

HILLTOP HERALD FEBRUARY 2021

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
Pastor

Sally Willard
Moderator

CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Pastor Message | 1 |
| Warrant | 2 |
| Interim Pastor | 3 |
| Ash Wednesday | 3 |
| Anti-Racism | 3 |
| Sundays in Feb | 3 |
| Deacons Snippet | 4 |
| Music Notes | 5 |
| Missions | 6 |
| -Red Wagon | |
| -Crafting for a Cause | |
| Christian Ed | 6 |
| Joys-Concerns | 7 |
| Worship Schedule | 8 |
| Calendar | 9 |

Dear Church Family,

It might feel like Advent and Christmas just wrapped up, but believe it or not, the liturgical season of Lent begins in just a few weeks. Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of the season, is on February 17th.

The season of Lent is associated with atonement, which means acknowledging our sins and repenting for them before God and others. This season is associated with prayer and spiritual disciplines and in an effort to deepen our connections with God. The intent is that when Easter comes, we will feel closer to God and we'll be ready to celebrate with clear consciences. One of my pastoral colleagues recently lamented that she doesn't feel like Lent 2020 ever ended, we've been in a prolonged Lent since the pandemic started. And, quite frankly, she doesn't want to celebrate Lent again this year. You might be feeling this same way. Who needs to draw the curtains and draw closer to God when we've been locked in our homes for coming up on a year? Who needs to give something up for Lent when we have given up so many things because of the pandemic? How can we recognize this important season without bringing more weariness upon ourselves? Because that's the last thing any of us need.

Well, I don't know about you, but I need my relationship with God right now. I need to feel God closely and intimately, at a time when I am feeling so distant from friends and family members. I need God's companionship now maybe more than before because it's so easy for us to fall into cycles of loneliness and despair. If we're sitting at the bottom of the pandemic pit, it is comforting to know that God is there with us.

The theme for this year's Lenten season is *Again & Again*. "In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, 'Again?! How long, O God?' And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: 'I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.' Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward."

Even though it might feel like we have been in a year-long Lent and we are more than ready for Easter, I encourage us to use this holy time to get closer with God. We don't need to focus so much on piety and penitence, but simply deepening our relationship with God. Whether through prayer, scripture, song, worship, or otherwise. Let us remember that over and over again there will be dreary seasons of our lives, and over and over again, God will choose us, draw us in, and remind us that we are beloved.

I pray that this sacred truth helps to sustain us through this Lenten season and beyond.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

-
- 1 We will have an Ash Wednesday Service on Zoom at 7pm. Service details are elsewhere in the Hilltop.
 - 2 From the SanctifiedArt.org 2021 Lenten series, *Again & Again*



288th
Annual Meeting Warrant
Sunday, February 7, 2021

- Article 1 To approve the minutes of the 287th Annual Meeting and Special Congregational Meeting held in October 2020
- Article 2 To accept the Annual Reports of the Church Officers, Boards, and Committees.
- Article 3 To consider and vote upon the slate of Church Officers, Boards, and Committees as presented by the Nominating Committee.
- Article 4 To hear a special report on the Solar Panel Project
- Article 5 To consider and vote upon the 2021 Operating Budget as presented by the Board of Finance & Stewardship and recommended by the Parish Council.
- Article 6 To consider and vote upon empowering the Parish Council to spend up to \$5,000 from the Endowment Fund in case of an emergency.
- Article 7 To consider and vote upon the 2021 Church Goal as recommended by Parish Council.
- Article 8 To hear any other business that may legally come before the Congregation.
- Article 9 To hear and consider remarks for the good of the Parish.



Introducing... Our Interim Pastor!

Rev. Ginger Bove will be our Interim Pastor from March 1st- May 31st while Pastor Angela is on parental leave. Her first Sunday leading worship will be March 7th. However, she will be with us for worship and coffee hour on Sunday, February 21st, so we hope you'll join us for that service and have a chance to meet Ginger. Here is a little bit about her:

Rev. Virginia "Ginger" Bove is a part-time chaplain at Lahey Hospital here in Burlington. She pastored churches over a fifteen-year period in Massachusetts and in Birmingham, Alabama. Before turning to a full-time hospice position, Ginger's last position in a congregational setting was to see the United Church of Christ in Pelham, Mass. (outside of Amherst) through its final seven years. She worked full-time in hospice until her son was born in 2007, and then took the part-time position at Lahey in 2013, serving in Pelham part-time during those years. She cherishes the work of pastoral care, and enjoys teaching and preaching. As she is originally from South Carolina, you may hear her refer to you as "y'all" here and there! In her personal life, Ginger enjoys travel (when possible), hiking and reading. She is married to Eric Bove, and they have a son, Jeremy, age 13 3/4.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will have an **Ash Wednesday service on Zoom on Feb. 17th at 7pm.** You'll be able to impose ashes on yourself, as each family will receive a packet of ashes in the mail. Please join us for this powerful service which will help us set our intentions for the season of Lent. Use the same Zoom link that we use for Sunday morning worship.

