

HILLTOP HERALD - JANUARY 2021

Dear Church Family,

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
 Pastor

Sally Willard
 Moderator

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When you read this, it will be the year 2021, thanks be to God! I don't think we've been this excited about a new year since the clock struck midnight in the year 2000. We exhaled a collective sigh of relief when we didn't succumb to a global computer glitch. As this year draws to a close, I think we're all exhaling a collective sigh of relief because it's over. A vaccine is making its way through our communities, many of us are praying for a "normal" summer, fall and winter next year. I can only dream of how lovely it'll be to be back in our sanctuary next year for Christmas Eve. I don't want to put together another Zoom Christmas Eve service. Indeed, we have much to look forward to, but surely, we learned something from this pandemic time? This is (God-willing) the only time in our lives when we will have had such an experience. While it was awful much of the time for many different reasons, I know we learned *something* from this liminal time, this pause. In reflecting on the prior year, here's what I am going to take away from it:

- I really do enjoy working from home. That being said, so much is lost in working from home. I have missed the informal conversations with Bobbie and others who pop into the church office, the phone calls that I'm able to take on the spot rather than returning messages. In 2021, I'll be back in the office as much as I am able, while remembering the benefits of working from home.
- One silver lining was being able to spend so much more time with my child than I would have otherwise. I would have missed many bedtimes because of church meetings. I am grateful that Zoom meetings allowed me to quickly toggle between being a pastor and a mom, and I will treasure that time we shared, even if it was amidst a pandemic.
- I actually connected more with friends and family than I would have otherwise. We had more Zoom gatherings and phone calls than we used to. I am going to continue to put in the effort to sustain those relationships even when the pandemic is over.
- The car parades were wonderful. They allowed us to see folks who haven't been to church in ages and to spread love and cheer around Burlington. We should consider how we can continue connecting with folks in unique and fun ways even after the pandemic.
- The town came out for our small businesses. We stepped up and we supported them in order to help them survive this very challenging year. I hope that one lesson we take from this is not to take our small businesses for granted, and to continue to spend our money in ways that support our local economies.
- We also came out in support of our essential workers, everyone from the frontline nurses, doctors and CNA's to the grocery store cashiers. We realized that many people who keep our world turning are underpaid and undervalued. I hope that going into the new year, this appreciation and gratitude will not dissipate and the people who are underpaid will see wage increases.

Continued.....

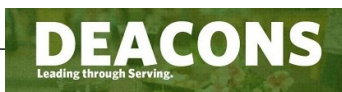


- Creativity! The music, art and poetry people produced from home has been incredible. I am thankful that this art will serve as a time capsule, helping to capture the feelings and emotions of the moment for the history books as Covid retreats further and further into the rearview mirror.
- Most Americans are very financially vulnerable. This pandemic exposed our nation's ever-increasing wealth gap. I hope that our political and economic leaders learn from this, and we work to create a nation in which wealth is more evenly distributed, so that millions of Americans don't have to live paycheck to paycheck.
- The labor that mothers pour into the home and into the economic market is highly undervalued. Our economy is built on the unpaid labor of parents (primarily mothers) who work outside the home and take on the bulk of domestic responsibilities, and it isn't sustainable. I hope that affordable childcare, paid parental leave and more flexible workplaces will emerge from this pandemic, otherwise it will erase decades of progress in our efforts to achieve gender equality in the workforce.

That's all I've got for now. What lessons from the pandemic are you taking with you into 2021? Did you learn a hobby? Come to appreciate something you hadn't before? Please tell me, I'd love to hear from you.

Happy New Year,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean



The 'Advent to Go' packets were well received. Candles were placed in the church windows and wreaths added to the doors. The Deacons appreciate everyone who volunteered to record the lighting of the Advent candles in the sanctuary for inclusion in the Sunday morning services.

The process of hiring an interim pastor for Angela's parental leave is on schedule—see elsewhere in the Hilltop for an exciting update!

Called to Care and the Deacons are sending out extra Christmas cards as the usual practice of delivering poinsettias to the home bound and people who have suffered an illness or loss isn't safe this year.

There was discussion about what we are already doing and what else we could do to connect with people, especially newcomers, when all worship is on Zoom.

Social/Spiritual Circles are on hold until at least early February due to the Covid surge and lack of attendance.

