

HILLTOP HERALD JULY/AUGUST 2021

Dear Church Family,

I have come to understand these remaining months together as a season of lasts, as this is my last Hilltop article. It's impossible to sum up 9 years into one article, so instead, I am crafting the worship services in July and August as a time of reflection, contemplation and vision casting. This liminal time is a both/and for us. It's a time of reflection, where our church has come in the past 9 years as well as where you're headed and the congregation you want to be as you prepare to welcome a new settled pastor in the next few years. Thrown into this mix is also the beautiful fact that we are returning to worship in our sanctuary starting on July 11th. This is a big change. None of us have ever been through a pandemic before, we've never closed the church on Sunday morning save for the occasional snowstorm, and therefore we've never had the experience of reentering worship life together after a long interlude.

For the month of July, I will preach on the theme of healing. Our 2021 Church Goal states, "In 2021, UCC Burlington will focus on *healing and recovery* as our church goals for the year. We will work together, across the generations, to heal physical, emotional, and social wounds that have collectively injured us. We will support one another in our mutual healing so that we can recover as stronger and more faithful followers of Christ. This is inspired by the scripture from Micah 7:8, "When I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me." We explicitly stated that we want to focus on physical, emotional and mental healing, so it seemed appropriate for us to focus on these themes as we return to our sanctuary.

-On July 11th, the service will center around physical healing.

-On July 18th, the service will focus on emotional healing.

-On July 27th, the service will center around healing from our social wounds (racism, sexism, bigotry, etc.)

For the month of August, our theme will be Welcome. Our church logo says, "All are welcome. All are loved." We strive to be a welcoming congregation, this month will lead up to Welcome Back Sunday, you'll be welcoming a new pastor in your midst, you'll be welcoming back more people to in-person worship in the fall. The first part of our church goal was healing, the second part was recovery, backwards and forwards, healing from our wounds so that we can recover and move into the future. Focusing on Welcome is an important way for us to recover and set some intentions around the church you all want to be in this post-COVID era.

-On August 1st, our theme will be Welcoming the New Normal: Life after COVID

-On August 8th, our theme will be Welcoming the Stranger: Practicing radical hospitality

-On August 15th, our theme will be Welcoming the Challenge: Continuing our prophetic work for justice

-On August 22nd, our theme will be Feeling Welcome: Flipping the script and imagining ourselves as the guest

-On August 29th, our theme will be Welcoming What's Next: Embracing the pastoral transition

I hope you'll be able to join us in person or online for our July and August worship services.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Angela V. Wells-Bean
Pastor

Sally Willard
Moderator

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June 2012

Greetings UCC Burlington!

It was about this time last year when I was writing to say that we wouldn't return to in-person worship until we could do so safely. It's been a long and incredible year. I am pleased to announce that Parish Council voted to reopen our beloved sanctuary for in-person worship beginning on **Sunday, July 11, 2021**. Services will start at **10:30 am** and will simultaneously be streamed on Zoom. Recorded services will be posted on our YouTube page.

We hope many of you join us in the sanctuary, but equally we understand that some of you are not yet ready to venture out, some of you are geographically distant, and some of you simply can't get to the church, either because of illness, disability, or lack of transportation. Our goal is to make all people feel welcomed and included, regardless of where you physically sit during our worship service.

This announcement is to provide you with information about what to expect from our "new normal." It is a process in the making and adjustments will likely be made over time.

Mask Wearing: We ask all in-person congregants, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask while in the sanctuary and when not eating or drinking in Sewall Hall. We want all people to feel safe and welcomed in our church space and we want to reduce the risk of spreading any kind of virus or cold.

Limited Communal Touch: Although there is low risk associated with contracting COVID-19 through the sharing of physical items, other cold and flu germs can be transmitted from contaminated surfaces. To reduce the potential spread of germs from surfaces and physical touch, we will:

Place bulletins and prepackaged Communion elements (bread and juice) on the front pew (to the right when you enter the sanctuary) for people to pick up for themselves and their family. Bulletins (regular, large print, children's) will be available in labeled trays.

Discontinue the use of the red friendship pads. We'll ask you to complete a friendship slip for you and your family. This will allow the church to contact new people, contact you if you would like to speak with the minister, count the number of weekly participants, and perform contact tracing should we need to report an illness to the Board of Health.

Weekly offering collections and the friendship slips will be collected by ushers using new long-handled baskets. We'll do our best not to bonk you on the head as we pass through!

