

HILLTOP HERALD

**JANUARY
2018**

Rev. Angela V. Wells
Pastor

Michael Lewis
Moderator

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Dear UCC Burlington Community,

I hope you had a meaningful Christmas with friends and family, and a wonderful New Year. Since it's a new year that means it's time for a new church goal. In December, our Parish Council voted to propose the following goal at our 2018 Annual Meeting: *"Our church pledges to pursue our goal for 2018 to partner in ministry with the wider community so that together we might make the world a better, more just and peaceful place for everyone."* In 2018, we'd like to work to expand our connections locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally.

One way that we can live into this (proposed) goal is to connect with what our denomination is doing around the world. We'll have a chance to do this on January 21st, so mark your calendars! On that Sunday, we are going to have a missionary join us in worship. (Yes, the UCC has missionaries!) Missionary Kearstin Bailey is going to guest preach that day and share about the work that she's done around the world on behalf of the UCC. Until then, here's a little bit of information about her:

Kearstin served as a Global Mission Intern with the Reformed Church in Hungary for two years. This was an appointment by the Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Her time in Hungary was spent facilitating international church communications as well as working to help refugees integrate in Hungary.

Kearstin will talk about the importance of seeking diversity and then connecting through the process of radical vulnerability. Kearstin shares her journey in Central Europe and highlights the community building aspect of her work, encouraging churches and organizations in the United States to connect in deeper ways. Kearstin will share personal stories about the plight of refugees, so we can better understand their struggles. Contemporary topics in politics and religion, like human migration, minority rights, and more, play a role in her reflection and may challenge the way you see the world around you.

I hope to see you in worship on January 21st.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Angela V. Wells

Rev. Angela V. Wells



A NOTE OF THANKS FROM REV. ANGELA!

Beloved Community,

I don't quite know how to put into words my deep gratitude for the surprise celebration on Sunday, but I will try. Your kindness, love, generosity and joy were overwhelming. I am sure that I'll feel buoyed up by your love and appreciation for a long time to come. I have known for a while that I am home in our church, but the celebration on Sunday just reinforced those feelings. Our community is where I belong, and I hope that each of you feel a sense of belonging as well, because we are all needed to create the faithful, vibrant community that makes up UCC Burlington. It is a deep privilege to be your pastor, a title that I try to do right by, every day! Sometimes I falter, and I thank you for your grace and compassion when that happens. May this milestone be one among many that we will mark together, as I pray that we will share in many more years of continued ministry. Thank you, thank you, thank you again, for the celebration, and for placing your trust in me, not only 5 years ago when I was a mere 25 years old, but every day, because that's what allows me to be your pastor, your trust day in, and day out. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Love,
Angela

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP!

Please keep your eyes on your mailbox!



Because of the projected deficit budget that Finance and Stewardship proposed at the December Parish Council meeting, we've decided to do a second-appeal to ask you all to increase your pledges or make a one-time gift to defeat our 2018 deficit. A letter will be arriving in your mailboxes in early January, so please prayerfully consider how you can support the church in this coming year.

Thank you!

YOUNG CLERGY CONFERENCE

Angela will be at her (final) young clergy conference in Carefree, AZ from January 3rd-9th. Kate Byers will guest preach on January 7th. Heather Hinton will be available for emergency pastoral coverage. If you have any pastoral needs, please contact her at: [508-685-1994](tel:508-685-1994).

TRUE NORTH PASTOR HOURS

Join Rev. Angela Wells at True North Coffee Shop, at 204 Cambridge Street, Burlington, for coffee and a chat on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 2nd: 4pm-6pm
Thursday, January 4th: **Cancelled**
Tuesday, January 9th: **Cancelled**
Thursday, January 11th: 9am-11am
Tuesday, January 16th: 4pm-6pm
Thursday, January 18th: 9am-11am
Tuesday, January 23rd: 4pm-6pm
Thursday, January 25th: 9am-11am
Tuesday, January 30th: 4pm-6pm



NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY!

Thank you, Christmas Musicians!

A special thanks to all of Adult Choir and our Youth Choir who brought us their wonderful music on Christmas Eve! Special thanks to Dave Hooper, Bill Beyer, and Aimee Tredeau for singing with us for Christmas!

Thank you, Special Musicians!

Thank you to our own Debbie Claar and Sarah Clark, who brought us special music on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the First Sunday after Christmas.

January Rehearsals

The choirs will rehearse every Wednesday in January. Youth Choir will meet from 5:15pm-5:45pm, and the adults will meet from 7:15pm-9:00pm. Make it your New Year's Resolution to support your church's music program and volunteer with the choir!