Love Offering money was used to purchase gift cards for several families to help buy gifts and celebrate the Christmas season.

The Deacons Special Music Fund 2021 budget was approved. This money supplements the music needs supported by the church budget and is used for musicians and extra singers for special services.

Memorial funds have been donated in honor of Richard Cahoon, Chris's father.



Happy New Year to All!

I am sure most of you are as ready to put 2020 behind as I am. Last year was a tough year for our church and for us individually as well as collectively. Thankfully, technology helped to bring us together and kept us out of isolation.

Since October, Parish Council (PC) has been hard at work developing and refining the proposed 2021 budget. Given the uncertainty of 2021 and the anticipated rental shortages, developing a budget has been difficult. PC members have been steadfast in considering our options, reaching out to parishioners requesting their pledges, and determining how financial needs can be reduced. As I write this we have reached 78.4 percent of our 2021 goal of \$203,545.

We will get through the malaise that beset us last March. Although not as soon as we would all like and perhaps not all at once, we will return to in-person services in our sanctuary. We also anticipate continuing to use Zoom as a connector to those who live afar or who are housebound. I look forward to seeing you at first virtually, and before you know it, again in the sanctuary. I have high hopes for 2021.

Our congregation has helped make everything work because you care and give of yourselves, spiritually, actively, and financially.

Thank you!

Sally Willard

Moderator

ANTI-RACISM GROUP: NEW DATE AND TIME!

The Anti-Racism Accountability Group has moved our meetings to the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm. **Our next meeting is on January 27th at 7pm.** We will be partnering with Burlington Against Racism (BAR) to take actionable steps to address racial inequities in our town. Stay tuned for updates on those meetings. For now, our next meeting is on January 27th. Everyone is invited to this group as we work to root racism out of ourselves and our community. Please email Pastor Angela if you'd like to join us and she can send you the Zoom link.

INTERIM PASTOR UPDATE

A search committee composed of Joe Stoddard, Bobbie Killilea, Lucy Damiani and Pastor Angela worked throughout the fall to find an interim pastor to cover for Angela while she is on parental leave. The good news is that we have hired someone! Rev. Ginger Bove will be with us from March-May. She is an ordained UCC pastor who currently works as a chaplain at Lahey Clinic. We look forward to introducing her to the congregation in the coming months.



Thank you, Special Musicians!

At this very busy time of year, we are so grateful to all the volunteer musicians who took time out of their schedules to provide music for our worship services: Hope Calandrelli, Debbie Claar, Sarah Clark, Julie Lewis, Mark Omobono, Liz & Chris Silva, Aimee Tredeau, and Deana Tredeau. It was "all hands on deck" for Christmas Eve, and all our musicians were so gracious in taking time to record their videos for us to use during Christmas Eve worship. Thank you to everyone!

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!

Singers for January Services

A heartfelt "thank-you" to all of our volunteer musicians!

Sunday, January 3rd (Epiphany) – Sarah Clark, soprano

Sunday, January 10th (The Baptism of Christ) – Mark Omobono, tenor

Sunday, January 17th (Second Sunday after Epiphany) – Debbie Claar, soprano

Sunday, January 24th (Third Sunday after Epiphany) – Sarah Clark, soprano

Sunday, January 31st (Fourth Sunday after Epiphany) – Laura Nowell, alto

Deacons' Special Music Fund

The congregation is most grateful to all the donors to the Deacons' Special Music Fund! The following people made donations for Christmas:

- Anne Grunert, in memory of her aunt, Suzanne Trefethen
- Barbara and David Leonard
- Paul Mouratidis and Joe Stoddard, in thanksgiving for the ministry of the choirs and all the volunteer musicians who have given of their time and talents to make our worship on Zoom possible

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

MISSIONS UPDATE!

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We were happy to be able to support the Burlington Wish Tree through a donation of 60 hats, 33 scarves and 16 fingerless mittens that had been made this year. We thank all members of the Congregation who used their creative time knitting or sewing these items. We plan on making more hats and scarves for the Lowell Transition Center to help the homeless in Lowell. Also we are getting organized to make chemo hats for cancer patients at Lahey. If you are interested in making chemo hats there are a few requirements for these hats and that we will happily share with you.

