

SEPTEMBER 2024 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Chris Stahlinski
Moderator

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Dear UCC Burlington,

The minister and writer Will Campbell wrote an essay called “Vocation as Grace,” and in this essay he tells a story of a conversation he had with a high wire artist in a traveling circus. Campbell asks the circus performer why he chose that particular way of making a living.

At first his answer is filled with characteristic circus romance - the thrill of hurling through space; the feeling at the last instance of those always welcomed hands pressing around the wrist; the joy of laughter and approval and applause in the eyes of children of all ages; the clanking train wheels as you move to the next city.

Then the man paused and said, “Do you want to know why I really go up on that thing night after night? Because my sister is up there. And my wife and my father are up there. My sister’s got more troubles than Job. My wife has a devil-may-care-attitude and my old man is getting older. If I wasn’t up there, some bad night...” *Smash!* His foot stomped on the floor with a bone cracking thud.

“But why do they stay up there?” Campbell asked.

“Because I drink too much!” the circus performer answered.

Often, the sacred notion of callings and vocations – of why we do the things that we do – is looked at through a highly individualistic lens. What is my purpose? What am I supposed to do? Who am I supposed to be? It’s the kind of thing we hear in the silence of our hearts; in our most passionate, deeply personal prayers. It’s a specific and unique calling for which we have been created and called by God.

What this story emphasizes is that we cannot truly hear our callings until we recognize both others’ dependence on us and our dependence on them. Our calling, we must acknowledge, is heard, understood, and lived out in interdependent community. Just like in the story, our calling is to live out our gifts, to catch the ones we love, and to be caught ourselves.

God has called each one of us to a life of discipleship and grace. God is calling each one of us to realize our sacred gifts and to offer them to God and to one another in love and service. Our task is to listen for God’s call, to take it to heart, and to act with reverence and devotion in the service of that call.

So, as we prepare to begin this new program year at UCC Burlington, I ask each of you, who is God calling you to be? And, together, who is God calling us to be? Discerning God’s call upon our hearts and souls is the most sacred work each of us will do in our lives. It is why we are here on this earth, in this universe. But God’s call is not negotiated in private. Our callings are best negotiated in community with one another, through a process that leads us to discern not only our own gifts but also our own needs and weaknesses; not only the rich potentials of the world but also its poverty.

Frederick Buechner has written that “the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Like trapeze artists, may we help one another to fly, may we catch one another as we fall, and may our work together inspire gladness and joy, hope and goodwill, love and passion in our hearts, minds, and spirits.

Peace,
Rev. Andrew Harris



PASTORAL CARE

You can contact Pastor Andrew Harris at
978-219-2715
Andrew@uccburlington.org

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY 2-3PM, IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM

From September through November, our Bible Study will focus on the Prophets. We will explore the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and more to discuss the singular vision and voice of the prophets. The prophets still offer words of wisdom for us today, so we hope you will join us for this Bible Study.



PUB THEOLOGY

Join Pastor Andrew each third Thursday of the month for Pub Theology. On September 19 join Andrew at Emerald Rose, 785 Boston Road, Billerica, MA. Come by 8pm and chat! All are welcome! Bring a friend!

TRUE NORTH PASTOR HOURS

Join Pastor Andrew any Thursday morning from 9-11am at True North Coffee Shop, 204 Cambridge Street, Burlington for a cup of coffee and a chat!



DEACONS NEWS!

WELCOME SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 8 (NOT THE 15TH)



There will be a brunch after church with breakfast casseroles, homemade breads, fresh fruit, yogurt, granola and more. This is parents' first opportunity to register their children for Sunday school, which will begin later in the month.

~ ~ ~ ~

Confirmation class also begins in September. Five young people from our church will join peers from Hancock Church in Lexington in classes and activities led by adults from both churches.

Donna Flecchia, who has overseen signup for worship activities for many years, is joining the Deacons. Her participation, plus that of Jan Costa, who joined in February, brings the Board's membership to seven after a low of five for several years. Under the Constitution, there should be six to nine Deacons.

