

MAY 2025 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
 Pastor

Mark Omobono
 Moderator

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Dear brothers, sisters, and siblings in Christ,

Thanks be to God for a glorious Easter Sunday! Alleluia! The joyful, hopeful Spirit of resurrection is alive and well in our church and in the world. This week, the flowers are blooming, the sun is warming our New England soil, the rains are nourishing new growth, and life is springing forth from the cold ground. The good news overwhelms the bad news. True life in the Spirit triumphs over death itself. Love moves in the world like a wind that cannot be stopped.

May this Easter season bolster your spirits. We all carry worries, anxieties, and fears. We all suffer through sickness, grief, and death. We all feel busy, tired, lonely (at least some of the time). Despite all these things, in the face of all these things, God promises us new life. We lay our battered hearts and bodies in the tomb and God transforms them into a resurrected Spirit of love, hope, and joy.

As Spring springs new life and the earth turns our home hemisphere for a long gaze at the sun through Summer, let our hearts be grateful, joyful even, despite the difficulties in the world and difficulties in our lives. Let us not be ignorant, or bury our heads in the sand, but as we witness the world's pain, let us welcome God's spirit of resurrection and transformation. May we have eyes to see God's light shining in the darkness. May we have courageous imaginations to dream God's Kingdom of love, justice, peace, and grace into reality.

Rejoice for God is with us! Sing, dance, pray, and give thanks for each new day. God's Spirit is living and moving in this world, in you. Alleluia!

Peace,

Rev. Andrew Harris



PUB THEOLOGY 8pm



Join Andrew the Third
Thursday of the month for a chat over
your favorite brew. Stay tuned for the
location on May 15th. Bring a friend!

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAYS AT 2PM

Dates and scripture will be coming.
Stayed tuned!



DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

Not surprisingly, much of the meeting was devoted to finalizing details for Holy Week.

The group also looked ahead to the May 4 service when new members will join the church.

Andrew told us that 12 people attended the Aging with Grace workshop series and that the group intends to keep meeting monthly. He also said that 31 responses to the music survey were received and went over who is likely to be on the committee to search for the new Director of Music Ministries.

The Memorial Fund Policy was approved after many months of discussion and will be brought to Parish Council for review and approval.

To help coffee hour run more smoothly, the list of the coffee hour host responsibilities will be updated, laminated and displayed in the kitchen and Donna Flecchia will email it to all coffee hour hosts. We decided to purchase an adjustable height table for the kids snacks and toys in an effort to keep the children occupied and discourage them from running, which can be hazardous for both the runner and anyone run into.

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 two sessions will be on:

Sunday, May 4 at noon
Sunday, June 1 at noon



Both will be in the conference room. All are welcome so please join us!

Sincerely,
Andrew and Debbie

FAREWELL TO BRIAN GIONET!



On April 27th we said our goodbyes to our Director of Music Ministries, Brian Gionet. Brian and wife Alli will begin a new journey in their lives. We enjoyed Brian's concerts, his dedication to our music ministry and his caring heart! Blessings to both!



SINGER AND MUSICIAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER SERVICES JUNE 22-AUGUST 31

Dear UCC Congregation,

Aline Beck and I will be leading the music program until such time as we find a permanent Director of Music Ministries. We recognize that music is a valuable part of every Sunday service. With that said, after June 15, the choir and band will be taking a break, so we need singers and musicians to volunteer their talents for each Sunday from June 22 – August 31.

Look at this as a wonderful opportunity to share your talent and offer your service to the church community. If you need help choosing a song or need accompaniment, feel free to reach out to us as well. **We need to have this calendar in place by Sunday, June 13** so check your availability and speak with Aline Beck, Debbie Claar, or Deana Tredeau if you would like to offer your musical service to the church this summer. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debbie Claar



MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

Please bring to worship on Sunday, May 25th:

Dry Cereal
Oatmeal
Canned Beans
Individually wrapped Kids Snack Foods
Baby Wipes
Jelly
Cooking Oil

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We are making rainbow themed prayer squares to be given out on Pride Day, June 7. If you want to knit or crochet a couple of squares, rainbow colored yarn is in a basket outside the office. Please let Bobbie or Susan Eby know you are planning on contributing to this event.

