

HILLTOP HERALD (SEPTEMBER 2021)

Sally Willard
Moderator

CONTENTS

Deacons Note 1-2

Interim Search
Committee 2

Welcome Sunday 2

Festival of Lights 2

Music Ministry 3

Christian Ed 4

Missions 5

-Red Wagon needs

-C4C

-Pumpkin Patch

-LTLC

-Mission Sunday

-Finances

Online Auction 6

Thanksgiving
Ingathering 7

Joys & Concerns 8

Worship 9

Calendar 10

Dear Congregants,

Our church goal this year is to focus on healing and recovery. More specifically, to heal physical, emotional, and social wounds that have injured us. As a church and community of Christ, we have been collectively trying to heal and recover for the past several months, and unfortunately, it has been a rollercoaster.

How exciting it was to have vaccines finally available, only to find it hard to secure a vaccination location and date. It took a bit of time, but finally there were enough vaccines and appointments for everyone. Then the mask mandate was lifted because COVID-19 infection rates were down. Along came the Delta variant and indoor masks are back, and unfortunately infection rates are up. Angela, our beloved pastor of 9 years gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Emerson, and shortly later announced that she and her family would return to Florida to be closer to immediate family.

As a congregation, we have experienced joys over the past 6 months, but also disappointment. It feels hard to heal and recover with uncertainty looming in our communities and in our church. However, we want to assure you that UCC Burlington is here for you. It was no small feat to reopen the sanctuary in July, and even though online Zoom services and in-person coffee hour may not be 100 percent, we are still able to join and connect as a congregation. We have dedicated volunteers working hard to ensure that the church is meeting your needs. Whether it is the people arriving early each Sunday to prepare for service (greeters, ushers, lay leaders, music leaders, musicians, and nursery attendants), or the women that have been preparing and serving coffee, or the volunteers that set up and break down tables and chairs, we have a committed group of people making sure each Sunday morning is a time of spiritual and emotional connection for all who wish to participate, near or far.

We are also very blessed to have an energetic Interim Search Committee that is steadfastly reviewing clergy profiles, scheduling interviews, and deliberating over the search and call process for an Interim Pastor. They are working hard to ensure that we find the right person and the right fit for our congregation. Because it does not seem likely that we will have an Interim Pastor until later in the year, the Deacons have been planning and arranging for worship coverage in September. For example, we will have an Rev. Dr. Megan Snell join us on September 5th to lead us through worship and Communion. On September 12th, Welcome Back Sunday, we will welcome Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle and the Just Peace Players. They will perform a play and we will learn more about protecting the earth.

Continued.....



While the Interim Search Committee search and calls an Interim Pastor, Deacons are actively working to secure a 10-hour/week Bridge Pastor until the interim is chosen and can begin work. A Bridge Pastor is an ordained minister that will lead our worship services and supply pastoral visits to those who are hospitalized and sick. Our goal is to find a temporary Bridge Pastor by the middle of September. In the meantime, we have lay ministers ready to step in and lead our worship services. We do not anticipate missing a beat.

The love, grace, and dedication of our congregational volunteers, paid staff, and church boards are here for you. Everyone is putting their best foot forward to continue our church's ministries, provide support, comfort, and love, and are guiding us through this period of uncertainty. Our church goal of healing and recovery is in the forefront of our minds and actions. As a congregation, we are all doing our best to support one another in our mutual healing, so that each of us can be stronger, faithful followers of Christ.

Gratefully yours,
Board of Deacons

FROM THE INTERIM SEARCH COMMITTEE

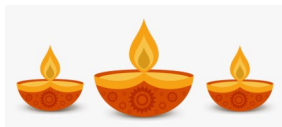
Your Interim Search Committee (Karen Ciardi, Mark Omobono, Deb Raymond, Marcia Rich, Chris Stahlinski, and Lee Tirrell) has interviewed one candidate to date. At the present time there are more churches seeking interim pastors than there are candidates, but we are hoping we will see more profiles after Labor Day. While we all want to have an interim in place as soon as possible we are committed to selecting the best person for this very important role, so we ask your patience in this process. We'll keep you periodically updated as the Search and Call process progresses.

WELCOME SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 12TH 10:30AM

As you know we usually have a feast for our Welcome Sunday. Due to COVID restrictions and to keep all of us healthy, this year we will have worship with our guests Rev. Fran Bogle and the *Just Peace Players*! Following worship we will have



Coffee and Conversation in Sewall Hall. Please join us!



SAVE THE DATE!

