

DECEMBER 2021 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Ed Koonz
Interim Pastor

Sally Willard
Moderator

CONTENTS

Pastor Message	1-2
Advent and Christmas Svc	2
Music Ministry	3
Missions	4
-Red Wagon	
-LTLC	
-C4C	
-Finances	
-Outreach	
Poinsettias	5
Deacons	5
Christian Ed	6
Auction Update	7-8
Joys & Concerns	9
Worship Schedule	10
Calendar	11
Poinsettia Order Form	Insert
Advent Calendar	Insert

Greetings, Members and Friends of UCC Burlington!

I'm Ed Koonz, your incoming Interim Pastor.

I hope my writing finds you having had a nice Thanksgiving and looking forward to a joyous Christmas – even amidst any concerns or worries you may be experiencing due to the ongoing global pandemic - or to something else deeply personal and very challenging. And, “wherever you are on your life’s journey,” I wish you a “Happy New Year!” as we find ourselves coming together at the beginning of this first season of the church year, the season of Advent.

Speaking of seasons, I’m a native New Englander and have lived here much of my adult life. So when it comes to seasons, I’m accustomed to change. I don’t like every season equally, but I’ve learned to appreciate each season’s unique qualities. And, while my body sometimes objects to extreme, quick temperature changes, I have learned to adapt to this change. How about you: how are you with seasonal change with respect to weather - or otherwise?

I ask because an interim time between settled pastors presents a change, one that sometimes requires a gracious acquiescence to particular changes as well as a robust adaptation to change in general. A new pastor is “different” and does things differently. For some, this may be difficult; how about for you?

It’s important during a time of transition that we address our feelings - and thoughts - about the change we’re undergoing because it may help our coping, adapting and moving forward.

And, what’s true for individuals is true for organizations including the church. A change of pastoral leadership affects a church’s system, the whole “body of Christ” in a church. It is, therefore, a time to both celebrate - and discern how to build upon - what has been accomplished as well as grieve the loss of a pastoral leader who has contributed so much to these accomplishments.

A change of leadership may be hard both personally and communally. So it is, during this interim time, you’ll hear me asking lots of questions, some of which may prompt conversation about your feelings and thoughts and why you do things the way you do. And this, may lead to reflection and consideration of making changes. A change of pastoral leadership is both a challenge and an opportunity!

Continued....



All the while, I hope you'll find me listening and speaking respectfully and carefully because I trust that that God in Christ is in your midst just as God was with a band of refugees - Hebrew slaves - who fled from Egypt long ago to make their way into an uncertain future in a "Promised Land of milk and honey."

The future is unknown, and it will be good to remember during this time of transition that if we find ourselves worrying about what's happening, so did those ancient Hebrews. And, then, it will be helpful to recall that when they faced a change of leaders, that Moses reminded them, as he passed on the mantle of leadership to Joshua in the wilderness: *"It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."* (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Moses' counsel offers us a reminder that amidst a time of any change, God is present like a faithful friend, reminiscent of the old singer songwriter, Carole King's lyrics in "You've Got a Friend": *"Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, All you have to do is call; And, I'll be there, Yes, I will..."*

For a Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall – and a little longer; for an Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, and a Pentecost – and a little longer, I will be here for you as your pastor (all you have to do is call!). And, however you experience me as your pastoral, preaching and teaching friend in Christ, I trust you will always remember you have a friend in Jesus and the Holy presence of his trustworthy God of inclusive grace! - And that, one day, not so far away, you will enter the "Promised Land" of your future, the next chapter of your life as Christ's church here - with a new settled pastoral leader!

So, what better time could there be than this to begin our journey together than in this season of Advent - this time when we prepare - once again - to celebrate the coming of *God Emmanuel*, "GOD WITH US!"?

Faithfully in Christ,
Ed Koonz

Interim Pastor Rev.Ed Koonz can be reached by email at
reved85@aol.com or phone 603-620-4498!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES



Advent Sermon Series: *Keeping Room at the Inn of Hearts for Christ's Birth*

December 16th at 7pm: *Reclaiming Christmas Service*

December 24th at 4pm: *Christmas Eve Service in person and on Zoom**

***Volunteers Needed**

4pm Christmas Eve worship leaders needed for reading! individuals of all ages and families of all sizes welcome; just sign up!

