

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
CONGREGATIONAL
6 LEXINGTON STREET
BURLINGTON, MA 01803**



CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

7pm Worship Service

**We look forward to welcoming you
when we're able to be back in our sanctuary!**

DECEMBER 24, 2020
ZOOM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP
7:00PM

Remember to have your advent candles ready!

DECEMBER 27, 2020
Special Service Zoom Livestream
at 10:30am

*We believe that God calls us to love unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ. Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God, **we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means.** In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation. We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love. We welcome individuals and families of every configuration into the full life and ministry of this church. Join us on our faith journey!*

UPCOMING WORSHIP*

[December 24-Christmas Eve Service on Zoom at 7pm](#)

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

December 27 Worship via Zoom at 10:30am

Deb Glancy will be our Zoom host with a special service from the Council .
Our Pastor and Worship Participants will have a well deserved day off!

***Here is the link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/756975189>

You need to download the ZOOM app on your ipad or computer.
If you cannot access it, you can always dial in on your phone and listen by audio.

The phone number is: 929-205-6099
Enter meeting ID: 756 975 189 when prompted.

You will receive a bulletin for the upcoming Sunday, via email with the hymns attached. This way you can have the bulletin with you at home while joining us for worship. During our Zoom worship, I will share prayer requests that I received throughout the week, *so if you have any prayers that you'd like shared on Sunday morning, please call me 727-776-7892 or email them to me RevWells@uccburlington.org before Saturday night.*

Thank you.
Angela

PLEASE READ THROUGH ALL THE ARTICLES IN
THIS WEEKLY!



Congratulations to Michael, Julie,
Alex and Amelia on the birth of:

Madelyn Hope Lewis
Born on Dec. 21, 2020
5 lbs., 15 oz.

Mom and baby are doing well!

REFLECTIONS OF 2020

As you reflect on the year in review, do you have any positive thoughts you'd like to share? Pass them along to the church office and we'll put them in the weekly emailing so that we can be inspired by each other.

Church member, Gail Ciano, shares with us her reflections on 2020 and what she has learned this year:

Oh, 2020, what have you done?
You have taken our joy, taken our peace,
Given us turmoil and weakened our faith in our ways



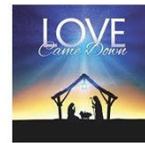
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You have taken our friends, taken our loved ones,
Either through death or distance.

And yet there are glimmers of good to be found in 2020
We slowed down and got to know our families again
We became proficient in Zoom and ordering on-line.
We reached out to check on our neighbors
We reconnected with the hobbies that bring us joy
We emptied the animal shelters.

We walked.
We learned:

- Learned that we are not invincible
- Learned that our actions influence others
- Learned that many are vulnerable, more vulnerable than we realized
- Learned that prejudice is deep rooted, unconscious, and real
- Learned that it takes effort to see over the hype to identify and understand the truth



And so, as we enter 2021, where will we take our lessons?
My prayer as a Christian is that we will take the opportunities presented in 2020
To grow to be better people individually, as a community, and as a nation.

This Christmas season as you celebrate, remember it is not about the boxes and bows.
It is the glow of God's love that brings the light to the holiday. And it is the glow of
God's love that will help us make the most of 2021-- out of the aches of the dumpster
fire known as 2020.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATED INFORMATION

In mid-November we sent out the promised preliminary budget figures for 2021. Since then we have had in-gathering Sunday and are a few weeks into Advent.

We wanted to reconnect and give you a status update of the pledges received to date.

	<u># of Pledges</u>	<u>\$ of Pledges</u>
This year to date	55	\$135,745.00
This time last year	66	\$150,000.00

We are slightly behind last years' submissions at this point in the Stewardship campaign. That is not really surprising given our remote status. Several people have mentioned they have yet to mail in their packets. Our goal is \$203,545, which means that we are 67% of the way there.

If you have not already done so, please submit your 2021 pledges and time and talent survey as soon as possible. Thank you for your support of this church.

