

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
6 LEXINGTON STREET
BURLINGTON, MA 01803**



Our Pollinator Garden

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

We believe that God calls us to love unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ. Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God, we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means. In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.

We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love.

We welcome individuals and families of every configuration into the full life and ministry of this church. Join us on our faith journey!



Pastor	Rev. Andrew Harris
Moderator	Chris Stahlinski
Clerk	Deb Glancy
Treasurer	Mark Flecchia
Financial Secretary	John Heald
Administrative Assistant	Bobbie Killilea
Historian	Michael Tredeau
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Gionet
Director of Christian Education	Deb Raymond
Sexton	Stephen Landry



VITAL STATISTICS FOR 2023

<u>BAPTIZED</u>	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Jack David Higden	3/19/23	Rev. Ed Koonz
Theodore James Fay	5/21/23	Rev. Ed Koonz

<u>CONFIRMED</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>WEDDINGS</u>	<u>0</u>
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<u>DEATH OF MEMBERS</u>	<u>Date of Funeral</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Roberta Martino	1/27/23	1/18/23	Funeral Home-Burlington
Henry Knopp	3/18/23	3/14/23	Funeral Home-Burlington
Donald Pilote	Private	3/18/23	Funeral Home-Burlington
Laura Stubbs	5/5/23	4/11/23	Graveside
Fran Nicoletta	6/19/23	6/13/23	Funeral Home-Burlington
Jane N. Raymond	2/13/23	2/7/23	Rev. Ed Koonz
Anne Stafford	4/22/23	4/16/23	Rev. Cynthia Fantasia
Luella Brown	11/4/23	10/29/23	Rev. Andrew Harris

<u>DEATH OF NON-MEMBERS</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Funeral</u>	<u>Pastor</u>

<u>TRANSFER OUT</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>TRANSER TO IN-ACTIVE STATUS</u>	<u>0</u>
Gary Stahlinski			

<u>REMOVED BY:</u>			
Death	8	Total Members 2022	210
Transfer out	1	Total Admitted in 2023	0
		Total Removed in 2023	9
		Total Members in 2023	201

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Cover picture provided by Susan Eby

Minutes – 290th Annual Meeting
United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, Massachusetts
February 5, 2023

Opening Remarks and Prayer: Moderator Sally Willard opened the meeting by welcoming members and guest and called the meeting to order. This meeting was hybrid being held in the sanctuary and on zoom following a light lunch in Sewall Hall.

Sally explained the voting procedure, and Michael Lewis had a poll that would be displayed for those online people to vote through. Sally introduced Reverend Ed Koonz to open us in prayer followed by Brian leading us in a hymn, This Little Light of Mine.

Certify Meeting Quorum: Acting as Clerk Deana Tredeau certified that we had more than the required 10% of membership, we had more than 20%. (45 of 210 members) and that we had a quorum.

Remembrance of Members and Friends Who Died in 2022: The clerk read the names of the former member and friends of the congregation who died during the past year.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the 289th Annual Meeting was Made, Seconded, and Approved.

A motion to approve the minutes of a Special Congregation Meeting held on May 1, 2022, was Made, Seconded, and Approved.

Acceptance of the Annual Reports: A motion to accept the 2022 Annual Reports of the Church Officers, Boards and Committees was Made, Seconded, and Approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee Slate: Michael Lewis reviewed the nomination committee slate, noting that there are several vacancies. He encouraged people to stretch our comfort level and help the church by filling these vacancies. The slate of officers was read and different jobs were described encouraging all to consider volunteering for spending 24 hours a year serving in one of the positions. A motion to accept the slate of boards and officers for 2022 was Made, Seconded, and Approved unanimously.

Operation Budget -Mark Flecchia reviewed 2022 and presented the 2023 budget as shown in the Annual report with \$23, 164.16 deficit. Fundraising participation was requested to help solve the deficit. A Motion to approve the 2023 budget was Made, Seconded, and Approved. Mark would like for someone to consider a future position of Treasurer which he has held for many years and does a wonderful job.

Emergency Fund – Sally Willard asked that the Parish Council be empowered to spend up to \$5,000 from the Endowment fund in case of emergency. After discussion it was recommended and approved to increase the emergency fund to \$10,000. A Motion was Made, Seconded, and approved increasing the Emergency Fund to \$10,000. This action is recommended every year to avoid having to call an emergency special congregational meeting and to allow the Trustees and Church to deal with.

Church Goal for 2022 – Sally Willard and Rev. Ed Koonz presented the proposed the Church Goal for 2023

Church Goal for 2023

In 1732 our church was built on a parcel of donated land called Forest Field Hill. We honor the determination, faith, and sacrifices of our forebears who have sustained this church for 291 years.

God is still speaking! Our goal for 2023 is to grow the church. We will create purposeful opportunities that invite, reach, and touch a variety of people from diverse backgrounds, regardless of where they are on their life's journey. Jesus reminds us to live our faith in all aspects of life. We are challenged by Scripture to meet the spiritual and physical needs of people both within and outside the church walls.

Church can be in a sanctuary up on a hill, in a park, a homeless shelter, or a land far away. As people of faith, we will use our many gifts to spread the light and grow the church, not only for ourselves but for the generations who will follow us.

Matthew 5 :14-16, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

The Motion was Made, Seconded, and Approved unanimously to accept this Goal.

Other Business That May Legally Come Before the Congregation and Remarks for the Good of the Parish included:

Brian Gionet, our new Director of Music Ministries expressed his delight to be with us and requested assistance with upstairs cleaning.

Appreciation was expressed for the many years of service of Paul and Jane Raymond and that their presence is missed this year.

Sally Willard was thanked for her service as moderator through the difficult years of the COVID pandemic.

Closing Prayer:

The Moderator and Reverend Ed Koonz closed the 290th Annual Meeting with a prayer.

**Respectfully submitted,
Deana Tredeau, Acting as Clerk**

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-SOLAR PANELS

Meeting Date and Time	18 June 2023, immediately following Sunday worship	
Dial-In Information	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/756975189 Dial In: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 756 975 189	
Reference Document(s)	Solar Panel at UCC Burlington 20230618-v4 (PowerPoint presentation) UCC Burlington – Solar 20161107v50 (Excel spreadsheet)	
Meeting Decisions	Warrant	Decision
	Article 1. To hear about and vote upon Parish Council’s recommendation to buy-out the solar panel system this year (2023).	Approved
	Article 2. To approve Parish Council’s recommendation to borrow up to \$10,000 from the Endowment Fund for the purpose of completing the buy-out of the solar panel system.	Approved
	Article 3. To hear any other business that may legally come before the Congregation.	N/A

Parish Council Participants

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderator	Christine Stahlinski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Deacons	Deana Tredeau / Marcia Rich
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk	Deb Glancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Trustees	Bill Beyer / Conrad Fong
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	Mark Flecchia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Missions	Susan Eby / Joan Zink
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Secretary	John Heald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Christian Education	Michael Lewis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PC At Large	Lucy Damiani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bd of Finance & Stewardship	Sally Willard
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PC At Large	Laura Nowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Resource Committee	Marge Zamanian/Barbara Leonard
<input type="checkbox"/> PC At Large	Vacancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee	Michael Lewis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	Ed Koonz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar Panel Representative	Dave Ierardi
Was a Quorum Present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Participants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person: 32 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoom: 7

Continued...