Worship services will return to 10:30 am on September 1st.

Called to Care (C2C), which meets once or twice a year, needs new members. This group helps the pastor support people who have health problems or are mourning, and makes a difference in the lives of people who are going through difficult times.

Each C2C member sends cards to about 20 people once a year. Members are also made aware of illnesses or deaths within the church family so that they can reach out to the people impacted if they so wish. Some C2C members visit people for whom it's hard to get out, help with rides to doctor's appointments or bring meals to people following surgery or during illnesses. If you can help in any of these ways, please contact Jan McSheffrey.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

9/8/24 Welcome Back Sunday

Please be in Sewall Hall by 10:20. We will parade into church together. We can all sit together, or kids can sit with their parents. This is an all ages worship day, so we stay in church for the whole service. After church there will be a yummy brunch.

11/3/24 Sunday School provides coffee hour

The Sunday School students will come right to Sewall Hall at 10:30 to setup and prepare snacks for coffee hour.

11/24/24 Sunday School Ingathering

The Sunday School Students will come right down to Sunday School at 10:30. They will participate in challenges to win products to donate to the Ingathering. We will all come upstairs at the end of the service to bring our donations forward.

12/22/24 All Church Caroling in Burlington

Come kick off Christmas week with this annual beloved event. It is heart warming and fun to sing to some of our church family outside their home. All ages love it!



2023
Caroling
Group

Confirmation Class starting September 22, 2024

Do you have someone in your household that will be entering 8th grade or any year in high school in September? If you haven't already, please get in touch with Rev. Harris or CE Director Deb Raymond before September 7 confirming your child will attend. This will be a dynamic class, with lots of questioning, open discussions and field trips. The classes will be held approximately twice a month from September – May.

After the classes end, the participants will decide if they would like to become members of the church. I am really looking forward to working with you all in September!

Call or text: Rev Andrew Harris: C: 978-219-2715 or Deb Raymond C: 857-373-9156



NURSERY COVERAGE DURING WORSHIP

Care is provided by TWO people for newborns – 4 years old.

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 CORI'd. Ask around, you never know who may be interested.

COMMUNITY DINNER AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On July 31, CE provided a picnic meal of "make your own sub", chips and ice cream for dessert.

Thank you to Sue Wisniewski, John Getsinger and Deb Raymond for providing the setup, cleanup and the meal!

Meals take place on the last Wednesday of each month, and it's FREE!

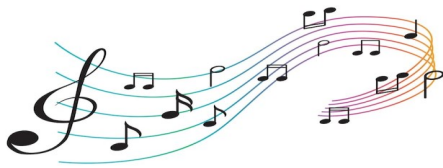
HALLOWEEN PARTY OCTOBER 27 3:30-4:30PM IN SEWALL HALL



Start getting your costumes ready for the Halloween parade! There will be games, prizes and a light snack provided. Invite your friends. All Welcome!



2023 Halloween!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Time to get back in the swing of things!

Choir has restarted for the season! Rehearsals will take place every Wednesday night at 7:15. Have an interest in singing with us? Send an email to Brian or catch him Sunday mornings, OR talk to one of our choir members for more information. You can even show up to a rehearsal and ask to join. All will be Welcome!

Brian and Alli will be on their honeymoon between September 7th and September 21st, and will be unreachable for that time period. Feel free to approach a choir member with any questions! A huge thank you to Debbie Claar and Aline Beck, who will be running rehearsals in Brian's absence.

The Special Music Committee is putting on our Annual Coffeehouse once again! Save the date for October 5th at 7pm in Sewall Hall! It's a fine time to showcase your musical talents while enjoying refreshments and friends, come join us! Sign ups for performers will be available in advance only. For audience members, tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door (\$15 for seniors at the door) We hope to see you there!



