

HILLTOP HERALD

**DECEMBER
2018**

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
Pastor

Chris Silva
Moderator

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Dear Beloved Members and Friends,

Each year when I go shopping for Christmas cards, I find it challenging to find explicitly religious ones. This used to really bother me. I mean, there are still a few of us who *do* celebrate the religious Christmas. For those of us, it still is about Jesus' birth, and I got resentful that it was so hard to find religious Christmas cards.

But then I thought to myself, well, if people aren't celebrating religious Christmas, let's see what they are celebrating. What do the secular cards say? And so I took a quick survey. Here's what some of them said:

*Blessings to you this holiday season
Peace on Earth
Joy to all
Peace, joy and love
Joy to the world*

What I realized was that we are all celebrating the same thing, we just use different language for it. People who are Christian refer to Jesus, the Virgin Mary, the birth of the Messiah or our Savior, bringing about peace on Earth in a revolutionary way. People who aren't Christian might use phrases like the ones listed above, but those are all things that Jesus advocated for. He came to show us how to bring about peace on Earth, and I believe that his wish was that everyone would experience joy and love as well.

Whether you're Christian or not, you have to admit there's something magical about this time of year. I notice that people become more child-like, more playful, we prioritize fun things over obligations. We're gentler. We're kinder. We treat each other a little better. The political sparring takes a temporary hiatus. People are more generous, as time and money given to charitable organizations increases. The lights and decorations on houses are put up simply for passersby to enjoy. I appreciate people who hang up decorations, it's like an act of kindness for the whole community. People are a little more relaxed at work and at school. A world that's more kind, more loving, more generous and more peaceful. That's the world Jesus wanted for us. Even though Christmas has become commercialized and secular, maybe we are still celebrating his birth in a faithful way. So, I don't mind if people say Happy Holidays to me instead of Merry Christmas, because I think that at this time of year, we do bring the world a little bit closer to the one Jesus imagined for us, regardless of the language we use. We just need to work on maintaining that hope, peace, joy and love for the rest of the year as well.

I hope you and your family have a very blessed Christmas season.

With Love,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean



CALMING CHRISTMAS SERVICE: DECEMBER 8TH AT 2:00PM

This time of year can be challenging for many of us, for a variety of reasons. If you are feeling less than cheery, or if you just want to hit the 'pause' button for an hour, please join us for this sacred time of rest, renewal and reflection. It will help us realign our priorities, so hopefully we leave feeling a little more calm and centered. However you are feeling, know that you are welcome at this service. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



TRUE NORTH PASTOR HOURS FOR DECEMBER!

Please feel free to join Rev. Angela at True North Coffee Shop, Cambridge Street, Burlington on any of the dates below:



Tuesday, Dec. 4th: 9am-11am
Thursday, Dec. 6th: **Cancelled.**
Tuesday, Dec. 11th: **Cancelled.**
Thursday, Dec. 13th: 9am-11am
Tuesday, Dec. 18th: 4pm-6pm
Thursday, Dec. 20th: 9am-11am
Tuesday, Dec. 25th: **Cancelled.**
Thursday, Dec. 27th: **Cancelled.**

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Rev. Angela will be out of the office from December 25th through January 1st while her and Andy visit family. The covering Pastor will be announced closer to the date.

ADVENT ADULT STORY TIME

For the four Thursdays in Advent, starting on Nov. 29th at 7:30pm, we will have a group gather to read stories from the book Advent in Narnia by Heidi Haverkamp. You don't have to have read the series by C.S. Lewis to enjoy her reflections. This group requires no reading outside of our gathering. We will take turns reading aloud and then reflect on the short story that we heard. The goal is for us to stay connected to our faith during this busy Advent season.



LOOKING FOR ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS!

Are you interested in lighting our Advent wreath this season? We need folks to light it each week in December, on the 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and we need two groups to light it on Christmas Eve, at our 7pm and 11pm services. You can light it by yourself, with your family or with a group of friends. It's very easy, all the instructions will be provided to you. If you are interested, please let Angela know at RevWells@UCCBurlington.org. Thank you so much!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



-At 7pm we will have a family service of carols, candlelight and music

-At 11pm we will have a service of communion, carols, candlelight, and music

All are welcome!

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

Sunday School is finishing up the Season of Creation and is about to begin the 2nd section of the curriculum: **Advent, Christmas & Epiphany**. The Sunday School made Thanksgiving cards to send to some members of the congregation as part of their helping others lesson.



They will also begin practicing for the Christmas play "**What no Angels?**" to be performed as part of the church service on December 16th. The full Sunday School will practice on Saturday, December 15th 12:30-2pm in Sewall Hall. This year we will use a different format for after the play. Instead of the Shepherd's Pie luncheon, there will be a Christmas Coffee hour provided by CE and the Deacon's.