Topic	Minutes/Discussion
Opening Prayer	Christ Stahlinski, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer at 11:48 am
Confirmation of a Quorum	Deb Glancy, Clerk, confirmed the presence of a quorum.
<p>Article 1:</p> <p>To hear about and vote upon Parish Council’s recommendation to buy-out the solar panel system this year (2023)</p>	<p>Mark Flecchia presents information about the recommendation of purchasing the solar panels. Dave Ierardi participated in the meeting remotely and was available to answer questions.</p> <p>PC recommends buying out the solar panels in Dec 2023, which will cost \$28,951.</p> <p>Related savings over the next 23 years is projected to be: \$54,056</p> <p>Mark reviewed the information attached on the Background slide (Page 4) of the attached power point presentation.</p> <p>Mark reviewed the Supporting Analysis slide (Page 5) of the attached Power Point presentation.</p> <p>Currently UCC Burlington has set aside prior savings of \$21,384 to support the purchase of the solar panels (\$28,951 total cost).</p> <p>It is projected that the church will need to borrow \$7567 from the Endowment Fund to cover the purchase of the solar panels at the end of the year.</p> <p>However, Revision is offering to allow the church to pay \$4,076 over the year 2024, which reduces the amount of money that we will need to borrow from the Endowment Fund this year to approximately \$2400.</p> <p>The proposal/plan is to pay \$22,551 to Revision on 12Dec2023 and then send a balance payment of \$6400 on 11Dec2024 (Total: \$28,951).</p> <p>Dave Ierardi will continue to follow up with Eversource about the church’s \$3000 credit and the method to monetize future credits.</p> <p>Discussion from Congregation:</p> <p>Question: When Revision inspects the solar panels each year, will they also inspect the roof and cover any problems with the roof? Answer: Yes, for the first 10 years of the installation warranty. To date, Revision has been very responsive to maintenance requests.</p> <p>Question: What about the past/current problems with the leaky roof? Answer: The roof is no longer leaking. Revision has committed to paying for half of the cost for repainting the ceiling in the Sewell Hall.</p> <p>Conrad Fong thanked Dave Ierardi for his ongoing management and oversight of the Solar Panel project. The congregation applauded Dave for his efforts.</p> <p>A motion was made for Article 1 and was seconded. The congregational vote was held. Decision: Unanimous vote in favor of Article 1. No abstentions</p>

Continued..

<p>Article 2: To approve Parish Council's recommendation to borrow up to \$10,000 from the Endowment Fund for the purpose of completing the buy-out of the solar panel system.</p>	<p>Despite that PC does not anticipate needing to borrow as much as \$10K to buy out the solar panels, PC would rather have the possibility to borrow up to this much, so to avoid needing a future Special Congregational Meeting.</p> <p>Congregational Discussion: None</p> <p>A motion was made for Article 2 and was seconded. The congregational vote was held.</p> <p>Decision: Unanimous vote in favor. No abstentions</p>
<p>Article 3: To hear any other business that may legally come before the Congregation.</p>	<p>The congregation expressed gratitude to PC for bringing forward this recommendation and their efforts for considering</p>
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<p>Chris Stahlinski closed the meeting with prayer at 12:06 pm</p>

Date Action	Action	Owner	Status / Date
18 June 2023	Notify Revision in writing no later than 13 Sep 2023	Deb Glancy	Completed
18 June 2023	Make a down payment to Revision of \$22,551 on	Mark Flecchia	Completed
18 June 2023	Make a balance payment of \$6400 to Revision on 11 Dec 2024	Michael Lewis	Pending – Action added to PC List of Actions

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-JUNE 25, 2023-SETTLED PASTOR

Meeting Date and Time	25 June 2023 -- Immediately following Sunday worship	
Dial-In Information	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/756975189 Dial In: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 756 975 189	
Reference Document(s)	25June2023 Worship Service Bulletin	
Meeting Decisions	Warrant	Decision
	Article 1. To vote on accepting the Settled Pastor Search Committee's recommendation to call the named Candidate (Rev. Andrew Harris) as our new settled pastor.	Approved
	Article 2. To hear any other business that may legally come before the congregation.	N/A

Parish Council Participants

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Secretary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PC At Large <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PC At Large <input type="checkbox"/> PC At Large <input type="checkbox"/> Minister	Christine Stahlinski Deb Glancy Mark Flecchia John Heald Lucy Damiani Laura Nowell Vacancy Ed Koonz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Deacons <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Trustees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Missions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Christian Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brd of Finance & Stewardship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Resource Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Settled Pastor Committee	Deana Tredeau / Marcia Rich Bill Beyer Susan Eby / Joan Zink Michael Lewis Sally Willard Marge Zamanian/Barbara Leonard Michael Lewis Jan Costa (Co-Chair) Anna Karwan (Co-Chair) Carol Downing Sam Flecchia (unable to join) Laura Nowell Caitlin Spearson
Was a Quorum Present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Participants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Person: 65 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoom: 2

Meeting Minutes

Topic	Minutes/Discussion
Opening Prayer	Christ Stahlinski, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer at 11:30 am
Quorum	Deb Glancy, Clerk, confirmed the presence of a quorum.
Preparation	In preparation for this Special Congregational meeting, Rev. Andrew Harris led the congregation during worship service by leading Children's Time and providing the sermon. His sermon was titled, <i>Faith and Fear</i> .
Article 1: To vote on accepting the Settled Pastor Search Committee's recommendation to call our candidate (Rev. Andrew Harris) as our settled pastor	No discussion points were raised. Decision: 100% of those in attendance and on Zoom voted in favor of Article 1. Congratulations, Andrew!
Article 2: To hear any other business that may legally come before the congregation	Thank you to the Search Committee for their hard work and commitment to the search and call process. Thank you to Ed Koonz for serving as our interim Andrew and his wife, Allyson, were greeted by the congregation prior to the close of the meeting. The congregation met after service to celebrate Andrew as the new Settled Pastor for UCC Burlington Congregational. Decision: N/A
Closing Prayer	Chris Stahlinski closed the meeting with prayer at 11:35 am.

PASTOR REPORT
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Will be included with handout at the meeting
Since Pastor Andrew is on leave.
February 4, 2024

MODERATOR
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

What an exciting year 2023 has been, one filled with hard work and hope. We continued to return to “normal” worship with the passing of the Red Friendship Pads, offering plates, communion trays and coffee hour with food, but best of all we have a new settled pastor!

Our Settled Pastor Search Committee, Jan Costa, Anna Karwan, Carol Downing, Samantha Flecchia, Julie Lewis, Laura Nowell and Caitlyn Spearson worked diligently and put in many long hours reviewing resumes, interviewing candidates and finally introducing us to their top choice. On June 25, we voted unanimously to offer the call to Rev. Andrew Harris, and he accepted! Great job ladies; thank you again for all your time and thoughtfulness in this endeavor.

On August 20, we said goodbye to our interim pastor, Rev. Ed Koonz. On August 27, we welcomed Andrew, his wife, Allison, son Cooper and in mid-September baby, Sal joined the family. Therefore, we were off and running for the remainder of the year. It has been busy with Andrew getting to know all of us; our traditions, history and hopes for the future as well as us listening to his thoughts and ideas. What a great future we have ahead for us!

In addition to getting back to “normal” worship, we also returned to in person fundraisers and social events. Thanks to Julie Lewis, Anna Karwan, Deana Tredeau, Bobbie Killilea and Donna Flecchia we had a great and fun class on making Charcuterie boards in April. A special thank you to Cara Cutaia who donated raffle prizes for this event. In May Julie, Anna, Bobbie, Donna and Jessy Mc Neil organized a very successful plant sale. Of course, it took many donated plants to make this event so successful so a huge THANKS to everyone who donated plants! In October the Music Committee, Deana Tredeau, Marcia Rich, Deb Glancy and Joan Zinc, hosted a Coffee House, which was a huge hit, and in December, they hosted a Christmas Concert featuring Debbie Claar and Anne Marie Messenbaum. Thanks, everyone for organizing these great events!

Another very successful fund-raising event was our online auction in November. A big shout out to Deb Raymond, Kari Lynch, Julie Lewis and Joan Zink for organizing. Thanks!

Our Board of Missions continues to do phenomenal work supporting causes locally and globally. Special projects this year included a collection for Maui after the devastating fires there, and they added a coat, scarf and glove drive for forty children of immigrant families who have recently arrived in Burlington. Crafting for a Cause is a very important branch of the committee. This group knitted 50 hats, scarves and a few mittens for the coat drive!

The Trustees work tirelessly on maintaining our church building and property. They have had a very busy year with keeping on top of rain and mold damage to the interconnect classroom and Skelton Hall. Have you noticed the ceiling in Sewall Hall? It was painted this fall and now looks beautiful!

The Safe Church Committee oversees keeping our Safe Church policy up to date and this fall we had our first fire drill in quite a few years. We also now have EXIT signs above the doors in the sanctuary.

Our Green Team continues to keep us environmentally conscious. The big project this past year was the pollinator garden in the front of the church. This was a huge project involving our church school and devoted gardeners in the congregation. A big shout out to our landscaper, Jimmy Martin who prepared the space.

There are many other volunteers contributing their time and talent to our church. Called to Care under the leadership of Jan Mc Sheffrey, does an amazing job of keeping in contact with or shut-ins and ill congregants with visits, cards and meals when needed. Another group did a “deep clean” and reorganization of our kitchen. Many thanks to all of you!

Finally, are our incredible staff, we could not exist without them. Steve, our custodian, and his attention to detail in keeping our sanctuary and hall in tiptop shape. Brain, our Director of Music Ministries, who has introduced us to new musicians for special services. Deb, our Director of Christian Education, and her outstanding work with our children and youth on not only Sunday mornings but also reaching out to the wider community. They are very involved in the monthly Community Dinners at the Presbyterian Church. She also keeps us older children of God involved with events such as watching the series, “The Chosen”, Trunk or Treat, Christmas caroling, and the live nativity to name a few. Bobbie, our Administrative Assistant, is the glue that holds us all together! This has been a year of a lot of change but always with a smile, she has been on top of it all! Andrew, our pastor, who has already introduced some fresh, new ideas. The intergenerational church services once a month with upbeat music has been refreshing and a great hit. Have you attended Pub Theology at the Common Craft on the third Tuesdays of the month? This is another great event. We are so excited and looking forward to working with him on our new journey together!

My thanks to all of you for your support and for all that, you do to make this congregation a shining light on the hill.

Chris Stahlinski
Moderator

SETTLED PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023

The Settled Pastor Search Committee began its work in July of 2022. The following members Anna Karwan, Jan Costa, Caitlin Spearson, Julie Lewis, Carol Downing, Samantha Flecchia, and Laura Nowell, were commissioned by the congregation on September 11, 2022. In August 2022 we began the search for a settled pastor by working on updating our Local Church Profile which is instrumental in supporting the calling and discerning of future pastoral leadership.

In addition to using the guidelines of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC, the committee was tasked with helping our congregation determine answers to 3 questions: Who Are We Now? Who is Our Neighbor, and Who is God Calling Us To Be?

Many resources were available to support our updating of the Local Church Profile including: The CAT (Holy Cow!) Survey of the congregation's views, small group discussions of people's desires for the future of our church, Mission Insite information including our church's 11 Year Report that includes demographics on our church and community. Working with these resources we strived to incorporate our Vision Statement and 2022 church Goal.

In order to achieve our goals, the search committee met in person and through Zoom approximately once a week except for holidays. Our Profile was posted for candidates to review in January 2023. When interviewing began in February of 2023, the committee met 2-3 times weekly. We fortunately had several candidates interested in our Profile. After carefully considering all applications, and interviewing several over Zoom and in person, the committee unanimously chose Andrew Harris as our choice for candidate for our Settled Pastor.

On June 25, 2023 our church held a Candidating Weekend at which Andrew was invited to give the sermon and came before the congregation for a vote. Once again by unanimous vote, the congregation supported Andrew in becoming our next Settled Pastor. Happily, Andrew began his work with our church in September 2023!

Submitted by Jan Costa and Anna Karwan (co chairs)

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

This past year has certainly been one of change. This community has been through a change of music director as well as a change of pastor, both of whom have a very large impact in the order of worship on a weekly basis. A full display of gratitude must go out to the people on committees responsible for selecting candidates for both positions. I was appointed first on Christmas Eve in 2022, then Pastor Andrew to follow at the end of the summer in 2023.

In addition to these changes in community leadership, I had many changes of my own. I left my pursuit of a masters degree in clarinet performance at Boston University to start a career elsewhere while Alli and I moved into our own apartment. I then began work as a private instructor in Grafton, MA in addition to accepting a position at the Oxford DPW. Last but certainly not least, I married my wife, Alli Gionet, who is extremely supportive of my endeavors in this community and strives to be equally involved once her coursework is completed. We both are thankful to this amazing community for your generosity and support through so many trials and changes. So thank you – all of you.

Sunday service is accompanied by the voices of our choir members- Debbie Claar, Deana Tredeau, Elaine Glancy, Marcia Rich, Nancy Todd, Barbara Leonard, Aline Beck, Deb Glancy, John Getsinger, and Bill Beyer. I cannot express the joy it brings me to work with this high-energy group of singers. They work hard to bring us music Sunday mornings while keeping a can-do attitude on some difficult selections. They have done well to guide me in my new position over this past year.

The events we host at UCC Burlington are classic! They brought some new faces to the community while entertaining those already here. The music committee would like to thank all those who assisted with setup, coordination, refreshments, and breakdown of our three main events this year- The Film and Game Music Concert in June, Coffee House in October, and the Holiday Revelry in December. All were a huge success and brought joy to all our hearts. I arranged almost all the music for the film and game concert. I was accompanied by my wife, Alli, for a few pieces. Coffee House was a team effort across the board, and a smashing success for the community. See the names of our performers below. Debbie Claar, Ann-Marie Messbauer, and Sarah Clark lead the Holiday Revelry. Thank you also to all those behind the scene making these events come together.

We would personally like to thank Debbie Claar for her many years of service to the community. She took charge in the design and coordination of Coffee House and the Holiday Revelry. Another vital member is Joan Zink, who served as our congregational ambassador for the year. She gave us the church's input from a non-musical perspective. Both of these individuals have decided to step down from the music committee to pursue other interest in the community. We send them off with love. We still seek another individual to step into Joan's position of congregational ambassador.

We have added some new guest musicians this year. We had our brass quintet on Easter – Greg Harris and Chris Beasley on Trumpet, Ben Owens on Trombone, Tasha Schapiro on French Horn, and Spencer Hudson on Bass Trombone. We also had Amber Verser on oboe play on Maundy Thursday, and later joined by her sister April on bassoon for Christmas Eve. Pastor Andrew also stepped up on guitar for a number of services, specifically taking charge during our interfaith service. My dear friend Brad Sampson also jumped in for a service on tenor saxophone.

None of what we do here would be possible without the donations to the Special Music Fund. The following individuals have given generously to this fund:

Jan & Rob Costa	Forrest Knowles	Marcia Rich	Marge Zamanian
Nancy Davis	Barbara & David Leonard	Chris Stahlinski	Joan Zink
Lucy Damiani	Jan McSheffrey	Lynn & Lee Tirrell	
Carol Downing	Barbara Moran	Nancy Todd	
Bobbie Killilea	Laura Nowell	Sally Willard	

Thank you to all who donated!

I personally thank the entire UCC Community for a fantastic 2023. I cannot wait to see what 2024 brings!

Sincerely,
Brian Gionet

DEACONS COMMITTEE **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Appropriately, the Deacons spend most of their time fulfilling the responsibilities listed for the Board in the church's Constitution. These include all forms of corporate worship, the care of members and friends of the parish and the development of fellowship programs, which includes attracting potential new members, the administration of church communications, and public relations with the community at large.

Deb Glancy left the Deacons in January after many years of outstanding service and leadership as chair of the Board. The decision was made to split the duties of Chair among the remaining members.

At many meetings, the Deacons work with the pastor to plan upcoming special services, such as Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services, Mother's and Father's Days, and Children's and Special Music Sundays. During Easter, Thanksgiving and the Advent/Christmas season the Deacons appreciate everyone who assists us in decorating, adding to the warm and welcoming spirit of our sanctuary.

Special coffee hours were planned to recognize Brian Gionet's arrival as Director of Music Ministries, Lynn and Lee Tirrell's retirement from the choir after a combined 121 years of participation, Interim Pastor Ed Koonz's departure, new Settled Pastor Andrew Harris' arrival and Brian's marriage to Alli Donais.

Andrew's arrival brought much energy and many ideas for church activities. This resulted in the creation of a handout of events and renewed publicity efforts, which has drawn new people to events.

One important role of the Deacons is to oversee our Music Ministries and the Special Music Funds, which assist in providing Special Guest Musicians and our music events. We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support, allowing us to be blessed with this beautiful music.

The Deacons delivered plants at Easter and Christmas to people who are largely home bound or have had recent losses or illnesses. The Called to Care committee remained very active and important throughout the year, making in-person visits, calling those who were sick or feeling isolated, providing meals if needed and sending supportive cards to people in need, including monthly cards to 15-20 people. When an unexpected illness or death occurred, the Called to Care committee quickly reached out and provided comfort and help when requested. Our congregation is very blessed to be supported and cared by this dedicated group of people. Our own earthly angels are led by Jan McSheffrey and include Lucy Damiani, Nancy Davis, Carol Downing, Elaine Glancy, Barbara Leonard, Barbara Moran, Marcia Rich, Claire Simas, Jean Williamson, and Joan Zink. If you would like to help in these efforts, please contact Jan Mcsheffrey.

Over the course of the year, there was considerable discussion about practices that had been put in place during the Covid epidemic and whether/how to continue them. These included whether to continue with people picking up their own communion packets on entering the sanctuary or returning to having the ushers distribute communion, and the resumption of full coffee hours on a regular basis as well as the greatly enjoyed Welcome Back Sunday casserole buffet.

Continued....

The Love Offering was also reinstated after its pandemic hiatus. This year it was used to assist several families with grocery gift cards, living expenses during hardship, help with a home repair, and gift cards for Christmas presents. Thank you for supporting the Love offering which allows us to help care for members of our community in times of need.

While not finalized, much work went into new guidelines for lay leaders, which will ensure consistency during services.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Deacons or in joining the Board, please reach out to any Deacon.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Rich on behalf of the Board of Deacons

Bobbie Killilea
Kari Lynch
David McNeil
Marcia Rich
Deana Tredeau

MEMORIAL FUND
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Family and friends honored Luella Brown, Jane Raymond and Anne Stafford.

There are four categories of memorial funds: General, Music, Renovations, and Youth and Christian Education.

The Board of Deacons is responsible for the administration of these funds and recommends any expenditure to the Parish Council for its approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Rich

CRAFTERS FOR A CAUSE – C4C **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Thursday afternoons around 1PM you will find a group of interesting, happy, creative people sitting in a circle making items that are given away to support people in need. During the winter we have a hybrid meeting in the conference room allowing some of us attend via zoom. On nice warm weather days, we meet out of doors.

Over a dozen years ago a decree went out from our interim minister that she needed a knitted square for every congregant in attendance and gave us several weeks to fulfill the need. It turned out an amazing number of knitters were ready to take on the cause. They dusted off their knitting needles, got out their yarn stash and made 100 squares. Since those early days we have diversified and now our prayer square basket contains handmade squares, rectangles, triangles, circles and even a few shaped like a cross. We so enjoyed getting back to knitting we agreed to meet regularly once a week. As time passed, we added prayer shawls, Baptism blankets, comfort blankets, hats, scarves, fingerless mitten and ear warmers to our annual projects.

This year 12 **prayer (comfort) shawls** were given to congregates and friends. One member has created a lovely card that accompanies each shawl and says “May this shawl remind you that you are surrounded by prayers of others”. We also supply handmade white **baptismal blankets**. There were 2 Baptisms this year and each child was given a blanket. This blanket symbolizes the arms of our church encircling and supporting the child. We supported a local coat drive organized by Rev Harris and the Missions Committee which collected over 70 coats for needy children in the school system. C4C donated over 50 hats, scarves and fingerless mittens that were given away with the coats. Some of those hats also went to the **Cambridge Street Closet** which helps fill the immediate clothing needs of students in our school.

We also donated items to **Cradles to Crayons** whose goal is to provide clothing helps **to fight “children’s clothing insecurity”** in the Boston area. The **Wish Project** of Chelmsford also received items from us, their goal is to “provide our local (Lowell area) people in need with basic furniture, home goods and baby goods, while helping the planet by recycling used goods.” We gave both organizations baby sweaters, blankets and hats.

Project Linus “provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.” We gave 10 blankets to Project Linus. We are currently working on 6 more blankets.

In October we worked at the Pumpkin Patch on three Thursdays. The money made, \$5,472.37, was used to help fill the Thanksgiving baskets distributed by People Helping People.

While our crafters find many ways to keep busy, we are blessed to have people who are not able to come to our gatherings but make and donate handmade items to us. Over the years they have donated prayer shawls, baptismal blankets, scarves and hats. While we don’t see these people in person, we are grateful for every item donated.

It’s not possible to count the number of stories and knowledge shared, the laughter created, and the relaxing mood that many of us experience during our gatherings. We do love the fun-loving creative hours spent together and will continue to meet either in person or via zoom.

All are welcomed to join our gatherings.

Respectfully Submitted;
Aline Beck, Nancy Davis, Anna Karwan, Susan Eby, Barbara Leonard,
Lynn Tirrell, Nancy Todd, Sheila Vitali

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CE members: Deb Raymond (CE Director & co-chair), Sue Wisniewski (CE co-chair), Michael Lewis (treasurer and representative to Parish Council), Stephanie Omobono, Roberta Lowe resigned; we thank her for her many years of service.

The Sunday School year opened with the balloon arch with the kids running through it at the opening of church and a few new families in the Sunday School/Nursery Program.

The Sunday School continued participation in many new fund raisers and community projects including volunteering to set up for the Community dinner at the Presbyterian church each month and providing the dinner twice. There were 2 “Souper Sunday” fund raisers and the Sunday School provided coffee hour multiple times.

2023 brought new successful activities sponsored by CE Director: On December 17 Caroling to congregants’ homes 20 caroled. On December 24 Live Nativity on the church front lawn, 8 were participants.

Interchurch contacts continued with Burlington Presbyterian church, 1st Church of Christ Congregational Bedford and UU Pilgrim Church in Lexington. Bedford invited our youth to a Christmas event, but there was no interest from UCC kids.

Our Church and The Presbyterian Church offered 3 Inter-Church Sunday School beginning January 2023 at UCC. No attendance from The Presbyterian. February 2023 at UCC, Jen Slater CE director at Presbyterian attended, none of their kids. March 2023 at Presbyterian 5 UCC kids attended. April 2023 at UCC, no Presbyterian attendees.

Intergenerational events:

-Pool party March 2023 8 kids, 7 adults.

-The series “The Chosen” watch party: 3 scheduled after church. One was attended by 7 adults.

Sunday School average attendance is 6 (K- 8th grade). Nursery averages 2 children.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Raymond for CE Committee

BOARD OF MISSIONS
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

We continued to be a 5 for 5 church in 2023. In the financial section of this report, you will find a listing of the 21 organizations we supported, all special offerings and the disbursements we made to support the UCC at the local and national level.

While we continued to support the international work of the UCC through One Great Hour of Sharing, Church World Service, Tool Sunday (Blanket Sunday) and Neighbors in Need we set a goal to increase our support of local organizations through donations and volunteer efforts. All monetary support is listed in the financial report. In addition to monetary support many volunteers spent hours of their time helping The Community Pantry, The Wish Project, and People Helping People. Along with our monthly red wagon donations of food, the collection of clothing through the annual Pajama Drive, working at the annual Pumpkin Patch, the Wish Tree and helping distribute over 100 Thanksgiving Baskets of food are more examples of the generosity of our congregation. One new project this year was supporting Burlington school age children with a coat drive where we collected and distributed over 70 coats and hats to school age children housed in Burlington. Following the disastrous fires in Maui, we had a special collection to support the work of the UCC there.

In 2024 we plan on asking for the following special offerings with a reminder the Easter and Christmas offerings are divided into two with one half going to the Church and the other to another cause. However; this year the Board of Missions decided to give the entire Christmas offering back to the church. As of January 2024, that an offering of over \$8,000. Additional special offerings are: One Great Hour of sharing (winter), Tool and Blanket Sunday (spring), and Neighbors in Need (fall).

In September the Board of Missions and the Green Team brought in Rev. Dr. Jessica McArdle. Rev McArdle led a service focused on Climate Change and what we can do to be more aware of how our daily activities contribute to this issue.

While what UCC Burlington does may seem small in comparison to the natural disasters we read about and the numerous wars and signs of hostilities between nations, we need to remember that a bucket is filled with water one drop at a time. The Board of Mission is thankful that we are budgeted money each year to support organizations which strive to make our world a better place for all. As we hear at the beginning of the Sunday Service each week "We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love".

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Missions
Susan Eby, chair
Joan Zink, Financial Secretary
Anna Karwan, recording secretary
Aline Beck
Karen Butler
Dennis Huebner

MISSIONS FINANCIAL REPORT - 2023		
Balance forward - Jan. 2023		\$ 1891.12
10% pledged income for Missions 2023		\$ 17000.04
	Total	\$ 18891.16
Disbursements		
*SNEUCC Conference - Basic (UCC 5 for 5)		\$ 3600
Metropolitan Boston Association		\$ 900
*Strengthen the Church (UCC 5 for 5)		\$ 500
*Christmas Fund-Veterans of the Cross (5for5)		\$ 500
Peace Scholarship		\$ 250
Altar Flowers Missions Sunday		\$ 30
Mission Sunday Speaker (October)		\$ 300
Brian Gionet Relay for Life		\$ 200
Pollinator Garden		\$ 200
	Total	\$ 6480
Special Offerings		
Christmas Offering (2022) paid in 2023		\$ 2807.50
<i>Distribution to Naples FL Hurricane Relief</i>		
Easter Offering		\$ 2000.48
<i>Distribution to CWS Turkey, Syria, Ukraine</i>		
CWS Blanket/Tool Sunday		\$ 460
*Neighbors in Need (UCC 5 for 5)		\$ 315
*One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC 5 for 5)		\$ 1065
Disaster Relief in Maui		\$ 450
	Total	\$ 7097.98

Benevolences (21 @ \$400)	Total	\$	8400
Casa Myrna			
Disabled American Veterans			
Habitat for Humanity			
Heifer International			
The Hope Group			
LGBT Asylum			
MA Council of Churches (One Church Fund)			
Mission of Deeds			
NE Center for Homeless Vets			
Project Care and Concern			
Reach Beyond Domestic Violence			
Rosie's Place			
Science with a Mission			
VNA Hospice Care			
Dig Deep			
World School (Anne Stafford's Daughter)			
Global Leadership Community			
Wee Care			
Wish Project			
Lowell Transitional Living Center			
Burlington Council on Aging			
<i>Disbursements plus Benevolences</i>		\$	14880
<i>Special Offerings</i>		\$	7097.98
<i>Total Missions \$\$ Outreach for 2023</i>		\$	21977.98
Balance Forward		\$	4011.16

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees had a busy year that included both major and minor projects. As noted in previous reports from the Trustees, as our facilities age, the Trustees were faced with a multitude of major issues along with typical maintenance. Major issues are presented below. As always, minor ones are too numerous to mention.

Sanctuary Building

- Installed air purifier in Skelton Hall
- Installed a mesh network to replace the Wi-Fi repeaters.
- Planted new tree by the bench in front of the church.
- Assisted with pollinator garden set up.
- Rebuilt toilet controls in downstairs boys' bathroom.

Interconnect

- Responded to flooding in Montessori classroom in the interconnect building. Coordinated with the school to replace wall board and insulation along outside wall.
- Replaced gutters on the north side of the building.
- Regraded lawn on north side of the building
- In the Fall, cleaned gutters.
- Installed new, locking mailbox.
- Installed LED dimmer switch in conference room.

Education Building

- Repaired bathroom stall door.
- Replace kitchen sink faucet.
- Painted ceiling. ReVision (our solar panel company) paid for the cost of painting the ceiling.

Parsonage

- Cleaned up downed tree in the backyard.
- Repaired oven controls.
- Prepared the parsonage for the new minister and family.
- Gutters reattached to the house and flashing was installed in the Spring.
- In the Fall, cleaned gutters.

Lawn Care

- Hired James Martin Landscaping to care for our lawn.
- Had three dead trees removed from the area adjacent to the parking lot.
- A pollinator garden was created.

Miscellaneous

- Conducted a Spring clean-up day. Boy Scouts were helpful, however, few parishioners participated.
- Signed snow removal contract with Bob Cuccio.
- Continued to replace burnt out fluorescent light bulbs with LED light bulbs.
- Installed a Nest thermostat to control the office air conditioner. All church thermostats have now been converted to Nest thermostats.

Safe Church Committee

Attended day-long presentation by Burlington Police Department on church safety.

Safety related items

- Annual inspection of fire alarm system turned up a couple of minor issues that were corrected.
- Annual inspection of church boilers turned up a couple of minor issues that were corrected. Passed subsequent inspection.
- Central fire alarm station is starting to show its age, requiring calls for repairs. Fire alarm technician recommended the station should be replaced with a new unit. Have a quote for \$6420 for a new station.
- Replaced battery and pads for defibrillator.
- Sinkhole in front of Ed Building was filled in.
- Electronic lock system malfunctioned a couple of times which required service calls to fix.

We do not accomplish these things without help (although more help would be appreciated). At the extreme risk of forgetting someone, the Trustees would like to thank:

- Bobbie Killilea for being the rental coordinator and the contact person for our vendors.
- Steve Landry for keeping the church clean.
- Everett Langley and John Heald for donating and installing mesh network equipment which improved the wi-fi coverage within the church.
- Donations of time/work by our vendors – Jimmy Martin, Bob Cuccio.
- The Settled Pastor Search Committee and volunteers for cleaning up the church ahead of the Andrew Harris's interview and moving into the Parsonage.
- Michael Lewis for working improving the quality of the Zoom broadcasts.
- Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for volunteering to help with clean-up projects during the Annual Spring Clean-up Day.

A big thank you to all our helpers.

Respectfully Submitted

The Board of Trustees

Bill Beyer (Chairperson)

Chris Cahoon

Conrad Fong

Chris Silva

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

After a delayed start due to the committee being formed after the Annual Meeting, we started immediately updating contracts for March 1, 2023. We looked at the Administrative Assistant's Job Description, and made changes to better reflect her current responsibilities. Pastor Ed Koonz's contract was both extended to the end of August 2023 and revised (with the agreement of Parish Council) to reflect his wish to work part-time.

Pastor Andrew Harris' Call Agreement was completed and sent to the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ. We worked with the Board of Deacons on the process of the evaluation of the Director of Music Ministry at years end. A special thank you to Christine Stahlinski, previous chair of HR Committee for the evaluations completed for the Administrative Assistant, CE Director, and Sexton at the beginning of the year. We submitted projected salary and benefit numbers to Parish Council for the upcoming 2024 budget year.

The committee gives a huge thank you to Emily Deluca for her invaluable assistance over the year regarding our questions on current employment practices and other personnel and contract matters.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie Zamanian, Chairperson
Barbara Leonard, Recording Secretary
Karen Ciardi, Technology.

GREEN TEAM 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Green Team is a committee, which is dedicated to improving our planet through eco-stewardship by promoting environmentally friendly practices and efficient improvements.

The Green Team believes that improving and protecting our environment is a practical deed of love to our world. As Christians, we also believe it is our responsibility to be good stewards of this beautiful planet.

Year in review:

The Green Team has had a busy and productive year, we met each month to plan goals, activities and events that support our mission to strive to be good stewards of earth and how we can minimize our impact on climate change.

We have worked toward Level 2 Green Congregation Challenge as presented by Southern New England Conference of United Church of Christ (SNEUCC). The Green Congregation Challenge is a step-by-step approach that helps churches take small, but consequential, steps towards protecting God's Creation.

Our Green Team members lead church school on:

- January 15 Introducing the kids to the amazing skills hummingbirds, snakes and bullfrogs have
- February 19 For Mardis Gras we had pancakes that the kids enjoyed decorating themselves and coloring their lent path posters.
- April 19 Lesson was "A Prayer for the Earth, the story of Naamah, Noah's Wife" by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

On Earth Day Sunday, April 23 Chris Stahlinski presented a sermon on "Sowing Seeds"

Bible Study on creation was led by Rev. Ed Koonz in January and February

Our January theme focused on reduce/recycle/rethink

- Bike rack: we worked on acquiring a bike rack to be installed at Simons Park by the basketball court. The Rotary Club of Burlington helped fund the purchase of the rack for us. Blessing of the rack is to be held around Earth Day 2024
- Rain barrel was considered for use at the church, it was not a good fit and it will be used at the parsonage to catch rain water for the watering of the garden there.

In February our theme was soil:

- On the Green Team bulletin board there was posted two suggested documentaries "Kiss the Soil" and "The Biggest Little Farm"
- We encouraged composting with details for Black Earth composting offered in Burlington
- A Lent calendar was created and shared with the congregation to inspire "green" activities during the 6-week lent season. LENTEN THEME: was water, soil, air, sun, food, energy.

On March 26 a Cookie Appreciation was hosted during coffee hour with lots of great cookies made by the congregation were served. We also shared our bounty with the Burlington Fire Department which they appreciated.

In the spring we started planning for a pollinator garden to be installed behind the church sign in front. The work started with planting seeds with the congregation and kids to bring awareness to why it is important to have pollinator plants to nourish bees and butterflies. We received a lot of help and support from Missions, Christian Education and Jim Martin for clearing the area and preparing the soil for planting.

In May the garden was installed with a blessing held on June 11. A watering schedule was created to ensure the garden would thrive and mother nature certainly helped out with the watering.

Continued.....

During coffee hour a Farm Bill was presented where people were able to sign the petition.

The Green Team hosted during church school a session to build bee homes for the kids to take home and place in their yards.

During the churches MINI FAIR- we had a table designated for environmentally friendly items, where people could learn more about sustainable products, buy and donate to the pollinator garden.

We made a shift to use Fair Trade coffee and sustainable products. Working to eliminate one time use cups, using ceramic mugs for coffee hour

Reached out to the Finance Committee to review divestment of church funds from fossil fuel and other environmentally sensitive investments.

All church lighting has been replaced with LED lights.

On December 3 we hosted our second annual sustainable ornament making class during Coffee Hour. It was well attended, there was lots of fun and creativity.

There are many others that have contributed with donations and their time to make all these events, initiatives possible, thank you to all of you.

If you are interested in joining our Green Team you are always welcome and we certainly can use the help.

Respectfully submitted,

Green Team:

Chris Stahlinski – chair

Susan Eby

Anna Karwan

Barbara Leonard

Nancy Todd

UCC BURLINGTON ENDOWMENT FUND

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Endowment Fund increased in value in 2023 with fixed interest gains of \$1,652.88 and net market investment gains totaling \$31,799.12. The total account value at year end was \$418,504.60. The stock and bond mutual fund portfolio net rate of return was +10.57%

The approximate asset allocation in the Endowment Fund is as follows:

4.5% Cash

16.1% Fixed-Term Investments

79.4% Stock and Bond Mutual funds

Our cash account is held with Citizens Bank. One maintenance deposit of \$10.00 was made during 2023 to avoid a monthly "Services Charge Dormant Account Fee" of \$5.00.

At the end of year 2023, the total due Endowment was \$6492.34.

The Endowment Fund is intended for the long-term support of the church. Our goal is to grow this fund so that its interest earnings can be used to supplement our church budget. A gift of any size, at any time, to the Endowment Fund is an excellent way to invest in our church's future.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Rich
Forrest Knowles
Cindy Phillips

UCC ENDOWMENT FUND
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

<u>Beginning Balance 1/1/2023</u>	<u>\$385,042.60</u>
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Income

Interest on Term Investment Notes	\$1,652.88
Deposits / Credits	\$10.00
Loan Pre-payment	\$0.00
Investment Gain / Dividends	\$31,799.12
Budget Surplus	\$0.00
Total Income	\$33,462.00

Losses & Expenses

Investment Losses	\$0.00
Loans	\$0.00
Account Fees	\$0.00
Total Losses & Expenses	\$0.00

<u>Ending Balance 12/31/2023</u>	<u>\$418,504.60</u>
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Asset Summary

	2022	2023
UCC Cornerstone Fund (5 Notes)	\$65,515.49	\$67,168.37
American Funds (Stock and Bond Mutual Funds)	\$300,671.13	\$332,470.25
Citizens Bank Checking Account	\$18,855.98	\$18,865.98
Total Assets	\$385,042.60	\$418,504.60

Statement of Loan Activity

Total Due to Endowment Fund	\$6,492.34
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FUNDRAISER **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

GIFT CARDS

This was the 11th year that Nancy Todd has been the coordinator of our “Gift Card” fundraiser. Time for somebody else to step up, PLEASE!

In 2023 **nine** different families placed orders for Gift Cards totalling **\$7,365** for which we received a total rebate of \$323.96.

Again this year, most of those orders were reloads or printable gift cards paid by PrestoPay, so they did not incur any shipping charges or require any effort on Nancy’s part. She is very grateful to those folks who on their own are using the gift card system to profit the church – thank you! This is a fabulous “win/win” for us – purchasing of gift cards from businesses that you patronize on a daily/monthly basis with a portion of the denomination of that gift card going back to the church at no (or extremely little) cost to you. These cards can be in the form of a plastic “debit” card or “electronic paper” script or the “reload”. All one needs to do is get in the habit of buying the gift cards on a regular basis. The “reloads” and electronic cards can be purchased anytime (without waiting for a batch order from the church) if you have set up a “presto pay” account with RaiseRight (formerly ShopwithScrip). If you prefer not to do financial transactions online, you can place your order online at any time and then write a check to the church. Your order will be effective as soon as you get the check to the church office! It makes all the sense in the world to buy your grocery, coffee, department store, hotel or restaurant gift cards through the church program and do your shopping with gift cards. So the church benefits, regardless of where you are living, or vacationing!