Deacons' Special Music Fund

We are very grateful to the Eta Chapter of the educational group Delta Kappa Gamma for their donation in memory of Joseph Stoddard, Sr.

Keep in touch!

Email: music@ucburlington.org

Twitter: @ucbmusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The Sunday School with Elizabeth Forbush, Geoff Fong, and Sarah Clark (soloist "O Holy Night") put on a fabulous performance of ***The King's Birthday pageant on December 17th***. Kudos to quick costume changes, & great acting. Joe Stoddard was so accom-

modating to our little glitches by providing music between acts, as was his "all around support" providing the music.

Behind the scenes to make it all happen was:

Deb Claar assisting with the artistic direction, Sue Eby & Chris Stahlinski working with the children during off stage time at the practice and during the show. They made all the costume changes and were just invaluable.

Also, thanks to CE and Deacons for putting on a delectable luncheon and to all those that provided the Shepherd's Pie, Angel Food cakes and apple cider.

On Sunday, December 31, the Sunday School students will provide a celebratory coffee hour with a New Year's theme!

December 27th was the 1st meeting of the High Schoolers, College age & 20 Somethings Service group. Details will follow on the outcomes of the meeting. Looking forward to hearing ideas, planning & having appetizers together.

The Intergenerational activity for January will have CE joining forces with the Music Committee to provide the ***Chili Winter Warmer & Concert*** event on January 20, 6 - 8:30.

Coming soon:

February 13 (Shrove Tuesday) Put the date on your calendar as we celebrate the beginning of Lent with a pancake supper and Mardis Gras theme and activities.

Information on February Intergenerational game night will be coming soon!



MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

The last Sunday of the Month we take a collection of Non-perishable goods for those folks connected to the Burlington Pantry.

Single roll toilet paper/bars of soap

On January 28th please bring as many of the following items to worship. We will bring these forward during our Children's Time.

ROSIE'S PLACE-BOSTON

A group of volunteers will travel into Boston on January 6th to prepare, cook, serve and cleanup at a luncheon for homeless women. Thank you to those who signed up!

Jan McSheffrey



CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We thank everyone for all your support this year through either donating yarn, cards, material etc to us. There are two final collections you might want to donate to:

Outside the office is a box for unsigned Christmas cards. These will be given next December to the Middlesex jail in Billerica so the inmates can send cards to family and friends.

Also some of you may have seen the clear Christmas balls we made with pictures of the Church inside. If you have a cell phone which takes pictures think about taking pictures of the sanctuary at different times of the year and sending them to mmoosie@hotmail.com (Susan Eby). We are planning to make more of these popular ornaments next year. Thanks in advance, Susan.

We will meet this month as long as the weather allows. If the weather conditions are too bad Susan will send you an e-mail. There will also be **no Crafting for a Cause** on the following dates January 17, February 7, and March 14 at Church. We can discuss if we want to meet at someone's house the days the Conference room is being used.

LOWELL TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER

Thanks to all who donated used clothing and special thanks to crafters for a cause C4C for the many hand knitted hats, scarves and wrist sleeves. Please keep the donations coming.

Most needed.....we have a constant shortage of winter coats, boots and gloves. See the bin outside the church office if you can donate used clothing.



YOU ARE INVITED!

The UCC CE and Music Committees are hosting an evening of fellowship, wonderful entertainment with the Three of Cups (Debbie & Ann-Marie) and Ted Brierley and a pot luck supper on Saturday, January 20 from 6-8:30pm to drive the cold winter away.



During the winter months in Denmark and Norway, communities turn to traditions that celebrate hygge (pronounced hooga) which honors well-being, togetherness, coziness and contentment. When you sit around a roaring fire, smell the aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg in the air and simply appreciate gathering together in a cozy room while it is cold and dark outside, hygge is in full bloom. The UCC CE and Music Committees invite you to our own version of hygge by hosting a *pot luck supper of chili, cornbread, homemade pies and apple cider with a special concert to follow*. Please join us and of course, sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hour starting on January 7 so you can share your favorite chili recipes or home baked pies. This event is free and open to family and friends.

Hope to see you all there. Cheers!

SOLAR FOR THE CHURCH AND YOU?

As you all can see, our panels, inverters and associated hardware are installed! Last step is for Eversource to complete a modification to a transformer and commission the system. Our vendor Revision Energy is motivated to push this last step as they do not get paid until it is complete. We expect completion in January which is well before the March deadline for favorable 2017 Mass SREC's.