Intergenerational Events

Intergenerational activities are meant for all ages to attend. Some activities are broken into age groups & some are all together.

On Sunday November 11th, we met at the pool at the **Boys and Girls Club**. There was expert ball catching & tossing, & swimming tests to swim in the deep end. Parents even had time to sit in the bleachers & catch up with each other. Thank you to all that attended to make it an afternoon of great fun & energy. UCC KIDS & parents love the water!

Adult Ed Book Study

Angela has chosen a book of short stories, "**Advent in Narnia**", to be discussed during the 4 Thursdays of Advent (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20 @ 7:30) No outside reading is required as these stories can be read and discussed within the meeting times.

MUSIC NOTES!



Join the Choir for Christmas!

The Choir is open for singers who want to help with Advent and Christmas music! We would love singers in all sections to help enrich our musical offerings, especially for Christmas Eve. Come help us all get into the Christmas spirit!

Adult Choir Rehearsals

Drop in anytime to see if you'd like to join us! The adult choir will rehearse December 5, 12, and 19 at 7:15pm. There will be no rehearsal on December 26th. If you'd like more information, please see Joe Stoddard after church or contact him at music@uccburlington.org or (781) 346-3900.

Children's Choir Rehearsals

Our Children's Choir rehearsals will be held on December 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 12-12:30, after the kids have a chance to get a snack at Coffee Hour. We play music games, do activities to explore our singing voices, and sing church songs, too! We are planning on singing on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 23) as well as at the 7pm Christmas Eve service. There will be no rehearsal on Sunday, December 30.

If your family is interested in being part of the new Children's Choir, please drop in at rehearsal sometime or contact Joe Stoddard at music@uccburlington.org or (781) 346-3900.

Thank you, Aline and Sarah!

Thank you so much to Aline Beck and Sarah Clark for providing music on November 25 while Joe was away. We are very blessed to have such musical talent in our congregation!



Guest Violinist for Christmas

Lisa Brooke will once again be our violinist for both Christmas Eve services (7pm and 11pm). We invite you to come enjoy her music, along with the music of the Adult Choir and our Children's Choir!

Donations to the Special Music Fund

We are very grateful to the following donors for their generosity to the Deacons' Special Music Fund:

- Anne Stafford
- Lynn & Lee Tirrell, in memory of Doug Welch

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org

Twitter: @uccbmusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

**NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE'S FUNDRAISER
TO BENEFIT UCC
WAYSIDE COMMON
BURLINGTON, MA**

December 4- Tuesday
December 11- Tuesday
December 18- Tuesday
December 26- Wednesday

Grab your family, friends, co-workers and enjoy lunch/dinner on the above dates and 15% of your food bill will be donated to the church. How easy is that! Just take the flyer with (found at coffee hour) or we can mail one to you if needed, present it to your server and be sure the bill reflects the fundraiser.

Merry Christmas to us and the church!



**JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 19TH
FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
POTLUCK LUNCHEON
IN SEWALL HALL**

See the signup sheet at coffee hour and let us know if you can bring a dish. Can't bring a dish, no worries, come and enjoy the company of others as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

All are welcome!

**GIFT CARD PROGRAM
ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 2ND**

Buy your gift cards through "ShopwithScrip" and a percentage will be donated to the church, at no cost to you! There is a great list of vendors that participate in this program. If you would like to get a gift card to thank someone, or give as a gift, please take advantage of this program.

There is a form at coffee hour, just fill it out and leave your check with Nancy Todd OR you can go online to www.ShopwithScrip.com, create an account with BB483284315L1 as your enrollment code (to link your order to our church account). Place your order online, and send a check to "UCC, with Gift Cards on the memo line. Put the check in the GIFT CARD ORDER mailbox or mail to the church. Questions see Nancy Todd!

FALL FAMILY FAIR

Happy to report the FALL FAMILY FAIR on Saturday, November 3, was a success with everyone's help! We grossed \$ 7511.00. The craft fair did the best ever!

Thank you to all the crafters and the C4C people who worked so hard making items to sell! Well, done! The COOKIE WALK was a new feature that delighted many shoppers. The Deacons provided muffins and donuts in the morning and served a wonderful selection for lunch. Aimee did a wonderful job with children's activities. Thanks to all the bakers! The Missions BAKE SALE was a huge hit. Thanks for all the CE raffle basket donations. Thanks for all the book donations. The dinner committee and servers did a fantastic job!

