

HILLTOP HERALD SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Church Family,

How are you doing? Are you doing okay? If you're honest with yourself, are you *really* okay? Depression, loneliness, anxiety and despair all have a way of creeping up on us. If you're not well, or if you just want someone to talk to, please be in touch with me. I'd love to spend some time (over the phone or online) with you.

If you are doing okay, are you feeling a mixture of emotions? I find myself feeling grateful that neither I, nor anyone I love is sick, while sad that so many things have been cancelled and that we don't know when we'll be able to see our family again. And my heart breaks for all those who have lost loved ones to this terrible virus. I am grateful that I don't have children in grade school, because, frankly, I have no idea what I would do. But I lament with all the parents who are tearing their hair out trying to balance their needs, the needs of their children and their safety. There is no ideal way for our children to go to school this fall, it's a big combination of less-than-ideal choices, and that sucks. Most of the time, I am grateful that I don't live alone, but sometimes I long for the peace and solitude that living alone brings. I am thankful that we can order in, but I miss going out to eat. I am glad that I am able to connect with friends over Facetime, but I wish I could connect with them over cocktails. Some mornings I wake up totally fine, feeling well-adjusted, ready to tackle my to-do list for the day. Other mornings I wake up and the reminder that we're still living with the pandemic, with no end in sight, smacks me in the face and I just want to pull the covers back over my head and ignore everything.

If you find yourself feeling a constant mixture of emotions, hang tight, that's totally normal. I think about when Jesus wanted to go away by himself and pray but the crowds followed him because they needed healing. I imagine he felt a combination of irritation and empathy and love. God made us complex beings who are capable of handling a variety of simultaneous emotions, even when they seem like opposites.

Rev. Molly Baskette recently wrote this prayer which resonated with me. Next time you're feeling what feels like all the emotions, I invite you to pray this prayer:

*God, they say feelings are a package deal. The yuck and the yum come bundled.
God, they say that all feelings are from you, it's what we do with them that matters.
But what do we do when our feelings come not tidily trussed but messily tangled, like a fine silver chain that won't be undone no matter how long we labor over it? It sits in a box waiting for a miracle worker.
I take them out again, the pile of feelings. And this time, I ask you to bless them before I begin the work:
Bless the anger and irritation. Bless the gratitude and the joy-sparks. Bless the compassion and the selfishness, the fear and the courage, the gloom and the hope, the listlessness and the purposeful action. Bless the love in my life, and bless the distance- emotional and physical - between those I would reunite with. Bless the stress, and bless the serenity.
Bless it all, the whole mess, and remind me that having a rainbow of feelings is your light, prismsed into a spectrum.
I feel a little more ease now. I can see where to begin, to gently untangle, pull there, push here, rest there... and find how it all fits together in one unbroken, beautiful strand. Amen.*

With Love and Support,
Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
Pastor

Sally Willard
Moderator

CONTENTS

Pastor Message	1
Book Study	2
Social/Spiritual Gatherings	2
Deacons Snippet	3
Missions	4
-Red Wagon	
-C4C	
-Missions Snippet	
-Church Sign	
Music Ministry	5
Children's Ministry	6
Summer Photos	7
Gift Card Program	7
UCC YARD SALE	8
Prayers, Joys, Birthdays	9
Worship Schedule	10
Calendar	11



BOOK DISCUSSION: BOOK OF LONGINGS, BY SUE MONK KIDD

One of our Social-Spiritual Circles being organized by the Deacons is a book discussion. On **Wednesday, Oct. 21st from 10-11am and on Sunday, Oct. 25th from 2-3pm**, we'll have the opportunity to gather at church to discuss the *Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. The intention is that you attend one session or the other.

Here's a little bit about the book: In her mesmerizing fourth work of fiction, Sue Monk Kidd takes an audacious approach to history and brings her acclaimed narrative gifts to imagine the story of a young woman named Ana, who marries Jesus. Their marriage evolves with love and conflict, humor and pathos in Nazareth, where Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers, and their mother, Mary. Ana's pent-up longings intensify amid the turbulent resistance to Rome's occupation of Israel, partially led by her brother, Judas.

Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her.

All are welcome to be part of the discussion. We hope you can join us for one of these sessions. Please email her if you'd like to participate. Revwells@ucburlington.org

UPCOMING SOCIAL-SPIRITUAL CIRCLE SCHEDULE

Topic	Day	Date	Time	Facilitator
Social Distancing Get Together	Thursday	September 17 th	9:30 AM	Chris Stahlinski
Jeopardy Tournament	Saturday	September 26 th	6 PM	Deb Raymond
My Favorite Authors	Thursday	October 1 st	7 PM	Marcia Rich
My Favorite Authors	Saturday	October 3 rd	2 PM	Marcia Rich
Guided Meditation	Wednesday	October 7 th	7 PM	Debbie Claar
Guided Meditation	Wednesday	October 14 th	7 PM	Debbie Claar
Social Distancing Get Together	Thursday	October 15 th	9:30 AM	Chris Stahlinski
Jeopardy Tournament	Saturday	October 17 th	6 PM	Deb Raymond
The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd	Wednesday	October 21 st	2 PM	Rev. Angela
The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd	Sunday	October 25 th	2 PM	Rev. Angela
Favorite Bible Passages	Tuesday	November 10 th	10 AM	Rev. Angela
Jeopardy Tournament	Saturday	November 14 th	6 PM	Deb Raymond
Favorite Bible Passages	Monday	November 16 th	7 PM	Rev. Angela
Jeopardy Tournament	Saturday	December 5 th	6 PM	Deb Raymond



Greetings UCC Parishioners!

The Deacons have been hard at work all summer, and we have a few things we want to share with you!

Welcome Back Sunday is September 13th! We know it will feel strange not to be in the sanctuary. We also know it's a real bummer not to eat our delicious breakfast casseroles, baked breads, and fruit salad after service. But we don't want you to go without. We may not be able to cook for you this year, but we invite you to try making one of your favorite treats. During the upcoming weeks, we will share with you some of our favorite brunch recipes. Be sure to read the weekly email blasts, so you get them. Feel free to bring and eat a favorite breakfast treat during our Welcome Back Sunday service. We can at least share a meal and a cup of coffee (or tea) in spirit.

Welcome Back Sunday Parade: Although we can't see everyone on Welcome Back Sunday, we thought it would be nice to have a Welcome Back Sunday Parade. Deb Raymond will be at it again, trying to devise the best route so we can drive around Burlington spreading our good cheer. It's a lot of fun waving to some of our congregants, their neighbors, and folks on the street. Start thinking about how you'll decorate your car and join us in the fun! More details to follow.

Technological Support: Do you miss seeing our weekly church services? Would you like to use Zoom, but you don't know where to start? Would you like to use Zoom, but you don't even have a computer or a tablet? Are you wondering what Zoom is? Do you think you're too old or too young to use Zoom? **Do you know we have help right here at your fingertips? Call Deb Glancy at 617-281-6697.** She is happy to answer your questions and see how she can help you access our weekly church services. If you miss us as much as we miss you, please call Deb for help. We'd love to see you online for Welcome Back Sunday.

Social-Spiritual Circles: We know you miss seeing each other and we want you to feel connected during the fall and winter months. We are organizing Social-Spiritual Circles. What are they? Small, focused gatherings (10 people or less) in Sewell Hall. Each circle will have a facilitator and we will focus our conversations around a shared topic. We'll meet for just an hour.

What will you need to do? Find a circle that interests you, register, and then show up wearing your favorite face mask. We will be spaced 6 ft apart. We can't have food, but feel free to bring a bottle of water. These are meant to be fun and informal. You don't need to be an expert and you don't even have to be a talker. Just come to enjoy the topic and the company.

Social-Spiritual Circle Schedule: Save the dates!!! Information about each topic and registration details will be coming. If you don't receive the weekly email blasts, but you want to attend one of the circles, please call Bobbie in the office. Helpful Hint: Start reading *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd now!

More SS circles will be coming. If you would like to facilitate a circle, contact Bobbie in the office. Provide the topic and select a date or two. These are meant to be fun and informal. You don't need to be an expert to facilitate a circle. All you need to do is have a topic and a couple of starter questions to kick off a conversation or two. The circle will do the rest! Don't worry, we'll help you set up the social distancing seating arrangement.



MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

The Pantry is located at 1 St. Mark's Road, Burlington.

There is a storage pod on site to drop off donations.

They are extremely low on the following items:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| canned tomatoes | pasta sauce | broth | jelly |
| flour and sugar | dish soap | canned vegetables | |
| | | (except corn and green beans) | |

If you would rather make a monetary donation you can make a check out to PHP and mail it directly to PHP, P.O. Box 343, Burlington, MA 01803. Questions please contact them at 781-270-6625 or burlingtonpantry@gmail.com.

MISSIONS SNIPPET!

We look forward to meeting again in September. Meanwhile, Barbara Moran has made payments to the following organizations in honor of our church:

July

- Cooperative Elder Services
- Mission of Deeds
- Reach Beyond Domestic Violence
- Special Ops Wounded Warriors

August

- Science with a Mission
- VNA Hospice Care
- SNEUCC
- Strengthen the Church

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We continue to meet on Wednesdays either via zoom or in an outdoor setting with social distancing. All are welcome to join our ZOOMmeetings. Call Susan Eby for details. Crafters continue to create items such as prayer shawls, fingerless mittens and hats which we plan on distributing at the end of the year.

There are masks and ear savers available to all who desire them. Bobbie has a supply in the office or you can email or call Susan Eby.



CHURCH YARD SIGNS-NOW AVAILABLE

We have ordered yard signs to help get the word out about our church.

If you would like one in your yard, please email Angela and she'll drop it off at your house. These are for folks in Burlington and beyond! The cost of the signs is \$13, so if you want to make a contribution to help defray the cost, we'd appreciate it, but you certainly do not have to.

Thank you for helping us spread the word about our wonderful congregation.



Thank you, Musicians!

Our volunteer musicians continue to give of their time and talent to enrich our Sunday morning worship services. We are very grateful to all those who provided solos and duets this summer: Debbie Claar, Sarah Clark, Amelia Lewis, Julie Lewis, Laura Nowell, Mark Omobono, and Robert Scenna. We are also very thankful that Aline Beck was able to fill in for Joe Stoddard at the piano for two Sundays in July and two Sundays in August.

Singers and Instrumentalists Needed

Since we are continuing to offer worship online, we need singers and instrumentalists to share their talents with us on Sunday mornings. You can volunteer to sing or play just one solo during the service, or you can volunteer to lead the singing for the entire service or do anything in between! You do not have to be a regular Choir member to volunteer. If you'd like to offer your skills, please contact Joe Stoddard at music@ucburlington.org or (781) 346-3900.

Welcome Back Sunday

On Welcome Back Sunday (Sept 13th), we will be treated to the music of trumpeters Tom Palance and Paul Meneghini. They were scheduled to play for us on Easter Sunday, but now they are able to join us virtually for online worship.

Deacons' Special Music Fund

The church is very grateful to our recent donors to the Deacons' Special Music Fund:

- Luella Brown, in memory of her husband Richard
- Carol Downing, in honor of our church community
- Bobbie Killilea
- Marcia Rich
- Lee & Lynn Tirrell
- Deana Tredeau
- Karen Welch

If you have made a donation to the Deacons' Special Music Fund and it has not yet been acknowledged in *The Hilltop*, please contact Joe Stoddard at music@ucburlington.org or (781) 346-3900.

Keep in touch!

Email: music@ucburlington.org

Twitter: @ucbmusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Annual Summer Get Together

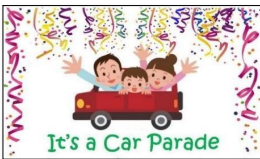
The 2nd Annual event was held August 9th on the church lawn. Masked & 6' apart, the kids performed street art. They put a chalked Christian message with words & art on the side walk in front of the church for all passing by to witness and were ZOOMED into the church service. They also made flags to display in a parade at the end of the service.

