

HILLTOP HERALD FEBRUARY 2020

Dear Church Family,

Up here in Massachusetts, we are known for a lot of great things, but one thing we are not known for is being friendly. My dear friend, Rev. Laura Everett, who is also the Exec. Director of the MA Council of Churches recently wrote a piece for the WBUR blog Cognoscenti. The article is entitled, "You Can Say 'Hello' On The Street, Boston. We'd All Be Better For It."

Here's an excerpt of her article:

"I am devoted to Boston. But we have a chip on our shoulders, and most often, a scowl on our faces. In many ways, our sour demeanor is understandable; for starters, we have a transportation system that is failing everyone. It's hard to be kind when we've been sitting in traffic for 57 minutes, need to pick up a kid from school and just want to be home after a long day... Boston also has a residual dominant culture of white upper-class formality, competitiveness and a professed independence that breeds isolation and avoids any interaction that might slow us down... But acknowledgment in public is more than just friendliness, it's an affirmation of worth... And so, I'm trying something new, even here in icy Boston. Every human is made in the image and likeness of God. This is foundational to my beliefs. Why would I not acknowledge them thusly?... Acknowledgment commits us to seeing the dignity and worth in others, even and especially when we are jammed together on a delayed MBTA train. Acknowledgment is a commitment to justice. I've arrived at a place in life where I expect people's personal behaviors to be consonant with their professed commitments. Tell me you support the equal rights and dignity of women? Then don't cut in front of me in the bike lane as we wait for a light. Tell me you reject ableism and see the equal worth of disabled people? Then shovel your sidewalk wide enough for a wheelchair. Tell me you care about those living outside in our city? Then make eye contact and say hello to those experiencing homelessness, and better yet, share a little money. I'm trying something purposeful and intentional, so that my movements through our city match the commitments in my heart. I am saying hello to strangers. I am nodding to elders. I am laughing with the high schoolers playing around while waiting for the bus. I am trying to unlearn all the icy tendencies I've developed over years in New England, because it doesn't have to be like this. I don't have to be like this... Acknowledgment is about how I want to show up in the world, and what kind of neighbor I want to be. When I acknowledge others, it changes me... The only way I know to "love thy neighbor" is to start by acknowledging that your neighbor exists."

Not everything she says directly applies to us in the suburbs, but there are lots of things we can do to acknowledge each other, to see each person as a beloved child of God. I have started trying to make eye contact with people, even smile at them. I have a friend named Scott who works at the grocery store and I intentionally call him by name, so I am reminded that he matters.

It's cold and dreary out there, let's make the effort to be more friendly to one another, if not for the person we're acknowledging, then for ourselves. As Rev. Everett says, this is one way for us to love our neighbors.

Love,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
 Pastor

Chris Silva
 Moderator

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ANNUAL MEETING AND ANNUAL REPORTS

Our church's Annual Meeting will take place right after church on Sunday, February 2nd. Please join us for this important meeting as we hear updates important to the life of the church and we discuss and vote on this year's budget. Everyone is invited to attend, however, only church members may vote. It is a potluck luncheon. Thank you to those signed up to bring food. Please review the Annual Report you received at coffee hour on January 26th for discussion at the meeting.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Our annual Ash Wednesday Service is on February 26th at 7:00pm. All are welcome to join us for this beautiful contemplative service which will help us prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Lent. This is a chance for us to pause and reconnect with God as we start our journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Sally Willard, Donna Ferro and Pastor Angela are working on updating our website. They will be changing the template, making the calendar more user-friendly, updating out of date information and updating the pictures! We need your help with that last piece. If you have any photos of church events that you think would be good for the website, please send them to RevWells@UCCBurlington.org. Thank you for your help. We will also let you know when the new website is live.

TRUE NORTH

Pastor Angela's True North Hours for February 2020:

February 5th: 8:30am-10:30am
February 12th: 8:30am-10:30am
February 19th: 8:30am-10:30am
February 26th: 8:30am-10:30am.



