

## AUGUST 2025 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris  
Pastor

Mark Omobono  
Moderator

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Dear Church Family,

I hope God's blessings shine upon you in these summer months. May you hear a word from God carried on the breeze. May you see the light of God shining through the leaves of the trees. May God's love visit you like a bee visits a flower.

What a blessing it has been to worship with our siblings in Christ from the Burlington Presbyterian Church this summer. It's beautiful to be reminded that love and fellowship are found far and wide; that we have companions on this faith journey down the street, in the next town over, even on the other side of the earth.

I've been grateful to witness our Turn and Talk conversations this summer. I know that it's not everyone's favorite thing, and I thank those of you who have taken a step outside your comfort zones to participate. It's an act of faith to share personal stories with a stranger (although I would encourage you to think of our fellow worshippers as siblings in Christ rather than strangers). Jesus shows us that vulnerability is strength. Although it is scary to open up to another, I trust that we will find love and acceptance reflected back to us, rather than judgment.

I trust that God has a word for us in the words of our conversation partners. I trust that God is working through us as we lend a kind, attentive ear to the stories of another. For some of us, church might be the only place where we can share deeply about our lives and know that we will be heard with love, compassion, and non-judgment. To those of you who are going way outside your comfort zone in these talks, I'm deeply grateful that you are providing a safe space for someone else to share their story.

In other news, protests continue outside the ICE facility in Burlington at 1000 District Ave. On July 16, for the first time we had over 300 people join us. Only one week later, we crossed the 400 mark. This movement is growing as more and more people bear witness to the cruel and immoral acts being perpetrated against our neighbors.

I invite everyone to join us. We gather every Wednesday from 11am-1pm. If you're not feeling up for protesting in person (which is understandable for a number of reasons) there are other ways you can help. We're looking for folks to help organize and send emails. We've started collecting donations of food and other essential care items at the protests that need to be delivered to the PHP Food Pantry. We could use supplies such as water bottles, snacks, and sunscreen to help keep all the demonstrators safe and healthy. Let me know if you'd like to chip in in any way.

I believe God is calling our congregation to meet this historical moment; to show our community what it looks like when seeds of love come to fruition; what it looks like to shine a light in the darkness. I'm grateful for the love and grace of our church family. May God bless you all.

Peace,  
Andrew

**JOIN PASTOR ANDREW FOR BIBLE STUDY  
ON WEDNESDAYS AT 2PM  
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Bible Study - Job: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?**

Please join us as we study the Book of Job and explore the question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" 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.

**Reading schedule:**

**July 30 - No Bible Study**

August 6 - Job's Response (Job 13:13-23, 21:1-26, 27:1-6)

**August 13 - No Bible Study**

August 20 - Elihu (Job 32:1-6, 35:1-8, 36:5-12)

August 27 - The Voice from the Whirlwind  
(Job 38:1-11, 40:1-41:34)

September 3 - The Conclusion (Job 42)



**END OF SUMMER COOKOUT  
AT THE PARSONAGE**

At 6pm on Thursday, August 21, everyone is invited to a cookout at the parsonage. All are welcome! We'll have the grill going along with the firepit to cook up some s'mores. Bring something to grill and bring your own beverages. If you'd like to bring something to share (salads, sides, dessert), sign up by RSVP'ing to [uccburlington@gmail.com](mailto:uccburlington@gmail.com) so we can keep track of who is bringing what. All are welcome for an evening of fellowship, food, and conversation!

Additionally, if you're a musician, bring your instrument (or just your voice) and we can have a sing-along jam around the fire!

**WHAT ARE THE DEACONS ALL ABOUT?**

Sometimes people say 'I don't understand what the Deacons do'. This isn't surprising for two reasons. One is that the name isn't as revealing the responsibilities as the names of some other Boards, such as Missions, Christian Education or Human Resources. The other is that the Deacons' responsibilities are fairly diverse as outlined in the church constitution, where they include all forms of corporate worship, the care of members and friends of the parish, and the development of fellowship programs.

Worship responsibilities include assisting the pastor in administering the sacraments of baptism and communion, supervising the church music program, and coordination of such activities as greeting, ushering and lay participation. This area includes decorating the sanctuary for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter and changing the altar, pulpit, and lectern coverings, called paraments, to white for communion and to the colors appropriate to the church season throughout the year. Consequently, the Deacons' operating budget covers guest ministers and organists, some of the costs for musicians for special services, such as Easter and Christmas, communion supplies, candle oil, choir music, organ and piano maintenance and some professional development funds for the Director of Music Ministries. Some costs for the church's online service needs are also part of the operating budget.

