

MAY HILLTOP HERALD 2020

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
Pastor

Sally Willard
Moderator

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Dear Church Family,

In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 10, there's an intriguing little encounter between Jesus, Martha and her sister Mary. You see, Jesus is visiting the home of the sisters. While he was there, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to what he said, but Martha was busy running around the house taking care of chores. Martha resented that Mary was just sitting there while there was so much work to be done! So, Martha complained to Jesus. She said, "*Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.*" (Luke 10:40). But Jesus replied by saying, "*Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.*" (54: 85-42). Jesus was saying that Mary knew what her priorities were while Martha was busy fussing and getting worked up over nothing.

Mary knew what her priorities were. I think that throughout our lives, many of us struggle with priorities. We spend lots of time on tasks which, in the scheme of things, really aren't that important, and then we neglect the things we should actually devote ourselves to. I have struggled with this paradox; how can I be so busy and yet neglecting important things at the same time? It's because I have spent much of my time on that which wasn't all that important. Maybe you can relate.

Before this pandemic hit, a refrain I heard often was, "I'm so tired." Of course, people didn't always use those words, but that's the message that was conveyed. People spoke with me about being busy, having too much on their plate, too many commitments, not feeling like they had enough hours in the day, looking forward to vacation, so they could step off the hamster wheel.

We have been given a unique opportunity to take a long pause, to reevaluate our lives now that so much has been stripped away, and we can ask ourselves, what is truly important? When the world opens back up again, what do I want to spend my time on? What do I want to let go of? I know that the church, while we do important work, sometimes we do too much and people's commitments to our church overwhelm them. We don't want the church to be a source of stress or anxiety, so we can ask ourselves, as a congregation, these same questions. Now that so much has been stripped away, when the world opens back up again, what do we want to continue with and what do we want to suspend? How can we be more faithful as the body of Christ? How will we need to change our priorities, and shift how we spend our time, so that we can be more like Mary, who was devoted to Christ's teachings, and less like Martha, who was distracted by unimportant things?

Whenever we start easing back into life together, I look forward to having these conversations, so that we can emerge from this time as a community which is more faithful to Jesus and his Gospel message.

With Love and Solidarity,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean



ZOOM BOOK DISCUSSION

On Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00pm, we'll have a book discussion on Zoom. We are going to discuss *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. Please let Pastor Angela know if you're planning to participate. All are welcome! The other book discussions we had planned for this spring are postponed until further notice.

JERICHO WALKS

The monthly Jericho Walks which were being held at the ICE Offices in Burlington have been postponed until further notice.

ZOOM WORSHIP

Per the guidelines from the Southern New England Conference of the UCC, we have been advised to have virtual worship until the end of May. Unless the guidance changes, this is the current plan. As decisions are made for June and beyond, we will keep the congregation updated. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Angela.

SAFE CHURCH GRANT BIG NEWS!

Back in January, the Safe Church Committee worked hard on a grant application for money from the state which would allow us to make our church property safer. Over 200 organizations applied and less than 67 grants were given out, but we were one of them! Because there was so much interest in the grant, most applications were not fully-funded, ours included. We asked for just over \$49,000 and we were awarded \$29,479.00. This will allow us to install electronic (key fob) locks on the Sanctuary Doors, the Education Building doors and the door going down into Skelton Hall (to protect our children during Sunday School). We will also have a video doorbell system installed on that door and installed on the door going into the Education Building. Thank you to everyone on the safe church committee who worked hard on this grant application. We will keep you posted with updates as the installation gets underway.

SABBATICAL PLANS

As of the publication of this Hilltop, no changes regarding Pastor Angela's sabbatical have been made. As decisions are made, that information will be publicized in the weekly emailing and Sunday bulletin.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If you or your family experience financial struggles as a result of COVID-19, the church is here to help you. We have a Deacons Fund which can be used for emergency financial assistance. Please reach out to Pastor Angela or Deacons Chair, Deb Glancy debglancy03@gmail.com if you could use financial support. All requests are kept confidential.

CHURCH MEMBER SUPPORT

If you are elderly or immunocompromised or don't feel comfortable leaving your home, we have a team of church members who can run errands for you, including doing your food shopping. If this would be helpful for you, please reach out to Bobbie in the church office, or Pastor Angela.

PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR CHURCH PLEDGES

The church is not insulated from the economic concerns regarding COVID-19. We will inevitably lose a lot of loose offerings because we won't be gathering for worship for so many weeks. That being said, the church still has fixed costs including utilities and salaries. Please continue your weekly or monthly pledges, if you're able. ***Checks can be mailed to the church*** If you're able to make an extra contribution, that would be much appreciated. We now have loss of rental income. Thank you so much for helping to sustain our community during this time of uncertainty.