We are meeting via Zoom every Thursday afternoon 1 to 3. If you would like to join us for conversation and creativity contact Susan Eby (mmoosie@hotmail.com) for the zoom address.

COATS FOR KIDS



Over two dozen brand new coats were donated by our members for the City Mission Boston annual drive. Barbara Moran initiated this effort, and Jan McSheffrey delivered the coats to the drop off location in Lexington.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Please donate to the Christmas offering, if you possibly can. Half goes to our operating expenses. Half will go to People Helping People, as recommended by Missions and approved by Parish Council. Thank you to Angela for preparing the letter and to Bobbie for doing yet another full mailing. Hopefully envelopes will be back in the pews next Christmas.

WISH TREE PAJAMA AND UNDERWEAR DRIVE

The Wish tree appeal for underwear, pajamas, sweatshirts and a gift for Burlington children was very successful. We thank all the congregation who donated items for this activity. As you can imagine there was a great need for these items this year. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to Judy Walsh and all the volunteers who bought, collected, sorted and then safely distributed these things to over 200 children from Burlington.



Our thanks to all who helped at the Wish Tree at the Burlington Mall, another endeavor by People Helping People. Aline Beck filled our church's shifts for two full days. Deana Tredeau helped sort after the drive was over. We hope this effort made Christmas a bit more merry for those in need in our town. Thank you, also, to Susan Eby for organizing the Pajama and Underwear drive. This was a bit more challenging this year, as request cards were not easily distributed to volunteers... a much easier task when we are together at coffee hours.



The Sunday School opened the Church Christmas season on December 13 with the Zoom Christmas Program. It began with a biblical twist of the Night Before Christmas poem that the kids read from their homes in their jammies. Thank you to all the parents for videoing and Rev. Angela for merging them all into one beautiful video. Sebastian and Liam followed with a live Zoom reading of "The Christmas Guest". Great job Sunday School kids, you are fabulous performers!

The Sunday School kids really know how to Zoom party!

On December 20 we had a Zoom Christmas party with crafts and snacks. Below are a few examples of the craft they made decorating their doors as snow people.



On December 27 we celebrated New Years together again with crafts and snacks. We identified things we would like to try or improve in 2021. And as a surprise we had the countdown for our version of the Times Square ball drop, ***LIVE!***





Claire Simas and her grandson Brendan
 Marj Zamanian's son-in-law's friend Brendon Casey
 Tredeau Family friend Jeremy Watkins
 Barbara Moran
 Laura Nowell
 Gail Ciano
 Sue Wisniewski's Dad
 Donna Ferro's friend Jamuna Manjunatha
 Karen Ciardi's Mom and Dad, Dottie & Bill
 Rev. David Smith
 Wynelle Scenna
 Scott Carpenter and 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!

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Natalie Gillingham who passed away this December. Keeping you all in our prayers.

Our deepest sympathy to Joe Stoddard on the sudden passing of his dear sister Amy Garcia. Keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

January 3-Communion Zoom at 10:30am

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

January 10-Zoom at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Music: Mark Omobono
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

January 17-Zoom at 10:30am

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

January 24-Zoom at 10:30am

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

January 31-Zoom at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Deb Glancy
Music: Laura Nowell
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

February 6-Communion Zoom at 10:30am Annual Meeting to follow

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

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Montessori School Mon-Fri 8-5pm					1 Happy New Year ! Welcome 2021!	2
3 10:30a Zoom Communion Worship Sunday School	4 6:30p AA 7:30p Trustees	5 7p Deacons	6 7p Scouts	7 1p C4C Zoom	8	9
10 10:30a Zoom Worship & Sunday School 1p Missions	11 6:30p AA	12	13 7p Scouts	14 1p C4C Zoom	15	16
17 10:30a Zoom Worship & Sunday School 11a Rental	18 Martin Luther King Holiday Office closed 6:30p AA	19 7p PC Mtg	20 FEB Hilltop Deadline 7p Scouts	21 1p C4C Zoom	22 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE	23
24 10:30a Zoom Worship & Sunday School	25 6:30p AA	26	27 7p Anti-Racism Group Via Zoom 7p Scouts	28 1p C4C Zoom	29	30
31 10:30a Zoom Worship & Sunday School Rental						

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested

TO:

