

OCTOBER 2024 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Chris Stahlinski
Moderator

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Grace and peace to you, my friends!

On October 6th we will kick off our stewardship season. For six weeks, we will think intentionally about the ways we share our time and talents. We tend to think about stewardship season as simply a season of fundraising, but just like the seasons of Advent and Lent, stewardship season is a deeply spiritual time; one where we are called to consider what we value and how we live.

The Bible establishes the precedent of tithing – giving one-tenth of what we have to God. In Genesis 14:20, it is written that Abram gave God one-tenth of everything in gratitude for God’s deliverance. Leviticus 27 adds, “All tithes (tenths) from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord’s; they are holy to the Lord.” Deuteronomy 14 establishes that this tithe should be given annually: “Set apart a tithe of all the yield of your seed that is brought in yearly from the field.”

There are laws prescribed in Leviticus and Deuteronomy that we no longer practice. I think we can all thank God that there are no longer regular stonings in our towns. But I do think it is important that here God establishes an expectation around giving, and I find it to be a not unreasonable goal. In our day and age, in the place and time in which each of us have been fortunate enough to be born, could we gratefully make do with merely 90% of our income, while dedicating 10% to God in the ministry of service and love? Lord knows many of our neighbors make do with much less than that.

Now, before you faint thinking about such an outrageous ask, don’t forget that I live in this world too. I understand how difficult it is. I understand that many of us are struggling to make ends meet or trying to get by on a fixed income. Life is hard and church is a place of grace and non-judgment. No one should give out of fear or shame. Giving should always be done in a spirit of joy, gratitude, and generosity. If your gift cannot be given in a spirit of joy, gratitude, and generosity, then you should not give it.

I am not asking that every member of our church give 10% of their income to the church (although I am establishing that this is God’s expectation - please submit all complaints directly to God). What I am asking is for each of us to faithfully ask, in the knowledge of God’s expectation of a tithe, what can we give? Think about what percentage of your current annual income you give to the church. What would it look like if you increased it by 1%? If you already give 1%, what would it look like if you gave 2%? If you already give 5%, what would it look like if you gave a full tithe? If you’re on a fixed income, what would it look like to include the church in your estate planning, or to give a gift of stocks or other assets? Are there other ways you can give if you’re unable to increase your pledge this year?

Continued on page 2



No one wants to have conversations about money; least of all, me. But we're not talking about money. We're talking about giving. We're talking about generosity. We're talking about responding to the blessings bestowed upon us by God with gifts of generosity. In this way a pledge is no different from a prayer or a hymn. In the same way that our prayers are unique, our pledges are unique. In the same way that all faithful and honest prayers are good and acceptable to God, all faithful and honest pledges are good and acceptable to God. Don't let anxiety be a part of your pledge decision this year. Instead, give with the same spirit of joy and generosity with which God gives to us.

Peace,
Andrew

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a pastoral emergency or just would like to chat with Rev. Andrew Harris you can reach him by cell: 978-219-2715, email: Andrew@ucburlington.org . You can also join him in any of the offered events below.



BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday afternoon
2-3pm in the church conference
room and Zoom.

TRUE NORTH COFFEE SHOP



Join Andrew for coffee and
conversation at True North Coffee
Shop Thursday mornings
9-11am.

PUB THEOLOGY



Come have a chat over your
favorite brew the third Thursday
of the month.
October 17th 8-9pm at
Emerald Rose
Billerica, MA

Special Meeting Warrant Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 11:30 am

-To consider and vote upon empowering the Parish Council to spend up to \$20,000 from the Endowment Fund as seed money for a Christmas Tree Fundraiser.

Please come and vote!

ALCOHOL POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE

Parish Council would like your input as we go through the process of reviewing some of our church policies. Our current policy regarding alcohol is to NOT allow it within our facilities. Please take a few thoughtful minutes to complete this online survey and share your comments and questions with us. We would like to hear from as many congregants as possible in order to fairly represent the membership. There is a link to the survey on the church website <https://ucburlington.org/alcohol-policy-survey/>. Paper copies are also available in the church office.