Christ is Risen! Deacons are happy about seeing so many of you join our Holy Week, Easter, and weekly Sunday services on Zoom. In this time of distance, Sundays especially remind me of Christ’s presence among us, and it is one of the days during the week when I feel truly connected. I am grateful to see my friends, especially those of you who live far away. What a treat it is to have you in my living room each week. I display services on my living room TV – you’re bigger than life!

Deacons hope you are enjoying these meaningful services. I don’t know about you, but I look forward to Children’s Time probably more than the kids. That Deb Raymond makes me laugh and feel grateful that we have so many talented and giving people in our church. A big kudos to Angela, Joe, Deb, Debbie, Sarah, Mark, and the various lay leaders who take us through service each week. Thank you, Michael, for keeping us electronically connected and following along.

Our church community has a lot to be grateful for. Every person I knows contributes in some meaningful and important way as we hold virtual hands and pray that COVID-19 goes away soon. Do you know that our Called to Care committee sent more than 100 cards over the past month? Some were for Easter, but many more were to send cheer. Called to Care and many others are calling each other to simply say hi and check in. It can be easy to feel isolated, but all you have to do is look in the church telephone directory and give someone a call. It’s amazing how easy it is to start a conversation.

Although there is a lot to feel grateful for, Deacons are also aware that some of you are experiencing unemployment/underemployment and you are struggling financially. We want to remind you about the Deacons Fund. If you need some financial help, please send me an email (debglancy03@gmail.com). Our church has been preparing for this kind of need for a long time, and because of your generous donations in the past, we can help you in the present. Alternatively, call me at 617-281-6697. Confidentiality will be maintained. If you have a financial need I hope to hear from you.

Yours in Christ,
 Deb Glancy, Deacons Chair



Unfortunately we had to shorten the order of Easter Plants since we could not have Easter worship in the sanctuary. We want to thank the following folks who *were able* to donate plants in either memory/celebration/honor of loved ones. When we return to worship we want to adorn the sanctuary with flowers, so we will reach out to all at the time.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Aline Beck | Loved Ones |
| Costa Family | All our Loved Ones |
| Eby Family | Loved Ones |
| Fong Family | Conrad’s mother, Fay, Shirley’s father, Raymond Liu |
| | Friends, Family & Loved Ones |
| Shirley Garside | Husband Fred and Son Tim |
| Bobbie Killilea | Hilltop ladies, past, present and future |
| Killilea Family | Jason Yoho, Memere’, Grami, Family & Friends |
| Bill Livezey | Wife Nancy |
| Roberta Low | David Elliott Low |
| Kari Lynch | Loved Ones |
| Roy Nyren | Wife, Nancy |
| Paul Raymond | Remembering Ida Pollack |
| Marcia Rich | Graydon & Sue Rich, Harold & Thelma Neal |
| Shute Family | Our much loved family and friends, past and present |
| Stahlinski Family | Loved Ones |
| Lee & Lynn Tirrell | Ann & Charles Onthank |
| Todd Family | Nancy’s Mom |



Thank you, Special Musicians!

Our warmest thanks go to Debbie Claar, Sarah Clark, Mark Omobono, Liz and Chris Silva, and Lee Tirrell for singing during our online services in the month of April. They have all been so flexible and helpful as both soloists and leaders of song!

How Does Online Worship Music Work?

In case you were wondering how we have been doing this juggling act, here's the scoop! Joe is able to play all the solo instrumental music live from home. Usually, that's the prelude, offertory, and postlude. He uses his keyboard even though he has a piano because he has discovered the hard way that playing the piano sends the music loudly and directly into his neighbor's living room!

Joe can't play live for the singer, because he and the singer are in different locations and the singing and keyboard playing will not be synchronized; instead, it will sound like Pentecost. To solve this problem, Joe records the accompaniments for the solos as well as all of the service music and the hymns using a contraption called a Zoom H4nPro Handy Recorder. That device records the music as mp3 files, which he then transfers to his computer and sends by email to the singer. During the actual worship service, the singer is logged into Zoom from a computer but he or she needs to use some other sound source, like a cell phone or a second computer, to play the audio files while singing. We also discovered this the hard way, because if a singer tries to sing into a computer while also playing audio files from that computer, Zoom can't handle it and either cancels something out or garbles everything, once again producing a Pentecost-like cacophony.

All this work will only come to fruition with an excellent Zoom host. This is where Michael Lewis enters the picture. He is the person who makes sure you can hear each worship leader when it is their turn to speak, sing, or play. He is also the person who makes sure that the bulletin is on the screen whenever you need to see it for hymns or prayers. And he is the man who coordinates our tech rehearsal of Sunday worship every Saturday morning.