ANTI-RACISM ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP

Staying vigilant about racism and the ways we are complicit in perpetuating it is very important. All are welcome to join our Anti-Racism Accountability Group as we work together to dismantle personal, interpersonal, systemic and institutional racism. **We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm.** Email Pastor Angela and she'd be happy to send you the Zoom link.

IMPORTANT SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 7th: Annual Meeting right after church on Zoom, led by our Moderator, Sally Willard. All are welcome to join us.

February 21st: Joint service with Pastor Angela and Pastor Ginger (our Interim Pastor who will serve while Angela is on parental leave)

February 28th: The Deacons have contingency plans in case Angela goes into labor early. Her sermon will be pre-recorded before this Sunday. If she's with us, this will be Angela's last Sunday before her parental leave.



Dear Congregation,

The Deacons hope you are doing well and that you are safe and snuggled in your homes during the second stretch of winter. Personally, I typically like the long months of January and February. It feels like a period of hibernation – a time to slow down, wear warm bulky sweaters, and stay home a bit more, especially after a season of Christmas parties and gatherings with family and friends. But this year is different – I haven't been out in what feels like a long time, and I seldom see friends other than on Zoom. Like many people, I feel a little more isolated than I'd like. Maybe you feel the same? When I'm feeling a little a bit pleh, I encourage myself to pick up the phone and call someone, whether it is a close friend or an acquaintance. I always feel better after making those calls. I feel warm and happy after I've connected with someone else.

If you're feeling a little out of touch and would like to chat with someone, let Jan McSheffrey or Rev. Angela know. Jan leads the Call to Care group, and she knows a lot of people who would love to chat with you. Feeling too shy to call or email Jan? Look through the church directory and call someone you think could use a pick-me-up smile. We're all in this together and an unexpected call really does bring a smile to a person's face. It's nice to be thought of – spread a smile today! Otherwise, Deacons are hard at work preparing for Lent and Angela's upcoming parental leave in March. Lent starts early this year – Feb 17th marks Ash Wednesday, and we have something for you. If Bobbie does not have your current mailing address, please be sure to give it to her. You can call the church office or send her an email. We want to include everyone. Please stay warm, stay connected, and stay safe.

– Deb Glancy, Deacons Chair

Thank you, Special Musicians!

As of the writing of this newsletter, here are our soloists for the month of February:
Sunday, February 7th (The Presentation of the Lord) – Debbie Claar, soprano
Sunday, February 14th (The Transfiguration of the Lord) – Sarah Clark, soprano

We are still looking for volunteers for:

- Wednesday, February 17th (Ash Wednesday)
- Sunday, February 21st (The First Sunday in Lent)
- Sunday, February 28th (The Second Sunday in Lent)

If you would like to sing or play a solo or lead the hymns for a worship service, please email Joe Stoddard at music@uccburlington.org or call him at (781) 346-3900.

Volunteer your talents!

We would love to add to our roster of volunteer musicians! Whether you'd like to share one solo or lead an entire service, please contact Joe Stoddard at music@uccburlington.org or call him at (781) 346-3900 to share your time and talent!



Deacons' Special Music Fund

We are very grateful to the recent donors to the Deacons' Special Music Fund:

- Kay Shute, in memory of Joe Stoddard's sister Amy Gracia
- Deana Tredeau

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org

Twitter: @uccbmusic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

Even though our Red Wagon hasn't rolled down the sanctuary aisle the pantry still needs items donated to help stock the shelves. There is a pod located in the parking lot outside the Pantry Building at 1 St. Mark's Road. You can shop and leave items right in there. They are in need of:

Vegetable oil-Jelly-Canned tomatoes
Jasmine and Basmati rice

Don't forget diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes!

All donations are greatly appreciated!

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

C4C is asking that all knitters in the congregation knit a hat or a scarf for the Lowell Transitional Center which services homeless people. Yarn and patterns are available for you to use. We are meeting via Zoom every Thursday afternoon 1 to 3. If you would like to join us for conversation and creativity contact Susan Eby (mmoosie@hotmail.com) for the Zoom address.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A new year! 2021 is exciting. We began by celebrating Epiphany. We made King Cookies (instead of king cakes) with the baby Jesus hidden inside. We made our own stars with inspirational words just like the ones our congregation received. We celebrated MLK day by following in his footsteps of Social Justice.