The caring responsibilities are largely implemented in coordination with the pastor by the dedicated people of Called to Care, who do a wonderful job of reaching out to those who are ill, have had surgery or are in mourning, and stay in touch with people who are unable to easily leave their homes. Money for stamps and cards to support Called to Care and for gifts for our high school graduates are part of the Deacons' budget.

As described in the constitution, fellowship programs include development of a strategy for attracting potential new members, which is a concern of the whole congregation, the orientation and assimilation of new members, the administration of church communications including the Hilltop Herald and public relations with the community at large and the development of programs primarily designed to better acquaint members with each other, such as coffee hours. Funds for coffee, paper goods and related supplies are part of the budget.

In addition to the above, the Deacons also administer the Memorial Funds, the Deacons' Special Music account, and the Deacons' Fund. The music account consists of donations and money brought in through fundraisers and is used for additional musicians for special services and music needs not covered by the Deacons' operating budget. The Deacons' Fund is supported by the Love Offering and used to help people in need.



## MISSIONS UPDATE!

### RED WAGON

The Pantry is in need of the following items:

Individual wrapped snacks for school children such as: granola bars, fruit cups, chips, crackers, etc.

**Please bring to worship on August 30th** or you can drop off directly to 21 Murray Ave., Burlington.

### CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

C4C will continue to meet this summer in the conference room which is air conditioned. We meet at 1PM on Thursdays.

The zoom information can be found below:

**[https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?](https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09)**

**[pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09](https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09)**

Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274

Passcode: 01803

### MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT

In July \$1000 was donated to two benevolences: Science with a Mission and Reaching Beyond Domestic Violence.

### BLANKET AND TOOL SUNDAY

The total collected from the special offering for blankets and tools was \$571.38

### THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED FROM THE DAV

We appreciate and thank you for your continuous support of Disabled American Veterans. Your donation of \$1000 on June 06, 2025, means so much to our local Disabled American Veterans and their families. Your support makes a difference in their daily lives.

We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capital Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

Thanks so much.

Robert M. Karasinski, Treasurer

### MISSION NEWS

At the August Missions meeting there will be a discussion about the possibility of a special offering that would go towards supporting relief efforts for the victims of the Texas floods.

If you google UCC Texas flooding relief efforts, you can read more about this UCC effort.

If you want to give sooner, we suggest giving to the UCC Global relief efforts for Texas flooding.

Address: UCC Global Relief Efforts  
PO Box 71957  
Cleveland, Ohio 44194

Memo line – severe storms

## TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP BURLINGTON STUDENTS BEFORE SCHOOL OPENS IN SEPTEMBER



### BACKPACKS NEEDED!

Burlington PHP and Shannon Jenkins are collecting 250 backpacks for grade K-12 Burlington students. Can you help?

Drop off your donation to:

Food Pantry, 21 Murray Ave., Burlington or

RE/MAX Realty, 265 Winn Street, suite 201.

The drive runs through August 15th!

### MISSIONS TOILETRY DRIVE

We are collecting toiletries for Burlington Students from August 1 to September 1. There will be a marked bin for your donation outside the church office. These will be distributed through the Cambridge Street Closet.

Here is a list of suggested items:

Hand soap  
Shampoo  
Deodorant  
Disposable razors  
Shaving cream  
Hand cream (moisturizers)  
Conditioner  
Combs  
Nail clippers  
Emory boards  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Mouth wash  
Band-Aids  
First aid cream  
Tampons/pads



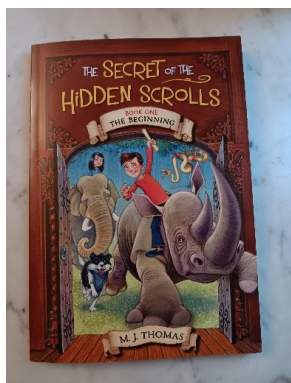
## SUMMER KIDS SUNDAY!

On July 20 a scavenger hunt was held outside on a beautiful Sunday morning. Unfortunately, there were no Presbyterians kiddos, but we all had fun! There were creative ideas finding items related to Bible passages. The other leader Jen from the Presbyterian church couldn't make it, so thank you to Kathy Hill for being our second leader, and Michael Tredeau for hanging out with us.



**There will be another Kids Sunday School on August 17 10:30am at the Presbyterian church.** All kids and youth are invited. This activity will be lead by Jen from the Presbyterian Church.

## SUMMER READING



The Sunday School kids/youth were given a book to read over the summer, *The Secret of the Hidden Scrolls*. Read it as a family, older kids can read to younger kids, or read it on your own. Youth: it is an easy read, but will be fun to discuss with the group.