A special shout out once again goes to Deana Tredeau, our biggest earner in the gift card program for many, many years now. She regularly refills her cards online, and a portion of all her grocery shopping money goes automatically to the church. **Thank you, Deana!**

Go to RaiseRight.com to learn all about how you can get involved. Or talk with Deana – she’s our resident pro! And PLEASE consider seriously if you are at all interested in helping with (or just taking over) the coordination of this program for the church. It is a badly underused opportunity to raise funds.

CHARCUTERIE CLASS

This was our first time holding a class of this type. We have a great turnout from church people, and folks who saw our advertisement on the PATCH. It was a deliciously, wonderful event. Thank you to our volunteers who helped make it such a nice time. We raised \$1,580 for our church.

PLANT/BAKE/CRAFT SALE

The day before Mother’s Day, we had a wonderful day weather-wise and held the event outdoors. Many people stopped and purchased plants, baked goods and crafts. It was well attended. Thank you to all our volunteers who donated, setup, worked the event, and helped take down the tables, etc. We raised \$3,130 for our church.

COFFE HOUSE

We enjoyed an evening of talent in Sewall Hall. We had members who traveled many miles to perform, folks from the Temple and a great group from our church, including Pastor Andrew. We raised \$491.

ONLINE AUCTION

The on-line auction is the church’s largest fundraiser as well as being fun event. We had a variety of goods donated from companies, restaurants, retailers around town, time shares, as well as goods from some of our members. We raised \$8,148.02. We were pleased that a large portion of people outside our church family bid on items.

Committee members: Deb Raymond, Joan Zink, Julie Lewis and Kari Lynch worked very hard to make this such a success!

BOARD OF FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

At the annual meeting in February 2023, the congregation approved a **\$23,164.16** deficit budget for the year.

In addition to starting the year with a fifth consecutive deficit budget, the Finance and Stewardship function started out 2023 with two (2) members (The Financial Secretary is considered a voting member, but essentially works **for** the Board.). Julie Lewis and Sally Willard were elected to the board at the annual meeting.

Finance and Stewardship is essential to the operations of a congregation as it runs the annual stewardship campaign, solicits the donation of time and talent commitments, and works with the Treasurer to document the church's income and expenditures against the church budget. Finance and Stewardship facilitates the coordination of the annual budget, which is reviewed and approved by Parish Council and the congregation.

During this year's stewardship campaign, Pastor Andrew Harris spoke about stewardship and the Church. He asked members of our Church to speak to what drew them to and keeps them returning to UCC Burlington. Again, this year we were unable to host a Finance and Stewardship luncheon and activity.

This year's stewardship theme was ***"Because of You our church changes lives."*** Julie wrote the theme related stewardship campaign letter included in the stewardship packets. They were distributed on October 22, Stewardship Sunday.

Time and Talent submissions were better than last year, but still well below pre-covid years. This means many of our boards; committees and essential roles will be understaffed or in some cases empty in 2024. In addition, as of writing this report on January 22, 2023, we have received 67 pledges providing about 86% of the necessary funds to balance the budget.

Parish Council will be submitting a deficit budget at the 2024 Annual Meeting again.

Sincerely,

Sally Willard, Julie Lewis and John Heald
Finance & Stewardship Committee

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIOAL, BURLINGTON, MA
YEAR 2024**

		2023	2024	
		<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	change
Revenue				
4000	Pledges	170,000.00	188,063.00	18,063.00
4010	Loose Offerings	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
4020	Easter and Christmas	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00
4030	PPP Loan Recognition	0.00	0.00	0.00
4100	Rental Income	64,000.00	40,500.00	(23,500.00)
Fundraiser				
4205	Flea Market	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
4210	Online Auction	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00
4215	Amazon Smile	400.00	0.00	(400.00)
4220	Special Advent Collection	0.00	0.00	0.00
4225	Flatbread Pizza/UNO	0.00	0.00	0.00
2480	Plant Sale		3,130.00	3,130.00
4235	Charcuterie Class		1,600.00	1,600.00
4240	Chocolate and Jazz	0.00	0.00	0.00
4245	Facebook Fundraisers	0.00	0.00	0.00
4260	Gift Cards	750.00	750.00	0.00
	Total Fundraisers	11,150.00	15,480.00	4,330.00
4800	Investment Income	8.00	8.00	0.00
4900	Other Income	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
	Total Revenue	262,658.00	261,551.00	(1,107.00)
Expenditures				
Parish Council				
5005	General	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Personnel				
Pastor				
5100	Salary	37,535.67	69,337.54	31,801.87
5105	Auto Allowance	1,000.00	850.00	(150.00)
5110	Furnishing Allowance	0.00	3,045.00	3,045.00
5112	Housing Allow.	39,000.00	0.00	(39,000.00)
5115	Insurance Coverages	10,513.40	1,475.30	(9,038.10)
5120	Professional Expenses	2,420.00	2,030.00	(390.00)
5125	Retirement Contribution	9,800.00	18,269.49	8,469.49
5130	Equity Allowance	0.00	8,373.75	8,373.75
	Total Pastor	100,269.07	103,381.09	3,112.01

		2023 Annual Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	Change
5301	CE Coordinator	13,329.79	13,729.90	400.11
5305	Nursery Care	0.00	0.00	0.00
5310	Music Director	23,000.00	23,690.00	690.00
5320	Administrative Assistant	27,001.77	27,806.42	804.65
5321	Administrative Assistant 403B	809.79	834.19	24.41
5330	Custodian	7,272.19	7,489.83	217.64
5345	Payroll Expense	6,009.56	5,572.79	(436.77)
5350	Payroll Service	1,565.00	2,200.00	635.00
	Trustees			
5710	Heat	16,000.00	15,000.00	(1,000.00)
5720	Insurance	14,300.00	15,500.00	1,200.00
5730	Plowing	13,000.00	13,000.00	0.00
5740	Maintenance and Supplies	13,000.00	13,000.00	0.00
5750	Utilities	10,000.00	7,000.00	(3,000.00)
6000	Christian Education	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00
6010	Confirmation	0.00	0.00	0.00
6020	Office Expense and Equipment	8,200.00	10,200.00	2,000.00
6030	Telephone	1,440.00	1,440.00	0.00
6040	Deacon's Expense	9,275.00	8,750.00	(525.00)
6045	Mission Projects	17,000.00	18,806.30	1,806.30
6050	Stewardship	450.00	450.00	0.00
6090	Online Giving Expense	500.00	550.00	50.00
	Total Expenditures	285,822.16	291,800.51	5,978.35
	Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(23,164.16)	(\$30,249.51)	(\$7,085.35)

Salary increase

0.03

Budget Surplus (Shortfall) %

-13.6%

-16.1%