

MAY 2024 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Chris Stahlinski
Moderator

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Dear friends,

Every week we gather in our sanctuary to worship God. We sing hymns. We offer prayers. We listen for the Word. We open our hearts to the movement of the Holy Spirit. But, of course, this is not the only way to worship.

I've heard many stories from congregants about the ways in which they worship throughout the week. For some, they worship God while walking around Horn Pond. For others, they worship God while serving our neighbors at the People Helping People food pantry. Some worship by knitting, crocheting, and crafting, while others worship by gardening and caring for creation.

Speaking of those who worship by caring for creation, remember to mark your calendars for May 11th, when we will have our annual Plant and Craft Sale fundraiser. Caring for creation and building a world that supports and nourishes life is all of our responsibility as stewards of our natural world. I hope all of us will come out to support this fundraiser and help make our world not only more bright and beautiful, but more loving and generous to our local populations of birds, bugs, bees, and more. This is an act of worship and a way that we give glory and gratitude to God.

To celebrate the way our congregation cares for creation, we'll be celebrating Earth Day this Sunday, April 28th. Our congregation will receive our level 2 Green Church certificate from the UCC. This is no easy achievement! Our green team and members of our church have worked diligently for years to make our church more environmentally friendly. This Sunday we'll recognize their efforts, while highlighting some of the work they've done, and celebrating the wonder and goodness of planet earth. After church, there will be a blessing of the new bike rack that our church helped to get installed at the basketball courts at Simonds Park and we'll have a Green Fair with snacks and beverages on the lawn at the corner of Bedford and Lexington Streets. We hope you'll join us!

Finally, on June 2nd, we'll all practice worshipping outside the walls of our church together. That Sunday, instead of our usual Sunday morning worship service, we'll have several different community service projects lined up that you can sign up for. We'll send a group to WeeCare to do some painting. Another group will go to the community garden. Another will help with yard work for seniors in our church and through the Council on Aging. Another group will make meals and cards to deliver to church members. For this one day, we'll worship in diverse and different ways. We'll worship with our hands and feet, as well as our hearts and minds. I hope you'll join us as we worship in new ways, trusting that God is with us in all we do. There is no shortage of ways to show God our love and gratitude. On June 2nd, we'll show it through service and we'll let our light shine throughout our community.

Grace and Peace be with you,
Andrew



BIBLE STUDY

Through the season of Easter up until the week of Pentecost, we'll explore Bible stories of the resurrected Jesus. There are several stories in the gospels, Paul's letters, and the book of Acts that detail Jesus's interactions with his followers after his resurrection. Like we did for wilderness, we'll look at each story individually each week, while also piecing them into the thematic unit as a whole. Hopefully, we have a deeper understanding of Jesus's resurrection, the continuation of his ministry and message after his death, and perhaps even a sense of how the resurrected Jesus appears to us in our lives.

May 1 - Jesus Makes Breakfast - John 21:1-14

May 8 - Feed my Sheep - John 21:15-19

May 15- TBD

May 22- TBD

May 29- TBD



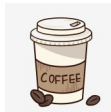
THE SPIRIT OF GIVING BACK!

SERVICE SUNDAY-June 2nd

Join us on June 2nd for Service Sunday! This special event will replace our usual worship service as we come together to make a tangible difference in our community. Instead of sitting in the pews, we'll be out in the streets, parks, and neighborhoods, participating in various community service projects.

Sign-ups will be out soon, but for now, please mark your calendars for June 2nd and join us as we roll up our sleeves, put our faith into action, and make a positive difference in the lives of others. Let's make this first Service Sunday one to remember!

TRUE NORTH COFFEE SHOP PASTOR HOURS



Thursdays from 9-11am
204 Cambridge St, Burlington



PUB THEOLOGY MAY 16

(Every Third Thursday of the Month)

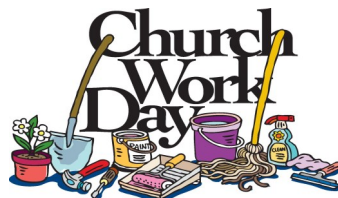
Join Pastor Andrew at Emerald Rose,
785 Boston Road, Billerica, MA. Come chat
on theology. Sometimes silly, sometimes
serious, but always interesting! Bring a
friend, all welcome!

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

MAY 4TH 9-NOON

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

Looking for people to help clean and do repairs.





NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES!

Warmer Weather is coming!

We have many exciting musical events to go along with this wonderful weather!

To start off, the Music Ministries at UCC Burlington will be hosting a concert played by Brian on May 19th at 2pm in the sanctuary. This concert will be dedicated to the awareness of Mental Health and contains works from major composers in various time periods. Come join us for an afternoon of music (with refreshments to follow)!

Aline Beck and Brian Gionet will be providing a special music segment during the Mother's Day service, featuring clarinet and keys. In addition, the choir season is coming to a close soon, with the final performance being on Father's Day, June 16th. This is also Music Sunday which will feature vocal solos, choir pieces, organ solos and more. Come celebrate the joy of music and worship! The choir will resume after summer break, but the music doesn't stop! We will have soloists, small ensembles, and instrumentalists playing throughout the summer, many of whom are members of the congregation or local talent.



A significant amount of time was spent discussing Holy Week services and activities. They were considered to have gone well, especially the Palm Sunday processional from St. Mark's, which drew over 40 people, and the Good Friday activities at the ores church, planned by its pastor Trina Portillo and Andrew.

The baptism of Ella Ciccone, Andrew's first with us, went well and the congregation seemed to enjoy being involved in welcoming her into the church family.

On May 12, Crafters for a Cause (C4C) will present their blankets for Project Linus, prayer shawls, and other projects for blessing, and all the women will receive flowers to celebrate Mother's Day.

On May 19, eight new members will join the church. They have attended three classes in preparation. The first focused on what brought them to the church and what they like about it. The second meeting was on expectations: what they expect to gain from the church and what the church can expect from them. The final gathering dealt with how the church works and how people can help it work by joining a committee or the choir, helping with a fundraiser, or taking a turn at the nursery, ushering, or preparing communion.

Andrew's formal installation as our settled pastor will take place on Sunday, June 9, at 3 pm and will be followed by a reception. A large turnout is expected; sign up sheets for food and other help will be available soon.

During July and August, worship will begin at 9:30 am.

As always, help is needed for worship to happen smoothly. If you enjoy worship services and find them meaningful, please sign up to be a greeter, usher, help in the nursery, etc. You can sign up online or by contacting Donna Flecchia.

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON-BURLINGTON PANTRY NEEDS

The pantry has requested fewer items but really needs a substantial amount of the following:

Kids snacks (individually wrapped chips, pretzels, fruit cups granola bars etc.)
100% juice boxes - Baby wipes - Baby formula (particularly Similac Blue)

Bring to worship on Sunday, May 26th and we will bring these forward during our Children of God Time.

You can also drop items off directly to the Pantry at 21 Murray Ave., Burlington, MA.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

This year C4C has been working on providing blankets for use by Project Linus and Wee Care. Project Linus website says its Mission is to "Provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers".



Wee Care Burlington website states "Wee Care Burlington was founded with a clear goal in mind: to help children and their families to thrive. We are happy to offer support wherever we can such as clothing, shoes, toys, books and more. We have helped 5,760+ families and children so far."

On May 5 some of the blankets we have made will be blessed during service and displayed during coffee hour. We would like to acknowledge the generous support from people who are not able to attend our weekly gatherings, but donate the finished projects they make at home to C4C. Many of our Baptism blankets, including the one used during the most recent baptism were made by Tonia Egan. Judy Mack has made a number of prayer shawls. The lovely crochet pieces, made by Sheila Vitali before she passed away, are included in several of the finished blankets.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE - BLANKET AND TOOL SUNDAY ON MAY 5TH

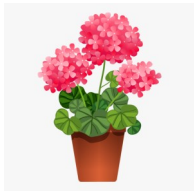
May 5 there will be a special offering which combines Blanket Sunday and Tool Sunday. Both are offerings to support the work of Church World Service. "Church World Service (CWS) was founded in 1946 and is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. The CWS Blankets and Tool program aims to garner support from congregations to provide basic emergency supplies, as well as tools and resources for long-term recovery and development to communities in need internationally and nationally."

There will be specially marked envelopes in the pews that you can use for your offering. There will also be envelopes outside Bobbie's office. You can mail a check to the office at 6 Lexington Street. If you use a check for this offering please write Blanket-tool on the memo line. Additionally, you may give digitally using Vanco. Information about this is on our website.



OUR EASTER OFFERING

Missions would like to thank everyone who generously contributed to the special offering for Easter Sunday. Donations are still arriving however, \$2,378 has been collected as of April 21. 50% of this amount, or \$1,189, will be donated to the People Helping People so it can purchase needed food for distribution. The remaining \$1,189 will be used by our Church to support its work.



UPCOMING EVENTS



**PLANT/CRAFT/BAKE SALE-MAY 11 10-2PM
JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY**



Perennials/Pollinators



Fresh Flowers



Potted Flowers

Spices/Seedlings



Artisan Crafts



Baked Goods

Something for Everyone!



Rain or Shine-Come Shop!



**MAY 19 at 2pm
CLASSICAL CONCERT
DEDICATED TO MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES**

A concert filled with tunes by Bach, Einaudi, Durufle and more. This year's presentation aims to shine a light on mental health concerns using pieces written by composers who struggled or pieces that tell a story of struggle during Mental Health Awareness Month. Piano, Organ, Clarinet performed by Brian Gionet.

Ticket prices: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$15 for Seniors
Children under 12 Free

Refreshments following

Contact Church Office: 781-272-4547



LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On April 14 our Second Sunday Speaker Series for 5th – High School welcomed Debbie Claar. She explained the Labyrinth's history and why people walk the Labyrinth. Best of all everyone experienced it for themselves. Thank you, Debbie!



Successful cookie sale raised \$300 on over 33 dozen cookies. Good job, bakers!

Thank you to all that purchased cookies!



Earth Day. Planting the tulip bulbs left from the Easter flowers. A job well done, kids and youth!

Let's see the tulips next spring!



ALL IN THE POOL!

Everyone from three years to adult were swimming, jumping, playing pool basketball with church families and friends. A fun afternoon!

OUR NURSERY

Nursery Care is provided by two people for newborns – children four years old.

PAID NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED!

Christian Education is urgently looking for a paid nursery attendant Sundays 10am-Noon. This can be every Sunday or a job share. The candidate must be 17 years or older and will be CORI'D Ask around, you never know who may be interested.

ONGOING EVENTS

Second Sunday Speaker Series for 5th – High School Youth

Sunday May 12th we will travel 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 then walk over to the MLK Statue on the Common. Of course, we will picnic on Boston Common. We will leave the church parking lot at 10:30am and return by 1:30pm.

MAY EVENTS



Sunday, May 5, Sunday school hosts 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.

Coffee Fellowship

JUNE EVENTS

Saturday, June 1 at 6 PM there will be an Intergenerational and Interchurch Pentecost Service at Presbyterian Church, 335 Cambridge Street, Burlington.

The service is interactive, outside around a fire pit. Fun for kids and adults.



Sunday June 9 is the "End of Sunday School" Intergenerational Service

This service is provided by our kids and youths. It will be fun as we celebrate milestones and all our volunteers.

There will be the annual ice cream sundae party after church! All are welcome!

Claire Simas, niece Janice and daughter Marianne
 Bill Beyer's friend Lloyd Rosenberg
 Nancy Davis' friend Helen turning 104!
 Happy Birthday Helen!
 Sarah Tredeau's friend Megan undergoing chemo
 Lynn and Lee Tirrell's friends Bob and Jean
 Sally Willard's friends Maureen and Jack
 Karen Butler's brother-in-law Allan Sena
 Bobbie Killilea's friends John, Judi
 Chris Stahlinski's sister Evelyn
 Anna Karwan's friends Ellen and Don
 Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel and friends
 Glenda and Mary
 Barbara Leonard
 Wayne Higden
 Brian Gionet's Dad
 Roberta Low
 Christa Brown
 Rebecca Sobolewski's sister, Holly
 Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn

Jessy McNeil's sister Grace
 Elaine Glancy's friend Rita,
 sister-in-law Irene
 Jim Killilea, Tom's brother
 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

 Middle East, Ukraine
 Peace in all areas with violence!