The Fall Plan

Hybrid is the word. Sunday School will be held as hybrid program 10:30 – 11:30. During warm Fall days from Welcome Back Sunday on September 13th through November 1st, we will meet outside approximately every other week as follows: 9/13, 9/27, 10/4, 10/18, and 11/1. The weeks in between will be ZOOM Sunday School. As the weather cools during that time, we will be on the move walking to some nearby points of interest.

How does our gathering work? We will take the kids temp before they are dropped off. Each child will bring a blanket or towel to sit on. Details and a survey will follow for parents. All that being said, that leaves us plenty of room to have fun and learn!

INTERGENERATIONAL



I love a Parade, do you? September 13th, Welcome back Sunday, the UCC 3rd car parade! Decorate the exterior of your car and show up at the church at 12:30. We will line up in the church driveway. The more cars, the more the impact and celebration. Use ribbons, streamers, balloons etc. Arrive 10 minutes early, Deb will have glass markers to write on your windows. We will parade for approximately one hour to pass some of our Burlington parishioners. ***Participants do not stop and get out of their cars.*** People from the past TWO parades have been so appreciative and excited by the drive by. **Parade commences promptly at 12:30.**

Jeopardy Tournament

For the fall months, individual Jeopardy matches will be held on different dates in Sewell hall with 10 participants. People interested will sign up for 1 of the available dates. People can be an individual or a family unit. Each individual or family unit will sit 6' from the next participant at the match (masks required). There will be an 'Alex' posing the questions. The participants at each match will play the 2 Jeopardy rounds and a Final Jeopardy. The high scorer will advance to the finals. The matches can continue as long as there are new participants. The match will take 45 min – 1 hour. At least 1 question for kids in each category. The last Jeopardy held was a great time!

The available dates are Sat. 9/26, 10/17, 11/14, 12/5. If the matches are completed by 12/5, the Finals will be held in January. Contact Deb Raymond Cell/Text: 857-373-9156 or email angelfoods@msn.com

PASTOR ANGELA WANTS YOUR SUMMER PHOTOS!

As part of our Welcome Back Sunday celebration, we're going to have a slideshow so that we can see what our church family was up to this summer! Pastor Angela needs you to send her one photo from your summer. It can be of you, your family, a scene from nature, or anything you want! **Just email the photo to [Angela Revwells@ucburlington.org](mailto:Angela.Revwells@ucburlington.org) by August 31st, and please include a caption/description with the photo.**

Thank you!



GIFT CARD PROGRAM! Order your gift cards and a percentage comes back to the church at no cost to you!

Here are ways to buy:



-Order online at www.ShopWithScrip.com
(use code BB483284315L1 to link your account to the church). Either leave a check in the Gift Card Orders mailbox in the church office, or use your own credit card to complete your online purchase. You can request traditional plastic gift cards or print paper gift cards from your home computer.

-Send Nancy Todd an email with your order. nancygtodd@gmail.com

Remember you get your gift cards at full value and a percentage comes back to the church. It's a win-win for all!

**Order by: September 7th
(just in time for fall celebrations!)
Receive by: Mid-September!**

TRUSTEES SNIPPET!

Work is finished! The Church is painted, handicapped railings are up and we have new our KEY FOB Security System in place. When church is back in full swing you will be so amazed how wonderful our building looks! Until then, be safe!

Giant OUTSIDE Yard Sale Saturday, September 19th Rain-date: September 26th

We ask your indulgence and understanding with this different scenario for the 2020 yard sale.

YARD SALE WILL BE TOTALLY OUTSIDE!



We will be looking for people to help with the following tasks:

Friday, Sept. 18th

- A) Setting up tables outside from 8-9 a.m.
- B) Unpacking, sorting, and pricing from 9-9.
Whatever hours you can

Saturday, Sept. 19th

- C) Helping with sales from 8:30 - 11:30.
- D) Helping with sales from 11:30 - 2:30.
- E) Breaking up the yard sale. Returning tables to Sewall Hall.
- F) Transporting unsold items to Savers, the Used Bookstore,
or packing up for disposal.