MUSIC Ministry

Welcome Back, Choir!

The Adult Choir had a wonderful first Sunday back on Ingathering Sunday in November. We are so pleased to welcome new members Deb Glancy, Elaine Glancy, and Barbara Leonard, and to welcome back long-time member Julie Lewis!

Thank you, Special Musicians!

Thanks to Debbie Claar and Mark Omobono for leading the singing during the first two weeks of November!



Choir Rehearsals

The Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights from 7pm to 8:30pm, and we also have a quick Sunday morning warm-up rehearsal from 9:45 am to

10:15 am. During the month of December, we'll rehearse on the following Wednesdays: December 1, December 8, December 15, and December 22. There will be no choir rehearsal on Wednesday, December 29. We will happily welcome singers who want to join us for Advent and Christmas!

Children's Choir

Joe will be working with the Board of Deacons to plan to bring back the Children's Choir. Please stay tuned to our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook accounts to get the latest news!

Christmas Eve

Violinist Lisa Brooke will play for our **4pm Christmas Eve Service** this year. Other musical plans are still in the works, but will include singers from our Adult Choir.

Connect with us on Instagram ([uccburlingtonchoirs](https://www.instagram.com/uccburlingtonchoirs)), Twitter (@uccbmusic) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs) to get the latest news about Christmas!



A Personal Note from Joe

Once again, Paul and I have been enveloped by the love of this church community during a very difficult time. We are so grateful for the cards, phone calls, and personal messages of sympathy from so many of you on the passing away of my aunt and his father. Thank you for your understanding when I have not been quick to respond to emails or phone calls when our family has needed us. Most of all, thank you for your kindness, concern, and your prayers!

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:

-Anne Stafford, in memory of Haralambos Mouratidis

Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube

Look for us as "uccburlingtonchoirs" on Instagram. We are also on Facebook as "UCC Burlington Choirs" and on Twitter as @uccbmusic. And if you know any tricks for posting on Instagram (especially how to have a video preview show instead of a blank screen), please get in touch with Joe Stoddard! Believe it or not, we even have a YouTube channel! Right now, it is under Joe Stoddard's name, but that is only because he cannot figure out how to change the name of the channel without changing the name on his church email account! There is also a YouTube account for the whole church, where you can find videos of every Sunday's service. That account is under the name "uccburlington."

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

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

Twitter: @uccbmusic

YouTube: Joe Stoddard

Reclaiming Christmas

Our Reclaiming Christmas Service will take place on **Thursday, December 16 at 7pm**. Sarah Clark will be our soloist. This is the service that in the past has been named Calming Christmas and Blue Christmas. It is an opportunity to slow down amidst the hustle and bustle of the season and re-center ourselves as we prepare for Christmas.



RED WAGON

Needed donations for the PHP Pantry:

Sugar, tea, coffee and of course diapers and baby wipes. Drop off at St. Mark's church parking in the outside POD.

Thank you so very much for your continued support.

LOWELL TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER

The LTLC is in need of warm clothing such as:

winter jackets, sweatpants, sweat-shirts, gloves and socks.

They do not have to be new items! There is a bin inside the RED doors for you to put your donations.

We deliver once a month to Lowell.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We have moved our meeting to Zoom. We miss seeing people in person but weather seems to have first priority. We have been busy replenishing our stock of prayer shawls and lap robes. We received a lovely donation of 4 handmade crocheted shawls from a friend of a member of Church. Please let us know if you know of someone who needs comfort and our support. During the winter months we are going to be making hats and scarves for our Veterans and the Lowell Transitional Living Center.



MISSIONS FINANCIAL REPORT

Payments to be made by year end:

\$1500 (4th of 4 = \$4500 total)

-SNEUCC Basic Support

\$500 Christmas Fund - Veterans of the Cross

MISSIONS OUTREACH

We on the Mission committee want to extend a big thank you to all who have volunteered to support a number of special community-oriented events this past month or so. In October the Pumpkin Patch was a big success. A record amount of money was collected from the sale of pumpkins. The proceeds were given to PHP to help fund the thanksgiving food drive. UCC members sold pumpkins on three separate days.