UCC COFFEEHOUSE OCTOBER 5 7-9:30PM

If you would like to perform, please talk to Debbie Claar by emailing her at: deborahsclaar@gmail.com

If you would like to volunteer to help us, please contact Deana Tredeau by emailing her at: deanatredeau@gmail.com

Let's make it a great event this year!

Tickets will be on sale soon.

In advance: \$15 (\$20 at the door)

For Seniors: \$15

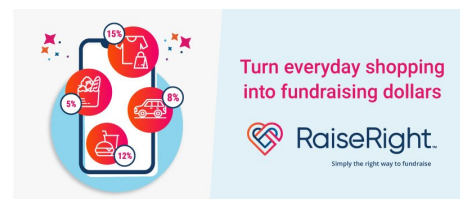
GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING

Plan ahead for fall, and the holidays! Go to Raiserright.com and learn how to get orders shipped directly to you. Or how to get ecards you can use from your phone or print yourself or reload any time you need more.

We have these frequent users of the program who would be happy to help you. Contact Deana Tredeau, Andrew Harris , Ally Mozzarella, Marj Zamanian or Laura Nowell. They are pros! (Deana has made the church over \$80 just this year).

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).

Our Coordinator is Nancy Todd.





MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON
 The last Sunday of the Month we ask the congregation to bring items needed at our local pantry to worship. On September 29th consider bringing any of the following.:

Side dishes-Sugar -Flour-Cereal-Oatmeal
 Tea-Cocoa-Coffee (k-cups or ground)
 Kids individually wrapped snack foods

We will bring items forward during our Children of God Time.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Come knit or crochet a variety of items for church and community!

We will continue to meet hybrid in the conference room at 1pm every Thursday,



MISSIONS NEWS!

Missions will be busy this fall. There will be a special offering for NIN on October 6th. The focus of the 2024 Neighbors in Need campaign is Mental Health for all. Missions will also support a special speaker on Missions Sunday, October 20th. We will again collect for the Annual Boston Coat Drive, the Wish Tree, and the Pajama Drive.

At our next meeting we will discuss the distribution of the remaining funds set aside for Benevolences we support.



NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM!
SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Please join the Green Team for a light lunch after worship as we welcome guest speaker, Gretchen Carey, who will be speaking to us on recycling with an emphasis on plastics. Gretchen is the sustainability manager for the New England Region for Republic Services. She is also a LEED Green Associate and Zero Waste TRUE Advisor. Look for the sign-up sheet at coffee hour.

The Green Team is also planning several upcoming events for the fall-stay tuned for details.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO BURLINGTON!

Flip Circus. It is a world-famous traveling animal-free circus that has toured the US for over 30 years. Flip Circus wants to give back to the community by donating complimentary tickets to nonprofit organizations.

This year, they will be at Burlington Mall from Friday, September 6th, until September 17th. To reserve your tickets, simply visit the Eventbrite Page via the link below. The number of tickets is limited and first come, first served.

Here is the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/non-profit-exclusive-flip-circus-tickets-burlington-tickets-957734879807>

**ONLINE AUCTION AGAIN THIS FALL
SATURDAY, OCT. 26TH AT 12:01AM - NOV. 2ND AT 7 PM**



Greetings to you all!

Our online auction will take place soon. The goal is to raise \$10,000. Can you help?

Can you go to merchants you do business with and ask for a gift card? These can be spas, salons, hairdressers, fortune tellers, golf courses, restaurants, florists, fitness centers, and many others. If you can, bless you! Bless you, even if you can't! Please let us know where you plan to go, so we can do our best to prevent duplicating requests.

As always, we are also looking for the following:

- Timeshares
- Vacation homes
- Pet sitting
- Baskets with themes
- Baskets from businesses
- Baskets for kids
- Sports equipment
- Wine
- Jewelry
- Crafts
- Artwork
- Autographs
- Collectibles
- Rounds of golf

We will make every effort to reach beyond our church community. This is also a way we can all help... when the auction begins, please send the link to your friends far and wide. Most of the auction items can easily be delivered anywhere.

