

# HILLTOP HERALD

**DECEMBER 2016**

*Rev. Angela V. Wells*  
**Pastor**

*Michael Lewis*  
**Moderator**

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Dear Friends,

Celebrating Christmas is a beautiful tradition in our faith tradition, but it doesn't come without responsibility. We say "yes" to celebrating the birth of Jesus not for one day of presents or one month of parties and celebrations. We say, "yes" to celebrating his birth because we follow the teachings he offered as an adult. Some people want to keep him as a non-threatening, 7lb 9oz. baby, but that's doing a disservice to the true meaning of the holiday. We are called to emulate his prophetic ministry, to listen to what he said and what he did after he grew up, and go and do likewise. His birth was just the start.

Henry van Dyke wrote a story called "*Keeping Christmas*," (published in 1905). He asks many poignant questions, challenging us to examine whether our hearts in the right place at this time of year. I invite you to read his words, and then ask yourself, "Can I keep Christmas?"

*"It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.*

*But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.*

*Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you?*

*To ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world?*

*To put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground?*

*To see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy?*

*To own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life?*

*To close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day?*

Continued.....

*We are on BCAT! Our services are being recorded so that they can be broadcast on BCAT, our local cable access channel. You can watch the service on Mondays at 4:30pm and Sundays at 6:00pm. Please note, the only people whose faces are on camera are the choir and those who lead the worship service.*

**Then you can keep Christmas.**

*Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children?*

*To remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old?*

*To stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough?*

*To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts?*

*To try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you?*

*To trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you?*

*To make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--are you willing to do these things even for a day?*

**Then you can keep Christmas.**

*Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?*

**Then you can keep Christmas.**

*And if you keep it for a day, why not always?*

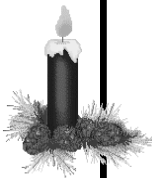
*But you can never keep it alone."*

We never keep Christmas alone, so let us keep it together, as one community.

Wishing You a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas,

*Rev. Angela V. Wells*

Rev. Angela V. Wells



**A CALMING CHRISTMAS SERVICE ON DECEMBER 10TH AT 3pm**

For anyone who is feeling less than cheery at this time of year, or anyone who wants to take some time to remember a loved one who has passed, or just feels the stress of the season, this service is for you. We will honor the losses in our lives which have a tendency to bubble to the surface at this time of year and reflect on the need to slow down and enjoy the season. Please join us for this time of reflection and contemplative worship.

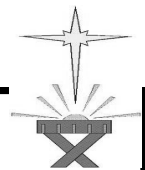
We will share light refreshments in the Conference Room after the service.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

7pm Family Service with Candlelight and Carols

11pm Communion, Candlelight and Carols

All Are Welcome!



**CHRISTMAS DAY PAJAMA SERVICE! DECEMBER 25TH AT 10:30AM**

Everyone likes to be in their pajamas on Christmas morning, so **join us on Sunday, December 25th at 10:30am in your jammies!** We will have a fun, family-friendly service with music, prayers and story-telling. Bring the whole family! And yes, Angela will be in her pajamas too!

(Note: There will be no coffee hour that day, so that everyone can return home and continue their Christmas celebrations).

## MUSIC NOTES

### Special Music for Christmas Eve

This year, both the Adult Choir and the Youth Choir will sing for the 7pm service. The adults will also be singing at the 11pm service. We will also have the pleasure of hearing the violin music of Lisa Brooke at both services.

### We need Christmas Eve Singers!

We need singers who can sing with the choir for 7pm service, the 11pm service, or both! Please contact Joe Stoddard at [music@uccburlington.org](mailto:music@uccburlington.org) or (781) 346-3900, or just come to rehearsals starting Wednesday, December 7.

### December Rehearsals

The Adult Choir and the Youth Choir will rehearse every Wednesday in December except for December 28. The youth meet from 5:45pm to 6:15pm and the adults meet from 7:15pm to 9:00pm. We always welcome new singers!