On September 26 from 3 to 7 on the commons there will be a *Festival of Lights, Diwali*, organized by some of our neighbors. The theme this year is Healing for Humanity and is being organized by the Burlington American India Foundation. There will be music, dancing, and food available. We urge you to attend and enjoy the entertainment.



Thank you, Special Musicians!

The congregation was blessed with the talents of many musical volunteers during the month of August! Thanks to the Tredeau Trio (Sarah Clark, Aimee Tredeau, and Deana Tredeau), Mark Omobono, Debbie Claar, Amelia Lewis, and Julie Lewis for sharing their music with us! And special thanks to Aline Beck for substituting for Joe at the organ and to Debbie Claar and Jeff Wells, our pastor's father, for leading the singing *a cappella* when Joe had a family emergency on August 15th!



Choir Rehearsals

Our original plan was to begin choir rehearsals this month, but given the surge of Covid-19 cases, we are planning to wait until late October or early November to resume Adult Choir rehearsals. Our goal is to have the Adult Choir begin singing in worship again for Ingathering (Thanksgiving) Sunday. No decision has been made yet on resuming Children's Choir rehearsals.

This delay means we still need help in the form of solos, duets, and trios for our worship services. If you can volunteer your talents, please contact Joe Stoddard at music@uccburlington.org.

A Personal Note from Joe

This has been quite a year for my family! Your support through everything has meant so much to Paul and me. I can't thank you enough for your cards, texts, phone calls, gifts, and good wishes throughout the year and certainly during Paul's recent illness. Thank you for your patience with me as I try to balance family obligations, church, and teaching. Your understanding and your emotional and spiritual support have meant the world to both of us.

Deacons' Special Music Fund

The church is very grateful to the following friends and members of the church who have recently donated to the Deacons' Special Music Fund:

- Joyce Carpenter, in celebration of Music Sunday and our music volunteers
- Jan Costa
- Lucy Damiani
- Nancy Davis, in memory of Wynelle Scenna
- Bobbie Killilea
- Lynn and Lee Tirrell, in appreciation of our church family
- Deana Tredeau

We appreciate your generosity very much!

If you have donated to the Deacons' Special Music Fund and your gift has not yet been acknowledged, please contact Joe Stoddard at music@uccburlington.org.

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

Instagram: [uccburlingtonchoirs](https://www.instagram.com/uccburlingtonchoirs)

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

YouTube: Joe Stoddard



September 12 is Welcome Back Sunday!

This year all ages (except Nursery) will be in the Sanctuary attending the full church service. But this will be no ordinary service, it will be a fun service with performers telling a story. Chris Stahlinski has planned a service provided by the **Just Peace Players**. They will perform ***Hey, Save the Earth***. This performance 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. We can all sit together as a Sunday School OR kids can stay with their families. Deb will provide related booklets for the kids to work on during the service. It will be a fun and informative service!

Weekly Sunday School with return September 19. As we did last year, we will hold as many Sunday School classes outside as possible. The Sunday School curriculum begins with lessons about creation, so it is appropriate for us to commune with nature. If we have an inclement Sunday, we will be inside.

Masks are mandatory at all times, inside or outside.



We will **not be holding the children's registration on Welcome back Sunday.**

Prior to the beginning of Sunday School, parents will receive an emailed registration form filled in with the most current information we have on file. Directions for editing will be included. Nursery parents will receive a blank registration form to fill out to return.

Can't wait to hear about your summer adventures kids!

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

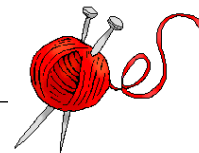
The Burlington Pantry is in need of the following items to help stock their shelves:

2 lb bags of sugar
Basmati Rice
Shampoo
Tissues
Pancake Syrup
Jelly

Please bring items to the pod in St. Mark's Parking Lot.

Also monetary donations are always welcome:

People Helping People
P.O. Box 343
Burlington, MA 01803



CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

C4C continues to meet on a weekly basis and hopes to meet outside all of September, weather permitting. The need for prayer shawls continues and we try to always have several in the conference room closet. We will be donating some handmade items for the Auction this fall and as always we will give away scarves, hats, children items and fingerless mittens in December. We received several bags of yarn so we have more yarn if you would like to knit a scarf or hat.