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt sympathy to Dave Hooper and family on the recent passing of his father, William Hooper, Jr.

JOYS

Congratulations to Jaime and Emily Ciccone on the baptism of baby Ella. Blessings to you, your family and friends on this wonderful celebration!

Congratulations to Samantha Flecchia on the recent engagement to Alec Livingston. Along with running the Boston Marathon plans for a new life with Alec begins. Congratulations, Sam!

MAY BIRTHDAYS!

1	Joe Stoddard	15	Alex Lewis
1	Dennis Huebner	16	Karen Butler
4	Rachel McNeil	17	Theo Brierley
7	Rev. Angela Wells-Bean	19	Kari Lynch
8	Janet Chin	20	Cindy Phillips
9	Ella Ciccone	21	Brielle Ramirez (Killilea)
11	Aimee Tredeau	23	Jennifer McDonough (Eby)
12	Sally Mansfield-Smith	24	Lee Tirrell
12	Everett Langley	24	Stephanie Samarjian
14	Jennifer Baylor	28	Eliot Spearson
15	Marj Zamanian		

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

May 5 Communion 10:30am

Blanket/Tool Sunday

Communion Prep: Marge Zamanian
 Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Brian Gionet
 Lay Leader: Deb Glancy
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher: Carol Downing
 Greeter: Jan McSheffrey
 Collector: Joan Zink
 Flowers:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Nursery:
 Coffee Host: Deb Raymond
 Sunday School
 Bakers: Deb & Sunday School

May 12 Worship-Mother's Day 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Brian Gionet
 Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher: Carol Downing
 Greeter: Jan McSheffrey
 Collector: Dick Butler
 Flowers:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Nursery:
 Coffee Host: Deb Glancy
 Bakers: Deb Glancy

May 19 Worship-New Members 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Brian Gionet
 Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
 Head Usher:
 Usher:
 Greeter:
 Collector: Marge Zamanian
 Flowers:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Nursery: Jan McSheffrey
 Coffee Host:
 Bakers:

May 26 Worship-Red Wagon 10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Brian Gionet
 Lay Leader:
 Head Usher:
 Usher: Carol Downing
 Greeter:
 Collector: Marcia Rich
 Flowers:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Nursery:
 Coffee Host: Jan McSheffrey
 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>

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2p Bible Study 7:15p Choir	2 9-11a True North Hours 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	3	4 9-noon 
5 10:30a Communion Tool/Blanket Sunday Baptism Blessing of C4C Handiwork	6 6:30p AA 7:00p Trustees	7 7p CE Meeting	8 2p Bible Study 7:15p Choir	9 9-11a True North Hours 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	10 9-noon Montessori School Event In Sewall Hall Noon Drop off donations for Plant Sale	11 8am Setup  10-2pm Plant Bake Craft Event
12  Mother's Day! 10:30a Worship Love Offering <i>Second Sunday Speaker Series</i> offsite to Boston	13 6:30p AA	14 7p HR Meeting	15 2p Bible Study 7:15p Choir	16 9-11a True North Hours 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Missions Meeting 8p Pub Theology @ Emerald Rose	17	18
19 10:30a Worship New Members Joining Today  2p Music Concert	20 HILLTOP DEADLINE JUNE ARTICLES 6:30p AA	21 7p PC Meeting	22 2p Bible Study 7:15p Choir	23 9-11a True North Hours 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	24	25
26 10:30a Worship Red Wagon	27  MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed 6:30p AA	28	29 2p Bible Study 7:15p Choir	30 9-11a True North Hours 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	31	

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

TO:



2024