

## SEPTEMBER HILLTOP HERALD 2025

Rev. Andrew Harris  
Pastor

Mark Omobono  
Moderator

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Dear Church Family,

How good it is to be back in our sanctuary again! Someone said it best on Sunday: "Worshipping with the Presbyterian church was like going on vacation - it was wonderful to be with them and we had a great time, but it sure is nice to sleep in your own bed again."

It does feel like a homecoming. On Sunday, I felt like I was seeing our church with fresh eyes. How I had missed our banners, our pews, and the sound of our organ. I delighted in such small things that I usually overlook, like the passing of the friendship pads and waving "good morning" to our friends on Zoom. It's good to be home.

Going away for a little while allows us to re-appreciate all the little things about our church home, because it's the little things that really make it feel like *home*. So, as we come back this week for Welcome Sunday, and as we get back into the rhythm of our church's program year, let us not forget to appreciate the little things that make this place so special.

When you notice some little thing, give thanks to God for it. Here are some little things I've noticed: the plant in the Ed Building entrance, the welcome mat in front of the office door that says "I'm blessed going out, I'm blessed coming in," the reclining chairs at the back of the sanctuary, the butterflies on the curtains, the small box of toys that Bobbie keeps in her office, the random mug you get at coffee hour, the pollinator garden, our nametags. I could go on and on. There are so many little things not only in our church, but in our lives, for which we can be thankful; each one is an opportunity for us to express gratitude.

Gratitude is one of our most important spiritual muscles. When we exercise our capacity for gratitude, we draw closer to God. We come to see our blessings, rather than our shortcomings. Too often, our focus is drawn to the elements of this world that serve to inspire anger, confusion, fear, and hopelessness. When we practice gratitude, we turn up the brightness on the beauty and harmony around us. This small change in perception opens up a brand new world. Of course, the world is not without its problems, but when we embrace gratitude for little things, we see that it is also not without hope and it is not without love.

We offer God our thanks and praise for all the blessings that surround us, including the ones that we are often too preoccupied to see. It's good to be home once again. Thanks be to God!

With love and gratitude from your pastor,  
Rev. Andrew Harris



## WELCOME SUNDAY BRUNCH

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 FOLLOWING WORSHIP



## PUB THEOLOGY

In August we enjoyed the company of those who attended the cookout at the Parsonage. We enjoyed food and song!

Pastor Andrew will be out of the office September 15-19th. Pub has been pushed back one week!

Stay tuned for plans on September 25th.

## BIBLE STUDY - GENESIS

All of us have asked questions like "Why are things the way that they are?" "How did the world come to be this way?" "Why do people act like this?" We wonder why a good and loving creator would build a world that contains so much suffering, hunger, violence, and the like. Well, you and I are not the first ones to harbor these thoughts and questions. Thankfully, the Book of Genesis has truth, wisdom, and light to shed on our questions.

Starting September 10th, we will explore the first four chapters of Genesis together. We meet every Wednesday from 2-3pm, both in-person and on Zoom. 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:

September 10 - Genesis 1

September 17 - No Bible Study (Andrew away)

September 24 - Genesis 2

October 1 - Genesis 3

October 8 - Genesis 4



As is the Deacons' tradition, the August meeting began with a potluck supper of a variety of dishes.

Debbie Claar attended the meeting and discussed music plans through December or the arrival of a new Director of Music Ministries, whichever comes first. Choir rehearsal begins August 27 and the choir will sing anthems twice a month. The band will provide music one Sunday a month and singers or instrumentalists from the congregation will perform on the other Sunday. Arrangements are being made to have a guest musician on Christmas Eve.

The Blessing of the Pets was not as well attended as hoped, perhaps because it was 90 degrees. It was decided to hold the next one in September 2026 and advertise it more widely throughout the church and community.

Andrew wants to change the order of service. The Introit and Call to Worship have been eliminated, a Psalm added early in the service, and the Devotional Hymn and Joys and Concerns moved later in the worship.

Consensus was that worship with the Presbyterians was going well, with good attendance by both congregations and no confusion about where people were supposed to be on a particular date.

On Welcome Sunday, September 7, a brunch hosted by the Deacons and the CE Committee will follow worship.

Memorial donations have been received in honor of Lee Tirrell and Gordon Brown.

## **ALL ABOUT THE MUSIC** - a message from your interim Music Directors, Aline and Debbie

Wow! What a busy harvest of music we have had this summer. Both the UCC and Presbyterian Church were full of glorious music each and every Sunday this summer and Aline and I are so grateful for all of you who stepped up to sing. Each of you enhanced and enriched the service in meaningful ways and we are so lucky to have such talented musicians in our congregation. We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the choir for rehearsing during their time off to sing at Lee Tirrell's service. Your moving rendition of "How Great Thou Art" brought everyone to tears and it was such a loving tribute to our dear friends Lee and Lynn. Thank you for all your hard work and I think it is worth listing the talented singers we had for EVERY SERVICE this summer:

June 15 Sarah Clark  
June 22 Choir singing for Music Sunday  
June 29 Amelia Lewis  
July 5 Andrew, Debbie Claar and Mark Omobono  
July 13 Three of Cups: Debbie Claar and Ann-Marie Messbauer  
July 20 The Tredeau Trio: Deana, Aimee and Sarah  
July 27 Anthem: Donna DeSimone, John Getsinger and Offertory Music: Andie Joseph  
August 3 Bill Beyer, Donna DeSimone and Rev. Trina Portillo  
August 10 Chris & Liz Silva  
August 17 Andrew and Mark Omobono  
August 24 Andrew & Trina  
August 31 Mark Omobono



Aline and I have been asked to stay on until we have chosen a Director of Music Ministries. Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 27 from 7-8:30 and the Band will be singing on Welcome Sunday. So as you can see the music continues to inspire, move and be an integral part of every service and Aline and I are so happy we can help maintain such a thriving foundation of "joyful noise!" Thank you for all your efforts, our fellow and talented musicians!

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### **COFFEEHOUSE RETURNS OCTOBER 18TH!**

We will be having our **ANNUAL COFFEEHOUSE** again on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 FROM 7-9:30** in Sewall Hall. If you are interested in singing, please feel free to reach out to Debbie during coffee hour or through her email: [deborahsclaar@gmail.com](mailto:deborahsclaar@gmail.com) as she will be organizing the performers once again.



## MISSIONS UPDATE!



### RED WAGON

The Burlington Pantry is in need of the following items to stock their shelves:

Boxes of non-sugared cereal such as: Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Wheaties etc.  
Individually wrapped snacks.

Bring to worship on September 28th!

### CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We recently received large donations of worsted weight yarn in many colors.

Would you like to knit scarves or hats for the Cambridge Street closet at Burlington High, Winn Street closet at MSMS or Coat Boston for all ages of children, infants to high school? If so, we have yarn. Another suggested larger project is to make a blanket for Project Linus. Yarn will be in bins at coffee hour during September and during C4C, Thursday afternoon 1 to 3.

### MISSIONS FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

After paying all Disbursements and Benevolences Missions has agreed upon, we will have a Balance Forward of \$6000. This gives us the option of supporting one or more local, state, or national needs before the end of the year.

Our first special offering of the fall is for Neighbors in Need (NIN). This will be collected on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information about NIN in September Blasts.



### PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS

In another month it will be October and for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the pumpkins will arrive at Saint Mark's Pumpkin Patch. Saint Mark's is located at 6 Saint Mark's Road. All proceeds from the sale of the pumpkins will be donated to PHP to support their efforts to supply families in Burlington with all the food needed for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The Pumpkin Patch is open daily all of October from noon until 6PM. The UCC will cover the sale of Pumpkins on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet in the office and coffee hour starting on August 31. Please plan on shopping locally and supporting this wonderful event.

### HELPIS

On behalf of HELPIS and those we serve, we would like to extend our heartfelt Thank You! Without your generosity and continued support of our mission, we would not be able to do what we do.

Thank you, Dany Franco, Board Member

### WEE CARE

Wee Care is sending you tons of love and a huge thank you for your recent donation. We were so surprised and pleased to receive it. And guess what... we're in the black, which means we can continue to help so many families and their children!

Happy Summer, Donna Russo

### SCIENCE WITH A MISSION

Thanks so much for coming alongside what God is doing through Science with a Mission. The need is great, but God is greater !

Blessings, Alynne

## MISSIONS TOILETRY DRIVE

We are collecting toiletries for Burlington Students through November 2nd. 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



### WISH PROJECT - CHELMSFORD AND LOWELL

Fall and winter clothing is needed for the clients of the Wish Project. Clothing is needed for all ages of people. This clothing must be clean, free of holes and stains. Underwear or swimming suits are not accepted. Missions appreciate the efforts of Forrest Knowles who takes our donations to Chelmsford at least twice a month. There is a bin under the coat rack for your donations.



### WISH TREE AT THE BURLINGTON MALL

Missions are trying to organize volunteers for 2 days of the Wish Tree. The Wish tree will run from November 22 to December 12. In past years we have covered 2 days. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Susan Eby know.

### GREEN TEAM NEWS!



The Season of Creation is September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will take some time to reflect on Mother Earth and how we can care and protect her.

You are invited to join the Green Team for our book discussion, "The Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer on **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> after worship and on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 PM in the conference room.** We will have a special treat for those attending. If you can't get a copy at the library a few members of the Green Team have a copy they will be happy to loan you. Hope you can join us!

## NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN ED!

### Sunday School is Back!

**Sun Sept 7** is Welcome Sunday, Band Sunday and the Balloon arch! The kids/youth will meet in Sewall Hall at 10:20 please. We will enter the church together as a group under the arch. This is an all church Sunday, so the Sunday School Stays in Church.

**Sun Sept 14** is the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Sunday School. This class will be our 1<sup>st</sup> Book Group! Please bring your book with you.



On Children's Sunday in June the kids began reading their books they received!