### Christmas Carol Sing

Before worship every Sunday in Advent, we'll have a 10-minute Christmas Carol Sing. It's your chance

to choose your favorite carols! We will have both the *New Century Hymnal* and the *Pilgrim Hymnal* for your musical choices. Come at 10:20 and sing with us!

### Deacons' Special Music Fund

The Deacons' Special Music Fund brings us choral music and soloists beyond what is provided for in the regular budget, including our violinist for Christmas Eve and our brass quintet for Easter Sunday. We are very grateful for your donations! If you would like to donate to the Deacons' Special Music Fund for Christmas, please use the form found in this edition of *The Hilltop*.

**Email:** [music@uccburlington.org](mailto:music@uccburlington.org)

**Twitter:** @uccbmusic

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs](http://www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs)

**Google+:** Joe Stoddard

([music@uccburlington.org](mailto:music@uccburlington.org))



## TRUE NORTH PASTOR HOURS

Please note Rev. Angela Wells will have office hours at True North Coffee Shop only on the following dates during December:

Thursday, December 9th 9-11am

Tuesday, December 13th 4-6pm

Thursday, December 15th 9-11am

Tuesday, December 20th 4-6pm

Thursday, December 22nd, 9-11am



## SOLAR PROJECT FOR OUR CHURCH



We are pleased to announce that we have formed a team to investigate the feasibility of having Solar panels installed. The team will be looking at both leasing and purchasing options and will cast a wide net to find the best potential vendor. Team members visited South Church in Andover to see their 2012 solar installation. Next was a presentation to Parish Council. The presentation was well received and a green light was given to proceed with the investigative/quoting phase. The Parish Council also approved a \$150 membership fee to the Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MIPL, <http://www.mipandl.org>). MIPL is comprised of 210 Mass congregations of all faiths for the benefit of access to expert advice, speakers or educational sessions, financial planning, and incentive information. The team will publish a monthly update in the Hilltop and schedule all-church info sessions so that everyone in the church has a chance to learn more about the details of the project.

If all goes well we may have solar power by this time next year!



## BUY GIFT CARDS FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

Thinking of getting gift cards for Christmas gifts, or a nice thank you for someone who did a nice deed, or just a gift for someone in need. Our gift card program makes it very easy, you don't have to go to a store! Order your gift card through [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com) (or use a form at coffee hour and leave the form and payment in the "Gift Card Orders" mailbox near the copier).

Every card you order a percentage goes to the church and you get your gift card at full face value!

Our deadline for the **next ordering date is December 11th.**

You will receive your Cards by December 18th.

## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to all of you who have returned your Pledge Cards and the Time and Talent Surveys. If you have not yet returned them, please try to get them to us as soon as possible. Our church depends on the active participation and support of the congregation.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## Sunday School

Our Sunday School class is starting its 3rd Unit - Transforming the Word. This will take us through advent (children will take home advent calendars on 11/27), Christmas and Epiphany. Use your advent calendars during this special time of waiting!

## Youth Group:

We will have a Youth Group meeting on Sunday, December 11th at Noon (after coffee hour). We will discuss our Martin Luther King Service Project (1/14/17 @ 9:00 a.m. at United Parish Brookline). We are in need of one additional adult volunteer for this meeting. There will be no second meeting this month due to the Christmas holiday.

Laraine is also looking into the possibility of the youth attending: Children & Youth Musical Dramatic Presentation: Life of Martin Luther King/Black Lives Matter/Black History Month on February 12, 2017 - 11:00am to 12:00pm at First Parish Brookline.



## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 18TH 10:30AM DURING WORSHIP!**

The Annual Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 18th @ 10:30 a.m. All are encouraged to attend. See Laraine if you are interested or email her at [laraine.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:laraine.wilson@gmail.com)

**Christmas Pageant Luncheon** - We are still in need of donations of Shepherd's Pie and Angel Food Cake (with strawberries and whipped cream). See Jan Costa or Deb Raymond if you can help.