MISSIONS FINANCIAL REPORT

In July payments of \$400 each were made to three Benevolences:

- The MA Council of Churches (One Church Fund, which includes all denominations)
- The World School (c/o Kerrin Frank, Anne Stafford's daughter)
- NE Center for Homeless Vets

August payments will include:

- Strengthen the Church (5 for 5) \$500 mailed to SNEUCC
- Cooperative Elder Services \$400
- Reach Beyond Domestic Violence \$400
- Peace Scholarship \$250

LOWELL TRANSITIONAL LIVING CTR,

LTLC, is ***always in need of socks, sturdy shoes and underwear*** for their clientele. Donated items are delivered to Lowell once a month. Leave the items under the coat rack right inside the Ed. Building entryway. Items are delivered once a month to LTLC.

MISSIONS SUNDAY OCTOBER 10TH.

The topic we want to present during the sermon is *Homelessness*. We have arranged to have a Speaker or video from the Lowell Transitional Living Center, LTLC. Currently we support LTLC through our benevolences and donations of clothing.

PUMPKIN PATCH



PUMPKIN PATCH RETURNS TO ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

Come shop local with proceeds going to the Burlington People Help People Organization!

The Pumpkin Patch is back this year. ***Members of the congregation will be selling Pumpkins of Thursday October 7 and 14 from noon to 6PM. Shifts are 1.5 hours each.*** Karen Butler is in charge of the sign ups. There will be a signup sheet available at the picnic on August 29 or you can sign up by emailing or calling Karen. In addition, help is needed on Saturday October 2 at 2PM unloading the pumpkins from the delivery truck and placing them around the display area. As the saying goes "many hands make light work of a project" and unloading 1000 pumpkins is a mightily job. There will be a signup sheet for this project too. Also plan on buying your pumpkins at the Patch. It's out of doors, local and all proceeds go to PHP. The pumpkins are grown on a Native American reservation in New Mexico as one of their fundraisers



FALL FUNDRAISER

We're excited to be planning our second ONLINE AUCTION this fall!

Here are the auction details:

It will be live online from Sunday, Oct., 17th - Saturday, Oct. 23rd. You'll receive the website link for the auction a few days before it begins, and it will be accessible from our church website.

You'll also receive email notifications regarding your bidding status. As the auction nears its end, you'll need to keep an eye on your items to see if you've been outbid.

All payments will be received through credit cards online. We encourage you to share the auction website far and wide and invite friends, neighbors and family members to participate. However, each item will say whether it can be shipped or not. Some items will have to be picked up, something to be mindful of for bidders who are not local.

HOW AND WHAT TO DONATE:

We are looking for the following: Timeshares, Vacation homes, Pet sitting, Dinnerware, Glassware, Baskets with themes, Baskets from businesses, Sports equipment, Dinners, Tea parties or other experiences, Wine, Jewelry, Crafts, Woodworking, Artwork, Autographs, Collectibles, Rounds of Golf, Gift cards for florists, salons, fitness centers, restaurants, auto repair, grocery stores, etc. The possibilities are nearly endless! Our only request is that unless something is antique or collectible, that it be brand new.

All items need to be received by Monday, Oct. 11th. That is a hard deadline, as we need time to get all the items uploaded onto the auction website. When you drop off your item, you'll be asked to fill out a form with a description of it, along with its value and the minimum price at which you think it should be sold. The form will also be available in the upcoming weeks in the weekly blast. If it is a gift card, please leave in Deb's CE mail box.

If it is an item, please leave in the conference room & email Deb (angelfoods@msn.com)

Or Joan Zink (joanzink1@me.com) to let us know it is there.

The people coordinating the auction are:

- Deb Raymond
- Kari Lynch
- Joan Zink.

You can speak with or email any of us if you have questions.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING IN-GATHERING



Dear Fellow UCC Congregants,

We are looking for a few volunteers to assist with planning and organizing the ***Thanksgiving In-Gathering!*** The planning gets underway in September and continues through the day of the event, which, this year, will be Sunday, November 21st, 2021. Ideally, each volunteer takes on one small piece of the planning, so when we all work together, it is not a huge time commitment. We so appreciate the many volunteers that give their time on the day of the event and look forward to continuing that tradition. However, over the years, our committee has dwindled from around ten people down to three, and those of us remaining cannot do it all ourselves anymore. With your help, we can continue as we do every year in making sure everyone in the Burlington community has access to a Thanksgiving meal to share with their families. Watching members of our Burlington community come together every year in order to make this happen is an extremely rewarding experience. We hope you will consider helping with this annual event!