The short link to the survey is <https://bit.ly/ucbur11>.

Please return your responses by Sunday, October 13.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS!

Choir has restarted for the season! Rehearsals take place every Wednesday night at 7pm. 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!

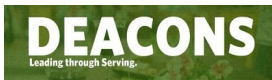
Brian would like to thank Debbie Claar and Aline Beck for taking over in his absence! They put in a lot of hard work leading rehearsals, preparing music, and leading the musical aspect of Sunday worship. The choir and the band also had a wonderful season start this year during Welcome Sunday.

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 enjoy performances by some folks with excellent musical talents while enjoying refreshments with friends! Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door (\$15 for seniors). We hope to see you there!

COFFEEHOUSE EVENT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 7-9:30PM



JOIN US FOR MUSIC, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP
TICKETS ARE \$15 IN ADVANCE (\$20 AT THE DOOR)
SENIORS \$15



Andrew was unable to join the meeting as he was in Georgia with the Bethany Fellows, an organization which supports and mentors young pastors.

The Welcome Sunday brunch was well received; small changes in food were discussed for next year. There was also some consideration of moving it outside first to increase the visibility of the church, which would require significant changes to the event. We may try doing some smaller events outside to see how they go.

Bible study has resumed on Wednesdays from 2-3 in the conference room and on Zoom; the topic for the fall is the prophets. The Sunday morning discussion on the day's scripture is being discontinued, as it can't be offered consistently due to band practice and other pre-worship events. This enables Andrew to greet people as they enter the sanctuary.

Several Deacons have received requests to keep Sunday worship at 10:30 year-round; it's often been moved to an earlier time during July and August to avoid the summer heat. The group discussed getting input by taking a vote at the Annual Meeting in February.

The sandwich board which has been used for many years to promote events on Lexington St. is falling apart. Bobbie is going to investigate different options for replacement.

The Deacons are assembling a fitness basket for the online auction. It will include a water bottle, yoga mat, resistance bands, therapy ball, oximeter, sweat bands, energy bars and more.

Called to Care continues to do an excellent job of staying in touch with members and friends who find it hard to get out, or who are ill or grieving. They recently provided rides to doctors appointments and the grocery store to someone who was temporarily unable to drive.

A member of the congregation suggested a blessing of pets ceremony. This was tabled until spring as it will need to be held outside.

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

People Helping People serves many families with young children. Many diapers are needed each week since a box of diapers are quickly used up. Also needed are packages of wipes. ***Please bring to worship on October 27th.*** We will bring items forward during "Children of God Time."



CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

If you like to knit or crochet or just want to come and enjoy some lighthearted conversation, C4C meets every Thursday at 1pm in the church conference room. We are hybrid so if you can't come in person you can always join us on Zoom. All are welcome!

THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED BY MISSIONS FROM CAMBRIDGE STREET CLOSET

"On behalf of Burlington Public Schools, thank you for your generous donation of \$400 for the Cambridge Street Closet. The donation came at a perfect time as we are starting the school year and can purchase items to help our students and families."

WISH PROJECT-CHELMSFORD, MA

It's fall with winter approaching, so ***please only donate fall and winter clothing to the Wish Project.*** The Wish Project has limited space and cannot store out of season clothing. All donated clothing must be clean, free of holes and stains. There is a bin under the coat rack for your donations. The clothing is taken to the Wish Project twice a month. Please note Wish Project does not need linens such as sheets at this time.

MISSION'S FINANCIAL REPORT

In September \$1600 was paid to the SNEUCC. This completes our annual donation of \$4500, which includes \$900 paid directly to the MBA. In addition, we contributed \$200 to Sam Flecchia for her participation in the Chicago Marathon, which benefits Team World Vision that helps provide communities in Africa with clean drinking water. We also donated \$400 to Sawtelle Family Hospice House in Reading. In August we contributed \$400 to the HELPIS Backpack Drive.