CONTACT JOAN ZINK AND LET HER KNOW WHERE YOU CAN HELP!

ZOANZINK1@ME.COM

PRAYER LIST

Friend of Aimee Tredeau who lost her home in a fire. Please add Mercedes and her kids, Malki and Zaire to your prayers.
 Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian
 Carol and Ron Downing' brother Charlie, hospitalized and Carol's sister-in-law Joan
 Barbara Leonard
 Claire Simas and her grandson
 Anne Stafford, son Bill and grandson Zach
 Jan Costa
 Joe Stoddard's mom Lillian
 Betty and Woody Knowles, their friend
 Janet Hurley
 Sarah Clark's mother-in-law Sandra
 Roberta Low's friend Doug
 Anna Karwan and her family
 Joyce Carpenter's Nephew
 Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg and friend Frank
 Kendra Griep's grandfather
 Luella Brown
 Alan Wright's friend Seth's Dad

Jean Bastos
 J. Beyers (Relative of Kate)
 Dave Williamson
 Rev. Elizabeth King
 Jan Blandino
 Bobbie Martino
 Barbara Garland
 Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace
 Henry Knopp
 Dot Drinkwater
 Ruth Reddig
 Everett Langley's brother George
 John Heald's sister Susan & Mom
 Jim Mungillo

All our caregivers, military here and abroad, our
 First Responders
 and Urgent Care workers!
 BE SAFE!



Our deepest sympathy to Libby Samarjian and her family on the sudden passing of her dad, Roger Plaisted. Roger passed away peacefully in his sleep in July. Please keep Libby and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Conrad, Shirley and Geoffrey Fong on the passing of Conrad's Dad, Gim. We are so sorry to hear of his passing! Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Eric Forbush | 18 Samantha Flecchia |
| 7 Dominic Ramirez (Killilea) | 18 Jackson Towle |
| 7 Nick Nowell | 24 David Hooper |
| 7 Wayne Higden | 25 Conrad Fong |
| 8 Steve Samarjian | 26 Lucy Damiani |
| 9 Peter Silva | 26 Shirley Garside |
| 16 Katherine Baker | 28 Forrest Knowles |
| 17 Kate Byers | |



WORSHIP SCHEDULE VIA ZOOM*
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

SEPTEMBER 6 LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Music: Mark Omobono



SEPTEMBER 13 WELCOME SUNDAY

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Deb Glancy
Music: Sarah Clark/Tom Palance/Paul Meneghini
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

SEPTEMBER 20

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Music: Debbie Claar
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

SEPTEMBER 27

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Music: Mark Omobono

OCTOBER 4 COMMUNION

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Music: TBD
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

*Join us on ZOOM Livestream. The link is: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/756975189>



September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Montessori School Begins Sept 8th 8-6pm		1 7p Deacons @ Zoom	2 1p C4C Zoom 7p Anti-Racism Meeting	3	4	5
6 10:30a ZOOM Communion	7 LABOR DAY! 7:30p AA 7:30p Trustees	8 7p Zoom Mtg	9 1p C4C Zoom	10	11	12
13 WELCOME SUNDAY 10:30a ZOOM Worship 10:30a Sunday School @ UCC Outside!	14 6:30p CE Mtg 7:30p AA	15 7p PC Mtg ZOOM	16 1p C4C Zoom 7p Anti-Racism Meeting	17 9:30a Social Distancing Gathering!	18 Evening Setup For UCC Yard Sale	19 9-2p OUTSIDE 
20 10:30a ZOOM Worship Hilltop Deadline	21 7:30p AA	22	23 1p C4C Zoom	24 Last Chance For your Hilltop Articles	25 RAIN-DATE setup	26 RAIN-DATE!  6p Jeopardy Game Night
27 10:30a ZOOM Worship 10:30a Sunday School @ UCC Outside! Rental @ UCC	28 Rental @ UCC 7:30p AA	29 Hilltop Mailing	30 1p C4C Zoom			

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested

TO:



ALL ARE WELCOMED! ALL ARE LOVED!