A Publication of the United Church of Christ, Congregational, 6 Lexington Street, Burlington, MA 01803
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FEBRUARY 2025 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Chris Stahlnski
Moderator

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONGREGATIONAL
BURLINGTON, MA

292ND

ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

SNOW DATE, FEBRUARY 09, 2025

Article 1	To approve the minutes of the 291st Annual Meeting held in 2024.
Article 2	To approve the minutes from the special congregation meetings held on October 4, 2024, to approve empowering the Parish Council to spend up to $20,000 from the Endowment Fund as seed money for a Christmas Tree Fundraiser.
Article 3	To accept the 2024 Annual Reports of the Church Officers, Boards and Committees.
Article 4	To consider and vote upon the slate of Church Officers, Boards and Committees as presented by the Nominating Committee.
Article 5	To consider and vote upon the 2025 Operating Budget as presented by the Board of Finance & Stewardship and recommended by the Parish Council.
Article 6	To consider and vote upon empowering the Parish Council to spend up to $10,000.00 from the Endowment Fund in case of an emergency.
Article 7	To hear the outcome of the alcohol policy survey that was conducted in 2024.
Article 8	To discuss changing the summer worship time.
Article 9	To vote on amending the Constitution, permitting the Pastor to have financial information related to parishioner pledges.
Article 10	To hear any other business that may legally come before the Congregation.
Article 11	To hear and consider remarks for the good of the Parish.

Hello friends,

Our Annual Meeting is on Sunday and it's the time to turn our church calendar to the new year. You'll be able to read and hear about all the things going on at our church in the Annual Report and at Annual Meeting, so I wanted to take the time here to do something extremely important: thank all of our church volunteers for their service!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have served on boards and committees over this past year. Thank you to the deacons for offering fellowship opportunities, decorating the sanctuary for our holidays, and guiding the spiritual life of the congregation. Thank you to the trustees for keeping the heat working and the lights on. Thank you to our treasurer, financial secretary, and board of finance and stewardship for fundraising, building our budget, and making sure our bills get paid. Thank you to the board of missions for being faithful stewards of our church's financial contributions and for leading donation drives. Thank you to our board of Christian education for caring for and educating the children of our church.

Thank you to our called to care committee for the love and compassion they share. Thank you to our coffee hour hosts for their hospitality. Thank you to our ushers, greeters, and lay leaders for helping us to worship together on Sunday mornings. Thank you to everyone who helped with our Mother's Day plant sale, our online auction, our Christmas tree fundraiser, or any of the other events and activities our church put on this past year. Thank you to our choir, our bell ringers, and our band for sharing your musical gifts with the congregation.

Thank you to everyone who offered a prayer, who shook a hand, who held a door, who welcomed a newcomer, who put a dollar in the offering plate, or who simply said "Good morning" with a smile. You all helped to make our church a warm and welcoming place, overflowing with God's light, love, and blessings. From the bottom of my heart, I offer my sincere gratitude to everyone who helps make our church such a special place.

Peace,

Andrew

BIBLE STUDY

Join Rev. Andrew Harris on Wednesday afternoon for weekly Bible Study. Meet in the conference room at 2pm or join us on Zoom. The link can be found on our website: uccburlington.org

PUB THEOLOGY

Join Andrew the third Thursday of the month at local establishment and enjoy some serious and sometimes silly talks on scripture, life or whatever you want to talk about. Come and bring a friend!

If you would like to setup a meeting with Andrew you can reach him at 978-219-2715 or by email: Andrew@uccburlington.org

The Deacons reviewed the Advent and Christmas Eve services. There was discussion about when the candle lighting should be during the Advent services and the issue of fragile manger pieces, as several were broken this year. Attendance at both the 4 pm and 10 pm Christmas Eve services was good, with both familiar and new faces.

At the 4 pm service there was a problem with the lack of space at the front, since there was the Christmas tree, guest musicians and the bell choir. One suggestion, which had been discussed before, was to remove the front pews on both sides of the aisle. This would also create a space for wheelchairs which would give their occupants good lines of sight and make it easy for them to hear. This idea will be brought to Parish Council. (Note: neither the pews nor their configuration are original to the sanctuary.)

The Deacons also reviewed their 2024 budget. One oversight was noted and will be adjusted. Much more use was made of the Deacons Fund/Love Offering proceeds than in recent years.

Jan McSheffrey is stepping down from her leadership role in Called to Care (C2C) after many years. C2C is an important part of our church's mission, as it helps those who need support either on an ongoing basis due to health limitations or occasionally following illness, surgery or the death of a loved one. In addition to needing new leadership, more members are needed for this vital work. Anyone interested should contact one of the Deacons, who are Jan Costa, Donna Flecchia, Bobbie Killilea, Kari Lynch, Dave McNeil, Marcia Rich and Deana Tredeau.

