: JANUARY 2020

Join Pastor Angela on the following days at
True North Coffee Shop, 204 Cambridge
Street here in Burlington.

Jan. 1st: Cancelled, holiday.
Jan. 8th: 8:30am-10:30am
Jan. 15th: 8:30am-10:30am
Jan. 22nd: 8:30am-10:30am



SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN JANUARY:

Jan. 5th: Epiphany and annual Star Sunday. At
this service we'll receive our star words for
the year, as we've done in years' past.

Jan. 12th: Baptism of Christ, in the service
we'll have an opportunity to renew our bap-
tisms

Jan. 19th: Special service celebrating the life
and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ADULT ED: SPRING 2020

We're starting a new Adult Ed format this year! We're going to try a monthly book discussion. We will gather on the last Thursday of each month. Angela will host discussions during the day from 9:00am-11:00am and from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Please choose the time that works best for you. The only change is March, which will be on the last Monday because Angela has a conflict on the last Thursday. All are invited to attend one discussion, a few, or all of them! Here is the schedule:

Jan 30th: Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
Feb 27th: Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
March 30th (Monday not Thursday): Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith by Diana Butler Bass
April 30th: When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-Filled Responses for Tough Topics
by Bromleigh McClenaghan and Karen Ware Jackson (Childcare will be provided
for our April discussion)
May 28th: The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by The Dalai Lama and
Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Thank you, Choirs!

Thank you very much to our Children’s Choir and our Adult Choir for their music during Advent and on Christmas Eve! We are very grateful to Marcia Rich, who joined us for Advent and Christmas Eve; and to Julie Lewis, who came back to sing with us for Christmas Eve.

Remember – we don’t just sing at Christmas! We would love to have YOU join us in January for a New Year filled with music! The adults rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:15 pm and the children rehearse on Sundays at noon.

Thank you, Special Musicians!

We were blessed to have Sarah Clark as our soloist for the Calming Christmas Service on December 14. Thank you so much, Sarah!

Thanks so much to Liz & Chris Silva, who provided special music for us on the First Sunday after Christmas!

January Rehearsals

The Adult Choir will rehearse on January 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7:15 pm. There will be no rehearsal on New Year’s Day, January 1.

The Children’s Choir will rehearse on January 5, 12, 19, and 26 from noon to 12:30. Newcomers are welcome in both groups!

Deacons’ Special Music Fund

The church is most grateful for the generosity of these recent donors to the Deacons’ Special Music Fund:

- Joe Stoddard and Paul Mouratidis in honor of Joe’s godmother Cathy Ortiz and her mother Nancy Hammond
- An anonymous donor

Facebook and Twitter

Joe Stoddard maintains Facebook and Twitter accounts to keep you up-to-date on everything that is happening in the musical life of our church! Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs and on Twitter at @ucbmusic.

Keep in touch!

Email: music@ucburlington.org

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs



Sunday School opened the Lent season by lighting the 1st candle at the December 1st Service. This is becoming quite a talented speaking group!

Rave reviews are pouring in for the Sunday Schools ' presentation of the Christmas play What? No Angels. 'We laughed we cried' – Deacons, 'Great costume's – Missions. The Manger scene opened to ooh's & Ahs. Thank you so much to the great acting by: Jess, Precious, Paul R., Angela. Great job to: Ali, Keira, Paul U., Peter & Tdasi playing multiple rolls. What a fabulous Sesame Street Gang & Angels: Amelia, Holly, Josie, Maddy, Molly, Ruth. And King Scarlett.

None of this could have happened without all the behind the scene action: Curtains & Angel: Emi, Assistants: Chris & Keri, Sound system: Everett, Scenery: Kendra & Aimee

Many thanks to the Deacons that worked the coffee hour while the play went on & clean up: Deb G, Donna & Lucy!

Program for 5th - 7th grade. Exploring our Faith, lead by Deb. Held 11:45 - 12:30. 12/22/19, 1/12/20.

