A Publication of the United Church of Christ, Congregational, 6 Lexington Street, Burlington, MA 01803 PHONE 781-272-4547 or email us at uccburlington@gmail.com Visit our Website at uccburlington.org

APRIL 2022 HILLTOP HERALD

Pastor-al Ed-i-bles...

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I was a young kid, Easter was a third-rate holiday for me. It was tied with Thanksgiving, but lagged well behind Christmas and Halloween on my excitement meter. Easter meant waking up to a basket filled with colored jellybeans and a chocolate bunny sitting amidst a ball of green plastic grass. One year, I remember, there being a wondrous, surprising bonus: a new, bright white softball!

But regardless of what my basket contained, when the candy was gone, Easter was over. So, Easter didn't last long when I was a young kid!

As a teenager, Easter meant fending off an urge to sleep later because I arose very early to attend a sunrise service held on the East-facing porch of an old farmhouse on a hillside. A hearty breakfast redeemed the early wake-up call, but I was always tired afterwards and kind of glad Easter came only once a year. Easter didn't make a deep impression on me when I was a teenager!

In college, I followed my curiosity about my faith, and I looked at Easter through a new lens. It became an intellectual phenomenon to be explained and a problem to be solved. Eventually I conceded: Easter was a mystery of faith to be embraced or rejected. Easter as an intellectual problem didn't linger long in my life!

Once I became a pastor, I embraced the Easter's wondrous mystery – so I could preach as well as teach about it each year. And, I integrated its wondrous joy into my pastoral care when a walk alongside those who were facing dying or just wondering about life beyond this life.

Now, I find myself having become a "senior citizen," Easter has grown to become my new, number one holiday, ahead of even Christmas (except perhaps on Christmas morning when young grandchildren are around). I appreciate the hope and possibility Easter offers the world, especially in a moment when the world seems to be "groaning at so many points" - in our atmosphere, in a pandemic, in the Ukraine, and in our divided society. And, I personally appreciate the hope and possibility Easter presents to me as each day of my fleeting life rushes by.

Easter *is* a mystery, a wondrous story of hope - and possibility. Its message is simple and complex, timely and timeless. Easter's word is this: Out of *any* kind of dying, God may bring forth new life!

So, now, Easter, for me, is lasting and eternal! I believe It will be with me and in the world in which I live for the rest of my days! And with the Psalmist, I say, "I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever." But, now, what about you? What kind of holiday is Easter is for you?

Easter's Eternal Blessings, Pastor *Ed*

Rev. Ed Koonz Interim Pastor

Sally Willard Moderator

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Flower Form on Back





Palm Sunday



April 10 at 10:15am (15 minutes earlier)

Everyone is encouraged to gather next door in Sewall Hall at 10:15am. We will all process into the sanctuary while singing and waving our palms!



Maundy Thursday ServiceApril 14 at 7:00pmPlease join us for a traditional Maundy Thursday Service in the sanctuary.



Good Friday Quiet MeditationApril 15 noon – 3pmPlease come sit in the sanctuary between noon-3pm for quiet meditation.



Easter Sunrise Service April 17 at 6:30am Come and join us for our Sunrise Service completely in-person worship.



Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45am There will be an Easter egg hunt for children provided by the Board of Christian Education.



Easter Festival Service April 17 at 10:15am Come and worship with us on this very holy and joyous day!



The Deacons welcomed new member Kari Lynch to the Board.

As this was the first meeting after the church Annual Meeting, members chose their roles for the year to come. They are: Deb Glancy, chair and tech liaison; Bobbie Killilea, secretary and Called to Care liaison; Dave McNeil, treasurer; Kari Lynch, fellowship; Marcia Rich, Special Music Committee liaison and Memorial Fund Coordinator.

As has been the practice in recent years, the Deacons reviewed their responsibilities as outlined in the church constitution. These include: 1) supporting worship by working with the pastor and music director, securing pulpit supply and coordinating support roles for worship such as ushers, greeters and lay leaders; 2) care of members and friends of the congregation through efforts such as Called to Care; 3) development of fellowship programs for the congregation and to attract potential new members and church communications such as the Hilltop Herald; and 4) spiritual welfare of the congregation through Memorial Funds and the collection and confidential administration of the Deacons Fund/Love Offering to help members in need.

The Special Music Committee budget request for 2022 was approved. It includes money for some of the guest musicians and miscellaneous items.