It's Ash Wednesday, so come get your ashes at True North

CHURCH BOOK DISCUSSION

This month, we are reading the book [Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption](#) by Bryan Stevenson. We will meet on Thursday, February 27th at 9:00am and at 7:00pm. Come to the discussion time that works best for your schedule. All are welcome!

Here is a little bit of information about the book:

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. *Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

JERICHO WALKS

Our Jericho Walks at the ICE Office in Burlington continue to take place monthly. They are sponsored by the Burlington Area Clergy for Justice and they're on the 3rd Tuesday at 1pm (think 3-2-1). In February, the walk is on February 18th at 1pm. We meet at 1000 District Ave in Burlington. All are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Pastor Angela as she attends each walk.

ANN ONTHANK FUNERAL

A service celebrating the life of Ann Onthank will be on Saturday, February 22nd at 1:00pm at the church, followed by a reception. People are invited to make baked goods to enjoy at the reception. See the sign-up sheet at coffee hour or email Bobbie (UCCBurlington@gmail.com) if you plan to bring something.



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Thank you, Special Musicians!

We are very grateful to Will Silva for playing guitar on the Sunday after Christmas. Will's name didn't make it into the bulletin or the newsletter by the printing deadline, so we apologize for not acknowledging the great job he did along with his parents, Chris and Liz.

Welcome, Mark!

It's our great pleasure to welcome tenor Mark Omobono to the choir! Mark and his family recently joined the church, and we are delighted to have him singing with us!

February Rehearsals

Children's Choir will rehearse at noon on February 9, 16, and 23, but we will meet from 12:15 pm to 12:30 pm on Sunday, February 2nd because of the Annual Meeting. New members are welcome to join anytime! The Adult Choir will rehearse at 7:15 pm on the following Wednesdays: February 5, 12, and 19. We will not have our regular rehearsal on Ash Wednesday, February 26, but we will meet instead at 6:15 pm for a warm-up rehearsal for the 7pm service. New members are welcome to join us anytime!

Deacons' Special Music Fund

The church is most grateful for the generosity of these recent donors to the Deacons' Special Music Fund:
-Anne Grunert, in memory of her aunt, Suzanne Trefethen

Keep in touch!

Email: music@ucburlington.org

Twitter: @ucbmusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

JAZZ AND CHOCOLATE FEBRUARY 29 7pm

Join us for the 11th annual evening of *Jazz and Chocolate*
on February 29th at 7pm!

The wonderfully talented and entertaining duo
Lydia Harrell and Steven Higgs
will once again share their music with us.

If you are able to bring a chocolate dessert to share,
please sign up at coffee hour.

Tickets are \$15 at the door.



MAKING OUR CHURCH SAFER

A small group of people have been considering how to increase the safety of our facility for our children, congregants and staff since late 2018. At the end of November 2019, we learned about the state-funded Nonprofit Security Grant program. The maximum grant amount is \$50,000. The updated application form was released in late December and must be submitted by January 31.

Improvements under consideration include replacing several interior and exterior doors, installing new hardware on several doors, adding outside lighting to the Bedford St. side of the building and adding a new door lock system which will include video cameras that will enable staff to control access to the building and within the building, access to the nursery and Sunday school areas.

People working on the grant include Bill Beyer, Lucy Damiani, Deb Glancy, Dennis Huebner, Deb Raymond, Marcia Rich, Chris Stahlinski and Pastor Angela Wells-Bean.



Happy New Year from the Deacons! December kept us very busy as we transitioned and dressed the sanctuary for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Thank you to the volunteers that helped us. It requires several hands and eyes to help make things look pretty, not to mention not everyone can (or wants to) climb the ladder! We are exploring options to help keep the sanctuary looking fresher and greener during the long period of advent for next year. Feel free to share your ideas. We want to find new solutions for wreaths for the internal windows and greenery for around the sanctuary.

You might have noticed some changes during Advent and Christmas this year. We used newly printed songbooks to save you from flipping between the red and black hymnals when selecting and singing your favorite carols. We also changed the timing for our Calming Christmas and Christmas Eve services. At the Annual Meeting, we'll be asking for your opinion about some of these things. After all, the services are for you and your spiritual needs.