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.



CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Due to the increase in COVID cases we have decided to meet on ZOOM at 1pm on Thursdays. The Link is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95879026186?pwd=NVBjdZmQWZzOG94UzNWSFNuZlhHQTo9>

Meeting ID: 958 7902 6186

Passcode: 01803

Thank you to everyone who made hats, gloves, mittens for school age children. These were donated to the WISH TREE.

SPORT THEMED MASKS

Masks made with material featuring all four Boston professional sports team have been made. These are two sided and have different sports team on each side. They are free as long as the supply lasts. We are asking you to give a donation to the Church to offset the price of the fabric. Talk to Bobbie or Susan Eby about seeing the masks.



WINE ORDERS - PROCEEDS COME TO THE CHURCH!

With most of us are dining in these days - ever wonder what wine goes best with your fine home cooked meal or take out order? Jessy McNeil has joined with Scout and Cellar wine to start a fundraiser. These wines are pesticide free, sulfite free with no added sugar. They offer a variety of reds/white/blends and sparkling clean crafted wines. With the holidays fast approaching and travel restrictions; would you consider visiting my website for stress-free gift shopping deliver at your doorstep! They also have 2-bottle gift packs which makes a wonderful holiday gift. All proceeds go towards our church fundraising goals. Orders over \$100 receive free shipping. You simply visit Jessy's website, place your order and your items will be delivered directly to you. Please reach out to her if you need assistance in ordering (508) 631-0025.

Thank you,

Jessy McNeil

scoutandcellar.com/jessymcneil



Pastor Angela - Pastoral Care

If you are struggling during this time of social distancing, or if you just want someone to talk to, I am available for you. We can set up a time to talk via phone, FaceTime or Zoom, whichever you prefer. ***Please do not isolate yourself if you are struggling. You can email me or call me to schedule a time to talk,*** RevWells@UCCBurlington.org or 727-776-7892.

Church Office

Bobbie will be in the office Monday - Thursday 9-3pm for any items that may need to be dropped off. There is a security system, just be sure to ring the bell and she will let you in!

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.

Medication Assistance

If you are concerned about how you're going to get your medications during this time of social distancing, please contact Cindy Phillips. She can assist you. She can be reached at: 781-552-1034.

People Helping People

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.

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. Thank you so much for helping to sustain our community during this time of uncertainty.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 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 |

MONTESSORI SCHOOL-DOWNSTAIRS

Monday-Friday from 8-6pm!

SEWALL HALL RENTERS

MONDAYS 6:30-9PM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAYS 7-9pm SCOUTS

Please **DO NOT** interrupt when they are in session!



Claire Simas-fall

Passing of Natalie Gillingham

Marj Zamanian's son-in-law's friend Brendon Casey

Tredeau Family friend Jeremy Watkins

Barbara Moran

Laura Nowell-doing well after knee surgery

Gail Ciano after a fall

Sue Wisniewski's Dad

Donna Ferro's friend Jamuna Manjunatha doing better

Bobbie Killilea's sister Karla, niece Leanne both doing better,

Godson Chris & Wife Brianne (delivering baby in 4 weeks) both with COVID

Karen Ciardi's Mom and Dad, Dottie & Bill

Rev. David Smith
Wynelle Scenna
Scott Carpenter
Joyce Carpenter
Howie & Charlotte Blaney's daughter-in-law Carey
Pastor Angela's Mom Kim
Kelly Sievert's brother, Geoff
Friend of Aimee Tredeau, Mercedes and her kids, Malki and Zaire
Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian
Barbara Leonard
Claire Simas and her grandson
Anne Stafford, son Bill and grandson Zach
Joe Stoddard's mom Lillian
Betty and Woody Knowles, their friend Janet Hurley
Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg and friend Frank
Kendra Griep's grandfather
Luella Brown
Jean Bastos
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!

BE SAFE!

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