Holy Week services were planned. Bobbie will order and pick up palms for Palm Sunday, which will be made available to people worshipping via Zoom. The Maundy Thursday service is scheduled for 7 pm on April 14; it will also be available through Zoom. On Good Friday the church will be open noon to 3 pm for quiet meditation. Everyone is invited to decorate the sanctuary for Easter on Saturday morning, April 16 at 9:30. The Christian Education Committee will lead the 6:30 Sunrise Service, which will be followed by coffee and donuts. Family worship will be at 10:30, with an Easter egg hunt beforehand.

The Deacons continue to monitor the COVID positivity rate in the area to get a sense of when it will be safe to resume coffee hour and no longer require masks during worship.

A memorial donation in honor of Ruth Reddig was made by one of her sons.

EASTER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP!

We are going to fill the sanctuary with flowers just as we have done in the past!

If you would like to order flowers for our Easter Service (10:30am on April 17th) you can fill out a form available in the Sanctuary and enclosed. Return it to the church office with your payment made out to *UCC* and *Easter Flowers on the memo line*.



If you would like to email the information send the following to Bobbie at uccburlington@gmail.com You can send your payment separately to the church office.

-How many plants (\$10 per plant)_____

-Do you want to keep your plant or donate it for Deacons to deliver to someone on our prayer list

-Your plant is in memory/celebration/honor of _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS APRIL 10th!

Thank you, Special Musicians!

We were blessed with the musical leadership of Debbie Claar, Sarah Clark, and Julie Lewis on the First and Second Sundays of Lent this year, and we are so happy that our choir came together to sing again beginning on March 13!

A Million Thanks to our Choral Library Volunteers!

Choir member Deana Tredeau spearheaded an incredible project to completely re-organize our church's choral library, with assistance from church member Joan Zink. Deana's project relied on some preliminary filing work done by Debbie Claar, Sarah Clark, and Marj Zamanian. Every anthem we own has been catalogued in an electronic database and moved out of its jam-packed filing cabinet drawer into more spacious accommodations. Anthems are now a thousand times easier to find. Our choir members Aline Beck, Bill Beyer, Debbie Claar, and John Getsinger have been helping with organizational tasks and muscle power. Many thanks as well to Cindy and Paul Gilpin for donating and delivering two lateral file cabinets to the church and to Aimee Tredeau and her husband Joe Bence for getting them up the stairs to the choir room. Both Doug Tirrell and Sally Willard also generously donated filing cabinets to the choir library, and we are very thankful for their kindness!

Choir Rehearsals

The choir is getting ready for Holy Week and Easter! They will have a week off following Easter Sunday, except for choir member and organist Aline Beck, who will fill in for Joe. Our rehearsal schedule is:



Wednesday, April 6 7:00 PM 🕲 💤 Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM HOIR Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 PM

Music for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday

In addition to the Adult Choir, we will have two instrumentalists joining us for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. We are planning to have Beth Welty as violinist for the 7pm service on Maundy Thursday, April 14; and trumpeter Vincent Monaco will play for our 10:30 am service on Easter Sunday, April 17.

Keep in touch!

Email: music@uccburlington.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/burlingtonchoirs **Instagram: uccburlingtonchoirs Twitter: @uccbmusic** YouTube: Joe Stoddard



TRUSTEES NEWS EDUCATION BUILD CHIMNEY REPAIR

As the Trustees were getting estimates to replace the asphalt shingles on the Bedford Street side of the interconnect and Education buildings. it was noticed that the large chimney needed to be repointed. Cuccio Masonry was hired to do the work.

The work started in mid-March with a set of staging being put up around the chimney. Under closer inspection of the chimney, it was realized the chimney had more damage from water getting in the chimney that was initially seen from the outside. The top flue and at least 12 rows of brick and the chimney cap had to be replaced. Work completed the end of March.

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

Need items at the Burlington Pantry:

Coffee—Tea—Hot Chocolate Mix Facial tissues—Shelf Stable Milk, Especially 8oz Kids snacks (individually wrapped)

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

C4C is still meeting via Zoom on Thursday afternoons from 1- 3PM. We are making strips for another prayer shawl this time in shades of blue. We are looking forward to moving our meetings out of doors as soon as the weather is warm enough. All are welcome to join us. Contact information can be obtained from Susan Eby.

Missions met on March 21 via Zoom. We wish to report that a check was sent to Lowell Transitional Living Center for \$2503.90 which was 50% of the Christmas offering.

The special offering taken on March 27 will go to One Great Hour of Sharing to support its many projects.