We must give a standing ovation to KARI LYNCH for her outstanding cool, calm and organized skills putting together the silent auction. It is a tremendous job and many items came in the last minute. Please, please adhere to deadlines. She had to make display signs, bidding sheets and compile the tracking list for 51 items this year. She was setting up at church two nights until 11:30pm prior to the fair! Thank you to all who contributed.

Thank you to Debbie Claar for being our joyful singing emcee at the dinner and silent auction.

Thank you to the Boy Scouts for setting up the tables and covering them. Thanks to the lone Scout, Justin, for helping on Sunday to bringing fair leftovers down to Skelton with a few church members.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped out!!! Thanks for inviting family, friends and neighbors to shop, visit and had lunch with us. Terrific fellowship and community outreach.

A supersize THANK YOU to Bobbie Killillea for taking in phone calls, printing flyers, sending out reminder notices, etc. She was a guiding light.

Thank you to Wynelle for sharing the job!

Let's do it again, Sat. Nov. 2, 2019!



MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

The last Sunday of the month we collect non-perishable items for our Burlington Pantry.

They are in need of *coffee-tea-sugar-flour*

Bring to worship on December 30th and we will bring items forward during our "Time for Children."

ROSIE'S PLACE-BOSTON

On January 9th, 2019 UCC volunteers will be heading into Boston to prepare, cook, serve and cleanup for a luncheon for homeless women. If you would like to join us we are looking for a few more volunteers. See the signup sheet at coffee hour or speak with Jan McSheffrey (afdove@verizon.net)

COAT BOSTON (Coats for Elementary Age Children)



Missions will be collecting *new winter coats* for elementary age children.

There will be a blue bin marked outside the church office area.

Deadline is December 8th!

WHAT SIZES, COLORS, STYLES
ARE WE COLLECTING?

We accept all colors and styles of coats as long as they are warm winter coats—we try hard to get a variety of colors and styles so that each child can choose one that they like. *(Please no fleece or softshell light jackets, we are looking for proper heavy coats)* We outfit youth from toddlers to teens, so all sizes-included adult sizes-are appreciated.

LTLC - Lowell Shelter is in need of the following items for MEN and WOMEN

Used or new, Mens and Womens:
Most Critical:

Winter Jackets

Boots

Warm socks

Gloves

Jeans

Sweatshirts with hoods

Less critical:

All other adult sized clothing

There will be a bin outside the church office if you can donate any items.

Thank you!



CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

The end of November we sort all those items that were made for distribution to many of the mission programs we support. Thank you to anyone who donated to this cause.

In December we will meet on December 5 and 12 in the conference room at 1pm. Join us.

On December 19th we will be part of the pot luck holiday luncheon.

No meeting on December 26th but we will start the New Year with a meeting on January 2.

Roy Nyren and Family
 Shirley Garside & Family
 J. Beyers (Relative of Kate)
 Lucy and Rollie Damiani's brother-in-law
 Vito "Chickie" Bucco
 Dave Willaimson
 Deb Glancy's Aunt Rosemarie
 Rev. Elizabeth King
 Jan Blandino and her great-grandson Brandon
 Tom Killilea
 Extra prayers needed for Aimee Tredeau's friend
 Amanda
 Nancy Todd's Mom
 Anna Karwan's Mom
 Anne Stafford and grandsons Tyler and Zach
 Marion Braley Freeman and her niece Beth

Bobbie Martino
 Barbara Garland
 Conrad Fong
 Steve Fennelly
 Ann Onthank
 Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace
 Henry Knopp
 Bobbie & Tom's friends John, Joy, Ed
 (all dealing with cancer)
 Dot Drinkwater
 Ruth Reddig
 Everett Langley's brother George
 John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
 Ginger Mungillo's son, Jim



In Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy to our dear friends Roy Nyren and Shirley Garside. Nancy Nyren passed away peacefully this past November surrounded by family. Fred Garside passed away in his sleep on November 26 with his wife Shirley by his side. Our deepest sympathy to Roy and Shirley, their families and friends. They both will be so missed. Keeping you all in our prayers!



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

4	Janet Knudsen
13	Andrew Olney
15	Kristina Duran
17	Michael Tredeau
17	David McNeil
18	Marion Braley Freeman
18	Lance Olney
18	Ellen Salera
19	Lauren Costa
26	Robert Stahlinski
31	Dorothy Drinkwater

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 2 **ADVENT SUNDAYS**

10:20am Communion Prep: Jan McSheffrey-Nancy Davis
 Lay Leader: Deb Glancy
 Head Usher: Dick Butler
 Ushers: Dick and Karen Butler
 Barbara Moran-Mark Flecchia
 Advent Readers: TBD
 Greeters: Janice Grace
 School: Deb Raymond-SueWisniewski
 Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-Donna Flecchia
 Flower Deliverer: Nancy Davis
 Collector: Marge Zamanian
 Coffee Hour: Janine Towle
 Bakers: Janine-Karen Welch-Chris Stahlinski

