

HILLTOP HERALD (December 2020)

Dear Church Family,

Let's talk about the first Christmas. No, I take that back. Let's start nine months before the first Christmas. Mary has just found out that she's pregnant. Now, I had a pregnancy discovery of my own several months ago. Lots of happy tears were shed and hugs were exchanged between my husband and I. But we were hoping for this, expecting this. We are financially stable(ish), we have a room in our house ready for a new baby. It didn't come as a total surprise. I also didn't learn about my pregnancy from an angel. Mary, on the other hand, was still living with her parents. She and Joseph weren't even married yet. They weren't ready for a baby. And hearing about her pregnancy from a divine messenger?! I imagine her reaction was less happy tears and more tears of anxiety, confusion and fear. Would her family disown her? Would Joseph banish her? Women didn't work back then; they had no means of supporting themselves outside of their family. How was she was going to care for this newborn baby?

Now let's talk about the first Christmas. I can only imagine how uncomfortable a very-pregnant Mary must have felt travelling on foot (or by donkey) to Bethlehem. Then, in the middle of these travels, she has to give birth surrounded not by her labor team of midwives, but by well-meaning strangers at the inn. They presumably helped her give birth in the stable while livestock looked on. I don't think this is anyone's ideal labor scenario.

Despite the fear and anxiety and substandard birthing environment and high rates of infant mortality, Jesus was born, and he was healthy, and his parents raised him to be an incredible human. Nothing could stop the love of God from breaking through into our world.

Well you know what? Despite the fear and anxiety and substandard year we've all experienced, Jesus will be born again. I know that many of us will miss our favorite holiday traditions and seeing family and school concerts and all the special things we do at church this time of year, but Christ will still be born. We will still have sacred worship services each week, including one on Christmas Eve. We will still hear our favorite Christmas music and light the candles on our Advent wreath. We will still have a special worship service on Dec. 13th featuring our children. We will even have a special worship service, Reclaiming Christmas, on Dec. 9th at 7pm to remind us that Christ will still be born. Nothing, not even a pandemic, can stop the love of God from breaking forth into our world.

I hope you'll join us for these special festivities as we all seek hope, peace, joy and love this Advent and Christmas season.

With all the love I can summon,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

P.S. You'll be receiving an *Advent at Home* package in the mail, and it includes five candles so you can make an Advent wreath at home. You'll want to have your wreath ready for worship on Nov. 29th so we can all light the first candle on our wreaths together. You can read more about the packages in the Deacons snippet of this Hilltop. If you haven't received a package, please let the church office know and we'll be sure to send you one!

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
Pastor

Sally Willard
Moderator

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ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES



November 29 Advent begins via Zoom Worship at 10:30am

Don't forget to have your Advent Candle Packet set up for worship each week!
Join us as we light our candles!

December 9th Reclaiming Christmas Service (in place of our Calming Christmas) 7pm on Zoom

During this service we will remember that while we may have grief and disappointment there is still joy to be found in Advent and Christmas.

December 24th Christmas Eve Service at 7pm on Zoom

December 27th Special Worship Service from the Council of Ministers with the UCC .

As we give our Pastor and worship leaders a Sunday off to rest, join us on Zoom at 10:30am.

Goodbye 2020 and welcome 2021 with new possibilities and joy!
Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas Season!



ARE YOU ZOOM MEETING SAVVY?

UCC Burlington is looking for a few good people to be a backup Zoom host or a rotating Zoom cohost for our weekly Zoom church services. Gratefully, we have been able to rely on Michael Lewis and Sally Willard to manage our weekly Zoom logistics. Even though Michael and Sally are steady contributors, it is important to have back-up support, especially if someone is sick, out-of-town, or simply needs a break.

If you are interested in being a Zoom host back-up or a rotating cohost, please let Deb Glancy know (debglancy03@gmail.com). We'll provide instruction, coaching, and lots of support. We are seeking 5-6 people who would be willing to serve this very important role. Please consider how your skills can support this need. Thank you very much.

Deb Glancy, Deacons Chair

SPECIAL WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 27TH

Your worship team including Angela, Joe, Michael, and all our music leaders have worked very hard all year on our weekly Zoom services. They are going to take a well-deserved rest on December 27th. For that service, we are going to experience a worship service prepared by the Council of Conference Ministers of the UCC. It was specifically created for the Sunday after Christmas so that church staff can have a week off. Deb Glancy will be our Zoom host that day and we'll still have coffee hour! Please join us for worship on Dec. 27th using the usual Zoom worship link, and it'll be a chance for us to experience a different kind of Zoom worship.



ADVENT, (from Latin adventus, “coming”) in the Christian church calendar, is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

Advent for us at UCC Burlington will be different because we cannot gather in person in our beautiful sanctuary, but candles will be lit in the windows, and wreaths hung on the doors. While we miss being there, we are reminded that we can prepare for the birth of Christ wherever we are.

Every household will receive an “Advent at Home” package. It has a booklet with daily devotionals which we hope you’ll use to stay connected to your faith this season. It includes poetry, scripture, reflections and visual art. We have sent you five candles: three blue, one pink and one white. This is so that you can create an Advent wreath for your own home. Consider using found materials around the house or from outside to create a wreath to hold your candles.