Coming up in February and March, the Deacons are supporting the Sabbatical committee in the search and selection of an interim pastor for the summer. We will also be planning and preparing for Lent and Easter. Ash Wednesday services will be on Feb 26th and Easter is on April 12th. We will need hands and eyes to help decorate the sanctuary and foil Easter plants. Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities in the weekly church bulletin and email blasts.

Yours in Christ,
Deb Glancy, Deacons Committee Chair

WHAT'S THE LATEST FROM TRUSTEES?

Have you noticed how much brighter it is in Sewall Hall? The trustees recently upgraded all the over high heads lights in the hall with LED bulbs. We found a "volunteer" who agreed to climb the ladder and we replaced all the bulbs. We also finished the repairs on the outside of the church where Thanksgiving morning there was an accident where someone came up Church Lane and forgot to turn and ran right into the sanctuary. Next there had been a report from the town that they suspected we had a water leak. The trustees working with Bobbie found the culprit and replaced the leaking faucet. Finally in the next couple of weeks we are also going to replace some more of the older thermostats in the buildings with NEST thermostats.

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

The last Sunday of the month we help the local pantry by supplying non-perishables items to help stock the shelves. This month we will collect:

Juice boxes, applesauce, toilet paper

Please bring to worship on February 23rd!

ROSIE'S PLACE-BOSTON

Thank you to all who have volunteered at Rosie's Place, a homeless shelter for women in Boston. Stay tuned for information regarding our next volunteer date!

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE WINE TASTING FEBRUARY 23 2-5PM CAFÉ ESCADRILLE, BURLINGTON

The Annual Wine Tasting and Auction in support of People Helping People will take place at Café Escadrille in Burlington. This is PHP's largest fundraiser of the year! Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wine, and a silent and live auction. Tickets can be purchased for \$60 through:

Janet Sullivan Fitzgerald at sullivanfh@comcast.net
(781) 244-9519

Dan DiTucci at *Spencer Cleaners* 271 Cambridge St., &
240 Middlesex Turnpike, Burlington
John & Shannon at *A Whole Bunch of Flowers*
326 Cambridge St., Burlington.

*Tickets do sell out, so if you want to go,
we encourage you to get your tickets early!*



CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE (C4C)

Join us on Wednesday afternoons from 1-3pm in the Church conference room. If you would like to knit or crochet an item, we do encourage people to make purple hats which are to bring awareness of shaken baby syndrome and how many infants are affected by this every year. All are welcome to join us!

NOTES FROM OUR MISSIONS COMMITTEE

In response to a request from the newly formed Southern New England Conference (of which we are a part), we are using carried-over 2019 funds to donate \$2000 to their Retiring Medical Debt Initiative. The conference is teaming up with the NY-based non-profit RIP Medical Debt (ripmedicaldebt.org) to pay off medical debt for pennies on the dollar. Medical debt carries with it many challenges beyond financial burden. Needed health care services can be cut off for patients having problems paying their medical bills. Additionally, medical debt causes people to cut back on some of the most important necessities including food and clothing. This debt abolishment targets those living at or below the poverty guidelines, people for whom there is no reasonable expectation that they would ever be able to recover alone. By joining the mission of RIP Medical Debt we are helping to locate, purchase and abolish unpaid and unpayable medical debt of those in some of the neediest Southern New England communities.

Together we are all trying to fulfill our mission to respond to the needs of the world with practical deeds of love.

GREEN TEAM



We are so happy that 23 of you attended our recent breakfast with guest speaker on Jan. 12th. Gretchen Carey, our guest speaker from Republic Services, shared a lot of information about recycling with us. For those of you who couldn't attend here are a couple of useful websites for you to check out: RecycleSmartMA.org and RepublicServices.com. Both websites have a lot of interesting and useful information about recycling. One interesting thing we learned was lids are too small to recycle by themselves, so put them on the containers or throw them away. We will be sharing more recycling tips with you in the coming weeks through the Weekly Blast that comes out on Tuesdays.