**Costumes:** If you happen to have a child's angel costume, we are still in need of 2 (we have 2 and one adult one). Also, we are in need of a few child's sized animal costumes (or masks). Let Laraine know if you have one.

**PLEASE DONATE: IN GOOD CONDITION  
(BUT NO LONGER WANTED)  
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND ORNAMENTS!**



Volunteers from our church have again arranged with **People Helping People** to set up a table at the food distribution site to give away Christmas decorations. People who wish to may take these decorations home for use at no cost to them. *If you would like to pass on your extra, no longer needed Christmas decorations, please bring them to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 11.* Please package them neatly so we may display them, and make certain they are in good condition and that lights, etc. are working. Thanks!

If you have questions, contact **Shirley Fong** or **Jan Costa** at ([jancosta124@gmail.com](mailto:jancosta124@gmail.com))

## **ECCLESIASTES BIBLE STUDY! DATE CHANGE**

During Advent, Pastor Angela will lead an Adult Ed Bible Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes, in the Old Testament. This isn't a well-known book, but it's full of thought-provoking scriptures that we will mull over together during the Advent Season. We will meet for 3 weeks on **Thursday nights at 7:30, starting December 8th (not December 1st as originally advertised) and going through December 22nd.** Please sign up on the sign up sheet or email Angela if you are planning to attend at [revwells@uccburlington.org](mailto:revwells@uccburlington.org)

Hope you can join us!



**4<sup>th</sup> Annual HOLIDAY SERENADE  
December 3, 2016 7 – 9pm**

**Welcome Back!**  
**“THE CHARLIECHORDS”**  
*(A Cappella Singers & Musical Talents)*  
*Students from Berklee College of Music*

**\$15 Adults, \$12 Seniors \$5 Students (11-24 years old)**  
**Tickets available now!**

**Coffee/Tea/Cookies provided!**

***United Church of Christ, Congregational, 6 Lexington Street, Burlington***

\*\*\*\*\*

Proceeds from this event will benefit **Team Awesome**, a group of high school and college students from UCC Burlington who will travel to Chicago next summer as part of the DOOR Network’s Discovery Program. Learn more about the DOOR Network at [doornetwork.org](http://doornetwork.org).

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**



Would you like to get together with  
some of your church friends?

We are holding a potluck Luncheon

Wednesday,  
December 21st at Noon

All are welcome!  
See our signup sheet!

## BOARD OF MISSIONS

## RED WAGON



### ROSIE'S PLACE

We will volunteer again to Rosie's Place a shelter for women, on January 4th a Wednesday. We appreciate any travel size toiletries to bring into Boston that day. If you would like to join us please contact Jan McSheffrey at 781-454-6050 or [afdove@verizon.net](mailto:afdove@verizon.net)

The last Sunday of the month we take a collection of specific items needed at the Burlington Food Pantry.

We have been asked to donate the following:

Canned soup  
Coffee/tea/hot cocoa

Please bring items to worship on **December 25th** and we will bring them forward during the service.



### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & LIVING GIFT MARKET at the HEIFER FARM IN RUTLAND MA Dec 3-4

Honor friends and family with animal gifts that help others! Enjoy free admission with a canned good donations!

Take your photo with a goat!,  
Hot soup and rolls,  
Decorate cookies,  
Roast chestnuts,  
Winter Hay Rides (weather permitting)  
and enjoy Holiday Shopping!

[www.heifer.org/farm](http://www.heifer.org/farm)

### CITY MISSION IS COLLECTING SWEATSHIRTS AND SWEATERS FOR KIDS

Sweatshirts and Sweaters will be collected through **December 18!** New items for infants through xl for teens are greatly appreciated.

See the RED Bin at Coffee Hour.