Prayer Squares can be knit or crocheted in any pattern. The final square should be 3 to 4 inches square.

MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT

Missions continues to review the non-profits we donated to in 2024. We are looking to support fewer and making a greater impact. Decisions will be made soon, and payments will begin.

MISSION NOTES

The members of Mission have spent the last two meetings reviewing the non-profits we donate to. Our goal is to support fewer organizations but make a greater impact financially for the ones we do support.

We thank the congregation for donating to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. \$405 will be sent to the UCC to support the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Also, a big thank you for your generous donation of over \$4,000 to our special Easter offering. Half of what you gave will be used by UCC Burlington to support the work we do. The other half will go to the UCC Disaster relief fund. o help in their efforts to support the families affected by the LA fires this past winter. If you still want to support these two causes the offering envelopes are still available in the pews or outside the church office. You may send a check to the office with the memo line marked Easter. You may still give digitally through Vanco.



PRIDE MONTH

June is Pride Month and Saturday, June 7th, is Pride Day in Burlington. UCC Burlington will honor Pride Day by sponsoring a table on the Common with banners and beautiful new signs, giveaways and crafts for the kids. A brochure will be available to inform folks about our open and affirming church. We need the help of many hands to make this a joyful day for everyone.

Please look for sign-up sheets at coffee hour to help with planning, produce bracelets or crafts, knit or crochet, etc, etc! We will be designing t-shirts for all members attending that day, so please let us know you plan to be there!

Susan Eby, Sally Willard, Lucy Damiani

Look what's coming up in Sunday School

- 5/4** Meet downstairs for Sunday School at 10:30. Join the Congregation upstairs for Communion.
Lesson: Loving Friends
- 5/11** Mother's Day. Lesson: Love Leads the Way. Gift for Moms
- 5/18** All Church Worship. The Sunday School will be in church for the full service and participate in reading scripture, offering and pass out friendship pads.
- 5/25** Lesson: Love Leads the Way. Memorial Day
- 6/8** Service-Service Sunday. Everyone will go out in the community to provide Service to others
At 11:30 we will return to Sewall Hall for a short Service to Celebrate the Nursery kids moving up to Sunday School, The 2nd graders will receive their Bible, honor our High School Graduates, and all the volunteers that support the Sunday School Program!

NURSERY SCHOOL

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

CONFIRMATION!

The last Confirmation class is May 4 at Hancock church and confirmation will be during the church service here on June 1. The class has worked hard since last fall, so please come to church to support them.

PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER EGG HUNT

Stuffing Easter eggs



Palm Sunday Service carrying the cross to the altar



The kids enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt





PLANT/BAKE/CRAFT SALE

May 10th 10-2pm

RAIN OR SHINE

**Come and shop for Perennials, Seedlings, Flowers,
Baked Goods
Gifts for Mom
Artisan Crafts**

If you are donating plants from your garden, please be sure to mark the name of your plant. You can drop these off at the church on Friday, May 9th or early morning on May 10th. There is a signup sheet at coffee hour for volunteers needed that day!

Come and enjoy with wonderful day of fellowship and community!

IN NEED OF A CAPTAIN TO SALE AWAY

To all church friends, here goes a call
To lead an event that will benefit all.
Dozens of us have much to spare.
If only someone would be the chair...
A Yard Sale ! What fun ! Items galore !
Household, crafts, electronics, and more.
Books and tools and clothes and toys.
Treasures for adults and girls and boys.
Thousands we'd make, as we have in the past.
Fellowship for all whose help will be cast.
Hundreds will come to our church on the hill.
To add to our income and pay lots of bills.