In April, we will be showing the movie, "The Lorax", by Dr. Seuss with the church school group at their overnighter. Did you know Dr. Seuss was an environmentalist? Although, *The Lorax*, is a children's book it has a very powerful message.

Save the date, February 23rd as we are planning our next breakfast with guest speaker from Mass Save. More details to follow.

Our next Green team meeting will be February 16th after worship. Our meetings are open, and we invite any one to attend and help us with this very important issue of environmental justice.

NEWS FROM CE

On December 29, Church School students donned their new chef's hats & provided a delectable coffee hour. Baptism Sunday, we performed science experiments washing away sins as Jesus did when he was baptized. The following week we celebrated MLK's birthday making our own decorations & trying foods from different countries in the spirit of MLK's encouraging inclusiveness.

Program for 5th - 7th grades. *Exploring our Faith*, lead by Deb. Held 11:45 – 12:30.

Program dates: 1/29/20 Walking in MLK's shoes. (People being sick caused us to reschedule).

2/23 What is UCC all about?

3/22 Diversity

4/12 TBD

5/10 Prayer & Meditation

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2020



Sleepover has been moved from February to April. Date to be determined!



Sunday March 22 (2-3PM) Pool Party at Billerica Boys & Girls Club.

Kids get the shallow end, room for adults to do short laps in the deep end.



Thursday April 16 (All Day 10:30 AM – 8 PM) Altitude Park Fund Raiser for UCC.

Go to the park any time that day, & let them know you're with the UCC fund raiser. Each person pays their own way. **15% of your payment benefits the church.** Make a plan with friends to go as a group that night. Fun & beneficial for church!

Sunday April 19 *Hey Save the Earth* by the Just Peace Players. Intergenerational Worship Service. Save the Earth shares true stories of people who are working to care for creation. It includes imaginary stories of birds and animals who want us to work with them to save the earth.



Saturday May 16 (5:30 – 7:30 PM) Jeopardy! A great uproarious time last year!

Can the Geniuses defend their title? Will include a light supper. Just kids questions included.

Hey kids: Amelia answered a clue no other team knew last year!



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.

Cell: 857-373-9156.

PEOPLE TO KEEP IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Roberta Low's friend Doug
 Anna Karwan's family with Health Issues
 Chris Cahoon's Dad
 Joyce Carpenter's Nephew
 Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg and friend Frank
 Claire Simas and grandson
 Mark Flecchia's mom Vivian
 Kendra Griep's grandfather
 Luella Brown
 Carol & Ron Downing, daughter Elizabeth
 Conrad Fong and his Dad
 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
 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's co-worker's 22 year old son
 diagnosed with cancer

All our caregivers, military here and abroad and our
 First Responders!



Condolences

Condolences to Barbara and Dave Leonard on the passing of Aunt Muriel.

Our long time member Ann Onthank passed away peacefully on January 13th. Please keep her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. She is now at peace with husband, Charles!

Our deepest sympathy to Conrad, Shirley, Geoffrey Fong on the passing of Conrad's mother. She lived a long life surrounded by family and friends. Please keep Conrad and family in your thoughts and prayers.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!



Craig Baker	1	Sebastian Griep	11
Ted Brierley	1	Amy Todd	13
Gordon Brown	2	Karin Keyser	14
Mark Flecchia	5	Elaine Carpenter	15
Karen Crossman	7	Ginger Mungillo	16
Kellsee Lynch	7	Donna Flecchia	19
Chris Cahoon	7	Robert Knudsen	22
Paul Raymond	7	Julia Lynch	24
Kelly Forbush	10	Lynn Tirrell	27
Sue Staten-Kassirer	10	Sharon McDonough	27
Frank Ayer	11	David Williamson	27