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2020



Sat. Jan 11 4:30 – 7pm Jeopardy! A great competitive time last year! Can the Genius's defend their title? Will include a light supper. Just kids questions included. Amelia answered a clue no other team knew!



Sat. Feb 22 Sunday School Over Night 3rd – 7th grade (God group). The kindergarten – 3rd can join us for dinner & a movie the Green Team will show.



Sun. March 21 Pool Party at Billerica Boys & Girls Club. Kids get the shallow end, room for adults to do short laps in the deep end.



April 26 : The Green Team presents showing of the Lorax movie. Time TBA



June 7 Day at Walden Pond. Enjoy a picnic lunch then: Walk the Pond, Swim, or relax in a beach chair. Last year the kids spent the entire afternoon in the water!

Please contact Deb Raymond if you have any questions, or would like to attend an event.

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

The last Sunday of the month we asked the congregation to donate items needed for the Burlington Pantry. In checking with the volunteers at the pantry and they are still in need of the following items:

Vegetable oil, 100% juice, 100% juice boxes

Please bring to worship on January 26th and we will bring these forward during our Time for Children! Thank you!

ROSIE'S PLACE-BOSTON

Volunteers will be traveling into Boston on Wednesday, January 8th to help prepare, cook, serve and cleanup after providing a luncheon for those homeless women in the Boston area.

Thank you to all who have helped!

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

All are welcome to join the crafters for conversation and creativity. We will be starting the New Year making hats to help keep our neighbors from babies to adults warm this winter. We have lots of nice yarn and patterns if you want to add your creativity to our endeavors while at home. We meet on Wednesdays at 1PM in the conference room.



Our first meeting of the year will be January 8.



GREEN TEAM BREAKFAST AND TALK REGARDING RECYCLING CORRECTLY!

On Sunday morning January 12, there will be a talk followed by a discussion on recycling. Come and find out what you do correctly with your recycling, what items you should but do not recycle and what items should not be recycled. Mark your new 2020 Calendars with this important date.



NEW CHURCH RAILINGS!

On November 19, Parish Council approved the addition of railings from the sanctuary entrance to the landing at the end of the ramp from the Education Building, around that landing, and from there to the driveway. They will be a boon to people with limited mobility or vision and to all when it's slippery underfoot.

The new railings were suggested by the Onthank family and are being paid for from memorial funds given in honor of Marion Braley Freeman, Jennie Nickerson, Charles Onthank, Ruth Roach, Alice Staten and Doug Welch. They are a fitting complement to the ramp outside the sanctuary which was given in memory of Bev Maher's husband Tom.

While it was hoped that the railings could be installed before winter, the contractor has advised the trustees that the early arrival of cold and snow this year means that the work must be delayed until spring.

Once they are in place, the railings will be blessed as part of a worship service.



NURSERY COVERAGE/WORSHIP

We are in need of coverage in our Nursery on Sunday mornings!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS URGENT PLEA!

We have lost many of our communion preparers, ushers, etc. Please think about offering to volunteer for our worship on Sundays. We need people to be Head Ushers, Ushers, Communion Preparers!

Please contact Donna Flecchia at dmflec@gmail.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 5
10:30am