Projection of voices while singing and responding: Joe Stoddard, our resident musical expert, described this expectation perfectly, *sotto voce*, meaning in a quiet voice. We know you want to sing and respond, and we want you to sing and use your voice -- just not as if you were on Broadway. We'll sing and participate in communal responses using a quieter voice than usual. We want to reduce air from escaping our masks. As has always been the case with our worship services, if there is any part of the service that you don't feel comfortable participating in, you do not have to.

Continued.....

Zoom Participants: As usual, we'll ask you to keep your cameras and microphones off during service, unless of course you wish to request a prayer, serve as a lay leader, or share your singing/instrumental talents. When you plan to speak, we ask you to turn on your camera (if you wish) and microphone. When you're finished speaking, mute yourself and turn off your camera. Our plan is to display speakers on a monitor at the front of the church. We will discontinue screen sharing hymns and responsorial pieces, such as the Call to Worship, but we will continue to post the bulletin on our website and will send the bulletin via email the Friday before service.

Nursery: We currently have an open position for a permanent Nursery Attendant. Until someone is hired, we need volunteers to cover the nursery (at least 2 people per week). If you are interested in receiving joy from a little one, please contact Donna Flecchia and Michael Lewis.

Coffee Hour: We'll have a reduced coffee hour, serving hot and cold beverages by request, using disposable cups and single serve creamers and sweeteners. For the summer, we will refrain from serving food and we'll keep the beverage counter opened for enough time to serve you. We'll spread out multiple tables to accommodate sitting and visiting while avoiding overcrowding. Hopefully, you'll circulate to visit with your friends. Please keep your masks on when not drinking. Feel free to go outside and socialize without a mask, but please be very careful if you are carrying a hot beverage. Ask for help if you need it.

As you can tell, a lot of thinking and effort have gone into planning and operationalizing how to best open our church for in-person worship and communing. We appreciate your patience as we navigate new practices and figure out what works best. I am certain we will make adjustments as the weeks go by.

The effort to open the sanctuary and offer worship services online does not happen without the energy and commitment of volunteers. We need people like you to share in the fun. If you would like to volunteer as a lay leader, greeter, usher, coffee barista, or nursery attendant, please raise your hand. Similarly, if you have any suggestions or feedback, we'd like to hear from you. You can send your requests to volunteer and your general thoughts and ideas to me at either 617-281-6697 or debglancy03@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can speak with anyone from Deacons, Parish Council or Pastor Angela.

On behalf of Deacons and Parish Council, Welcome Back!

Blessings and love,

Deb Glancy
Chair, Board of Deacons



RIDES TO CHURCH NEEDED!

As many of you know by now, we are reopening our church for in-person worship starting July 11th. Our beloved church member, Alan, is eager to join us for worship but he will need a ride. He lives in Waltham and he is vaccinated! Please be in touch with Pastor Angela if you're able to give Alan a ride in July or August and she will put the schedule together. Also, if you have any questions, you're welcome to reach out to Dave Ierardi as well since Dave has given Alan rides in the past. (508) 692-8584. Thank you!



UPCOMING BAPTISMS!

Soren and Emerson Wells-Bean will be baptized at our church on Sunday, August 15th. Angela's mom, Rev. Kim Wells, will preside over their baptisms. We hope you'll be able to join us for this joyous occasion!

INTERIM PASTOR ARTICLE

The search for the interim pastor is underway! Committee members charged with the responsibility are Karen Ciardi (recorder and Zoom host), Mark Omobono, Deb Raymond, Marcia Rich, Chris Stahlinski (chair) and Lee Tirrell (alternate).

There are a number of steps to selecting an interim pastor, who will lead us for 18-24 months while the congregation deals with feelings over Pastor Angela's departure, assesses its goals and direction and what is needed in a new settled pastor to help us get there, and chooses someone to fill that position.

These are the steps in the interim pastor search.

Step 1. Overview the process. This was done in early June when Holly Millershank of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ (SNECUCC) met with the committee to overview the process and answer questions. Holly's impression is that ours is a healthy church, which should attract a number of good candidates for both the interim and settled pastor positions.

Step 2. Develop a profile of the church. The profile include: our mission and vision statements, what we are seeking in an interim pastor, church history, our strengths and challenges, and what we offer an interim pastor for compensation. The committee is currently working on the profile and hopes to complete it in early July.

Step 3. Submit the profile to SNECUCC, which will post it so that prospective interim pastors throughout the United States become aware of it and can submit their profiles if interested. A pastor's profile not only includes their experience but also essays on their beliefs and practices. Their profiles are sent to the Conference for a background check, which verifies their ordination and other aspects of their status and, if satisfactory, the profiles are forwarded to the committee.