WORLD COMMUNION AND NEIGHBORS IN NEED - OCTOBER 6TH

Neighbors in Need is one of the Church's special offerings. This year it will be on October 6th. In the pews you will find "Neighbors in Need" envelopes. There will also be envelopes outside Bobbie's office. Alternately you can mail your donation to UCC Congregational at 6 Lexington Street. Please add NIN on the memo line. If you want to give digitally you can do that through Vanco.

"In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is **"Mental Health Justice for All!"** This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health. A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey". -From the UCC NIN web page



PUMPKIN PATCH AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH OPEN SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 30 NOON-6PM!

It's October and for the 10th year in a row, the pumpkins have arrived at Saint Mark's Pumpkin Patch! Please plan on purchasing your pumpkin from the Pumpkin Patch. Saint Mark's is Located at 6 Saint Marks Road. All proceeds from the sale of the pumpkins will be used to support the PHP efforts to supply families in Burlington with all the food needed for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The Pumpkin Patch is open daily from Sunday, September 29 through October 30 from noon until 6pm. Our Church will be covering the sales of pumpkins on Thursdays October 10, 17 and 24th. A big thank you is extended to all of the Burlington residents who volunteer to cover the sales of pumpkins which includes 20 people from the UCC. This event takes many people to plan and sell pumpkins. ***Please shop local and support this wonderful event!***

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!



THE PAST MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

On September 15th we had an awesome afternoon for a Church Centric Scavenger hunt outside! So much fun!

LOOK WHAT'S COMING UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

10/6/24 Seasons of the Spirit: Wilderness

10/13 Service Sunday : We all love coffee hour, so the Sunday School groups will help by providing coffee hour. The Sunday School students will come right to Sewall Hall at 10:30 to setup and prepare snacks for coffee hour including cleanup.

10/20 All Church Worship: The kids usher, pass out the friendship pads and collect the offering.

10/27 Science Sunday

11/24 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. After church the Sunday School kids of all ages are encouraged to donate their time to assist getting ready for the Ingathering.

CONFIRMATION NEWS!

**Confirmation Class Starting September 29, 2024!
4-5:30 at Hancock Church in Lexington**

Do you have someone in your household that will be entering 8th grade or any year in high school in September? After taking classes each can decide if they would like to become a member 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 CARE IS OFFERED EACH SUNDAY MORNING

Care is provided by 2 people for newborns to 4 years old.

PAID NURSERY ATTENDANT JOB OFFER

Christian Education 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 & will be CORI'd.
Ask around, you never know who may be interested.

FUN EVENTS FOR ALL!



Halloween 2023 was fun!

10/27 3:30- 4:30 PM

HALLOWEEN PARTY IN SEWALL HALL

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

Adults feel free to come in costume as well!

12/22 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! Join us!



Last year's group had a great time!

ONLINE AUCTION
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
- Tickets to sporting events and so much more!

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 make every effort to reach beyond our church community.

Thank you... very, very much!

The link will be sent to all the end of October so stay tuned!!

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

ONLINE AUCTION BASKET PREP

***** We need your help!! *****



When: Sunday, October 13, 2024 (after Church service)

We'll be creating themed baskets for the Auction by combining individual items.

How can you help?

Bring in individual items to donate.

- Have you received a gift that you will never use?
- Do you have any other new, never-used items that you want to donate?

Help us create themed baskets by combining like items.

- If everyone brings at least one item, we should be able to group items together into several themed baskets. Come and be a part of the Auction!
- If you'd rather, please feel free to donate a whole basket, if you'd like! Just let us know by filling out a Donation Form (at coffee hour) with details about your basket.

You can bring in your donated items and leave them in the Conference Room, where there is a box marked for the donations; or you can bring your donations on October 13th!

We appreciate any items you can donate, and any help you can provide!

Together - Let's make the Online Auction a success!!