It was pointed out that microphones need to be tested before services, especially for Band Sundays, and that a quick lesson in microphone use is important for people, such as children, who rarely use them.

The discussion about how to keep people of all ages safe during coffee hour continued.

There was much planning and discussion about the upcoming karaoke night on February 15. It will be a pot luck supper followed by singing by those who are moved to do so. There is a sign up sheet at coffee hour for food.

Discussions of Ash Wednesday and Lent were tabled until the February meeting, as Easter is late this year.

MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

The Burlington Pantry is need of the following items:

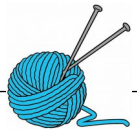
Individually Wrapped Kids Snacks
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa
Cereal
Oatmeal packets
Pasta
Pasta Sauce

Please bring to worship on Sunday, February 23 and we will bring forward during our Children of God Time.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Are you a crafter and want company as you work on your projects? Please think about joining other crafty people at the weekly C4C gathering. Your project does not need to involve crocheting or knitting as other types of crafting are welcome. We meet in the conference room on Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3PM. Meetings are hybrid so join no matter what the weather is outside.

We thank all who contributed handmade hats, mittens and scarves which we shared with The Wish Project, Coat Boston, and The Cambridge Street Closet.



MISSIONS NEWS

We extend a BIG Thank You for your support of all of our projects. November and December seemed to have more ways to offer support than usual. We started with the Thanksgiving food drive and distribution (ingathering) fulfilling the needs of over 140 families. Following that we collected new clothing and gifts for the children of the PHP clients through the pajama drive and coat drive for Cambridge Street. We also donated new coats to Coat Boston which supplies new coats to students in the Boston Public Schools.

Missions and along with money from the November Love offering has sent $3,100 to support relief efforts by the national UCC for those many people affected by Hurricane Helene and Milton. Missions does not yet have a final accounting of the Christmas offering however: as of mid-January, we have collected almost $8,000 of which $4,000 will also go to support UCC's hurricane relief efforts.

The 50% of the Easter offering will be used to support relief efforts for the victims of the LA fires. When this is finalized, you will be able to read about it in the weekly blast. Please keep the people across the world who are suffering from the effects of many natural disasters in your prayers.

MISSIONS FINANCES FOR 2024

Balance Forward plus 10% of Pledged Income	$22,817.54
Disbursements	$10,419.00
Special Offerings	$13,499.12
Benevolences (25)	$10,000.00
Total Missions Outreach for 2024	$33,919.12
Balance Forward	$ 2,398.54

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

January 5

Service Sunday for the Sunday School. Here are some of the yummy snacks they made. Thanks kids, for setting up and making all the food.

January 26

Science Sunday and Bible lesson of Noah's arc and God making a covenant with Noah and all people and showing all a rainbow.

LOOK WHAT'S COMING UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Feb 2 Head to Sunday School at 10:30. Come up to the sanctuary Communion. Chinese New Year.
Feb 9 All Church Worship-Band Sunday
Feb 16 UCC 2025 Climate Hope Art Contest – Planting Seeds of Hope
Feb 23 Science Sunday

NURSERY SCHOOL

Care is provided by 2 people for newborns – 4 years old. Introducing our new Nursery Care attendant - Kate Smith. We are so happy to welcome Kate to our family. Kate is a student at Lowell University and also works at Goddard School caring for children. Please say hello to her in the nursery or Coffee Hour.

CONFIRMATION

The confirmation class will meet: 2/9, 3/2, 3/16, 3/30, 4/13, 5/4. Confirmation will be part of the Church Service on May 18.

POOL PARTY FOR ALL!
Sunday March 16, 2025 2 – 3 PM

Don't be late! Pool party at Billerica Boys & Girls Club, 19 Campbell Rd. Billerica Ph: 978 667-2193. All ages invited. The kids get the shallower end, the adults can do short laps in the deep end. There is changing facilities for boys/girls available at the club. **Bring your own towels.**

If there are more than 19 participants, which we hope happens, we need a 2nd life guard. **Only 19 people will be allowed in the pool with 1 life guard. If there are 20 or more, we need 2nd life guard**, so please sign up at coffee hour or RSVP to Deb C: 857-373-9156 **no later than Sunday 3/9. Please bring your friends. Please sign them up, so we know how many in the pool.**

GREEN TEAM NEWS!

We are happy to announce we are officially signed up with Black Earth Composting for weekly compost pick up. You will see a green bin at coffee hour for you to put your compostable waste in. There is a list above the bin that lists items that are acceptable, and we will post the list on the Green Team bulletin board across from the office. If you are hosting coffee hour the liners for the bins are in the cupboard with the coffee and napkins. When cleaning up after coffee hour please be sure to put the coffee grounds in the bin, tie up and move the bin next to the door. Steve will put it out Tuesday evening for pickup on Wednesday.