### NURSERY CARE

Nursery Care begins **Welcome Sunday September 7**

### UPCOMING EVENTS DURING CHURCH

**10/5/25** World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need Offering, Band, Sunday School in Church

**10/12/25 10:30** Sunday School bring a buddy to breakfast with the Presbyterian Church invited

All Sunday School Kids and Youth are invited to bring a friend to breakfast.

The Sunday School students will come right to Sewall Hall at 10:30. We will prepare something together to eat during coffee hour. No Children's time during worship.

**10/19/25** Stewardship Sunday, Sunday School in Church, Band Sunday

### Upcoming Events Outside Church



**10/26/25 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 are invited, so get your costumes ready!

A few of the spooky, fun people from the 2024 Halloween



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Conrad Fong  
 Tom Killilea  
 Bill Livezey  
 Claire Simas  
 Kay Shute  
 Roberta Low  
 Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel, and friend Mary  
 Tom and Bobbie's dear friend David  
 Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob  
 Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby, daughter  
 Brenda, son-in-law Rick  
 David Knowles  
 Elaine Glancy  
 Ted Brierley  
 Andrew's friend Lorenzo  
 Deana Tredeau's brother-in-law Jim  
 Bill Hitchcock's girlfriend Denise  
 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  
 Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia  
 Brian Gionet's Dad  
 Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn  
 Jessie 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

### CONDOLENCES:

Our deepest sympathy to the Dewar family on the passing of Ken. We enjoyed his company with wife Jennifer this past summer at our combined worship services. Keeping you all in our prayers!

### GOOD NEWS!

We are happy to announce that David Issac and Jenn Irving are expecting a baby! We are very excited for them!

3 Eric Forbush  
 5 James Omobono  
 7 Dominic Ramirez (Killilea)  
 7 Nick Nowell  
 7 Wayne Higden  
 8 Steve Samarjian  
 9 Peter Silva  
 18 Samantha Flecchia  
 18 Jared Ciano  
 18 Claire Simas

20 Salvatore (Sal) Harris  
 24 David Hooper  
 25 Conrad Fong  
 26 Lucy Damiani  
 26 Shirley Garside  
 28 Forrest Knowles



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **September 7 Communion**

#### **Welcome Sunday 10:30am**

Communion:	Marge Zamanian
Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:	Deb Glancy
Usher:	
Greeter:	
Flowers:	Bobbie Killilea
Collector:	Lucy Damiani
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
Brunch:	Deacons

### **September 21 Worship 10:30am**

Lay Preacher:	Chris Stahlinski
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	Debbie Claar
Head Usher:	Dave McNeil
Usher:	Carol Downing
Greeter:	
Flowers:	Choir
Collector:	Joan Zink
Nursery:	Kate Smith-Jan McSheffrey
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
Coffee Host:	
Bakers:	Marcia Rich

### **September 14 Worship**

#### **Love Offering 10:30am**

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

### **September 28 Worship**

#### **Red Wagon 10:30am**

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	
Head Usher:	
Usher:	Jan McSheffrey
Greeter:	Chris Stahlinski
Flowers:	Nancy Davis
Nursery:	Kate Smith
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond
Coffee Host:	
Bakers:	

### **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

If you can volunteer to be *Lay Leader, Head Usher, Usher, Greeter, Coffee Host or Nursery, Bakers.*

Here is the link:

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



# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Montessori School</b> <b>1st Floor</b> <b>Mon-Fri</b> <b>8-6pm</b>	1 <b>Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>6:30p AA</b>	2	3  2p Bible Study at UCC  7p Choir	4  1p C4C  <b>6:30p Scouts</b>	5	6  <b>4p Open</b> <b>5-10p</b> <b>Hanif Rental</b>
7 <b>Welcome Sunday</b> 10:30a Communion 11:30a Brunch 	8  <b>6:30p AA</b> 7p CE Mtg	9	10  2p Bible Study at UCC  7p Choir	11  1p C4C  <b>6:30p Scouts</b>  7p Deacons	12	13  <b>Tole Music Event</b> <b>Open at 8a</b> <b>9-4p</b>
14 10:30a Worship Love Offering Sunday school	15 Rev. Andrew Retreat thru September 19  <b>6:30p AA</b>	16  7p PC Meeting (may move to September 23)	17  No Bible Study at UCC  7p Choir	18  1p C4C  <b>6:30p Scouts</b>  7p Missions	19 	20  <b>Munria Rental</b> <b>Open 4</b> <b>Rent 5-10p</b>
21 10:30a Worship Sunday school	22  <b>First Day Of Fall</b>   <b>6:30p AA</b>	23	24 2p Bible Study at UCC  <b>5:30p Community Dinner at the Presbyterian Church</b>  7p Choir	25  1p C4C  <b>6:30p Scouts</b>  <b>TBD Pub Theology</b>	26  <b>October Hilltop Articles DUE!</b>	27  <b>Muntz Rental</b> <b>Time TBD</b>
28 10:30a Worship Red Wagon Sunday school   Noon Book Discussion	29  <b>6:30p AA</b>	30				

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

**TO:**



**SEPTEMBER 2025 HILLTOP HERALD**