December 9 Lay Leader: Mark Flecchia
 10:20am Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Ushers: Dave-Janine Towle
 Lucy Damiani-Jane Raymond
 Advent Readers: TBA
 Greeters: Carol Downing
 School: Deb Raymond-Jan McSheffrey
 Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-
 Flower Deliverer: Bev Maher
 Collector: Carol Downing
 Coffee Hour: John Heald-Everett Langley
 Bakers: Everett-Shirley Fong-Barbara Leonard

December 16 ***Christmas Pageant***

10:20am Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
 Head Usher: John Heald
 Ushers: John-Everett Langley
 Wynelle Scenna-Dave Ieradi
 Greeters: Kay Shute
 Advent Readers: TBA
 School: Deb Raymond-Susan Eby
 Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-TBA
 Flower Deliverer: Janice Grace
 Collector: Wynelle Scenna
 Coffee Hour: CE-Christmas Pageant
 Bakers: CE and Deacons

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:

7:00pm Lay Leader: Sally Willard
 Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
 Ushers: Chris-Marge Zamanian-Volunteers needed
 Greeters: Volunteer
 Nursery: Kristin Watanabe-Volunteer needed
 Readers:
 Collector: Dick Butler

11:00pm Communion Prep: Deb Glancy-Donna Ferro
 Lay Leader: Deb Claar
 Head Usher: Dave Ieradi
 Ushers: Dave Ierardi-Volunteers needed
 Greeters: Volunteer
 Readers:
 Collector: Dick Butler

December 30 10:30am Lay Leader: Emily Deluca
 Head Usher: Lucy Damiani
 Ushers: Lucy-Marcia Rich
 John Getsinger-Gordon Brown
 Greeters: Barbara Moran
 School: Deb Raymond-TBA
 Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-TBA
 Flower Deliverer: Marge Zamanian
 Collector: Barbara Moran
 Coffee Hour: CE-Sunday School
 Bakers: CE-Sunday School

January 6 10:30am Communion Prep: Janice Grace-Nancy Davis
 Lay Leader: Conrad Fong
 Head Usher: Janine Towle
 Ushers: Janine-Kari Lynch
 Dick Butler-Karen Butler
 Greeter: Karen Butler
 School: Deb Raymond
 Nursery: Kristen Watanabe-Donna Flecchia
 Flower Deliverer: Anna Karwan
 Collector: Everett Langley
 Coffee Hour: Chris Stahlinski
 Bakers: Chris-Sue Eby-Marge Zamanian

December 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Montessori School Mon-Fri 8-6pm						1 9:30a Help Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent/Christmas
2 1st Advent 10:20a Carol Sing/Worship/School-Green Team Noon Choir Gift Card Deadline!	3 7:30p AA 7:30p Trustees	4 Not Your Average Joe's 4-6p True North Hours 7:15p Deacons	5 1:00p C4C 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	6 No True North Hours 6:30p SLAA 7:30p Advent Book Study	7	8 COAT BOSTON COLLECTION DEADLINE
9 2nd Advent 10:20a Carol Sing/Worship/School Noon Choir Noon Missions 5p Private Rental	10 6:15p CE Meeting 7:30p AA	11 Not Your Average Joe's No True North Hours 6p RAIL	12 1:00p C4C 7p Scouts 7:15p Choir	13 9-11a True North Hours 6:30p SLAA 7:30p Advent Book Study	14 4p Dinner Rental	15
16 3rd Advent 10:20a Carol Sing/Worship/Christmas Pageant Noon Choir Poinsettia Deadline	17 7:30p AA	18 Not Your Average Joe's 4-6p True North Hours 7:15p PC	 19 Noon Christmas Potluck Luncheon 7:15p Choir	20 9-11a True North Hours Poinsettia Delivery 6:30p SLAA 7:30p Advent Book Study Articles for January HH Deadline	21 10:15a Montessori Concert	22
23 4th Advent 10:20a Carol Sing/Worship/School Noon Choir	24 AA Cancelled CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 7pm Family/Music/Candlelight 11pm Communion/Music/Candlelight	25 Merry Christmas To All! 	26 Not Your Average Joe's NO C4C 7p Scouts No Choir	27 No True North Hours 9:30a Hilltop Folding/Luncheon 6:30p SLAA	28	29
30 10:20a Carol Sing/Worship/School/Red Wagon	31 7:30p AA	January 1, 2019 Happy New Year! Office closed!	9.			

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 16th**

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: _____

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested



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