Online Auction begins on October 26-November 2nd!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

<p>Joan Zink's daughter Jen DeSario Christa Brown</p> <p>Joe Stoddard and Paul Mouratidis</p> <p>Bobbie Killilea's friend Kat-Breast Cancer spreading</p> <p>Mark Omobono's friend Dave</p> <p>Mark Flecchia's friend Mike</p> <p>Carpenter Family</p> <p>Claire Simas, niece Janice and daughter Marianne</p> <p>Billy Martin and friend Barbara</p> <p>Bill Livezey</p> <p>Lynn and Lee Tirrell's friend Bob</p> <p>Bill Beyer's friend Lloyd Rosenberg</p> <p>Sarah Tredeau's friend Megan</p> <p>Sally Willard's friends Maureen and Jack</p> <p>Chris Stahlinski's sisters</p> <p>Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel and friend Mary</p> <p>Brian Gionet's Dad</p> <p>Roberta Low</p>	<p>Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn</p> <p>Jessy McNeil's sister Grace</p> <p>Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy</p> <p>Marilyn Langley's brother Bill</p> <p>Kelly Sievert</p> <p>Bill Hitchcock</p> <p>Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, her Daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick</p> <p>Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy and Ginger's son Jim</p> <p>Jean Bastos</p> <p>Barbara Garland</p> <p>Middle East, Ukraine, Violent weather! Mother Earth! Our Country's future!</p>
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Congratulations to Rob and Shirley Stahlinski on the birth of daughter Raven. Little sister to Arya. Granddaughter to Chris and Gary Stahlinski. Blessings to all!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY WISHES!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Roberta Low 2 Rob Costa 2 Paul McDonough 3 David Leonard 3 Precious Kabagahya 5 Nicholas Ciardi 8 Joan Zink 10 Cooper Harris 19 Adric Tredeau | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Nicholas Turgiss 21 Gary Stahlinski 22 Deana Tredeau 25 Joan Proctor 27 Julie Lewis 28 Karen Calandrelli 31 Steve Fennelly |
|---|---|



WORSHIP PARTICIPATION VOLUNTEERS

OCTOBER 6 WORLD COMMUNION 10:30A
NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED

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

OCTOBER 20 WORSHIP 10:30A

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Brian Gionet
 Lay Leader: Sally Willard
 Head Usher: Dick Butler
 Usher: Karen Butler
 Greeter: Carol Downing
 Flowers: Kari Lynch
 Collector: Deb Raymond
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host:
 Baker:

OCTOBER 13 WORSHIP-LOVE OFFERING 10:30A

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Brian Gionet
 Lay Leader: Sally Willard
 Head Usher:
 Usher:
 Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
 Flowers: Fong Family
 Collector: Marcia Rich
 Nursery: Ally Mazzarella
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Coffee Host: Deb Raymond
 Baker: Deb Raymond

OCTOBER 27 WORSHIP-RED WAGON 10:30A

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Brian Gionet
 Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher: Sally Willard
 Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
 Flowers: Woody Knowles
 Collector: Marge Zamanian
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Coffee Host:
 Baker: Chris Stahlinski

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

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

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	3 9-11a True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	4 Coffeehouse Setup 1pm	5  7p Coffeehouse Event
6 10:30a World Communion NIN Stewardship Sunday School	7 6:30p AA 7p Trustees	8	9 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	10 UCC Pumpkin Patch volunteers 9-11a True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	11	12 4p Setup 5-10p Family Gathering Rental
13 10:30a Worship Sunday School Love Offering 11:30a Basket Prep for Online Auction	14 HOLIDAY Office Closed 6:30p AA	15 7p PC Mtg	16 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	17 UCC Pumpkin Patch volunteers 9-11a True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Missions 8p Pub Theology @Emerald Rose	18	19 Halloween Spooktacular  2:30-7pm Town Common & Simonds Park
20 10:30a Worship Missions Sunday Sunday School	21 HILLTOP ARTICLES DUE 6:30p AA	22	23 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	24 UCC Pumpkin Patch volunteers 9-11a True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	25	26 ONLINE AUCTION BEGINS! 10a setup Noon-6p Jewelry Exhibit Rental
27 10:30a Worship Sunday School Red Wagon Noon Music Committee  3:30-4:30p Halloween Party	28 6:30p AA	29	30 2p Bible Study 5:30p Community Dinner 7p Choir	31 9-11a True North Coffee 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts		NOVEMBER 2 ONLINE AUCTION ENDS!

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

TO:



OCTOBER 2024 HILLTOP HERALD