2021 Zoom Sunday School Calendar / Sunday School Schedule 10:30 -11:30

- 1/24** God group
- 1/31** Jesus group
- 2/7** **ALL** Communion, Meet the Congregant, The Month's birthday party
- 2/14** God Group. Kristen teaches Sunday School the Sunday before Lent begins
- 2/21** Jesus group. Sunday after lent begins
- 2/28** God group
- 3/7** **ALL** Communion, Meet the Congregant, The Month's birthday party
- 3/14** Jesus group
- 3/21** God group. Deb off, Kristen teaching Sunday School
- 3/28** Jesus group **Palm Sunday**
- 4/4** **ALL Easter.** Sunrise service, kids will participate. Sunday school at 10:30



Hopefully the weather will be warmer and we can be outside for Sunday School.

INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS

Nothing planned at this time.

JOYS AND CONCERNS!

Joe Stoddard's Mom, Lillian
Allen Wright's Uncle Bruce
Dave Ireradi's son Dano and Dad
Pastor Angela's Mom Kim
Jen (Eby) McDonough's co-worker Marilyn
Congrats to Jared Ciano on his dream job!
Kari Lynch's aunt Evelyn
Nicole Flecchia
Claire Simas
Marj Zamanian's son-in-law's friend Brendon
Barbara Moran
Sue Wisniewski's Dad
Rev. David Smith
Wynelle Scenna
Scott Carpenter
Joyce Carpenter
Howie & Charlotte Blaney's daughter-in-law Carey
Kelly Sievert's brother, Geoff
Friend of Aimee Tredeau, Mercedes and her kids,
Malki and Zaire
Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian
Barbara Leonard
Anne Stafford, son Bill and grandson Zach
Betty and Woody Knowles, their friend Janet Hurley
Bill Beyer's sister Jane Moberg and friend Frank
Kendra Griep's grandfather
Luella Brown

Jean Bastos
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 children who have been so effected
by this pandemic, with isolation.

Our First Responders!
Our caregivers!
Urgent Care workers!
Military here and abroad!
BE SAFE!

A graphic with the words "Happy Birthday" written in a red, cursive, handwritten-style font. The word "Happy" is on the top line and "Birthday" is on the bottom line. There are three red stars of varying sizes scattered around the text.

1 Craig Baker
1 Ted Brierley
2 Gordon Brown
5 Mark Flecchia
7 Karen Beck
7 Kellsee Lynch
7 Chris Cahoon
7 Alan Wright
10 Kelly Forbush
10 Sue Staten-Kassirer
11 Sebastian Griep
13 Amy Todd
14 Karin Keyser
15 Elaine Carpenter
16 Virginia Mungillo
19 Donna Flecchia
22 Robert Knudsen
24 Julia Lynch
27 Lynn Tirrell
27 Sharon McDonough

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

February 7 Zoom Worship w/communion 10:30am / Annual Meeting after worship

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

February 14 Zoom Worship 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Laura Nowell
Music: Sarah Clark
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

February 17 Ash Wednesday 7pm Zoom Worship

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

February 21 Zoom Worship 10:30am

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

February 28 Zoom Worship 10:30am

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

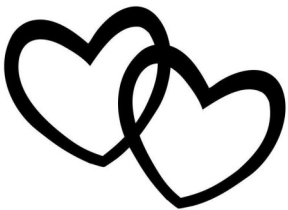
March 7 Zoom Worship w/communion 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Ginger Bove
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Music: TBD
Sunday School: Deb Raymond

February 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----|--|
| Montessori School Mon-Fri 8-5p | 1 6:30a AA 7:30p Trustees | 2 7p Deacons | 3 7p Scouts | 4 1p C4C Zoom | 5 | 6 |
| 7 10:30a Zoom Communion Sunday School ANNUAL MEETING! | 8 6:30p AA 6:30p CE Meeting | 9 | 10 7p Scouts | 11 1p C4C Zoom | 12 | 13 |
| 14 10:30a Zoom Worship Sunday School 1p Missions Meeting  | 15 President's Day Holiday-Church Office Closed! 6:30p AA | 16 7p PC Meeting | 17  7pm Ash Wednesday Service via Zoom 7p Scouts | 18 1p C4C Zoom | 19 | 20 Hilltop Articles for March are DUE! |
| 21 10:30a Zoom Worship Sunday School | 22 6:30p AA | 23 | 24 7p Scouts | 25 1p C4C Zoom | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:30a Zoom Worship Sunday School Pastor Angela's last Sunday before parental leave! | | | | | | |

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested



FEBRUARY 2021