During each week’s service we will witness a recording of a family lighting the Advent wreath in our sanctuary. We hope you will participate by lighting the appropriate candle from your “Advent at Home” package and in so doing feel the warmth and love of this community.

There will be a Reclaiming Christmas Service(instead of a Calming Christmas service) on Wednesday, December 9th at 7pm. During this service we will remember that while we may have grief and disappointment there is still joy to be found in Advent and Christmas.

We hope that the journey through Advent gives you comfort and peace, and that you find great joy when we gather at the manger on Christmas Eve. **The Christmas Eve worship will be at 7pm.**

If you find yourself struggling during this season, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your church family. We are here for you. Together we will find creative ways to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

With Unending Love and Support,
The Board of Deacons and Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

All services will be on Zoom – the link to join Zoom is on the church web page.

MISSIONS UPDATE!



CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

If your mask needs to be replaced we still are producing them. Besides masks we do have prayer shawls if you know of someone who would benefit from the warmth and love these shawls represent. We will meet on Thursdays at 1pm in Sewall Hall (outside if weather is nice).

If you do knit or crochet, we are giving hats and scarves to the Lowell Transitional Living Center and are looking into giving some to the People Helping People Wish Tree. We need high school adult hats, scarves; youth hats, mittens, scarves, and toddler hats and mittens. You can drop off finished projects at the church office Mon-Thur 9-3pm. If you need a pattern, yarn, a mask or a prayer shawl please contact Bobbie or Susan Eby.

WISH TREE



Thank you very much to our volunteers who offered to work at the **WISH TREE AT THE BURLINGTON MALL**, representing our church.

Remember to come and shop and make wishes come true! The Wish Tree should be open every day now.

Our first volunteer day was November 30. On December 7 we will be there from 11am to 7pm. Please come by if you can, even to say hi!



City Missions is again collecting NEW coats for all age children, toddler to High School. This included a special need

for **LARGE ADULT COATS**. There is a bin outside Bobbie's office for any NEW winter coats you may wish to donate. Barbara Moran will deliver these to the collection center in Westwood. **DEADLINE is December 11th OR.....**

You may order a coat online and send it directly to the Collection Center at:

First Parish Westwood
ATTN: City Mission
252 Nahatan Street
Westwood, MA 02090

SISTER JOYCE CLOTHING COLLECTION

Due to the current COVID crisis, at this time Sister Joyce is unable to take any of our clothing donations. The shop is not open for folks to go in and sort etc. ***Please do not drop off any more clothing donations for Sister Joyce at this time.***

LTLC - Lowell Shelter is in need of the following items for MEN and WOMEN



Most Critical (New or Used):

Winter Jackets
Boots -Warm socks
Gloves
Jeans

Sweatshirts with hoods

Less critical:

All other adult sized clothing

There will be a bin outside the church office if you can donate any items.
Thank you!

The Sundays in the fall have been absolutely gorgeous to hold Sunday School LIVE! outdoors. We have walked to the Sewall House marker, walked to the Burlington Cemetery and found one of our 1st ministers, Rev. Jones, daughter's grave. Best of all we had a scavenger hunt at Simonds Park. Our Zoom Sunday School has been well attended, with the kids very engaged in games.

2020 Calendar Sunday School Schedule 10:30 -11:30

11/29 Zoom Sun School - Jesus group	12/5 Jeopardy Tournament at 6pm
12/6 Zoom Sun School to practice - ALL	12/13 Zoom Sun School Christmas Reading- ALL
12/20 Zoom Sun School - God group	12/27 Zoom Sun School- ALL

INTERGENERATIONAL



Last chance to be a Jeopardy contestant—Sunday, December 6th 1 - 2 PM

As you know, Sally won the 1st round, don't let her go on to be the unchallenged winner! You can play as an individual, or a team of 2 or more that can sit together or as a family.

Please sign up no later than Saturday, December 5 at noon. Masks require!

Contact Deb Raymond Cell/Text: 857-373-9156 or email angelfoods@msn.com



Our 1st Annual UCC Burlington auction was a raving success!! We exceeded our expectations, thanks to all our incredible donors & bidders. The Burlington businesses, friends & church members really were generous with donations, it is very heartwarming in such at such a tough time.

The final total is \$7954.78. 100% of your bid (unless credit card fees were taken out) went to our church, there was no overhead.

Thank you, thank you to our Zoom auction party hostess Deb Glancy, always a good laugh with Deb.

And thank you to the tireless team that made it happen: Joan Zink, Kari Lynch, Lucy Damiani, Rev. Angela & Deb Raymond.

Same time, same place next year!



Thank you, Special Musicians!

We are very grateful to all those who provided solos and duets in October: Hope Calandrelli, Debbie Claar, Sarah Clark, Laura Nowell, Mark Omobono, Aimee Tredeau, and Deana Tredeau.