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

February 2 Annual Meeting after worship
 10:30am Communion Prep: Anna Karwan-Jessy McNeil
 Lay Leader: Conrad Fong
 Head Usher: Dave Ieradi
 Ushers: Dave-Chris Stahlinski-Dave McNeil-Kari Lynch
 Greeter: Tonia Egan
 Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-Mark Flecchia
 School: Deb Raymond-Sue Wisniewski
 Flower Deliverer: Anna Karwan
 Collector: Everett Langley
 Coffee Hour: Parish Council
 Bakers: Potluck luncheon from the congregation

Feb 9 Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
 10:30am Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Ushers: Dave & Jessy McNeil-Gordon Brown, Lucy Damiani
 Greeter: Deb Glancy
 Nursery: Kristin Watanabe-Mark Flecchia
 School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
 Flower Deliverer: Nancy Davis
 Collector: Dick Butler
 Coffee Hour: Donna Flecchia
 Bakers: Barbara Leonard-Nancy Todd

Feb 16 Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
 10:30am Head Usher: Mark Flecchia
 Ushers: Mark & Donna Flecchia-Barbara Moran-Conrad Fong
 Greeter: Karen Butler
 Nursery: Kristin Watanabe
 Stephanie Omobono
 School: Jan Costa-Chris Stahlinski
 Flower Deliverer: Bev Maher
 Collector: Barbara Moran
 Coffee Hour: Wynelle Scenna
 Bakers: Jan Costa-Kari Lynch

Feb 23 Lay Leader: Sally Willard
 10:30am Head Usher: Everett Langley
 Ushers: Everett-John Heald
 Paul Raymond
 Mark Flecchia
 Greeter: Barbara Moran
 Nursery: Kristin Watanabe
 Donna Flecchia
 School: Deb Raymond-Susan Eby
 Flower Deliverer: Bill Livezey
 Collector: Marcia Rich
 Coffee Hour: Chris Stahlinski
 Bakers: Gail Ciano
Marcia Rich

March 1 at 10:30am Communion Prep: Dave Ieradi-Sally Willard Lay Leader: Marcia Rich Head Usher: Deb Glancy Ushers: Deb-Donna Ferro Dave Ieradi-Sally Willard Greeter: Susan Eby Nursery: Kristin Watanabe Michael Lewis School: Deb Raymond-TBA Flower Deliverer: Cindy Phillips Collector: Wynelle Scenna Coffee Hour: Deb Glancy Bakers: Donna Ferro-Elaine Glancy
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February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30a Communion-School 12:15p Youth Choir Noon Annual Meeting/Luncheon 	3 7:30p AA 7:30p Trustees	4 11-1p Staff Evaluation 7:15p Deacons	5 8:30-10:30a True North Pastor Hours 1p C4C 7-9p Scouts 7:15p Choir	6 6:30p SLAA	7	8
9 10:30a Worship-School-Love Offering Noon Youth Choir Noon Missions Meeting	10 7:30p AA	11	12 8:30-10:30a True North Pastor Hours 1p C4C 7-9p Scouts 7:15p Choir	13 6:30p SLAA	14 	15
16 10:30a Worship-School Noon Youth Choir Noon Green Team Mtg Noon CTC	17 PRESIDENT'S DAY Church office Closed! 7:30p AA	18 1p Jericho Walk 7:15p PC Mtg	19 8:30-10:30a True North Pastor Hours 1p C4C 7-9p Scouts 7:15p Choir	20 MARCH HH Articles Due! 6:30p SLAA	21	22 1p Memorial Service for Ann Onthank
23 8:30a Green Team Breakfast with guest from MassSave 10:30a Worship-School-Red Wagon Noon Youth Choir 2-5p PHP Wine Tasting Fundraiser 	24 7:30p AA	25	26 8:30-10:30a True North Pastor Hours 9:30a HH Folding 1p C4C 7p NO Scouts  6:15p Choir 7pm ASH Wednesday Service 9	27 9-11A Book Study 6:30p SLAA 7-9p Book Study	28 6-9p Derby Setup	29 2-5p Pinewood Derby-Scouts  7p Jazz & Chocolate

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Address Service Requested



FEBRUARY 2020