### WISH TREE PROGRAM—A way to help at Christmas!

Every year we have our Wish Tree Program at the Burlington Mall. This is organized by the Burlington People Helping People Pantry. It is an opportunity for you to shop for Christmas gifts for those who would not be able to provide gifts for their children. All you need to do is stop by the Wish Tree Table (located on the 2nd floor near the Coach store) choose an index card with a child's wish, shop for the gift, return it to the table unwrapped! This will run for a few weeks in December. Items will then be handed out to all those families on the Wish Tree List before Christmas for parents to wrap. **Help make the Magic Happen!**

## PEOPLE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Joyce Carpenter	Jessy McNeil's Brother Mel, Mom and Sister Grace
Jan Blandino	Anne Stafford's grandsons Tyler and Zach
Nancy Todd's Mom Dot Gordon	Dorothy Murdoch's daughter Judy and brother Frank
Cindy Phillips Dad	Lucy's cousin Brad Stanley
Chris Cahoon	Dot Drinkwater
Carol Downing's husband Ron	Ruth Reddig
Sheila Vitale	Everett Langley and his brother George
Arun Arumugam's brother, Prithiviraj	John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
Ruth Roach	Aimee Tredeau's friend Amanda
Nick Ciano's Mom Jenny	Barbara Moran's friend Heather
Bobbie Killilea's friend little Chloe Peterson and John Ford	Kerry Beyer
Joe's parents Joseph & Lillian, niece Kari, and former student Ian	Ginger Mungillo's son, Jim
Betty Knowles	Fred Garside
Woody Knowles' friend Chris Carbeau's grandson-serious health issues	Alan Wright's Mom Mary
Kendra's Grandfather Phil	
Joyce Carpenter's grandnephew baby Logan	



## JOYS/CONCERNS

Congratulations to Stephen Landry our church Sexton on the birth of his first grandchild. Welcome Catherine Landry born on November 4th She is also great granddaughter to Thelma Tibbitts.

Baptized on November 13th was Cole Matthew Shirley, son of Michelle and Matthew. Also Baptized on November 27th was Arya Nicole Scarborough, daughter of Eric and Erika, granddaughter of Carol and Ron Downing.

God Bless all your families!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Janet Knudsen          | 19 Lauren Costa       |
| 13 Andrew Olney          | 24 Peter Sims         |
| 15 Kristina Duran        | 24 Peter Munch        |
| 17 Michael Tredeau       | 26 Robert Stahlinski  |
| 17 Dave McNeil           | 31 Dorothy Drinkwater |
| 18 Marion Braley Freeman |                       |
| 18 Lance Oney            |                       |
| 18 Ellen Salera Tredeau  |                       |



## **Worship Participation Schedule**

Dec 4  
10:20am  
Communion Preparers: Jessy McNeil  
Lay Leader: Janet Knudsen  
Head Usher: Bill Hitchcock  
Ushers: Bill-Dave Ierardi  
Dave & Janet Hooper  
Greeters: Barbara Moran-volunteer  
Church School: Deb Raymond-Jan Costa  
Nursery Coverage: Alison Dunbar-BevMaher  
Flower Deliverer: Not needed today  
Collector: Everett Langley  
Coffee Host: Janine Towle  
Bakers: Janine-Shirley Fong-Janet Knudsen

If you cannot participate in Worship or Nursery contact: Donna Flecchia at 781-272-4756

If you cannot host/bake contact Jane Raymond at 781-272-9647.

Dec 10  
3:00pm  
**A CALMING CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
Lay Leader: TBA      Head Usher: TBA

Dec 11  
10:20am  
Lay Leader: Mark Flecchia  
Head Usher: Dick Butler  
Ushers: Dick & Karen Butler-Kari Lynch-Jane Raymond  
Greeters: Susan Eby-Volunteer  
Church School: Larainne Wilson-Damali Dakoye  
Nursery: Alston Dunbar-DebRaymond  
Flower Deliverer: Jessy McNeil  
Collector: Barbara Moran  
Coffee Hour: Jan McSheffrey-Carol Downing  
Bakers: Jan-Carol-Jean Baker-Karen Butler