Music Leaders in December

December 6th – Liz and Chris Silva will be our soloists and Julie Lewis will lead the hymns

December 9th - (Reclaiming Christmas) – Debbie Claar, soprano

December 13th – Hope Calandrelli will be our piano soloist and Debbie Claar will lead the hymns

December 20th – The Tredeau Trio (Aimee, Deana, and Sarah)

December 24th – We will have a complement of singers and instrumentalists!

So far, our volunteers are Debbie Claar, Julie Lewis, Liz and Chris Silva, and the Tredeau Trio

December 27th - We will have a special worship

Violinist Lisa Brooke to Play for Christmas Eve

We are delighted to welcome back Lisa Brooke for our Christmas Eve service.

Lisa will be playing the prelude, offertory, and postlude with Joe as well as all the Christmas carols.

Volunteer your talents!

We would love to add to our roster of volunteer musicians! Whether you'd like to share one solo or lead an entire service, please contact Joe Stoddard at music@uccburlington.org to share your time and talent!

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org

Twitter: @uccbmusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

ANTI-RACISM ACCOUNTABILITY

GROUP CONTINUING

The Zoom Anti-Racism Accountability Group is going strong. The upcoming dates are Dec. 2nd and Dec. 16th. at 7pm. Please email Pastor Angela if you'd like to participate and she will send you the Zoom link. We'd love to have you join us.



Prayer
Requests

Donna Ferro's friend Jamuna Manjunatha
 Karen Ciardi's Mom and Dad, Dottie & Bill
 Bobbie Killilea's sister Karla-health issues

Rev. David Smith
 Wynelle Scenna

Lynn & Lee Tirrell's brother-in-law Don
 Scott Carpenter

The Blaney's daughter-in-law Carey
 Pastor Angela's Mom Kim

David Ierardi's parents, son Dano and Alisha
 Prayers for Brianna

Kelly Sievert's brother, Geoff

Aimee Tredeau's friend, Mercedes and children
 Malki and Zaire

Pastor Bruce recovering from acute leukemia

Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian

Carol and Ron Downing's brother Charlie
 and Carol's sister-in-law Joan
 Barbara Leonard

Claire Simas and her grandson

Anne Stafford, son Bill and grandson Zach
 Joe Stoddard's mom Lillian

Betty & Woody Knowles, Janet Hurley

Roberta Low's friend Doug

Anna Karwan and her family

Joyce Carpenter's Nephew

Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg and friend Frank
 Kendra Griep's grandfather

Luella Brown

Alan Wright's friend Seth's Dad

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

Our First Responders! Our caregivers!

Urgent Care workers!

Military here and abroad!



4 Janet Knudsen
 13 Andrew Olney
 15 Kristina Duran
 17 Michael Tredeau
 17 David McNeil
 18 Lance Olney
 18 Ellen Salera
 19 Lauren Costa
 23 Gideon Spearson
 25 Our Savior Jesus
 26 Robert Stahlinski
 29 Maddy Bonnell
 31 Dorothy Drinkwater

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

December 6-Second Sunday of Advent Zoom at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Candle Lighters: The Lewis Family
Music: Liz & Chris Silva and Julie Lewis
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

December 9 Reclaiming Christmas Worship via Zoom 7pm

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Music: Debbie Claar

December 13-Third Sunday of Advent Zoom at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Sarah Clark
Candle Lighters: Roberta Low and Lucy Damiani
Music: Hope Calandrelli and Debbie Claar
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

December 20-Fourth Sunday of Advent Zoom at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Laura Nowell
Candle Lighters: Glancy Family
Music: Deana & Aimee Tredeau and Sarah Clark
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

December 24th Christmas Eve Service Zoom at 7pm

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Candle Lighters: TBD
Music: Lisa Brooke, Debbie Claar, Julie Lewis, Liz & Chris Silva
Deana & Aimee Tredeau, Sarah Clark

December 27-Special Worship with Council of Ministers Zoom at 10:30am

Zoom Host: Deb Glancy

January 3-Worship via Zoom at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Music: TBD
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7p Deacons Meeting via Zoom	2 7p Scouts 7p Anti-Racism via Zoom	3 1p C4C PJ & Underwear for Wish Tree deadline	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:30a Worship via Zoom 1p Jeopardy	7 6:30p AA 7:30p Trustees Meeting	8	9 7p Scouts Reclaiming Christmas Via Zoom At 7pm	10 1p C4C	11 Coats for Kids Donation Deadline	12
13 3rd Sunday Of Advent 10:30a Worship via Zoom 1p Missions Meeting	14 6:30p AA	15 7p PC Meeting	16 7p Scouts 7p Anti-Racism via Zoom	17 1p C4C	18	19
20 4th Sunday Of Advent 10:30a Worship via Zoom	21 6:30p AA JANUARY HILLTOP ARTICLES DUE!	22	23 7p Scouts	24 7p Christmas Eve Service Via Zoom	25 Merry Christmas! 	26
27 10:30a Special Worship Service!	28 6:30p AA	29	30 7p Scouts?	31  2020	 <div style="border: 2px solid black; background-color: #00aaff; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> 2021!! Wishing you a happy, healthy New Year!! </div>	

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested

TO:

