

APRIL 2024 HILLTOP HERALD NEWSLETTER

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Chris Stahlinski
Moderator

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Dear Friends,

As we prepare our hearts to behold the wonder of resurrection this coming Easter Sunday, I thought I'd just share this contemporary psalm with all of you. It's from a collection called *Prayers of a Planetary Pilgrim* by Edward Hays. It's one of my favorite collections of beautiful, mysterious, and sometimes strange little prayers, psalms, reflections, and writings. This one is called "A Psalm of the Resurrection." I hope it brings blessings of light and life to you this Holy Week.

Peace,
Andrew

A PSALM OF THE RESURRECTION By Edward Hays

Before dawn,
the great Seder celebration having passed,
his empty cross awaiting death's next meal,
into the darkness of his lifeless body
the finger of God's Spirit
stirred in slowly spiraling circles
as once it had moved
over the deep and empty waters
about to be pregnant with creation.

From the blast of the birthing
of ten thousand galaxies,
Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary
and son of God,
exploded outward from his tomb
in radiant light and love
to fill the whole earth and the whole cosmos
with the fullness of divine life.

Paul of Tarsus penned it well
in a letter to his Ephesian friends:
"God has put all things under Christ's feet
and made him head of the Church, his body:
the fullness of him
who fills the universe in all its parts."

I look up into the Easter sky,
beyond the limits of this small galaxy —
far beyond the boundaries of my mind —
into the billions of galaxies that glow
like flaming Easter flowers
filling the garden of the universe.

Light travels 5,787 trillion miles a year;
and to cross, just once at the speed of light,
this universe whose every starry body
contains the fullness of the Risen Christ
would take all of twenty billion years.

Oh, beyond comprehension,
too vast for my little mind,
is the mystery of the Resurrection,
is the wonder of the Easter nighttime sky,
the body of the Risen Christ,
the whole and holy Church to which I belong.

Many good things are happening in the church. Ella Ciccone, daughter of Jamie and Emily, will be baptized on April 7. Nine people are interested in joining the church and attended the first of three meetings on the topic recently; those who decide to follow through will be welcomed on May 19th. Andrew will be formally installed as our settled pastor on June 9 at 3 pm.

Much of the meeting was devoted to the many details which make the transitions from the optimism of Palm Sunday to the betrayal and desperation of Maundy Thursday and the crucifixion to the celebration of Easter morning.

'Ashes to go' on February 14 proved popular among non-church members at both the church and True North.

Pub Theology on the third Thursday of each month is going well. In April it will move to the Emerald Rose in Billerica.

Paper sign-ups for worship will end after Easter. Anyone needing help with online sign-up should reach out to Donna Flecchia and use the signup link. Many of the tasks are easy, someone will guide you in how to do them, and you'll earn the gratitude of the congregation as well as having a sense of satisfaction for trying something new!

EASTER PLANTS GIVEN IN MEMORY/CELEBRATION/HONOR OF:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Aline Beck | My Loved Ones |
| Bill, Cathy, and Kerry Beyer | Beyer and Boag Loved Ones |
| Dick and Karen Butler | Our Parents and Karen's Brother John |
| Carpenter Family | Bob, Husband/Father/Grandfather |
| Debbie Claar | My beloved parents, Gordon and Lorraine Claar |
| Rob and Jan Costa | Family and Friends |
| Lucy Damiani | Roland, Husband and Janice Bucco, Sister-in-Law |
| Nancy Davis | All our Church Volunteers |
| Eby Family | Loved Ones |
| Fong Family | Family and Friends |
| Garside Family | Husband/Father, Fred; Son/Brother Tim |
| Deb Glancy & Donna Ferro | Parents and grandparents who have gone before us. |
| Killilea Family | Our Family and Friends, past and present |
| Bobbie Killilea | Hilltop Ladies: Jane Raymond, Luella Brown, Aline Beck, Nancy Davis, Kay Shute, Lynn Tirrell |
| Barbara and David Leonard | Our Loved Ones |
| Kari Lynch | Loved Ones |
| Raymond Family | Jane and Earl Raymond |
| Barbara Moran | Husband, Frank; Mother and Father, Lisa and Ted Smith |
| Barbara Naddaff | Loved Ones |
| Cindy Phillips | Loved Ones |
| Marcia Rich | Loved Ones |
| Stahlinski Family | Loved Ones |
| Lynn and Lee Tirrell | Loved Ones |
| Nancy Todd | My husband, Cy |
| Tredeau Family | Love and Joy for the Easter Season |
| Sue Wisniewski | Mom and Dad (Sally and Bob Reimer) |
| Majorie Zamanian | My mother, Agnes David |
| Joan Zink | Rollie Damiani |





MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

Our local Burlington Pantry is in need of the following food items:

Pasta-Pasta Sauce-Breakfast Foods
Kids Snacks-Canned Beans-Jelly

Please bring to worship on April 28th We will bring all forward during our worship service.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

C4C will meet Thursday at 1pm in the conference room. Join us in person or online through Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVI3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09>

Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274
Passcode: 01803

We are working on making strips to be sewn into blankets for Project Linus and Wee Care.

FROM THE HOPE GROUP

Dear UCC Missions Committee,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Hope Group. It has been a blessing to receive your support over the years. Rindy Huebner started the group in 1989, 35 years ago. We miss her every day. It's hard to believe she's been gone 11 years. We talk about her and try to continue her legacy in our mission to help those in their early pregnancy loss journey. Thank you for helping us continue our work holding monthly meetings, reaching out to our members, and sending annual remembrance cards . We so appreciate all you do for us.

Fondly,
Donna McDonnell and your friends at Hope

OGHS

As of Sunday March 17 \$485, has been collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.

Missions thanks you for supporting this cause.

MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT

In March \$1000 was paid to the SNEUCC. This is the first of 4 payments, which will total \$4500 by the end of 2024. \$900 of this will go directly to the Metropolitan Boston Association.

\$200 was donated to support the Palm Sunday Procession, led by Deb Raymond.

WISH PROJECT

Seasons are changing and we are now collecting donations of spring and summer clothing for the Wish Project in Chelmsford. There is a collection bin under the coat racks for the clothing. All donated clothing should be clean and free of holes and stains. All sizes of clothing from newborns to adult are needed. They also accept shoes. Due to storage limitations Wish Project is no longer in need of fall and winter clothing. Your donations are taken to Wish Project at least once a month by Woody Knowles. If your items are not acceptable for Wish project you may place them in any of the white collection bins found in the parking lots of all school buildings in town.

EASTER OFFERING

The special Easter offering this year will be split with 50% of the offering going to People Helping People specifically to buy food to be distributed to its clients. The other 50% of the offering is going to support the work of our church. The Easter letter will contain envelopes for your donation. There will also be envelopes in the church pews. If you chose to send a check to the church office, please write Easter on the memo line. If you want to submit your offering digitally you may use Vanco. Directions for using Vanco are listed on the Church web site. We thank you in advance for all of your generous donations.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On March 10th Second Sunday Speaker Series for 5th Grade- High school, Julie Lewis, the Pantry Manager at PHP was our speaker. She explained how many programs they run, and some of the projects we could be involved in. Thank you, Julie!

HAPPENINGS

Saturday, March 16: Inter-Church Lent Event to Assemble Easter Baskets



UCC Burlington hosted an event to assemble 100 Easter Baskets for underserved kids in Burlington. The baskets will be distributed by People Helping People. People Helping People provided the contents for the baskets and distributed the baskets. A few of our friends from UCC Bedford joined in.

Thank you to Julie and all that came to help kids have a fun Easter!



Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday Procession



It takes a team to make a Palm Sunday Procession happen!

Over 40 people of all ages and from different churches joined in the procession. We were led by a mini horse, re-enacting the crowds following Jesus into Jerusalem. The Deacons provided snacks and lemonade at the finish, multiple people took pictures. Missions made a donation to Sandy and her mini horse.

