

JUNE 2025 HILLTOP NEWSLETTER

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Mark Omobono
Moderator

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Hello UCC Burlington,

While summer is drawing near, we still have several wonderful church events coming up in June. First, on June 1st we will welcome this year's confirmation class as members of the church. We hope you will come and support our 8th and 9th graders as they take this important step on their faith journey. Of course, there will be cake after worship to celebrate!

The following week has two major events: the Burlington Pride celebration on June 7th and Service/Service on June 8th.

Burlington Pride will take place on the town common on Saturday June 7th from 11-2pm. This is a day to celebrate and affirm the LGBTQ+ community in our town. Our church will have a table at the celebration where we'll give out rainbow prayer squares and bracelets. It's a good day to let all our neighbors know that we believe all God's children are beloved and to celebrate all our LGBTQ+ siblings who help to make our church and our community a beautiful and loving place.

The following day, Sunday June 8th, is our second Service/Service, where, instead of our usual Sunday worship service in the sanctuary, we'll worship God by heading out into the community to perform acts of service.

We'll gather in the sanctuary at the usual time of 10:30am. We will have a short service where the 2nd graders will receive their bibles. We will sing a song and offer a blessing then we'll go out to one of several different service opportunities, some of which include making and delivering lunches to church members, building bee hotels to support endangered native bee species, and weeding and planting our pollinator garden. We're finalizing a few more projects so stay tuned for a final sign up list that will be sent out next week.

Finally, June 15th will be our music celebration Sunday, where we will give thanks to the choir, as well as our music leaders, for sharing their gifts with us all year long.

God's Spirit of faith, love, and service is moving in our congregation. Feel it and let it move you to celebrate, to sing, and to serve one another this month.

Peace,
Andrew



BIBLE STUDY - LUKE'S PARABLES

Wednesdays at 2pm - In person and on Zoom

For the month of June, we will explore Jesus's parables in the Gospel of Luke. As always, all are welcome and there is no homework or pre-reading necessary. Just show up with an open heart, open ears, and an open mind and together we will discuss God's word for us.

Click here to join on Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84363847241>

June 4- Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:1-32)

June 11 - Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1-31)

June 18 - Parable of the Widow and Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-14)

June 25 - Parable of the Ten Pounds (Luke 19:1-28)

July 2 - Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Luke 20:1-19)



PUB THEOLOGY

Join Andrew on the Third Thursday of the month for discussions on scripture, life, whatever your topic. Stay tuned for the time and place on June 19th! Bring a friend, all are welcome!



The meeting was spent reviewing Holy Week services and looking ahead to late spring activities.

The Maundy Thursday service was well attended with more than 30 people there. Something similar will be done next year.

Unlike last year, the Good Friday activities at the Presbyterian church were not well attended.

The 6 am Sunrise Service atop Simonds Park was very windy and drew the usual small group.

The 10:30 Easter worship was attended by more than 100 people. A few ideas were offered to make the celebration more visible to the community next year.

A suggestion was made to post pictures of the new members, choir, and boards and committees on the bulletin boards. This will be helpful as the congregation grows and people change roles.

The 'Service/Service' and Children's Sunday are scheduled for June 8. We will meet in the sanctuary at 10:30 for a brief worship service before heading out to work on the day's projects. Participants can go home after their project is finished.

At the request of the trustees, the Deacons approved the use of \$3280 in memorial funds to replace 26 pairs of shutters on the church. Parish Council approved the expenditure at their May 20 meeting.

A Blessing of Pets will be held outside on Sunday, June 22, at 4 pm. Pets must be on leashes or in carriers or cages. People may bring pictures of their pets or stuffed animals as well.

After a bit of discussion, it was decided that worship time will remain at 10:30 in July and August.

The banner on the side of the building facing Church Lane is quite faded and needs to be replaced. Several new people mentioned that it caught their eye while looking for a church. Andrew is looking for ideas for content.

There was some discussion about adding a picnic table to the grounds for people out walking or for drivers who need a break and aren't familiar with the area. This will be continued at the next meeting.

WELCOME OUR NEW CHURCH MEMBERS:

Hilary Hrutkay

Sonja and Matt Tierson

Donna Desimone

Andie Joseph

Peter Rosenberg

We are so happy to have you as part of our church family!



AN UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES SEARCH COMMITTEE

Last month, the Director of Music Ministries Search Committee had our first official meeting. We discussed the recent congregational music survey, as well as the interviews with the choir and the band, and we began to imagine who and what we are looking for in this position. Following this discussion, we began work on a job description and job posting. Once these are finalized, we will begin circulating the job posting and will hopefully be hearing from applicants within a couple of weeks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a member of the committee. We'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,
The Director of Music Ministries Search Committee
Mark Omobono (chair)
Debbie Claar
Sarah Clark
Deb Glancy
Nick Karwan
Dave McNeil
Rev. Andrew Harris



MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Aline and I are happy to be filling in until we find a permanent Director of Music Ministries. We will thank the choir for their service on June 15 before they take a well-deserved break for the summer. As noted, in our weekly blasts, we want to showcase the UCC talented singers and musicians over the summer since music is such an integral and meaningful part of our worship experience. Whether you are a seasoned musician and want to perform a solo, duet, or trio or are looking for an opportunity to make your debut, please approach Aline or myself with dates in mind. We will help you from there. We look forward to working with many of you and keeping music alive in our church.

Musically Yours,
Aline Beck and Debbie Claar



MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON JUNE 29th

Needed items for June and all of the summer since they will be supplying lunch food for students on vacation during July and August.

Individually wrapped kids snacks such as:

Granola bars	Fruit cups	Chips
Crackers	Raisins	

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

A big thanks to members of C4C and the congregation who have made over 140 rainbow themed prayer squares to be given out on Burlington Pride Day June 7. Also, thanks to the C4C members who attached explanatory tags to each square so the recipients know UCC welcomes all people.

MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MAY

In May \$1000 was paid to the SNEUCC. This is the second of 4 quarterly payments, which will total \$4500 by the end of 2025. In commemoration of Pride Day, a donation of \$1000 has been made to the LGBT Asylum, headquartered in Worcester. Missions has also set aside \$1000 to support our participation in Pride Day on the Commons on Saturday, June 7th.

MISSION NEWS

After much research, involved discussions and prayers Missions has decided to support the work of 10 local, national and international benevolences. Each will receive a donation of \$1,000.

Missions also supports the outreach of our church to the LGBTQ+ community on Burlington Pride Day, June 7 from 11 to 2PM. We will have a table on the Burlington Common where items and written material will show the community that all are welcomed by our church.

Missions will change its monthly meeting dates to the 4th Thursday of every month so Rev Andrew can join our meetings.

EASTER OFFERING

The Easter offering received a total of \$4,901.25 which was divided 50/50 with \$2,450.62 going to the Church to continue its work. Additionally \$2,450.62 will be sent to the UCC disaster relief fund for the victims of the LA fires last winter.

BLANKET AND TOOL SUNDAY IS ON JUNE 15TH

This dual offering will support the Church World Service work helping our worldwide neighbors in need. CWS will use your donations to supply blankets to the homeless, distribute blankets after disasters, donate blankets to refugee camps and in other situations where people need to know they are not alone. CWS will be able to supply tools to communities that need them to plant seeds and safely contain livestock, which will allow them to grow food thus creating a healthier future for their families. Additionally, after disasters tools can be given out to help repair the damage caused.

Specially marked envelopes will be in the pews, and outside the Church office in early June. If you wish to donate using a check, please mark the memo line with blankets/tools. You may also give digitally using Venmo. Details about this are on the Church Web site.

NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM!

This spring and summer the Green Team's focus is on the 4 Bs and what you can do to protect them.



-BIRDS- important for pest control, pollinators and seed dispersal but have seen a 29% decline in the past 50 years.



-BEES-important for pollinators and honey but are expected to decline by 60-70% in 2025!



-BATS-needed for pest control, especially mosquitos and reduce pesticide use. They are expected to decline by 52% in the next 15 years.



-BUTTERFLIES-important pollinators that have seen a 22% decline between 2000 and 2025.

During Service/Service Sunday on June 8th the Green Team will be hosting an all ages event where we will be making bee houses. We will also have available a list of pollinator plants, milk weed seeds for you to plant and bird and bat house plans.

Coming in the fall there will be a book discussion on "The Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, the New York Times bestselling author of "Braiding Sweetgrass, a bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity, and community, based on the lessons of the natural world.

People Helping People

Climbing to New Heights Together!

Please join us for our
4th Annual Open House

Wednesday June 4th
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
21 Murray Ave, Burlington MA

Light refreshments
and snacks served

AGING WITH GRACE WORKSHOPS CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER

We want to thank all of you who attended our Aging with Grace workshops. Participants found it meaningful so we will continue to offer it once a month. Some will have a theme while others will be opportunities to simply share common concerns around aging with grace accompanied by prayer and meditation at the beginning and end of each session.

Our next session is on Sunday, June 1 at noon. Please meet in the Conference Room. All are welcome so please join us!

Sincerely,
Andrew and Debbie

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN ED

Look what's coming up in Sunday School

6/1 Final Sunday School for 24-25 School Year. All about the 5 Senses God gave us.

6/8 Service/Service Sunday. There will be a short worship service at 10:30. We will celebrate the nursery kids moving up to Sunday School, the 2nd graders receiving their Bible, High School graduate, College graduate, and all the volunteers that support our awesome Sunday School Program!

Over the summer the kids are going to read a book either themselves or as a family. On Welcome Back Sunday we will have a book group with an activity and discussion.

Nursery School

Care is provided by 2 people for newborns – 4 years olds from the start of the season **Welcome Sunday in September – Children's Sunday June 8.**

Confirmation!

June 1st is Confirmation Sunday during the church service.

This class has worked hard since last Fall to get to this point. Please come to church to support the Confirmands and celebrate with them!

On All Church Sunday-May 15

During worship the Sunday school participated in the service by reading the Scriptures (Amelia), distributed our Friendship Pads (James and Thomas) and took the morning collection (Sawyer and Carver). Great job, you are real professionals!

**COMMUNITY DINNER AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEDNESDAY JULY 30, 2025 DINNER AT 5:30
UCC BURLINGTON WILL PROVIDE THE DINNER!**

Can you help please?

Arrive at 4:30 to setup tables and food.

The menu is grilled hot dog in a roll, 3 bean salad, potato salad and dessert

There is no fund for this at UCC, it is through donations.

Could you make or purchase potato salad for 10?

Could you make or purchase 3 bean salad for 10?

Could you make or purchase a fun summer dessert for 10 that does not require forks?

Could you make a small financial donation?

Help cleanup after the dinner.

Please see the signup sheet at coffee hour or contact Deb Raymond 857-373-9156

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Matt Tierson's grandfather
Johnson Family
Roberta Low
Lee Tirrell
Laura Nowell's Cousin Nigel, friend Mary and remembering husband Randy
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby, daughter Brenda, son-in-law Rick
David Knowles
David Leonard
Elaine Glancy
Susan Damiani's friend Linda
Ted Brierley
Karen Ciardi's mom Dottie
Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Claire Simas
Ally's cousin Lia
Deana Tredeau's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Hitchcock's girlfriend Denise
Bill Livezey
Donna DeSimone's Brother-in-law Rick

Anna Karwan's mom Irene and gratitude for her sister as caretaker
Skip Glancy and sister Dorothy
Karen Butler's brother-in-law Lenny
Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary
Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad
Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Kay Shute
Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia
Brian Gionet's Dad
Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
Kelly Sievert
Ginger Mungillo and daughter Cindy, son Jim
Barbara Garland

Our Country / Mother Earth
Violence in the world to end!



GROUP HUG

I so want to thank you for the Group Hug you gave me recently. It's stunning, compassionate, and lovely. Bobbie sent me a card with the picture on the front and a warm, caring message inside. It's on the counter in my family room and will stay there forever. I have felt your love and support these past few months. I am deeply grateful.

With love and appreciation, Joan Zink

"Many thanks for all the prayers and well wishes. They're working!" Ted Brierley



New baby girl, Corinna Bell Ciccone, was born on April 28th. Congratulations to Emily and Jaime and big sister Ella. Blessings to all!

- 1 Nancy Davis
- 3 Susan Eby
- 4 Jessy McNeil
- 6 Soren Wells-Bean
- 9 Brenda Cahoon
- 15 Jan Costa
- 16 Joyce Baylor
- 20 Joshua & Jason Cahoon
- 23 Bobbie Killilea
- 29 Thea Killilea
- 30 Donna Ferro
- 30 Molly Kyokunda



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 1 Communion 10:30am

Confirmation Sunday

Communion Prep:

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	Debbie Claar
Head Usher:	Dave McNeil
Usher:	
Greeter:	Carol Downing
Flowers:	Marcia Rich
Collector:	Deb Raymond
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
	Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:	
Bakers:	Marcia Rich
	Cake from CE

June 22 Worship 10:30am

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	
Head Usher:	
Usher:	
Greeter:	
Flowers:	
Collector:	Marcia Rich
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Children's Activities:	
Coffee Host:	
Bakers:	

June 8 Worship 10:30am

Children's Sunday

Service/Service Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck

No offering today!

June 29 Worship 10:30am

Red Wagon Sunday

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	
Head Usher:	
Usher:	
Greeter:	
Flowers:	
Collector:	Lucy Damiani
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Children's Activities:	
Coffee Host:	
Bakers:	

June 15 Worship 10:30am

Music Sunday

Father's Day

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	
Head Usher:	
Usher:	
Greeter:	
Flowers:	
Collector:	Marge Zamanian
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Children's Activity:	
Coffee Host:	
Bakers:	

**PLEASE NOTE WORSHIP TIME WILL BE
AT 10:30AM DURING JULY AND AUGUST**

June 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 10:30a Communion Band Sunday</p>  <p>Noon "Aging With Grace"</p>	<p>2 6:30p AA 7p Trustees</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 2p Bible Study 5-7p PHP Open House 7p Choir</p>	<p>5 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts</p>	<p>6 9-11a Montessori Sewall Hall ----- 6-8p Burlington Day Care</p>	<p>7  11-2p Pride Day on the Burlington Common</p>
<p>8 10:30a Worship Children's Sunday Service/ Service</p> <p>Possible Rental</p>	<p>9 6:30p AA</p>	<p>10 7p HR Mtg</p>	<p>11 2p Bible Study 7p Choir</p>	<p>12 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts 7p Deacons</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 10:30a Worship</p> <p>Music Sunday</p> 	<p>16 6:30p AA</p>	<p>17 7p PC Meeting</p>	<p>18 2p Bible Study</p>	<p>19 JUNETEENTH 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts 7p Missions 8p Pub Theology</p>	<p>20  Summer Begins! Hilltop Articles due!</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 10:30a Worship</p> <p>4p Pet Blessing!</p>	<p>23 6:30p AA</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 2p Bible Study</p>	<p>26 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 10:30a Worship Red Wagon</p> 	<p>30 6:30p AA</p>					

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

TO:



JUNE 2025 HILLTOP HERALD