Communion Prep: Barbara Moran
Kay Shute

Lay Leader: Sarah Clark

Head Usher: Conrad Fong

Ushers: Conrad Fong
Carol Downing
Chris Stahlinski
Dave Ieradi

Greeter: Nancy Davis

Nursery: Kristen Watanabe
Mark Flecchia

School: Deb Raymond
Sue Wisniewski

Flower Deliverer: Bev Maher

Collector: Wynelle Scenna

Coffee Hour: Jan McSheffrey

Bakers: Karen Welch
Bobbie Killilea

January 12
10:30am

Lay Leader: Carol Downing

Head Usher: Everett Langley

Ushers: Everett-John Heald
Sally Willard
Jan McSheffrey

Greeter: Jean Baker

Nursery: Kristen Watanabe
Donna Flecchia

School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro

Flower Deliverer: Nancy Davis

Collector: Carol Downing

Coffee Hour: Chris Stahlinski

Bakers: Barbara Leonard
Nancy Todd

January 19
10:30am

Lay Leader: Wynelle Scenna

Head Usher: Lucy Damiani

Ushers: Lucy-John Heald
Everett Langley
Mark Flecchia

Greeter: Ginger Mungillo

Nursery: Kristen Watanabe
Jan McSheffrey

School: Deb Raymond
Jan Costa

Flower Deliverer: Bill Livezey

Collector: Marcia Rich

Coffee Hour: Cindy Phillips

Bakers: Lucy Damiani
Lynn Tirrell

January 26
10:30am

Lay Leader: Mark Flecchia

Head Usher: Dick Butler

Ushers: Dick-Karen Butler
Wynelle Scenna
Paul Raymond

Greeter: Kay Shute

Nursery: Kristen Watanabe
Sarah Goodrich

School: Deb Raymond
Susan Eby

Flower Deliverer: Cindy Phillips

Collector: Deb Raymond

Coffee Hour: John Heald

Bakers: Everett Langley
Marcia Rich

February 2
10:30am

Annual Meeting after worship

Communion Prep: Anna Karwan
Jessy McNeil

Lay Leader: Conrad Fong

Head Usher: Dave Ieradi

Ushers: Dave-Kari Lynch
Chris Stahlinski
Dave McNeil

Greeter: Tonia Egan

Nursery: Kristen Watanabe
Mark Flecchia

School: Deb Raymond
Sue Wisniewski

Flower Deliverer: Anna Karwan

Collector: Marge Zamanian

Coffee Hour: Jan McSheffrey

Bakers: Carol Downing
Susan Eby

Please contact Donna Flecchia if you cannot
participate in Worship or Nursery:

dmflec@gmail.com

Please contact Jan McSheffrey if you cannot
host/bake:

mcsheffreyjan@gmail.com

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Happy New Year! Office Closed School Closed	2 Montessori 8-6p 6:30p SLAA	3 Montessori 8-6p	4
5 10:30a Communion School Noon Youth Choir	6 7:30p AA 7:30p Trustees	7 7:15p Deacons	8 8:30-10:30a True North Hrs 10A Hilltop Luncheon 1p C4C 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	9 6:30p SLAA	10	11 All Ages Activity 4:30-7p Jeopardy & Dinner
12 8:30a Green Team Breakfast & Discussion All welcome! 10:30a Worship School Noon Youth Choir Noon Missions Mtg Conf Room	13 7:30p AA	14 6p Montessori Parents Mtg (parking lot)	15 8-9:30a Montessori Parents Mtg (parking lot) 8:30-10:30a True North Hrs 1p C4C 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	16 6:30p SLAA	17	18
19 10:30a Worship School Noon Youth Choir 12:30p Music Committee Conf Room	 MLK Day! Office Closed 7:30p AA HILLTOP DEADLINE	21 6p Montessori Parents Mtg (parking lot) 7:15p PC Mtg	22 8:30-10:30a True North Hrs 1p C4C 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	23 6:30p SLAA 7p? PHP Meeting in Conf Room	24	25
26 10:30a Worship-School Red Wagon 2pm-6:30p Private Rental	27 7:30p AA	28	29 8:30-10:30a True North Hrs 9:30a Hilltop Folding 1p C4C 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	30 9-11a Book Study 6:30p SLAA 7-9p Book Study	31	



Chris Cahoon's Dad
 Joyce Carpenter's Nephew
 Karen Ciardi's Dad
 Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg and friend Frank
 Anna Karwan
 Claire Simas and grandson
 Mark Flecchia's mom Vivian
 Kendra Griep's grandfather
 Luella Brown
 Carol & Ron Downing, daughter Elizabeth
 Conrad Fong
 Alan Wright's friend Seth's Dad
 Anne Stafford, her son Bill and grandson Zach
 Brian Stahlinski while working in South Korea
 Woody & Betty Knowles and friend Janet Hurley
 Jean Bastos
 J. Beyers (Relative of Kate)
 Dave Williamson