Step 4. Evaluation of applicants' profiles, the selection of candidates for interview, and the development of interview questions. These tasks should take place from mid-July to very early August.

Step 5. Interview applicants who seem to be the best fit two times and watch recordings of them leading worship services. This should happen in early to mid-August.

Step 6. Identification of preferred candidate, final negotiations and signing of contract. This should take place in mid to late August.

Step 7. Announcement and introduction of interim pastor to congregation in late August.

In the event the chosen interim pastor cannot start until after September 1 due to other commitments or the need to relocate, the conference will help us find pastors to lead worship in the meantime.



A Personal Note from Joe

I was completely surprised by the celebration of my tenth anniversary as your music director during the Music Sunday service on June 20th. The testimonies on the video touched me more deeply than I can ever say. I will treasure those forever. I am deeply grateful for the beautiful plaque, the hilarious t-shirt, and the extremely generous gift that all of you gave to me, not to mention the individual cards and gifts I have received from so many people.

All this support from you was on top of the thoughtful cards and messages I received from you on the passing of my sister, Jacque Foster, on Memorial Day weekend. The care and love of this congregation is unparalleled.

Thank you, Special Musicians!

Thank you to Ted Brierley, Debbie Claar, Sarah Clark, Ruth Goodrich-Byers, Amelia Lewis, Julie Lewis, Ann-Marie Messbauer, and Mark Omobono, who volunteered their talents during the month of June!

Summer Music Volunteers

Sunday, July 11 (7 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- Sarah Clark, soprano and Julie Lewis, alto
Sunday, July 18 (8 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- volunteer needed
Sunday, July 25 (9 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- Sarah Clark, soprano and Julie Lewis, alto
Sunday, August 1 (10 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- volunteer needed
Sunday, August 8 (11 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- volunteer needed
Sunday, August 15 (12 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- volunteer needed
Sunday, August 22 (13 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- volunteer needed
Sunday, August 29 (14 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- volunteer needed
Sunday, September 5 (15 th Sunday after Pentecost)	- volunteer needed

As you can see, we have lots of spots for volunteers during the summer! Thanks to the expertise of Michael Lewis and our Zoom team, you can volunteer to sing or play virtually or in person. You can even record yourself ahead of time!

If you would like to volunteer your talents for a Sunday this summer, please email Joe Stoddard at music@uccburlington.org or call him at (781) 346-3900.

Deacons' Special Music Fund Music Sunday Appeal

The church is incredibly grateful to the following friends and members of the church who have donated to the Deacons' Special Music Fund's annual Music Sunday Appeal:

- Jean Baker, in memory of her husband Ken
- Luella Brown, in memory of her husband Richard
- John Heald and Everett Langley
- Bobbie Killilea
- Paul Mouratidis and Joe Stoddard, in thanksgiving for all the music volunteers at UCC Burlington
- Marcia Rich
- Christine Sinacola
- Marj Zamanian

This list was updated as of the publication deadline, but if your donation was not acknowledged, please let Joe Stoddard know at music@uccburlington.org.

Continued.....

Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube

Look for us as “uccburlingtonchoirs” on Instagram. We are also on Facebook as “UCC Burlington Choirs”. And if you know any tricks for posting on Instagram (especially how to have a video preview show instead of a blank screen), please get in touch with Joe Stoddard!

Believe it or not, we even have a YouTube channel! Right now, it is under Joe Stoddard’s name, but that is only because he cannot figure out how to change the name of the channel without changing the name on his church email account! There is also a YouTube account for the whole church, where you can find videos of every Sunday’s service. That account is under the name “uccburlington”.

Keep in touch!

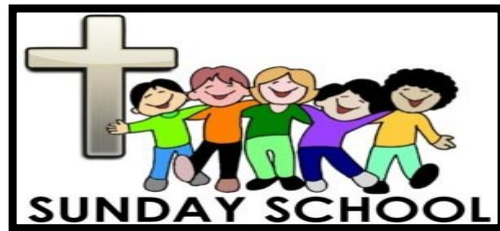
Email: music@uccburlington.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs

Instagram: uccburlingtonchoirs

Twitter: @uccbmusic

YouTube: Joe Stoddard



CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS!