For the Easter offering Missions decided to suggest to PC that the 50% of the Easter offering set aside for Missions to distribute will be split. Half of what is given to Missions from the Easter offering will go to Church World Services, specifically for its work in Ukraine. The other half will go to Project Bread for its work distributing food in the Boston area, including People Helping People in Burlington, for those who are experiencing food insecurity.

Please note that Church World Services has set up a special way that money one donates to CWS will be used for Ukraine relief. If you wish to personally give more to CWS to support their work in Ukraine write on the check that the money is for account 6642 (Ukraine).

On Mother's Day, May 8th, there will be another special offering called Blanket Sunday. There will be special envelopes in the Sanctuary and the Office for your donation. You can also send a check to the office made out to UCC Burlington and clearly marked for Blanket Sunday. You may also give digitally using Vanco.

This special offering will support the work of Church World Services. CWS's web site states the following: "Since its formation in 1957, the United Church of Christ has worked with Church World Service (founded in 1946) to accomplish more together than it could alone, joining hearts and resources to create a tradition of help and a legacy of hope. When disaster strikes, Church World Service is the primary agency through which the UCC gives support for relief and recovery efforts. This assistance may take the form of winterized family tents for Pakistani earthquake survivors, food packages and tankers full of water for displaced people in violence-torn Darfur, Sudan, or long-term recovery assistance for families affected by hurricanes, tornados, or flooding across the U.S.

- The UCC and CWS are empowering grassroots development with neighbors around the world.
- The UCC and CWS are one in response to, and advocacy about, the ongoing daily disaster of grinding poverty.
- CWS supported the UCC in the production of the documentary "Troubled Waters," highlighting the vulnerability of
- 1.2 billion people worldwide due to the lack of adequate water and sanitation.

• CWS and the UCC work together for people-centered policies. UCC members play an important role in CWS's web-based Speak Out advocacy ministry, making their views known to Congress on issues affecting people in need.

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors <u>around the world</u> can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters."

MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT

After much discussion two additions were made to our list of Benevolences. In 2022 we will donate \$400 to DIGDEEP and the Global Leadership Community, as well as to the 21 organizations/non-profits we supported in 2021. DIGDEEP is a human rights non-profit working to ensure that every American has clean, running water. They are currently engaged in a Navajo water/solar panels project. This effort to support Native American Indians was recommended by Roberta Low. The GLC was founded by Michael and Kristen Badriaki. Michael is the son of Molly Kyokunda. Three acres of land have been acquired in Uganda. The goal is to build a school that will teach leadership skills, combined with Christian values. Websites are **DIGDEEP.org** and **glcommunity.org**.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS!



The Sunday School had their own

fundraiser in March. We discussed the situation for the children in Ukraine and Poland. The kids then played games to earn donations to Save the Children. They are donating \$40.

EASTER 2022

<u>Sunrise April 17 at 6:30am</u>: Preparations are underway for Sunday School participation in the Easter Sunrise Service and the Church Service at 10:30am. <u>Easter Egg Hunt</u>: The Easter egg hunt will be held Easter Sunday before church at 9:45 in Sewall Hall. The hunt is for all Nursery and Sunday School kids and their friends The Easter story will be read and then the hunt is on!



We are piloting a *Movie Discussion*

Group! We will have questions, dialogue, and conversation!. The first viewing and discussion group is **April 28 at 7PM** (Age range from high school on up)



<u>The 1st movie is:</u> The Men Who Stare at Goats

It is a 2009 satirical dark comedy war film starring George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges, and Kevin Spacey. It was produced by Clooney's and Heslov's production company Smokehouse Pictures. The film is a fictionalized version of Jon Ronson's 2004 book of the same title of an investigation into attempts by the U.S. military to employ psychic powers as a weapon—which, in turn, is a companion to a British miniseries *Crazy Rulers of the World*.

Option 1 - Watch the movie on your own **Netflix** account anytime prior to April 28th. The discussion will start at 7pm on Thursday April 28th

Click https://us04web.zoom.us/j/756975189

Option 2 -Don't have a **Netflix** account? Watch as a group, as we Zoom share the movie with you. Movie share will start promptly on Thursday April 28 at 5:15 (movie is 1 hour 34 min) with the discussion to follow at 7. (This will give viewers a few minutes to stretch between movie and discussion)

Last Intergenerational event of the Sunday School Year



AFTERNOON AT WALDEN POND SUNDAY 6/5/22 1PM

Meet in the church parking lot. We carpool to the Pond. Held on sunny day only, will not be held in the rain. It is a walk down hill to the pond and back up at the end of the day. There is walking around the pond, swimming, sun, shade and fellowship. The CE Committee will provide water, juice and a light snack.