It was an awesome proclamation of our community and God's love!

Thank you so much to everyone that participated!





NURSERY SCHOOL

Two people provide care for newborns – 4 years old while parents attend worship.

CE is urgently looking for a paid nursery attendant Sundays 10 am-12pm. This can be every Sunday or a job share. The candidate must be 17 years or older and will be COR'd. Ask around, you never know who may be interested.

ONGOING EVENTS

Second Sunday Speaker Series for 5th Grade–High School Youth is held during Sunday School 10:45 – 11:30.

Each 2nd Sunday a speaker will join us during Sunday School to impart knowledge to the group, for instance: social issues, history, church policy, etc.



Sunday 4/14/24 . **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.** The Labyrinth!
It will be an exceptional experience.

Sunday 5/12/24 **CHANGE OF TIME.** **The Speaker Series is taking us off site** to Boston Common. We will attend the weekly service held by Common Cathedral for all, especially people living on the streets. For more information see their website: <https://commoncathedral.org/sunday-worship>

We will walk over to the MLK Statue on the Common. Of course there will be a picnic on Boston Common. We will leave the church parking lot at **10:30 am** and return by **1:30 pm**.

MARCH EVENT



SUNDAY MARCH 31 EASTER EGG HUNT!

Join us in Sewall Hall at 9:45 for the Easter Story reading and then go on the hunt for Easter eggs! Kids AND Youth are welcome to invite friends.

APRIL EVENTS

Sunday, April 7 Sunday School Cookie Sale

The kids and youth will meet at church at 10 AM to Bake Cookies!

The cookies will be on sale after church by the dozen or 1 big cookie!

There will be a gluten free cookie offered.

Chocolate chip, Snickerdoodles and Macaroons



SUNDAY, APRIL 21 2 PM - 3PM POOL PARTY!



Pool party at Billerica Boys & Girls Club of Greater Billerica located at 19 Campbell Rd., Billerica.

Be at the pool 5 min early so you can be ready to get in the pool at 2.

There are girls and boys changing rooms, but you can come with your suits on and just leave your clothes in the changing rooms if you would like. **BRING YOUR OWN TOWEL.** Towels are not provided by the club. You are welcome to invite friends.

YOU MUST RSVP no later that April 14, 2024.

If there are more than 20 people in the pool we need to hire another Life Guard. The pool needs at least ONE week's notice to hire another life guard.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 UCC CE HOSTS COMMUNITY DINNER



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

THE THEME IS CINCO DE MAYO!

All CE volunteers and John Getsinger be at the Presbyterian church by 4:30 and stay until 7 to cleanup.

The menu is meat tacos, with a vegetarian and gluten free option provided. An assortment of Mexican cookies for dessert. Please contact Deb Raymond, C:857-373-9156 if you would like to donate a dozen cookies. Recipes will be provided.

An

MAY EVENTS

Sunday, May 5, Sunday School provides Coffee Hour!

We all enjoy gathering for snacks, conversation and fun after church. It's our turn to setup, cleanup and provide the snacks. Meet in Sewall hall at 10:30 to prepare for coffee hour.

The kids and youth will not be in church this day.



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR PLANT/CRAFT/BAKE SALE
MAY 11TH!**



We are holding our Mother's Day Plant, Craft, and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 11th at UCC!

We are hoping you will lend your talents to the cause to make this another successful fundraiser. Last year we sold many spring and Mother's Day themed crafts, as well as lots of perennials and vegetable and flower seedlings. If you have empty pots to lend to the cause, or would like help digging up/splitting perennials in your yard, please contact Julie Lewis at jalewis@gmail.com. We will also be looking for people to make and package baked goods to sell that day. Look for sign-up sheets at coffee hour, or feel free to email Julie if you plan to contribute anything, or if you have questions. Thank you!



GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING

We have a very easy fundraiser that you may not know about - it is ordering Gift Cards through a program called "RaiseRight." See the flyer we have posted on the Fundraising bulletin board. When you order your gift cards through RaiseRight, a percentage of each card is donated to the church. You still get your Gift Card at full value, so no worries. It's a win, win for both!

When you use the RaiseRight Program, you may purchase physical, e-cards and even reload many physical cards. They have over 700 brands, many places you often shop such as Speedway Gas, Target, Shaws, Kohls, Dunkin, Panera, Ace Hardware, Best Buy—the list just goes on and on giving the church anywhere from 1% to 20% back on your purchase.

The gift cards don't really have to be a gift, they can be for your own everyday purchases, and imagine giving the church a donation every time you shop.

Here is the information:

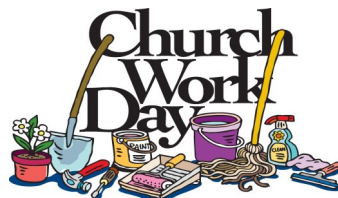
To order, go online to RaiseRight.com, click on "join a program" and enter BB483284315L1 as your enrollment code (to link to our church account). Place your order online, paying directly by linking a checking account or credit card. Your e-cards or re-loads are available for immediate use. We will place an order for physical cards delivered to our coordinator soon in the near future.

If you have any questions please contact Nancy Todd at nancygtodd@gmail.com She will be happy to assist you.

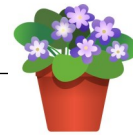
PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

The church's Annual Spring Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, May 4th.

**Looking for people to help clean and do repairs.
Stay tuned for more details.**



JOYS AND CONCERNS



Karen Butler's brother-in-law Allan Sena
 Sue Wisniewski's Godmother, Faye Monroe
 Bobbie Killilea's friends John, Judi, and
 Ed "Pops" Crowell
 Chris Stahlinski's sister Evelyn
 Barbara Leonard
 Anna Karwan's friends Ellen and Don
 Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel and friends
 Glenda and Mary
 Wayne Higden
 Brian Gionet's Dad
 Claire Simas and daughter Marianne
 Roberta Low
 Christa Brown
 Rebecca Sobolewski's sister, Holly
 Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
 Jessy McNeil's sister Grace
 Elaine Glancy and friend Rita, sister-in-law Irene
 Jim Killilea, Tom's brother

Bill Beyer's nephews Chris and Aaron,
 their dad is very ill
 Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy
 Joyce Carpenter's niece Cindy, brother Bob
 Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
 Kelly Sievert
 Bill Hitchcock
 Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, her
 Daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
 Barbara Moran
 Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy and
 Ginger's son Jim
 Jean Bastos
 Barbara Garland

 Our Nation
 Mother Earth

CONDOLENCES TO:

Kristin Duran and her family on the sudden passing of her mother, Barbara Lystad. She will be missed by many. Keeping you, your family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Ed and Jacob Vitali on the passing of wife, mother Sheila. She was a one of our C4C crafters and had a wonderful talent of crocheting. She will be dearly missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Our thoughts and prayers to Joyce Carpenter and family on the passing of her niece Lorraine Lee. Deepest sympathy to all.

Sympathy to Sue Wisniewski and her godmother Faye. Faye's husband died suddenly. Keeping all of you in our prayers!

Dear Friends,

During this last difficult year of my husband Rollie's life you have been a constant source of love and support for me and our children. You have sustained our bodies with nourishing meals and delicious soups. You have sustained our spirits with your thoughtful words and loving prayers. I am eternally grateful for you, my precious church family.

*God Bless you,
Lucy Damiani*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!