**If this is something you would like to run,
pick a date (make sure you check the office
calendar), and present it to Parish Council!**



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Roberta Low David Knowles Sean Musselman's Dan & Jill expecting baby #2 Bev's Brother Bob turning 80 Susan Damiani's friend Linda Jan McSheffrey's husband Al Elaine Glancy Ted Brierley Chris Cahoon Karen Ciardi's mom Dottie Andrew's friend Lorenzo Claire Simas Omobono's friend's new baby David Leonard Ally's cousin Lia Marcia's sister-in-law's sister Linda Tom Killilea 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	Laura Nowell's Cousin Nigel, friend Mary 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 Julies 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 Jan Blandino's grandson Toby, daughter Brenda, son-in-law Rick Ginger Mungillo and daughter Cindy, son Jim Barbara Garland Our Country Mother Earth
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CONGRATUALTIONS:

Newly Engaged Amiee Tredeau and Joe Pence. Wedding plans are for February of 2026! Best Wishes!

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to Chris Stahlinski on the passing of her dear sister Evelyn Bertrand. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Passing of Claudia Higson who was a member here many years ago. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Turnquist Family on her passing.

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

May 4 Communion

Communion Prep: Marge Zamanian
 Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Aline Beck
 Lay Preacher/Leader: Debbie Claar
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher: Donna Flecchia
 Greeter: Carol Downing
 Flowers: Dick Butler
 Collector: Deb Raymond
 Nursery Care: Kate Smith
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host: Deb Glancy
 Bakers: Deb Glancy

May 18 Worship

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Aline Beck
 Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher: Carol Downing
 Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
 Flowers:
 Collector: Joan Zink
 Nursery: Kate Smith
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host: Donna Flecchia
 Bakers; Donna Flecchia

May 11 Worship-Mother's Day-Love Offering

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Aline Beck
 Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
 Head Usher:
 Usher: Carol Downing
 Greeter:
 Flowers: Dick Butler
 Collector: Dick Butler
 Nursery: Kate Smith
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host:
 Bakers;

May 25 Worship-Red Wagon

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Aline Beck
 Lay Leader:
 Head Usher:
 Usher:
 Greeter:
 Flowers:
 Collector: Marcia Rich
 Nursery: Kate Smith
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host: Deana Tredeau
 Chris Stahlinski
 Bakers: Deana Tredeau
 Chris Stahlinski

ZOOM LINK FOR WORSHIP:

Click <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/756975189> to watch.

If you cannot connect to Zoom, you can always call from your phone and listen to the audio.

The phone number is 929-205-6099 and the meeting ID is 756 975 189 when prompted.

The Link to signup as a volunteer for Sunday morning worship is:

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

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	2	3 9-Noon UCC Spring Cleaning! All are Invited to help!
4 10:30a Communion New Member Joining! Noon Aging With Grace Conf. Class Hancock Church Razia Rental 3setup 5-10p	5 6:30p AA 7p Trustees	6	7 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	8 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	9 Plant Event Setup	10 10-2pm Plant/Bake/ Craft Sale 
11 10:30a Worship Love Offering Mother's Day	12 6:30p AA	13 7p HR Meeting	14 2p Bible Study No Choir	15 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts 7p Missions 8p Pub Theology	16	17 Muntez Setup 11a NOON-5P Rental
18 10:30a Worship	19 6:30p AA	20 Montessori Setup in Sewall Hall 7p PC Meeting	21 4p Montessori Sewall Hall Performance 2p Bible Study No Choir	22 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	23 June Hilltop Articles DUE	24
25 10:30a Worship Red Wagon	26  Office closed! 6:30p AA	27	28 2p Bible Study No Choir	29 1p C4C 6:30p Scouts	30 9-11p Montessori Sewall Hall Graduation	31 Khalifa Rental 4p open 5-10p Rent

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

TO:



MAY 2025 HILLTOP HERALD NEWSLETTER