During the ingathering on November 21. PHP and a large number of volunteers were expecting to hand out food for 140 families. We thank the organizers, all the volunteers and are very grateful that we were again able to distribute from Sewall Hall again this year.



Volunteers from UCC will be at the **Wish Tree** in the Mall on November 26 and December 6. The goal of the Wish Tree is to collect donated gifts for the families

which are supported by PHP. If you are in the mall on these days stop by the Wish tree, say hi to our volunteers and maybe donate a gift.



The pajama/underwear drive. again a PHP activity, has requested that our Church members buy new pajamas, underwear, sweatshirts, hats, scarves and books for the children of seven families. When asked, church members volunteered to purchase the items requested in a record amount of time. Purchases have already begun to be turned in. If you are one of the people who volunteered to buy a gift, purchased items are to be turned in by December 8th. You can leave them in the marked bin in the office area or you can place them in a clearly marked bin on the driveway of 1 Saint Marks Road, Burlington.

May you find a lot to be grateful for this holiday season.

We on Missions are grateful for all your support. Thank you and have a healthy holiday season.

The members of the Missions Committee



POINSETTIAS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES!

Remember how beautiful the Sanctuary looked during Christmas!
If you would like to buy a poinsettia for our Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve Service at 4pm, please fill out the enclosed form and send it along with your payment **(\$10.00 per plant)** made out to the UCC on the memo line please write POINSETTIAS . Mail or drop off to the church office.

Deadline is December 12th!



The Deacons welcomed Interim Pastor Rev. Ed Koonz to the meeting and introduced themselves. His first service is November 28 and will include a litany of covenant between him and the congregation.

Plans were made for the Ingathering service and for decorating the sanctuary for Thanksgiving and Advent.

Much of the meeting focused on Advent, which is the start of the Christian year. Advent candle packages will be sent to people who worship solely from home and a few extra are available. Contact Deb Glancy or the church office if you would like one.

Groups of volunteers are needed for the Advent candle lighting at the beginning of each service. A group can be a family, friends or a committee. The Interim Pastor Search Committee will light the first candle on November 28.

During Advent, there will be a hymn sing starting 10 minutes before the service. Hymns will be chosen in advance to enable the words and music to be available to people worshipping online.

An Advent devotional calendar is included in this Hilltop, so please look for it.

The Reclaiming Christmas service will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, December 16.

After much discussion, the Deacons decided to hold only one Christmas Eve service at 4 pm. It will be designed to appeal to both children and adults.

Gift cards will be purchased from Love Offering funds to help two families celebrate Christmas.

On other topics, volunteers are desperately needed as lay leaders, ushers, greeters, nursery helpers and other helpers. If a number of people can do tasks occasionally, it spreads the work more evenly. There's now a link, [SignUp.com](https://www.signup.com), for volunteers to sign up for the various roles. Contact Donna Flecchia or Deb Glancy if you need help using it.

Lucy Damiani will represent the Deacons on the Safe Church Policy Committee.

Called to Care continues to do an excellent job of supporting the sick and grieving and reaching out regularly to home bound or isolated members of our church family.



The Sunday School has been having fun while on all Saints Day they celebrated, remembered and honored our relatives and people who passed away.

On Sunday, October 21st we had our HALLOWEEN Party!



Hope, Reid, Molly, Keira, Ali, Peter, Liam, Amelia, Alex

On Sunday, November 22 our youth celebrated In-Gathering Sunday with the congregation!



The Sunday School children played games to win prizes of all the items to donate to the In-gathering (corn, gravy, etc). The kids brought them into the church at offertory and led the congregation in bringing their donations forward during the offertory.

UPCOMING

Join us on Sunday, December 19th: Sunday School Christmas Play!

Please plan to attend church, or check out Zoom when the Sunday School presents the Christmas play, *A Christmas to Believe In*. The play is about 20 minutes and will be held during worship in the Sanctuary.