1 Alan Beck	13 Pam Walker	28 Kristen Harder
7 Brody Bonnell	13 Brad Bond	30 Mark Forbush
9 Kristen Costa	15 Donald Walker	30 Kay Shute
10 Josephine Samarjian	19 Janet Hooper	
12 Barbara Leonard	21 Shirley Fong	
13 Tina Brierley	25 Allison Reynolds (Phillips)	

CLOTHING DRIVE MARCH 5-APRIL 5

Lindsay Hurley is Burlington's Project 351 Ambassador for Cradles to Crayons! Project 351 is a nonprofit organization that takes one eighth grader from each of the 351 towns in Massachusetts and unites them for a year of service and leadership. It was founded by Former Governor Deval Patrick in 2011. Since then Project 351 has grown and gone onto impacting more than 1 million lives. Each year Project 351 holds its annual Spring Service Clothing Drive in support of *Cradle to Crayons*. Lyndsay is hosting a clothing drive in Burlington starting on *March 25 ending April 5*. There will be donation boxes located at Marshall Simonds Middle School and the Burlington Public Library. New and gently used clothes sizes newborn to adult medium and NEW socks, underwear, and pajamas. Akshara Dhake, a 9th grade Project 351 Alumna is also hosting a clothing drive at Francis Wyman and Fox Hill Schools during the same timeframe. Please help support their causes! Questions contact lindsayhurley38@gmail.com

Please see the poster at church for more information.

CLOTHING Drive

You can help end clothing insecurity! Please help the **Burlington Project 351** team by donating new or gently used children's clothing!

Drop-Off Location
Francis Wyman and Fox Hill

Donation Dates
March 25 - April 5

Type Of Clothes
Sizes newborn to adult medium

PROJECT CONTACT

Contact Information -
apdhake@gmail.com

Cradles to Crayons

Clothing Drive

Project 351 Presents...
It's annual statewide spring service campaign in support of Cradles to Crayons!

Help end clothing insecurity!

- Donate new and gently used clothing; sizes newborn to adult medium, and new socks, underwear, and pajamas
- Donation bins located at Marshall Simonds Middle School and the Burlington Public Library
- Donations will be collected from March 25th to April 5th

Contact Lindsay at lindsayhurley38@gmail.com or 300104@bps121.org for more information!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

April 7, Communion 10:30am

Baptism for Ella Ciccone

Communion Pre:
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter: Jan Costa
Collector: Marcia Rich
Flowers: Easter Flowers
Sunday School:
Nursery:
Coffee Host:
Bakers:

April 21 Worship 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Collector: Everett Langley
Flowers: Bobbie Killilea
Sunday School:
Nursery:
Coffee Host:
Bakers:

April 14, Worship / Love Offering 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter: Woody Knowles
Collector: Dick Butler
Flowers:
Sunday School:
Nursery:
Coffee Host:
Bakers:

April 28 Worship / Red Wagon 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Collector: Deb Raymond
Flowers:
Sunday School:
Nursery:
Coffee Host:
Bakers:

To Volunteer for our Worship Service please go to the link online and signup. If you have difficulty please contact Donna Flecchia at dmfllec@gmail.com We are no longer using the paper signups.

Worship Service Volunteer Link

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

April 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 April Fools Keep Smiling 6:30p AA 7p Trustees	2 CE Meeting	3 7:15p Choir	4 9-11A  True North 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	5 Rental Setup 3:15p Rental 5-10p	6
7 10:30a Communion Baptism Cookie Sale!	8 6:30p AA	9 HR Meeting	10 7:15p Choir	11 9-11A  True North 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	12 7p Rental Setup	13 4:30-10:30p Rental
14 10:30a Worship Love Offering Speaker Series "Labyrinth" Noon Music Committee	15 Patriots Day Office Closed! 6:30p AA	16 7p PC Meeting	17 7:15p Choir	18 9-11A  True North 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Missions Meeting 8p Pub  Theology at Emerald Rose Billerica	19	20
21 10:30a Worship Swimming Event	22 6:30p AA	23 MAY Hilltop Article Deadline!	24 7:15p Choir	25 9-11A  True North 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	26	27
28 10:30a Worship Red Wagon	29 6:30p AA	30				MAY 4 Church Cleanup Day!

UCC Congregational
6 Lexington Street
Burlington, MA 01803
Address Service Requested

TO:



APRIL 2024