Precious, Ali, Keira, Peter, Amelia,
Alex, Tadashi, Emi



Kristen, Tadashi, Keira, Amelia,
Deb, Precious, Emi

Kristen Wantanabe’s last day with us was June 13th. She has been a wonderful asset to our church over the past three years. Again, we wish Kristen and her family the very best as they move to NH.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in the nursery attendant position please contact Sue Wisnieski, Cell: 781-424-1548

What a fabulous way to end the Sunday School year! The kids provided a meaningful fun service on June 13 for Children/Youth Sunday. There was marching by nursery kids accompanied by Hope on the piano. There were readings by the Sunday School kids, Celebration of High School & College students, Bibles presented to Hope and Molly and closing with a benediction of bubble blowing. Thank you children and youth for a great Sunday School year. Enjoy a wonderful summer; see you in September.

MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

The Burlington Pantry is in need of the following items:

Pancake syrup-jelly-2-pound bags of sugar
dish soap-feminine hygiene products especially pads
shampoo-coffee-tea-cocoa
snack food in lunch box size containers
tissues-toilet paper wrapped

Also diapers sizes newborns to 5T and baby wipes

Drop off in the POD at St. Mark's Church

Also monetary donations are always welcome:

People Helping People
P.O. Box 343
Burlington, MA 01803



LTLC DONATIONS NEEDED!

The Lowell Transitional Living Center is always in need of the following for Spring and Summer:

Specific items needed for just MEN:

Jeans, t-shirts, hoodies, socks,
underwear, sneakers

Leave these items under the coatrack
right inside the red doors to our Ed
Building entryway

Donated items are taken to the LTLC
around the middle of every month.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We will meet out of doors this summer,
the weather permitting. We welcome any
crafters to our meetings. Contact Susan
Eby Wednesday evening to find out if we
will meet out of doors and where we will
meet that week.

PUMPKIN PATCH



We have some wonderful news!
The Annual Pumpkin Patch
is returning
this Fall!

MISSIONS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Missions met on June 14th and we are able to report that in addition to the yearly planned benevolences we gave a donation to the American India Foundation to be used in their support of India's fight against COVID. We also decided to make a donation to the town Peace Prize. Our next meeting will be on August 16th.

Missions Finances - June 2021

- Student Service Awards were given to Elizabeth Forbush and Will Silva, who each received \$200 from the Missions budget.
- The second of four disbursements will be made to the SNEUCC (Southern New England UCC, formerly the Mass. Conference) for Basic Support.
- A decision was made at our June meeting to support AIF, the American India Foundation, with a donation of \$350 to help with the crisis India is facing.

Benevolences to be paid this month:

- Hope Group
- LGBT Asylum - Haden Park Congregational Church
- A donation will be made to People Helping People in the sum of \$2196.56, which represents half of our Easter offering



Anna Karwan's Mom Irena Tom Killilea Debbie Claar Claire Simas Joe Stoddard's Mom, Lillian Elaine Glancy Alan Wright's cousin Tim Ron Downing Barbara Moran Joyce and Scott Carpenter Anne Stafford Luella Brown Paul Mouratidis' Mom and Dad Dave Ireradi's Dad and son Dano Kari Lynch's aunt Evelyn, and brother-in-law Sue Wisniewski's Dad Wynelle Scenna Howie & Charlotte Blaney's daughter-in-law Carey Kelly Sievert's brother, Geoff Mark Flecchia's mother Vivian	Jean Bastos Rev. Elizabeth King Jan Blandino Bobbie Martino Barbara Garland Jessy McNeil's brother Mel and sister Grace Henry Knopp Dot Drinkwater Everett Langley's brother George John Heald's sister Susan & Mom Jim Mungillo Prayers to all those in India dealing with COVID Those affected by Gun Violence Our First Responders! Our caregivers! Urgent Care workers! And Military here and abroad! BE SAFE!
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JULY BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Anna Karwan
- 3 Marc Towle
- 3 Bobbie Martino
- 4 Eric Duran
- 8 Brian Stahlinski
- 9 Walter Landin
- 10 Bill Beyer
- 13 Jean Williamson
- 14 Jerad Stahlinski
- 14 Nancy Todd
- 21 Sam McNeil
- 21 Dick Butler
- 23 Alana Shirley
- 27 Aidan Joseph Breau
- 29 Amelia Lewis
- 29 Bill Livezey
- 30 Cy Todd

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Skip Glancy
- 1 Marina Ciardi
- 2 Deborah Claar
- 7 Will Silva
- 8 Sarah Clark
- 9 Florence Forbush
- 9 Deb Glancy
- 10 Jennifer Turgiss
- 11 Melissa Breau
- 12 Wynelle Scenna
- 15 Sally Willard
- 17 Jacob Goodrich-Byers
- 17 Nicole Flecchia
- 20 Jane Forbush
- 22 Ruth Goodrich-Byers
- 25 Kathy Olney
- 25 Michael Lewis
- 26 Laura Harder
- 26 Brian Hooper
- 29 David Breau
- 31 Paul Ursino