DONORS

110 Grill
A Whole Bunch of Flower Market
Aline Beck
Angela Wells-Bean
Art Bread Bakery & Pizza
Barbara & David Leonard
Barbara Moran
Bare Bottom Tanning & Airbrush
Bertucci's
Boston Red Sox
Buffalo Wild Wings
Burlington Car Wash
Burlington Expert Tailoring
Burlington Florist
Burlington Wine & Spirits
Café Escadrille, Bob Murray, Owner
Chris Stahlinski
Chronicle Books
Cindy Phillips
Costco
Country Club of Billerica
Cuccio Masonry
David & Jessie McNeil
Dick & Karen Butler
Dick Butler & Libby Samarjian
Dolly Parton
Dr. Janine Gresla D.D.S.P.C.
Eddie V's, David Greenwood,
Managing Partner
Elite Island Resorts
Emerald Rose
Feng Shui Restaurant, Louis Chen,
Manager
Fong Family
Frenk Pepe Pizzeria,
Hector Martinexz, Manager
Gail Ciano
Henry Winkler, the Fonz
Ixtapa Restaurant in Woburn
James & Sue Martin
Jan Costa
Jan McSheffrey
Jane & Paul Raymond
Janet Fitzgerald
JC Smoothies at the Mall
Jean Maguire
Jeanette Romeo & Mark Richard
Jimmy's Family Restaurant
Joan Zink
Julie Lewis
Kathy Hill
Kendra Pulsifier Griep
Kerrin Frank
Liquor Cabinet
Lucy Damiani
Marcia Rich
Mark Richard
Michael Slezak
Nancy Todd
Nothing Bundt Cakes, Chris,
Manager

Old Sturbridge Village
Osterio Nino
Paul & Nancy Ho
Pizza Works
Potbelly's
Rachel McNeil
Ray's Barber Shop
Sallie Nazarian
Sapienza's & Comers, Owners
Schoolhouse
Seasons 52
Sharon McDonough
Susan Eby
Sweet Ginger
The Friendly Toast
Total Wine & More
Trader Joe's
True North
Tuscan Kitchen
Used Book Superstore
Wilson Farm
Yard House

OUR WINNERS

Aline Beck
Virginia Birmingham
Richard Butler
Chris Cahoon
Janet Costa
Lucy Damiani
Emily DeLuca
Susan Eby
Karen Edwards
Donna Ferro
Janet Fitzgerald
Deb Glancy
Kathy Hill
Dennis Huebner
Bobbie Killilea
Barbara Leonard
Julie Lewis
Roberta Low
Kari Lynch
Brenda McCluskey
Jessie McNeil
Jan McSheffrey
Patty Murphy
Marcia Rich
Nancy Richards
Jeanette Romeo
Patricia Spienza
Kay Shute
Chris Silva
Michael Slezak
Robin Sproul
Chris Stahlinski
Kevin Sullivan
Nancy Todd
Deana Tredeau
Pamela Walker
Sally Willard
Joan Zink



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS AUCTION
SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS!**

BOSTON BALLET GIFT CARD

Angela donated a gift card to the Boston Ballet to be included in the online auction. It was a gift to her that she never used. It is valued at \$232. It does not expire until 4/30/2025. In setting up for the auction, the card was lost. However, we have a picture of the front and back of the card. The physical card is not needed when you buy tickets. You only need the code, which, thankfully, we do have. If you would like to enjoy "The Nutcracker" from Nov. 26-Dec. 26, "Swan Lake" or several other special performances in 2022 or beyond, please make an offer and let Joan Zink know at joanzink1@me.com or 781-325-3991.

AUCTION ...

The following items were left for the auction in error.

They are lightly use items. If any would like to grab these for the low price of \$10.

The item will be sold to the 1st person to contact Deb.

Please contact Deb Raymond at Cell: 857-373-9156 Or email: angelfoods@msn.com



Chefman Triple Slow cooker—

3 2 1/2 QT pots Each has independent heating controls



Stackable steam vessel 2,4,6 QT combo, 3 separate compartments.

This item may not have been opened, the large staples are still on the top & bottom of the Box



Back Rejuvenator. 8 message heads, removable washable Velcro cover, auto adapter for car or RV





PRAYER CONCERNS

Tom Killilea-upcoming surgery
Joyce Carpenter-upcoming surgery
Marilyn Langley's friend Linda's son Kevin
Karen Ciardi's husband
Joe Stoddard's Mom Lillian
Alan Wright's cousin Tim
Barbara Moran
Anne Stafford
Luella Brown
Dave Ieradi's Dad and son Dano
Sue Wisniewski's Dad
Kelly Sievert's brother, Geoff
Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian
Jean Bastos
Rev. Elizabeth King

Jan Blandino
Bobbie Martino
Barbara Garland
Jessy McNeil's brother Mel
and sister Grace
Henry Knopp
Dot Drinkwater
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!