For those who are considering solar panels for your home, the financial incentives to getting solar panels will be reduced by mid-2018 according to an email received from the Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light (see below). Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) are earned based on the amount of energy produced by the solar panels. The SRECs can be sold or used to defray the cost of the solar panels depending on how the solar panels are acquired.

According to MIPL, the SREC program will end in mid-2018. We did a little research and found the solar panels need to be "... mechanically complete or commercially operational by March 31, 2018" according to a website we found (<http://www.srectrade.com/blog/srec/srec-markets/massachusetts>). Whichever the case, the amount of financial credits will be reduced next year. If you are considering solar panels for your home, you will need to act quickly in order to get the financial credits that are currently available.

As a reminder, **Team Solar Light of Christ** conducted a fairly exhaustive selection process (many thanks to Dave Ierardi) and settled on using **ReVision Energy** for the church's solar panel project. ReVision Energy has also agreed to provide \$1,000 discount on a solar system through the church's program. So if you are interested in getting solar panels, the time is now. You can contact Revision Energy through Don LaRuffa at dlaruffa@revisionenergy.com or by phone at 978-604-6648.

-- Team Solar Light of Christ

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER

Paul Mouratidis
Elise Surko
Wynelle Scenna's brother
Ken Leonard
Conrad Fong
Janice Grace's dad Ed Scott
Mark Flecchia's Mom Vivian
Steve Fennelly
Ann Onthank
Marion Braley Freeman
Bill Livezey's daughter-in-law's sister Susan
Betty Knowles
Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace
Barbara Garland
Henry Knopp

Jan Blandino and her great grandson Brandon
Anne Stafford, friend Amanda, grandson Tyler ,
nephew Bill
Elizabeth King
Dorothy Murdoch's granddaughter Meghan. son Bob
Carol Downing's husband Ron
Nick Ciano's Mom Jenny
Bobbie & Tom's friend John
Dot Drinkwater
Ruth Reddig
Everett Langley's brother George
John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
Aimee Tredeau's friend Amanda
Ginger Mungillo's son, Jim
Fred Garside



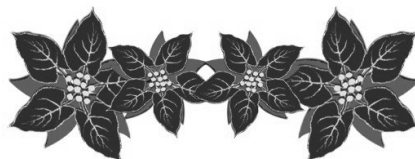
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

6 Nelson Eby
7 Ali & Peter Wisniewski
8 Kathy Olney
14 Bob Anderson
18 Bob Marsh
18 Beverly Maher
19 Erin Killilea
20 Penny Marsh
20 Ruth Reddig
21 Danté Rameriz (Killilea)
22 John Heald
26 Sara Goodrich-Byers
28 Tom Killilea
28 Jan McSheffrey
31 Kristin Duran

**OUR POINSETTIAS WERE DONATED BY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH
IN HONOR, MEMORY OR CELEBRATION OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Jean Bastos
 Aline Beck
 Marion Braley-Freeman
 Luella Brown
 Dick & Karen Butler
 Gail Giano
 Emily Deluca
 Calandrelli & Huebner Families
 Joyce Carpenter & Family
 Costa Family
 Damiani Family
 Eby Family
 Flecchia Family
 Fong Family
 Garside Family
 Deb Glancy & Donna Ferro
 Barbara Hayes
 John Heald
 Hooper Family
 Killilea Family
 Bobbie Killilea
 Michael Lewis
 Roberta Low
 Kari Lynch
 Julia & Kellsee Lynch
 Jan McSheffrey
 Barbara Moran
 Diane Page
 Marie Perrot
 Cindy Phillips
 Marcia Rich
 Wynelle Scenna
 Shute Family
 Claire Simas
 Anne Stafford
 Stahlinski Family
 Nancy Todd

Joseph Bastos
 All my Loved Ones
 Debbie and all my Loved Ones
 Husband, Richard and Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Gerry Giano
 Pat and Bob Turner
 Rindy Huebner
 Bob Carpenter
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Raymond Liu, Shirley's Father and all our Family, Friends, Loved Ones
 Our son, Tim and all our Loved Ones
 Mario Caizzi
 Robert Hayes, husband and Rob Hayes, son
 Everett and all that he does!
 Loved Ones
 Grandchildren and family and friends past and present
 My Hilltop Ladies, past, present and future!
 Jenny
 David E. Low
 Celebration of Terry McNutt and in memory of Ken Drs.
 Grandma Drs
 Charlie & Ruth McSheffrey
 Husband & Parents
 William, Edith and Eric Zink
 Marie, Joseph & Albert Perrot
 David L. Phillips
 Harold & Thelma Neal and Graydon & Sue Rich
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 My son, Joseph David Simas
 Husband Doug, Son Doug, & Parents
 Our Parents & Grandparents
 Loved Ones