If you have a chance, please thank Michael, the singers, the lay leaders, the readers, and our pastor for all the work they have done to make our online worship possible and to keep us safe!

Choir Rehearsals Suspended

As of this writing, there will be no choir rehearsals during the month of May. We will resume rehearsals when it is safe to do so.



Summer Musicians

Believe it or not, it's not too early to think about performing for summer services! We welcome singers and instrumentalists to share their talents with the congregation. As of this writing, we don't know whether our services will be online or in person during the summer, but either way, we hope you will consider being summer soloist! Please email Joe Stoddard at music@ucburlington.org if you are interesting in helping out.

Deacons' Special Music Fund

We are very grateful to Kay Shute for her donation to the Deacons' Special Music Fund in memory of much-loved family and friends.

Keep in touch!

Email: music@ucburlington.org

Twitter: @ucbmusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs



At the Zoom Easter Sunrise Service, Keira & Liam did a fabulous job reading 2 poems. Ali & Peter drew a beautiful sunrise picture featured on the cover of the Sunrise Bulletin.

A challenge went out from Chris Stahlinski in her Children's Story of 3/29 for the kids to think of ways to save our planet. The challenge was expanded by Miss Deb to include the following: puzzles, posters and coloring sheets for Sunday School. 5th -7th graders to compete to earn coins to donate. Many students have responded, just awaiting for the remainder to respond, so we can make a donation to People Helping People in the Sunday school's name.

Thirteen cars participated in the Easter Car Parade decorated in streamers, balloons, signs, bunnies and pinwheels. Kids were hanging out windows waving & horns were beeping. The 12 homes we visited also participated with signs, waves, & wearing bunny ears. A great show of UCC love by so many!

Plans are moving forward on the Children/Youth Sunday Service on 6/14/20. The children/youth will lead the Service as they did last year. Whether it is live in church or via zoom. Bibles will be awarded, This year's High School Graduates will be recognized and all volunteers will be honored. Practice will be on line via Zoom, information will be distributed to parents in a couple of weeks describing each person's roll.

Plan for the 2nd Annual Sunday School Adventure: Thurs. **7/20/20 5:30 - 7:30**. BBQ, games, & plain old fun seeing each other midway through the summer. This is of course pending forthcoming Pandemic information.

Book group

Meeting via Zoom. May 13, 7 pm. Reading *The Book of Joy*.

Intergenerational

All Intergenerational events for May are cancelled.

The June event is still on schedule pending forthcoming Pandemic information.



June 7 Day at Walden Pond. Leave the church promptly at 1:30. Enjoy a picnic lunch then: Walk the Pond, Swim, or relax in a beach chair. As they did last year the kids spent the entire afternoon in the water!

Please contact Deb Raymond if you have any questions or ideas Cell: 857-373-9156.

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

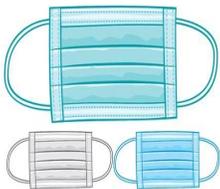
Due to our COVID-19 pandemic we are unable to meet and bring our food forward during worship service. The Burlington Pantry is still in need of any and all donations, including non-perishables, diapers, wipes and monetary donations. There is a storage bin in the parking lot of St. Mark's church (where the pantry is located). If you are a shopper and find it safe to make a trip to the store, try to pick up a few extra items and drop them off.

If a monetary donation make your check out to PHP and send to :

PHP
P.O. Box 343
Burlington, MA.

People Helping People has expanded its offerings to the community in light of COVID-19. If you or your family could benefit from receiving food through the food pantry, please contact the food pantry at 781-270-6625 or burlingtonpantry@gmail.com. In addition to non-perishable items, they have a wonderful array of fruits and vegetables. They're also offering lunch foods for families with children who normally receive their lunch at school.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE



We hope you are enjoying the beautiful spring flowers and flowering trees. Also that you are getting outside to enjoy fresh air and exercise. From all reports the air is cleaner now so enjoy it. Due to recent delivery of elastic we are able to continue to make masks for any of you who need one or two. You really need two since they should be washed after each use. We have patterns for all sizes including for children above the age of 2. Just let Bobbie know if you need any.

Please stay safe and continue to be creative until we can meet in groups again and that time will come!

FROM THE GREEN TEAM

At the beginning of Lent the Green team invited you to show kindness to Mother Earth and one of the suggested actions was to give up eating meat for 1-2 days a week. Unfortunately, our Meatless Luncheon was postponed due to our current social distancing situation, but that doesn't mean we can't share our meatless recipes with one another. Please send your favorite meatless recipes to Chris Stahlinski at cmlynch51@yahoo.com and we'll get them on the website for everyone to view and hopefully try.



