

JANUARY 2024 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Chris Stahlinski
Moderator

CONTENTS

Opening Poem	1
Pastor Leave	2
Deacons	2
Annual Report	2
Scheduling Events	2
Christian Ed	3-4
Missions	5
-Red Wagon	
-C4C	
-Missions News	
-Missions Finances	
Joys-Concerns	6
Worship Participation	7
Calendar	8

A beautiful poem by John P. Read. We hope you enjoy it!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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Brush away old heartaches.

Learn from our mistakes.

Another year is finally over.

A new dawn awakes.

Let the old year out.

Welcome the new one in.

Bury the bad things of the past

As a new year now begins.

Make your New Year wishes

As simple as you can.

Pray for peace and love,

Not for wealth or fame.

Pray for health and happiness.

Pray for your fellow man.

Pray for all the ones you love.

Pray for those who've lost their way.

As the midnight hour chimes,

We leave the old and embrace the new.

I wish the things you wish for yourself,

And may God's love stay with you.



PASTOR PARENTAL LEAVE

Please note Pastor Andrew Harris will be out on parental leave through the end of January. For pastoral emergencies Rev. Trina Portillo from the Presbyterian Church will be available most days. Please leave a message on the church voicemail (781-272-4547) and we will contact Pastor Trina.

Our Sunday morning worship will have a variety of coverage. So come worship with us!

Best wishes to Andrew, Ally, Cooper and Sal in the upcoming New Year!

DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

As is often the case, most of the meeting focused on coming events.

Andrew is on parental leave from the end of December to the end of January. Rev. Trina Portillo has agreed to cover emergency pastoral care; please contact the church office if you need her.

Andrew is arranging for guest ministers for the first three Sundays in January and John Getsinger will preach on the 28th.

Ash Wednesday was discussed. There will be 'ashes to go' in the morning at the church and in the afternoon at True North and a simple service at the church in the evening. Chris Stahlinski and the Pastor Parish Relations Committee are looking at plans for Lent, with use of the labyrinth one idea under discussion.

Andrew is planning sessions on aging, grief and caregiving.

December 7 was Director of Music Ministries Brian Gionet's first anniversary in the position. Working together, the HR Committee and the Deacons, who are responsible under the Constitution for the church's music program, have almost completed the evaluation process.

Poinsettias were taken to church members and friends who find it hard to get out and provided to others who have had a difficult time since spring.

Memorial gifts have been received in honor of Luella Brown.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Our Annual Meeting will be coming up on February 4th following worship. As we do each year the Annual Report will be available for reviewing the Sunday prior. **This being said, we will need to have all the reports in to the office by January 23.**

This involves layout, proofing, and copying in time for you to have in hand on January 28. Appreciate all of you staying within the deadline.

Happy New Year to all!

Bobbie

TELL THE CHURCH ABOUT YOUR SCHEDULE!

The church would like to plan activities for times that are convenient for as many members and friends as possible.

Many people's schedules vary some from week to week, but please tell us what works for you most of the time. Is it weekday mornings, weekday afternoons, weekday evenings? If so, which days work? How about weekends—would you prefer Saturday mornings or afternoons? On Sundays, would you like to have activities right after church or in the afternoon?

Please email Marcia Rich with your responses at marmisuri@gmail.com or call or text her at 781-249-6364 by January 15th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS



COFFEE HOUR CREW NOVEMBER 26

On November 26, our Sunday School groups provided coffee and refreshments after worship!

SOUPER SUNDAY DECEMBER 3

At coffee hour, the Sunday School kids sold homemade soup. These were 15 oz bowls in a to go container for \$4. The soups were Corn chowder or Italian wedding One low sodium soup was offered. The funds raised will be for Christian Ed to offset the cost for the Community Dinner that CE Committee provides.



INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP DECEMBER 17

During our worship service, the kids and youth did readings, passed out friendship pads and did the offering collection.



CAROLING IN THE COMMUNITY 12/17/23

The UCC singers brought not only joy to the Burlington Community, but got in the spirit themselves!



LIVE NATIVITY ON DECEMBER 24

Thank you to all participants in both events, you made a difference AND made people smile.

Thank you Marcia Rich and Bobbie Killilea for assisting with promotion



YOUTH ONGOING VOLUNTEERISM AT THE BURLINGTON COMMUNITY DINNER ON NOVEMBER 29

NURSERY CARE Childcare is provided by two people for newborns – 4 years old.

EVENTS IN JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY 1/14/24. SECOND SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

This is a program held during Sunday School time, (10:45-11:30) for 5th – high school students.

Each 2nd Sunday a speaker will be at Sunday School to impart some knowledge to the group on topics such as: social issues, history, church policy, etc. The 1st Speaker on January 14 is Jen from the Robbins House in Concord. Kids from Burlington Presbyterian and other churches will be invited to this event.

SUNDAY 1/28/24 SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT MEETING AFTER CHURCH

Brainstorming and discussion with parents for Sunday School/Youth programming, especially around giving back to the community ideas. Childcare will be provided for kids 4th grade and under. Please contact Deb if you will attend and also if you require childcare **no later than 1/21/24**.

If you can provide childcare from 11:30-12:30 please contact Deb C:857-373-9156

COMMUNITY DINNER AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Wednesday 1/31/24 5:30 -7 PM Youth 5th – 9th, with backup from CE, will setup, provide dinner and clean up. The dinner provided will be a waffles and Canadian bacon dinner celebrating Fat Tuesday. Cookies for dessert. Cookies will be donated by UCC congregants. **Our volunteers will be at Presbyterian church by 4:30 pm and stay until cleanup at 7PM.**

Please contact Deb that you will be participating or would like to donate cookies no later than **1/24/24**.

2/23/24 -2/24/24 CITYREACH MISSION PROGRAM IN BOSTON FOR 8TH GRADE THRU COLLEGE

**Please respond to Deb no later than 1/8/24, if your youth will attend.
The sooner we respond, the better chance we have for getting into the
February program.**



CityReach is an overnight urban outreach program begun in March 1996 for youth (with accompanying adults), young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination. The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn firsthand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. During the 20-hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection.

Parents received an email on this program. If you did not receive the letter, please contact Deb C: 857-373-9156.

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

As always, the pantry is in the need for baby wipes, toilet paper, tissues.

We will collect items during our worship service on January 28th.

You can always drop items directly at the Pantry which is located at:
21 Murray Way (over in the plaza area near the Used Bookstore) here in Burlington.

We thank you for all you do for our Burlington folks in need! Happy New Year!

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We will meet on Thursdays, hybrid, in the conference room all winter at 1pm. We are currently working on blankets for Project Linus. Below you will find the zoom info for all C4C meetings.

[https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?
pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhelli3dz09](https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhelli3dz09)

Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274
Passcode: 01803

**MISSIONS FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2023**

In December
The following Benevolences were paid:

- \$400 The Wish Project
- \$400 Lowell Transitional Living Center

Two Payments from Special Offerings were made:
\$315 to Neighbors in Need
\$450 to Disaster Relief in Maui

MISSIONS THANKS YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGHOUT 2023

In 2023 we wanted to not only to continue to support international missions' projects such as Neighbors in Need and One Great Hour of Sharing this year. Closer to home we are grateful, due to your pledges to support the Wish Project, the Wish Tree, the coat drive and the pajama drive. Your entire offering on December 24th was given to our Church so it could continue to support work in our community. We supported new initiatives with the help of you and a new minister, new choir director, active green team, dedicated choir and energetic Sunday school director and students. And last but by no means least Bobbie who in her own quiet way, knows what is going on and has kept us organized.

Thank You from;
Aline, Anna, Dennis, Joan, Karen and Susan

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Brian Gionet and his dad Dad
Claire Simas and daughter Marianne
 Roberta Low
 Christa Brown
Rebecca Sobolewski's sister, Holly
 Sheila Vitali
Paul Raymond's brother Earl
Nancy Davis' Friend Donna
Tonia Egan's Mom and Uncle Jan
Bobbie Killilea's Friend John Ford
 Jessy McNeil's sister Grace
 Elaine Glancy's friend Rita,
 sister-in-law Irene
 Jim Killilea, Tom's brother
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel and friend Mary
 Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy
Joyce Carpenter's niece Cindy, brother Bob
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill

Lee Tirrell
Kelly Sievert
Beth Hatcher
Bill Hitchcock
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, her
Daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
 Rollie Damiani
 Barbara Moran
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy
and Ginger's son Jim
 Jean Bastos
 Barbara Garland

Our Nation, Mother Earth
 Israel and Gaza
So much Violence worldwide!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

6 Nelson Eby
7 Ali and Peter Wisniewski
8 Kathy Olney
18 Beverly Maher
19 Erin Killilea
21 Lucas Clark
21 Dante Ramirez (Killilea)
22 John Helad
26 Sara Goodrich-Byers
26 Stephen Landry (our sexton)
28 Tom Killilea
28 Jan McSheffrey
31 Kristin Duran

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

January 7, 2024 10:30am

Communion Worship

Communion Prep:
Pastor: Rev. Roger Lier
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
Flowers:
Collector: Everett Langley
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Nursery:
Coffee Hour: Deb Glancy
Bakers: Deb Glancy

January 14, 2024 10:30am

Worship-Love Offering

Lay Preacher:
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader: Marcia Rich
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Nursery:
Coffee Hour:
Bakers: Marcia Rich

January 21, 2024 10:30am

Worship Service

Lay Preacher:
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Marcia Rich
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Nursery:
Coffee Hour:
Bakers:

January 28, 2014 10:30am

Worship-Red Wagon

Lay Preacher: John Getsinger
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Deb Raymond
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Nursery:
Coffee Hour:
Bakers:

Make it your New Year's resolution to help out occasionally at church services! Could you greet, usher or help out in the nursery or Sunday school? If you enjoyed reading for a Christmas Eve service or when you lighted an Advent candle, could you consider being a lay leader? How about offering to be head usher or coffee hour host or baker? If more people could take a turn as these activities, it would mean so much to the hard workers who do it week after week. You can sign up online or contact Donna Flecchia.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  6p AA	2	3	4 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	5	6
7 10:30a Communion Sunday School 11:30a Special Music Committee	8 6p AA 7p Trustees	9 7p PC Budget Meeting	10 7:30p Choir	11 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	12	13 4p Setup 5-10p Rental
14 10:30a Worship Love Offering S.S. Speaker 4pm Setup 5-8p Rental	15 MLK Day! Office Closed 	16 7p PC Meeting	17 7:30p Choir	18 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	19	20
21 10:30a Worship	22	23 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE	24 7:30p Choir	25 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	26 4p Setup 5-10p Rental	27
28 10:30a Worship and Red Wagon 11:30a Sunday School Parent Mtg. Annual Report	29	30	31 5:30p Community Dinner at Presbyterian Church 7:30p Choir			

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

TO:

JANUARY 2024