If you have any questions, or would like to speak about what piece of this event you could have an impact on, please feel free to call or text Julie at 617-281-8670, or email her at jalewis@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Julie Lewis & Deana Tredeau
Co-Organizers
Thanksgiving In-Gathering Food Program



Jan McSheffrey
 Paul Mouratidis
 Christa Brown
 Tom Killilea
 Claire Simas
 Joe Stoddard's Mom, Lillian
 Alan Wright's cousin Tim
 Ron Downing
 Barbara Moran
 Joyce and Scott Carpenter
 Anne Stafford
 Luella Brown
 Paul Mouratidis' Mom and Dad
 Dave Ileradi's Dad and son Dano
 Kari Lynch's aunt Evelyn, and brother-in-law
 Sue Wisniewski's Dad

Howie & Charlotte Blaney's daughter-in-law Carey
 Kelly Sievert's brother, Geoff
 Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian
 Jean Bastos
 Rev. Elizabeth King
 Jan Blandino
 Bobbie Martino
 Barbara Garland
 Jessie McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace
 Henry Knopp
 Dot Drinkwater
 Everett Langley's brother George
 John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
 Jim Mungillo
 Safe travels for the Wells-Bean Family

A special note of thanks to my entire church family for their support, prayers, cards, well wishes to help Tom recover from his injury and surgeries. It has been a long road and it might take a little longer for him to get back on his feet, but all the love I have received from you has kept me strong during all of this.

Blessings to all of you!
 Bobbie Killilea ♡



3	Eric Forbush
7	Dominic Ramirez (Killilea)
7	Nick Nowell
7	Wayne Higden
7	Steve Samarjian
9	Peter Silva
16	Katherine Baker
17	Kate Byers
18	Samantha Flecchia
18	Jackson Towle
18	Jared Ciano
24	David Hooper
25	Conrad Fong
26	Lucy Damiani
26	Shirley Garside
28	Forrest Knowles

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

September 5 Communion Worship

Worship Leader: Rev. Megan Snell
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Solos: Debbie Claar, Julie Lewis
 and Mark Omobono
 Lay Leader: Sally Willard
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher: Needed
 Greeter: Needed
 Collector: Marcia Rich
 Flowers: Lee & Lynn Tirrell
 Nursery: TBD
 Coffee Hour: Jan Costa

September 12 Love Offering-Welcome Sunday

Worship Leader: Rev. Fran Bogle and
 Just Peace Players
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Solo: Volunteer
 Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
 Head Usher: Volunteer
 Usher: Deb Raymond & Youth
 Greeter: Deb Raymond & Youth
 Collector: Deb Raymong
 Flowers: Nancy Davis
 Nursery: TBD
 Coffee Hour: TBD
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond

September 19

Worship Leader: TBD
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Solo: TBD
 Lay Leader: Deb Glancy
 Head Usher: Needed
 Usher: Needed
 Greeter: Needed
 Collector: Dick Butler
 Flowers: Deana Tredeau
 Nursery: TBD
 Coffee Hour: TBD

September 26

Worship Leader: TBD
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Solo: TBD
 Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
 Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
 Usher: Needed
 Greeter: Needed
 Collector: Everett Langley
 Flowers: Deb Raymond & Youth
 Nursery: TBD
 Coffee Hour: TBD
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond

October 3 Communion Worship

Worship Leader: TBD
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Solo: TBD
 Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
 Head Usher: Needed
 Usher: Needed
 Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
 Collector: TBD
 Flowers: Bobbie Killilea
 Nursery: TBD
 Coffee Hour: Anna Karwan
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond

WORSHIP PARTICIPANT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you would like to help during worship, share a solo/music, donate Sunday flowers, help in the nursery or host coffee hour **WE NEED YOU!** Please contact Donna Fleechia for worship/nursery volunteering. Please contact Deb Raymond for Sunday School volunteering. Contact the Deacons for coffee hour hosting.

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7p Scouts	2 1p C4C	3	4 5-11p Rental
5 10:30a Communion Worship Guest Preacher Rev. Megan Snell	6 Labor Day! (Church Office Closed) 6:30p AA	7 7p Deacons	8 7p Scouts	9 1p C4C	10	11  Never Forget!!!
12 10:30a Welcome Sunday Worship Love Offering <i>Just Peace Players</i>	13 6:30p AA	14	15 7p Scouts	16 1p C4C	17	18
19 10:30a Worship Sunday School Begins!	20 6:30p AA	21 7p PC	22 7p Scouts	23 1p C4C	24	25
26 10:30a Worship 3pm Festival of Lights-Town Common	27 6:30p AA	28	29 7p Scouts	30 1p C4C		

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested

TO:

SEPTEMBER 2021