We will hold a book group discussion with activities about the book in September.

## NURSERY CARE

No Nursery through Labor Day Weekend. **Remember worship is at the Presbyterian Church on August 3, 10, 17, 24 at 10:30am**

## COMMUNITY DINNER HELD ON JUNE 30 AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thank you to all who donated to the dinner with menu items, financial donations, setup and cleanup. Hope you all enjoyed the evening!

**WELCOME SUNDAY WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 8! JOIN US!**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Lynn Tirrell passing of husband Lee	Skip Glancy and sister Dorothy
Bill Livezey-moved to NH	Karen Butler's brother-in-law Lenny
Claire Simas	Barbara Naddaff's friend Mary
Kay Shute	Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad
Roberta Low	Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel, and friend Mary	Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia
Tom and Bobbie's dear friend David	Brian Gionet's Dad
Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob	Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby, daughter Brenda, son	Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
-in-law Rick	Marilyn Langley's brother Bill
David Knowles	Kelly Sievert
Elaine Glancy	Ginger Mungillo and daughter Cindy, son Jim
Ted Brierley	Barbara Garland
Andrew's friend Lorenzo	
Deana Tredeau's brother-in-law Jim	Our Country
Bill Hitchcock's girlfriend Denise	Mother Earth
Anna Karwan's mom Irene and gratitude for her sister	
as caretaker	

### CONDOLENCES:

Our heartfelt sympathy to Lynn Tirrell and family on the passing of husband Lee. He was a long time member of our church, sang in the choir, served on many committees and never greeted anyone without a huge smile on his face. He will be dearly missed!

Also passing this past July was another long time member of our church, Gordon Brown. Gordon served on Deacons and Called to Care before selling his home and moving to Brooksby Village. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

### A NOTE FROM LEE TIRRELL'S FAMILY!

With grateful tears and much love we say thank you for the comforting prayer shawl and for the many cards, calls and well wishing prayers from all of you, our church family.

Lee was aware of each and every one and very appreciative of your caring.

The package from "Spoonful of Comfort" was delightful and delicious. Chicken soup always works wonders! Thank you so very much!

With our love,  
Lynn and Family

### AUGUST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

1	Skip Glancy
2	Debbie Claar
8	Sarah Clark
9	Deb Glancy
15	Sally Willard
17	Jacob Goodrich-Byers
17	Nicole Flecchia
20	Jane Forbush
22	Ruth Goodrich-Byers
25	Kathy Olney
25	Michael Lewis
26	Laura Harder

## **WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE**

### **August 3 10:30am at The Presbyterian Church**

Pastor: Rev. Trina Portillo

Collector: Marge Zamanian

### **August 10 10:30am at The Presbyterian Church**

Pastor: Rev. Trina Portillo

Collector: Marcia Rich

### **August 17 10:30am at The Presbyterian Church**

Pastor: Rev. Trina Portillo

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris

Collector: Dick Butler

### **August 24 10:30am at The Presbyterian Church**

Pastor: Rev. Trina Portillo

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris

Collector: Deb Raymond

### **August 31 10:30am at UCC**

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris

Organist: Aline Beck

Lay Leader:

Head Usher:

Usher:

Greeter:

Collector: Marge Zamanian

Flowers:

Coffee Host:

Bakers:



# August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30a Worship at Presbyterian Church	4  <b>6:30p AA</b>	5  <b>9-3p Church Office</b>	6	7  <b>9-3p Church Office</b>  1p C4c  6:30p Deacons Potluck and Meeting	8	9 Rev. Harris Out of the Office thru August 16th  <b>Moher Rental Open 5pm 6-8p</b>
10 10:30a Worship at Presbyterian Church	11  <b>6:30p AA</b>	12  <b>9-3p Church Office</b>	13	14  <b>9-3p Church Office</b>  1p C4C	15	16
17 10:30a Worship at Presbyterian Church	18  <b>6:30p AA</b>	19  <b>Church Office Closed Vac.</b>  7p PC Meeting	20	21  <b>Church Office Closed Vac.</b>  1p C4C  <b>8p Pub Theology at Parsonage</b>	22 <b>Articles are Due for the September Newsletter</b>	23
24 10:30a Worship at Presbyterian Church	25  <b>6:30p AA</b>	26  <b>Church office Closed Vac.</b>	27	28  1p C4C	29	30
31 10:30a Back To UCC for Worship and Red Wagon	<b><u>September 1</u></b>  Labor Day Holiday					



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

**TO:**



**AUGUST 2025 HILLTOP HERALD**