Rev. Elizabeth King
 Jan Blandino
 Bobbie Martino
 Barbara Garland
 Ann Onthank
 Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace
 Henry Knopp
 Dot Drinkwater
 Ruth Reddig
 Everett Langley's brother George
 John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
 Jim Mungillo
 Tom Killilea's co-worker's 22 year old son - cancer
 All our caregivers, military here and abroad
 and our First Responders!

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy to Tom Killilea on the passing of nephew Jason Yoho. Keep Jason's wife, Kathy and their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

6 Nelson Eby
 7 Ali & Peter Wisniewski
 8 Kathy Olney
 18 Beverly Maher
 19 Erin Killilea
 20 Ruth Reddig
 21 Dante Rameriz (Killilea)
 22 John Heald
 26 Sara Goodrich-Byers
 26 Stephen Landry (Sexton)
 28 Tom Killilea
 28 Jan McSheffrey
 31 Kristin Duran
 31 Marie Perrot





Dear UCC Community,

We have great news and not-so-great news. The great news is that we have reached about 81% of our pledge goal for 2020. Thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far! The not-so-great news is that we are only 81% towards our goal, and we *really* don't want to have to pass a deficit budget at our Annual Meeting in February. We have calculated that if the majority of us who have pledged **increase our pledge by \$5.00 a week, we can go a long way towards defeating our pending deficit!**

Pastor Angela recently had the opportunity to write about what the consequences would be if anything happened to our church, and here is what she wrote:

If something happened to our church building, our town would lose an irreplaceable architectural asset. But, we are much more than a building, we are a vibrant church community which is very involved with our town. If our church were to shutter our doors, our community would lose a vital asset which is important to many people who come to our church. For the Montessori School, the AA meetings, Scouts, different community groups that meet throughout the year, the annual In Gathering in which we give Thanksgiving meals to over 100 families, and all the musical events we put on. Our building is used in a variety of ways, hundreds of people walk through our doors each week. Additionally, our community is present for each other in times of loss and hardship. We function as an extended family for each other, all of us members of the Body of Christ. If something happened to us, it would be a monumental loss for our congregation and the wider community.

Many people benefit from our church's ministries, and our physical property is the hub which enables us to serve the wider world. We are faithfully fulfilling our call as Christians to be servants in the service of others, but we need financial resources in order to continue to be present for each other and the world.

We want you to know that the budget that we put together doesn't have any added frills or luxuries to cut. We put together a faithful and lean budget which meets our church property needs, honors our staff, supplies our committees with enough resources to carry out their ministries, and is respectful of your contributions. If we were to cut our budget, we'd be looking at not plowing our parking lot, not heating our building, not giving cost of living staff increases or even cutting the percentage of money that we give to our Missions Committee. We know that none of us want to make any of these decisions and we are confident that we will not have to.

In order to fund our budget for next year, we need your help. If you have not given your pledge to our Financial Secretary, John Heald, please do so as soon as you're able. If you have already returned your pledge, please prayerfully consider if you'd be able to increase your pledge just a bit, such as the \$5.00 per week as suggested above. If you are able to do this, please fill out the form below, and return it to the church office, put it in the offering plate, or email John Heald at jhbird48@msn.com.

Gratefully,

Parish Council, Finance and Stewardship Committee and Pastor Angela

(PLEASE TEAR AND RETURN TO OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY-JOHN HEALD)

Yes! I want to help defeat our pending deficit for 2020!

Please increase my pledge by \$5.00 per week

Please increase my pledge by \$_____ per week/month (circle one)

Name: _____

Thank you for doing your part to help support our church in 2020!

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested



JANUARY 2020