**SUMMER WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE
MONTH OF JULY**

**July 4 Ecumenical Communion Service on Zoom 10:30am with the Presbyterian Church
(Info in your Hilltop)**

Pastor: Pastor Trina Portillo
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Collector: Marcia Rich

July 11 Worship at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Deb Raymond
Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Usher: Marcia Rich
Greeter: Jan McSheffrey
Flowers: Marcia Rich
Nursery: Joan Zink and Bev Maher
Coffee Hour: TBD



July 18 Worship at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Head Usher: Deb Glancy
Usher: Sally Willard
Greeter: Samantha Ellis
Flowers: TBD
Nursery: Jan Costa and Jan McSheffrey
Coffee Hour: TBD

July 25 Worship at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Barbara Leonard
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Deb Glancy
Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
Flowers: TBD
Nursery: Mark and Donna Flecchia
Coffee Hour: TBD

**SUMMER WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEUDLE
MONTH OF AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 5TH**

**August 1 Ecumenical Communion Worship
10:30am**

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Guest from the Presbyterian Curch
Head Usher: Marcia Rich
Usher: John heald
Greeter: Sally Willard
Flowers: TBD
Nursery: Joan Zink and Abigail Adams
Coffee Hour: TBD

August 8 Worship at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher: David McNeil
Usher: Mark Flechia
Greeter: Samantha Ellis
Flowers: Marcia Rich
Nursery: TBD
Coffee Hour: TBD

August 15 Worship at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Head Usher: Deb Glancy
Usher: Jan McSheffrey
Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
Flowers: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Nursery: TBD
Coffee Hour: TBD

August 22 Worship at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Head Usher: David McNeil
Usher: Everett Langley
Greeter: Samantha Ellis
Flowers: TBD
Nursery: TBD
Coffee Hour: TBD

August 29 Worship at 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Angela Wells-Bean (Last Day)
Lay Leader: Lucy Daminai
Head Usher: Deb Glancy
Usher: Volunteer needed
Greeter: Samantha Ellis
Flowers: Bobbie Killilea
Nursery: TBD
Coffee Hour: TBD

**September 5 Communion Labor Day Weekend
Worship at 10:30am**

Pastor: TBD
Organist: Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader: Volunteer Needed
Head Usher: David McNeil
Usher: Volunteer Needed
Greeter: Jan McSheffrey
Flowers: TBD
Nursery: TBD
Coffee Hour: TBD



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR:

- Altar Flowers
- Singers and Musicians
- Nursery Coverage
- Coffee Hour

If interested, please let us know!

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:30am Ecumenical Worship w/ Presbyterian Zoom Livestream 	5 6:30p AA	6 4-7pm Martial Arts 7p Deacons	7	8 1p C4C 4-8p Martial Arts	9	10
11 10:30am Worship Live And Zoom	12 6:30p AA	13 4-7p Martial Arts	14	15 1p C4C 4-8p Martial Arts	16	17 Private Rental 5-9pm
18 10:30am Worship Live And Zoom	19 6:30p AA	20 4-7p Martial Arts 7p PC MTG?	21	22 1p C4C 4-8p Martial Arts	23	24
25 10:30am Worship Live And Zoom	26 6:30p AA	27 4-7p Martial Arts	28	29 1p C4C 4-8p Martial Arts	30	31

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30a Ecumenical Svc Here w/ Presbyterians	2 6:30p AA 7p Trustees	3 4-7p Martial Arts 7p Deacons	4	5 1p C4c 4-8p Martial Arts	6	7
8 10:30a Worship Live And Zoom	9 6:30p AA	10 4-7p Martial Arts	11	12 1p C4c 4-8p Martial Arts	13	14
15 10:30a Worship Live And Zoom  Holy Baptism	16 7p Missions 6:30p AA	17 4-7p Martial Arts 7p PC Meeting	18	19 1p C4c 4-8p Martial Arts	20	21
22 10:30a Worship Live And Zoom	23 6:30p AA	24 4-7p Martial Arts	25	26 1p C4c 4-8p Martial Arts	27	28
29 10:30a Worship Live And Zoom Pastor Ange- la's last Day!	30 6:30p AA	31 4-7p Martial Arts				

UCC
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested

TO:



JULY AND AUGUST
2021