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to Michael Lewis on the passing of his grandparents.

Also sending condolences and heartfelt sympathy to Donna Flecchia and Family on the passing of Donna's Mother.

Our sympathy and prayers to Carol Downing, Jan McSheffrey and their families on the passing of Carol's dear husband Ron.

We keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers!

4 Janet Knudsen
13 Andrew Olney
15 Kristina Duran
17 Michael Tredeau
17 David McNeil
18 Lance Olney
18 Riley Tredeau
19 Lauren Costa
21 Madelyn Lewis
23 Gideon Spearson
26 Robert Stahlinski
29 Maddy Bonnell



WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5 at 10:20am worship

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ed Koonz
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
 Advent Candles:
 Head Usher: Deb Glancy
 Usher: Chris Stahlinski
 Greeter: Sally Willard
 Flowers: Debbie Claar
 Collector: Joan Zink
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: DebRaymond
 Coffee Hour: Jessy McNeil

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12 at 10:20am worship

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ed Koonz
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
 Advent Candles:
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher: John Heald
 Greeter: Cindy Phillips
 Flowers: Joe Stoddard
 Collector: Deb Raymond
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Coffee Hour: Cindy Phillips

Fourth Sunday of Advent-Christmas Pageant

December 19 at 10:20am worship

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ed Koonz
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
 Advent Candles:
 Head Usher: Dick Butler
 Usher: Karen Butler
 Greeter: Jan McSheffrey
 Flowers: Poinsettias
 Collector: Dick Butler
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Coffee Hour: Jan Costa

Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ed Koonz
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Lay Leader: Volunteer needed
 Advent Candles: Lucy Damiani & Granddaughter
 Head Usher: Volunteer needed
 Usher: Volunteer needed
 Greeter: Volunteer needed
 Collector: Everett Langley

Sunday Worship

December 26 at 10:30am

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ed Koonz
 Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
 Lay Leader: Volunteer needed
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher: Volunteer needed
 Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
 Flowers: Poinsettias
 Collector: Everett Langley
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Join us every Sunday morning at 10:20am during Advent for a Hymn Sing before worship begins.</div>			1 7p Choir	2 1p C4C 7-9p Scouts	3	4 2-5p Cooking Class with Julie Lewis
5 2nd Sunday Of Advent 10:20a Worship Sunday School	6 6:30p AA	7	8 7p Choir	9 1p C4C 7-9p Scouts	10	11 4p Setup 5-11pm Party Rental
12 3rd Sunday Of Advent 10:20a Worship Sunday School Poinsettia Order Deadline	13 6:30p AA	14	15 7p Choir	16 1 p C4C 7p Reclaiming Christmas Service No Scouts	17	18 TDB PMA Ceremony Rental
19 4th Sunday Of Advent 10:20a Worship And Christmas Pageant	20 6:30p AA	21 7p PC Meeting	22 7p Choir	23 1p C4C 7-9p Scouts	24 4:00p Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas! Blessings to All!
26 10:30a Worship Sunday School	27 6:30p AA	28	29 No Choir	30 1p C4C 7-9p Scouts	31 A Healthy Happy New Year to All!	

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested

TO:



DECEMBER 2021

POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM



Given by: _____

In Memory/honor/Celebration of: _____

No. of plants: (\$10.00 each) _____

I wish to keep my plant: _____

I wish to donate my plant: _____

I will deliver a plant: _____

I would like a plant delivered to: _____

(Please return your payment to the church office with the enclosed slip **by Dec 12th!**)

POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM



Given by: _____

In Memory/honor/Celebration of: _____

No. of plants: (\$10.00 each) _____

I wish to keep my plant: _____

I wish to donate my plant: _____

I will deliver a plant: _____

I would like a plant delivered to: _____

(Please return your payment to the church office with the enclosed slip **by Dec 12th!**)