GIANT YARD SALE RESCHEDULED TO: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2020



Parish Council has approved a new date for our yard sale. As we all know, it's important to wait until people are comfortable being in close contact with one another and are not fearful of touching random objects. For those who have set aside items to donate, we greatly appreciate your storing them for a bit longer.

We are looking to raise \$2000, the amount that is part of the 2020 budget.

These are the items we are looking for.

If you can gather a few and store them til September, that would be wonderful.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

**dishes, glasses, silverware
pots and pans, kitchen tools
vases, decorative items
suitcases, blankets**

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

OTHER HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

SPORTS AND EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

ARTWORK, PRINTS, AND PICTURE FRAMES

JEWELRY AND HANDBAGS

CRAFTS AND COLLECTIBLES

HARDWARE, TOOLS, ELECTRONICS

BOOKS, DVDS, CDS

TOYS, BICYCLES, PUZZLES, GAMES

OFFICE SUPPLIES

CLOTHES

SMALL FURNITURE



All our church folks who are alone during this crucial timeframe

We love you!

Bill Livezey

Donna Lee Glancy, housemates & Staff

Dave Ierardi's son Dano and partner Alisha

Sarah Clark's mother-in-law Sandra

Jan Costa

Jessy McNeil's friend K'ween finishing chemo

Joe Stoddard's mom Lillian

Betty & Woody Knowles, friend Janet Hurley

Roberta Low's friend Doug

Anna Karwan and her family

Joyce Carpenter's Nephew

Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg & friend Frank

Claire Simas and grandson

Mark Flecchia's mom Vivian

Kendra Griep's grandfather

Luella Brown

Carol & Ron Downing

Conrad Fong and his Dad, Gim

Alan Wright's friend Seth's Dad

Anne Stafford, her son Bill and grandson Zach

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

Friend of the Killiea's Joe Damaso

All our caregivers, military here and abroad,

our First Responders

and Urgent Care workers!

BE SAFE!



Our heartfelt sympathy to Jean and Melody Baker on the recent loss of Husband, Dad, Ken Baker. He was a gentle man with many talents in art and voice. He was a joy to be part of our choir and will be so dearly missed. Please keep all his family and friends in your prayers.

Congratulations to Nancy and Cy Todd on the birth of their new Granddaughter Zelda Gordon Kane-Todd, born on April 23rd. Daughter to Jeremy and Liz Todd. Blessings to all of you!



MAY BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Joe Stoddard
- 1 Dennis Huebner
- 3 Ron MacKenzie
- 4 Rachel McNeil
- 7 Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
- 8 Janet Chin
- 11 Aimee Tredeau
- 12 Sally Mansfield-Smith
- 12 Everett Langley
- 14 Jennifer Baylor
- 15 Marj Zamanian



- 15 Alex Lewis
- 16 Karen Butler
- 17 Theo Brierley
- 19 Kari Lynch
- 20 Cindy Phillips
- 21 Jane Raymond
- 21 Brielle Ramirez (Killilea)
- 23 Jennifer (Eby) McDonough
- 24 Lee Tirrell
- 24 Stephanie Samarjian
- 28 Eliot Spearson
- 30 Lorna Scolponeti

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

May 3 Communion Worship at 10:30am Livestream

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Music: Mark Omobono
Children's Time: Deb Raymond

May 10 Worship at 10:30am Livestream

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Music: Laura Nowell
Children's Time: Deb Raymond

May 17 Worship at 10:30am Livestream

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Music: Sarah Clark
Children's Time: Deb Raymond

May 24 Worship at 10:30am Livestream

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Music: Debbie Claar
Children's Time: Deb Raymond

May 31 Worship at 10:30am Livestream

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Wynelle Scenna
Music: Mark Omobono
Children's Time: Deb Raymond

June 7 Communion Worship at 10:30am Livestream

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Music: Debbie Claar
Children's Time: Deb Raymond



May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Montessori School Closed					1  Joe Stoddard	2
3 10:30a Worship via Livestream	4 7:30p AA 7:30p Trustees Livestream	5 7:15p Deacons Livestream	6	7  Pastor Angela!	8	9
10 10:30a Worship via Livestream 	11 7:30p AA	12	13 7pm Book Study Livestream!	14	15	16
17 10:30a Worship via Livestream	18 7:30p AA	19 7:15 PC Mtg Livestream	20 Hilltop Deadline	21	22	23
24 10:30a Worship via Livestream	25  7:30p AA	26	27 June Hilltop mailing	28	29	30
31 10:30a Worship via Livestream						

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6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested



MAY 2020