We will also be creating baskets from smaller, individual items that you can donate! Do you have any NEW/unused items sitting around your house that you will never use, or maybe you were given a gift that you'll never use? Or you can purchase items to donate. No item is too small!

Thank you... very, very much!

Deb Raymond, Julie Lewis, Kari Lynch, Anna Karwan, Joan Zink

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Christa Brown	Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Joe Stoddard	Jessy McNeil's sister Grace
Nancy Davis son George	Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy
Mark Omobono's friend Dave	Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Mark Flecchia's friend Mike	Kelly Sievert
Joyce Carpenter	Bill Hitchcock
Claire Simas, niece Janice and daughter Marianne	Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, her
Billy Martin and friend Barbara	Daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
Bill Livezey	Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy and
Lynn and Lee Tirrell's friend Bob	Ginger's son Jim
Bill Beyer's friend Lloyd Rosenberg	Jean Bastos
Sarah Tredeau's friend Megan	Barbara Garland
Sally Willard's friends Maureen and Jack	Middle East, Ukraine,
Chris Stahlinski's sister Evelyn	Violent weather!
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel and friend Mary	Mother Earth!
Brian Gionet's Dad	
Roberta Low	

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



3	Eric Forbush
5	James Omobono
7	Dom Ramirez (Killilea)
7	Nick Nowell
7	Wayne Higden
8	Steve Samarjian
9	Peter Silva
16	Katie Baker
17	Kate Byers
18	Sam Flecchia
18	Jared Ciano
18	Claire Simas
20	Sal Harris
24	David Hooper
25	Conrad Fong
26	Lucy Damiani
26	Shirley Garside
28	Forrest Knowles

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS*

September 1 Worship 10:30a

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Com. Prep: Marge Zamanian
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Chris Sthalinski
Greeter: Carol Downing
Flowers:
Collector: Dick Butler
Nursery:
Coffee Host:
Baker: Marge Zamanian

September 8 Worship 10:30a

Welcome Sunday-Band-Love Offering

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: TBD
Lay Leader: Chris Sthalinski
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers: Sue Wisniewski
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Brunch: Deacons/CE/Moderator

September 15 Worship 10:30a

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: TBD
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter: Cindy Phillips
Flowers: Bobbie Killilea
Collector: Deb Raymond
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Coffee Host:
Baker: Cindy Phillips

September 22 Worship 10:30a

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Marcia Rich
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
CE Picnic:

September 29 Worship 10:30a

Red Wagon

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Joan Zink
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Coffee Host:
Baker:

*If you would like to volunteer for worship please use the link below:

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

September 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 10:30a Communion	2 LABOR DAY Office Closed 6:30p AA	3	4 12:15p Green Team Meeting 7:15p Choir	5 9-11a True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	6	7 5-10p Mumtz Private Rental
8 WELCOME SUNDAY! 10:30a Worship-Band Love Offering Noon Brunch 	9 <i>Pastor Andrew</i> <i>At Retreat</i> <i>Through 9-13</i> 6:30p AA	10	11 7:15p Choir	12 NO True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	13	14 TBD Member Birthday Party Hall Usage
15 10:30a Worship Sunday School First Day of Fall 	16 6:30p AA	17 7p Parish Council	18 7:15p Choir	19 9-11a True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Missions 8PPub Theology @ Emerald Rose	20	21
22 10:30a Worship Sunday School	23 6:30p AA	24	25 5:30p Community Dinner @ Presbyterian Church 7:15p Choir	26 9-11a True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	27	28 5-10pm Khalifa Private Rental
29 10:30a Worship Guest Speaker Red Wagon Sunday School 	30 6:30p AA					

Montessori School Monday—Friday 8-6pm
Large student pickup between 2:30-3pm
Driveway is very busy at this timeframe.

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

TO:



SEPTEMBER HILLTOP 2024