Please bring:

Chair or blanket, towel to dry off and bring or wear bathing suit. The water was beautiful the last time we went and the kids were in the water all day!

Have you been thinking about SUMMER CAMP for the kids, day or overnight? Christian Summer Camp Experience! Grotonwood, Groton MA



Grotonwood is a Christian camp located in the beautiful countryside town of Groton, Ma. Nestled in 247 acres of private woodland, the camp is a treasure trove of outdoor fun and recreation. We have been ministering to youth, adults with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities, families, church communities and not for profit organizations for over sixty years! It is our commitment to be a resource to ALL God's people, encouraging spiritual growth, fun and tranquility in an awesome natural environment.

Our summer camp and year-round programs give way to beautiful encounters, lifelong learning experiences and relationship building opportunities. At the heart of this is are beautiful facilities and a committee group of staff that will support and encourage you in the process of spiritual renewal and emotional growth – stepping closer to Jesus Christ and learning to love and develop in Him.

Website: grotonwood.org

Address: 167 Prescott St, Groton, MA 01450 Phone: (978) 448-5763

The CE Committee is prepared to offer kids attending a bit of financial assistance. Also see website for scholarship application. Please contact Deb Cell: 857-373-9156

GIGANTIC UCC YARD SALE (RAIN or SHINE) SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH 10 - 2pm

We have been approved by Parish Council to hold a yard sale! We are looking forward to gathering again. We hope to be outside on the church lawn. In case of rain, we will be indoors in Sewall Hall.

The yard sale will feature a CHURCH TABLE area with clean useable items donated by the congregation. No early drop off due to events in Sewall Hall. Please drop off at Sewall Hall on Friday 4-8pm or on Saturday morning 8am - 9:30am. Please advise Shirley or Joan, in advance, if you need assistance with drop offs.

Additional 10-12 tables will be available for rental by church members and friends by submitting an application form with payment by check payable to UCC, memo line "Yard Sale". If you are interested in renting, please contact Shirley Fong at <u>Shirltalk@aol.com</u>.

FEE: \$20 per table and 2 chairs (Renters are responsible for their own items and clean up.)

Schedule: Saturday June 11

8 a.m. - 10 a.m. / Set-up 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. / Yard Sale 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. / Clean-up In case of rain, the sale will be held inside Sewall Hall.



Many volunteers are needed for setting up and working at the church table area. The sign-up sheet will be available in April/May at coffee hour and also in the office with Bobbie.

Please consider donating to the church yard sale table, only clean useable items, please! All proceeds will benefit the church's general funds.

Any questions please email us!

Chairperson: Shirley Fong/ <u>Shirltalk@aol.com</u> Co-chair: Joan Zink / <u>joanzink1@me.com</u>

SOME DONATION IDEAS ARE BELOW

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Dishes, glasses, silverware, pots and pans, kitchen utensils, serving dishes, useable clean small appliances, etc.

DECORATIONS:

Holiday decorations, home decorations, artwork, prints, pictures with frames, vases, etc.

SPORTS AND EXERCISE EQUIPMENT:

Children, teens, adult sport equipment, golf clubs, tennis rackets, baseball bats, baseball gloves, helmets, etc.

JEWELRY AND HANDBAGS

CRAFTS AND COLLECTIBLES

HARDWARE: Garden tools, tools, yard tools, etc.

BOOKS:

Hardcover, paperback books. DVD, CDS, video games, children's books, etc.

CHILDREN ITEMS:

Clean useable toys, bicycles, riding toys, puzzles, games, etc.

BABY ITEMS:

Strollers, high chairs, baby carriers, play pens, swings, etc. (NO CRIBS)

OFFICE SUPPLIES:

Notebooks, calculators, etc. Useable items

CLOTHES:

Baby, children, teens, adults. Clean and useable.

SMALL FURNITURE:

Small tables, small dressers, chairs, end tables, coffee tables, armchairs, lamps, etc. Items easily carried by 1 or 2 people.