Jan 7th
10:30am

Communion Prep: Dave Ierardi
Guest Preacher: Kate Byers
Lay Leader: Michael Lewis
Head Usher: Dave Hooper
Ushers: Dave-Janet Hooper
Carol Downing-Sally Willard
Greeters: Jean Bastos- Volunteer
School: Deb Raymond-TBA
Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-Nicole Flecchia
Flower Deliverer: Not Needed – poinsettias!
Collector: Wynelle Scenna
Coffee Hour: John Heald-Everett Langley
Bakers: John-Everett-Jessy McNeil-Karen Welch

Jan 14th
10:30am

Lay Leader: Karen Ciardi
Head Usher: Mark Flecchia
Ushers: Mark and Donna Flecchia
Dave Ierardi, Dave McNeil
Greeters: Karen Butler
School: Deb Raymond –
Nursery: Kristen Watanabe –Donna Flecchia
Flower Deliverer: Jessy McNeil
Collector: Karen Ciardi
Coffee Hour: Deb Glancy & Donna Ferro
Bakers: Deb-Donna-Jean Baker-Karen Butler

Jan 21st
10:30am

Lay Leader: Sally Willard
Head Usher: Conrad Fong
Ushers: Conrad-Chris Stahlinski
John Heald-Everett Langley
Greeters: Carol Downing
School: Deb Raymond –
Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-Mark Flecchia
Flower Deliverer: Cindy Phillips
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Coffee Hour: Kay Shute & Jane Raymond
Bakers: Kay-Jane-Sally Willard-Marge Zamanian

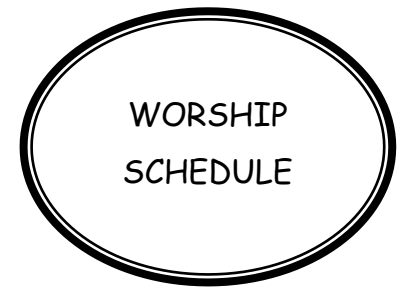
Jan 28th
10:30am

Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Head Usher: Janine Towle
Ushers: Janine-Mark Flecchia
Marcia Rich-John Getsinger
Greeters: Jan McSheffrey
School: Deb Raymond –
Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-Karen Ciardi
Flower Deliverer: Bill Livezey
Collector: Barbara Moran
Coffee Hour: Donna Flecchia
Bakers: Donna-Sue Eby-Cindy Phillips

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Feb 4th
10:30am

Communion Prep: Deb Glancy-Donna Ferro
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Ushers: Dave-Conrad Fong
Sally Willard-Lucy Damiani
Greeters: Barbara Moran
School: Deb Raymond –
Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-Paul Raymond
Flower Deliverer: Nancy Davis
Collector: Marcia Rich
Coffee Hour: Parish Council & Congregation



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

If you cannot host/bake
Contact: Janine Towle at
781-272-7679 or
msjaninetowle@gmail.com

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Montessori School Mon-Fri 8-6p	1 Happy New Year!  Office closed 7:30p AA	2 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6p SLAA 7:15p Deacons	3 1p C4C 5:15p Youth Choir 7-9p Scouts 7:5p Adult Choir	4 9-11a True North Pastor Hours	5 5:30p Scouts	6 11:00 Private Party Rental
7 10:30a Communion & School	8 6:15p CE Mtg 7:30p AA	9 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6p SLAA	10 1p C4C 5:15p Youth Choir 7-9p Scouts 7:5p Adult Choir	11 9-11a True North Pastor Hours	12	13
14 10:30a Worship-School-Love Offering Noon Missions	15  Office Closed 7:30p AA	16 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6p SLAA 7:15p PC Mtg	17 Noon-Clergy Meeting No C4C 5:15p Youth Choir 7-9p Scouts 7:5p Adult Choir	18 9-11a True North Pastor Hours 4:45p Stroller Fitness	19	20 1p Setup for Event  4p Fellowship Dinner & Concert 
21 10:30a Worship-School	22 7:30p AA	23 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6p SLAA	24 1p C4C 5:15p Youth Choir 7-9p Scouts 7:5p Adult Choir	25 9-11a True North Pastor Hours 4:45p Stroller Fitness	26	27
28 10:30a Worship-School-Red Wagon 	29 7:30p AA	30 4-6p True North Pastor Hours 6p SLAA	31 1p C4C 5:15p Youth Choir 7-9p Scouts 7:5p Adult Choir			

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested



JANUARY 2018