You can sign up as well at blackearthcompost.com.

Thanks for keeping us sustainable!

FELLOWSHP NIGHT
FEBRUARY 15, AT 6PM
POTLUCK DINNER AND KARAOKE

All are welcome to join us for a night of fellowship and song. Come and sing or just enjoy the entertainment. Invite your family and friends. We will have folks from the Presbyterian Church and Temple joining us. This is a ***FREE*** event and should be a lot of fun. Questions, speak with Kari Lynch or any Deacon. Come one and all!

If you would like to bring a food item, we would love it!

CHOIR REHEARSALS

If you would like to join the choir, rehearsals are on Wednesday Evenings at 7pm.

All voices welcome!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Elaine Glancy
Lynn Tirrell
Karen Butler's Brother-in-Law Lenny
Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary with Hospice
Ted Brierley
Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad
Claire Simas
Paul Raymond
Shirley Fong's mom Mary
Deana's sister and brother-in-law,
Linda and Jim Sutton
Kay Shute
Julie Lewis's cousin Alicia
David Leonard's sister Lucinda
Nancy Davis son, George
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel-new treatment
and Friend Mary-new treatment
Molly and her family
Joan Zink's daughter Jen
Tom Killilea's brother Jim
Bobbie Killilea's sister Karla
Carpenter Family
Claire Simas, niece Janice and daughter Marianne
Chris Stahlinski's sisters
Brian Gionet's Dad
Roberta Low
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Skip Glancy's sister Dorothy
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Kelly Sievert
Bill Hitchcock
Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, her
Daughter Brenda and Son-in-law Rick
Ginger Mungillo's daughter Cindy and
Ginger's son Jim
Barbara Garland

California wildfires and those still recovering from
Hurricane Helene and Milton!

Mother Earth!

Our Country and World!

CONDOLENCES:

Our deepest sympathy to the Bastos family on the recent passing of Jean. She was a member of our church for many years in Youth Group, Cooking for Rosie's Place, Missions and so much more. She will be missed!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES

1	Craig Baker
1	Ted Brierley
2	Gordon Brown
5	Mark Flecchia
7	Karen Beck
7	Kellsee Lynch
7	Chris Cahoon
11	Sebastian Griep
11	Ally Mazzarella
13	Amy Todd
14	Karin Keyser
15	Elaine Carpenter
16	Ginger Mungillo
19	Donna Flecchia
22	Robert Knudsen
24	Julia Lynch
27	Lynn Tirrell
27	Sharon McDonough

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

February 2, 2025 Communion

Communion Prep:	Marge Zamanian
	Cindy Phillips
Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:	Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:	Dave McNeil
Usher:	Sally Willard
Greeter:	Cindy Phillips
Flowers:	
Collector:	Joan Zink
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
	Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	Deb Glancy
	Jan McSheffrey
Potluck Luncheon:	Congregation

February 9, 2025 Love Offering

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:	Andie Joseph
Head Usher:	Deb Glancy
Usher:	Carol Downing
Greeter:	Jan McSheffrey
Flowers:	
Collector:	Dick Butler
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Sunday School:	Band Sunday
Coffee Host:	Marge Zamanian
Baker:	Deana Tredeau

February 16, 2025

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:	Sally Willard
Head Usher:	Lucy Damiani
Usher:	Carol Downing
Greeter:	Carol Downing
Flowers:	
Collector:	Lucy Damiani
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
	Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	
Baker:	

February 26, 2025 Red Wagon

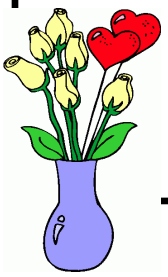
Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Brian Gionet
Lay Leader:	Lucy Damiani
Head Usher:	
Usher:	Carol Downing
Greeter:	Carol Downing
Flowers:	
Collector:	Marcia Rich
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
	Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	Chris Stahlinski
Baker:	

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30A Communion Noon Annual Meeting and Luncheon 	3 **6:30p AA** 7p Trustees	4	5 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	6 1p C4C **6:30p Scouts**	7	8 **4pm Setup** **5-10p** **Hanif Party Rental**
9 10:30a Worship and Love Offering Confirmation Class Today	10 **6:30p AA**	11	12 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	13 1p C4C **6:30p Scouts** 7p Deacons	14	15 **6pm** **Potluck and Karaoke**
16 10:30a Worship	17 **PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY** **6:30p AA**	18 7p PC Mtg	19 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	20 1p C4C **6:30p Scouts** 7p Missions 8p Pub Theology 	21	22 **5p Setup** **5-10p** **Manish Party Rental**
23 10:30a Worship and Red Wagon 	24 **6:30p AA**	25	26 2p Bible Study **5:30p Community Dinner at the Presbyterian Church** 7p Choir	27 1p C4C **6:30p Scouts**	28	

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

TO:



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