Joyce Carpenter upcoming surgery Sally Mansfield's son Mark, very ill Bill Livezey Claire Simas Sue Wisniewski's Dad Bob Reimer Tom Killilea and brother Jim Killilea Marilyn Langley's sister-in-law Mary Anne Joe Stoddard's Mom Lillian Alan Wright's cousin Tim Barbara Moran Anne Stafford Luella Brown Dave Ieradi's Dad and son Dano 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 Everett Langley's brother George John Heald's sister Susan & Mom Jim Mungillo

People of Ukraine!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Alan Beck
- 5 Martha Ursino
- 7 Brody Bonnell
- 9 Kristen Costa
- 10 Josephine Samarjian
- 12 Barbara Leonard
- 12 Luella Brown
- 13 Tina Brierley
- 13 Pam Walker
- 13 Brad Bond
- 14 Josephine Ursino
- 15 Donald Walker
- 19 Janet Hooper
- 21 Shirley Fong
- 23 Jaime Cahoon
- 24 Oksana Turgiss
- 25 Allison Phillips
- 28 Kristen Harder
- 30 Mark Forbush
- 30 Kay Shute

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

April 3 Communion Service 10:30am

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Ed. Koonz
Organist:	Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader:	Chris Stahlinksi
Head Usher:	Debbie Claar
Usher:	Woody Knowles
Greeter:	Needed
Flowers:	Nancy Davis
Collector:	Deb Raymond
Nursery:	TBD
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond

<u>April 10 Palm Sunday</u> <u>Meet in Sewall Hall at 10:15am</u> <u>Processional into the Sanctuary</u>

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Interim Pastor:	Rev. Ed Koonz
Organist:	Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader:	Lucy Willard
Head Usher:	Needed
Usher:	Sally Willard
Greeter:	Cindy Phillips
Flowers:	Bobbie Killilea
Collector:	Marge Zamanian
Nursery:	Jan McSheffrey
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond

April 14 Maundy Thursday 7pm

Interim Pastor:
Organist:
Violinist:
Lay Leader:
Head Usher:
Greeter:
Readers:

Rev. Ed Koonz Joe Stoddard, Jr. Lisa Brooke Debbie Claar Needed Needed Marcia Rich Chris Stahlinski Needed Needed

April 15 Good Friday noon-3pm

Join us for quiet mediation

April 17 Sunrise Service 6:30am

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Ed Koonz
Lay Leader:	Deb Raymond
Participants:	Sunday School

<u>April 17 Easter Egg Hunt 9:45am</u> <u>In Sewall Hall</u>

Provided by Christian Education

April 17 Easter Festival Service 10:30am

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Ed Koonz
Organist:	Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Trumpeter:	Vincent Monaco
Lay Leader:	Marcia Rich
Head Usher:	Needed
Ushers:	Chris Stahlinski
Greeter:	Jan McSheffrey
Flowers:	Easter Plants
Collector:	Marcia Rich
Nursery:	Needed
Sunday School:	TBD

April 24 Worship 10:30am

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Ed Koonz
Organist:	Joe Stoddard, Jr.
Lay Leader:	Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:	Needed
Ushers:	Jan McSheffret
Greeter:	Needed
Flowers:	Claire Simas
Collector:	Everett Langley
Nursery:	Needed
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a few spots needing volunteers for our Sunday Worship. If you would like to fill one of these spots, please be in touch with Donna Flecdchia at dmflec@gmail.com and/or visit the volunteer signup sheet at:

https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/567269842043/false? popup=true#/invitation

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 PMA Balloon ARCH Setup	2 9-Noon PMA Rental
3 10:30a Communion Worship	4 6:30p AA 7p Trustees	5 7p Deacons	6 7p Choir	7 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	8	9 4pm setup 6-10pm Learning Cottage
10 PALM SUNDAY 10:15a Worship Meet in Sewall Hall	11 6:30p AA	12	13 7p Choir	14 1p C4C 6:30p NO Scouts 7pm MAUNDY Thursday Service	15 Noon-3pm Good Friday Meditation	16 9:30a Decorate the Sanctuary
 17 6:30a Easter Sunrise Service 9:45a Easter Egg Hunt 10:15a Easter Festival Service 	18 6:30p AA	19 7p Parish Council Mtg	20 NO Choir	21 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	22	23
24 10:30a Worship	25 6:30p AA	26	27 7p Choir	28 6:30p Scouts 7p Movie Review "Men Who Stare at Goats"	29	30

UCC 6 Lexington Street Burlington, MA 01803 Address Service Requested

то:		
	APRIL 2022	

EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM					
Given by:					
In Memory /Celebration of:					
No. of plants: (\$10.00 each)					
I wish to keep my plant:					
I wish to donate my plant:		AN A A			
I will deliver a plant:					
I would like a plant delivered to a UCC member/friend					
(Na	ame of Person)				
Please return you	ir payment to the churc	h office by April 10.			