Dec 18  
10:20am  
**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski  
Head Usher: Lucy Damiani  
Ushers: Lucy & Youth  
Greeters: Volunteers  
Nursery: Alison Dunbar-Mark Flecchia  
Flower Deliverer: Not needed today  
Collector: Marcia Rich  
Potluck Luncheon: Shepherd's Pie/Angel Food Cake

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Dec 24  
7:00p  
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski  
Head Usher: Janine Towle  
Ushers: Janine-volunteers  
Greeters: Volunteers  
Nursery: None  
Collector: Dick Butler

Dec 24  
11:00p  
Communion Prep: Marge Zamanian  
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar  
Head Usher: Dave Ierardi  
Ushers: Dave -voluntters  
Greeters: Volunteers  
Collector: Dick Butler

Dec 25  
10:30am  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Lay Leader: Mark Flecchia  
Head Usher: Dave McNeil  
Ushers: Dave-Wynelle Scenna  
Barbara Moran-Gordon Brown  
Church School: None  
Nursery: TBA  
Collector: Dick Butler  
Coffee Hour: NONE

Jan 1  
10:30am  
Communion Prep: Jan McSheffrey-Dave Ierardi  
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich  
Head Usher: Dave Hooper  
Ushers: Dave & Janet Hooper  
Donna & Mark Flecchia  
Greeters: Claire Simas-volunteer  
Nursery: Alison-Nicole Flecchia  
Collector: Carol Downing  
Coffee Hour: Kay Shute  
Bakers: Kay-Jane Raymond  
Jessy McNeil

# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Montessori School Mon-Fri 8-6pm				1 No True North Pastor Hours	2	3 TBA Decorate the Sanctuary 7pm Holiday Serenade! 
4 10:20am Communion Service	5 3:30p Irish Step 7:30p Trustees 7:30p AA	6 NO True North Pastor Hours 7:15p Deacons	7 1p C4C 5:45p Youth Choir 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	8 9-11a  True North Pastor Hours 7:30p Book Study	9	10 3pm A Calming Christmas Service 
11 10:20am Worship Service Gift Card Deadline 11:30a Called to Care and Youth Group	12 3:30p Irish Step Poinsettia Deadline 7:30p AA 7:30p CE	13 10:00a Missions  4-6p True North Pastor Hours	14 1p C4C 5:45p Jr Choir 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	15 9-11a  True North Pastor Hours 7:30p Book Study	16 Poinsettia delivery	17
18 10:20am Worship Service & Christmas Pageant	19 3:30p Irish Step 7:30p AA	20 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 7:15p PC	21 Hilltop Deadline Noon-3pm  Christmas Potluck Luncheon 5:45p Jr Choir 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	22 9-11a  True North Pastor Hours 7:30p Book Study	23	24 7pm Children's Christmas Svc. 11pm Communion Christmas Service 
25 Christmas Day! 10:30am Worship Service in Your PJ's 	26 Office closed in lieu of the Christmas Holiday! 7:30p AA	27 NO True North Pastor Hours	28 10:00am Hilltop folding And luncheon No Choir Rehearsals	29 NO True North Pastor Hours	30	31 A Happy and Safe New Year's Eve! 

## 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 services, 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 and deliver to the church office. **Deadline is Dec 11TH**

### POINSETTIA PLANT ORDER FORM

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory 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 11th**)

### DEACONS' SPECIAL MUSIC FUND CHRISTMAS DONATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to UCC Burlington and write "Deacons' Special Music Fund" on the memo line.**

My donation is (please check one and fill out as appropriate):

My Christmas gift to the church's music ministry

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

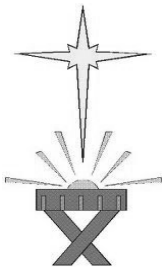
Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_



UCC  
6 Lexington Street  
Burlington, MA 01803  
Address Service Requested



## **DECEMBER - 2015**



### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Saturday, December 24th

7pm Family Service with Candlelight and Carols

11pm Communion, Candlelight and Carols

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Sunday, December 25th

10:30am Come worship in your PJ's!

All Are Welcome to Join US!

