

**The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA**

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

"We gather for worship, study, planning and mission to celebrate the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ which frees us to love boldly and to serve gladly as God would want us to do."

October 19, 2025

10:30am

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We believe God calls us to love unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ.

Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God, we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means.

In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.

We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love.

We welcome individuals and families of every configuration into the full life and ministry of this church, and invite you to join us on our faith journey!

Gathering....

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***Morning Psalm - adapted from Psalm 137**

One: By the rivers of Babylon,

All: There we sat down,

One: And there we wept,

All: When we remembered Zion.

One: On the willows there,

All: We hung up our harps,

One: For there our captors

All: Asked us for songs;

One: The oppressors demanded songs of joy,

All: Saying, "Sing us the songs of Zion!"

One: How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

All: How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

***Please rise in body or spirit.**

***Opening Prayer** (written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian)

**Holy One, Holder of our Hearts,
From time to time, we notice our souls are heavy from injustices. From the ways our community members are treated to the lack of compassion towards folks in faraway places, we attempt to embrace hope and often feel defeated. Yet you continue to be the bearer of dreams, God of Love. May we feel your Spirit's peace even when struggles accumulate. May we be baptized by your glimmers even as we journey through a world filled with ashes. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

***Opening Hymn**

I Love to Tell the Story

Attached

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Our Sermon

Telling the Story of Our Faith

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

By the Rivers of Babylon (written by Brent Dowe)

Our Band

Praying...

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

***Song of Prayer**

Though I May Speak (lyrics attached)

Our Band

Invitation of Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Lyrics adapted by William Abernethy; tune *NCH #780*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator,
Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

*Blessing

Sending...

*Closing Hymn

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

NCH #81

*Benediction

Postlude

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CHURCH VISION STATEMENT Adopted February 2017:

At the UCC Burlington, we cultivate a thriving environment, which empowers us to embody the beloved, diverse community that Jesus modeled for us, proclaiming that ***all are welcome, all are loved***. We celebrate our colonial roots as we change, adapt and grow into who God is calling us to be. We respect the sanctity of each person's spiritual journey and we are blessed by the gifts that each person brings to the life of the church. We join together in faithful service and advocacy with the ongoing hope that we can make the world a better, more just, and peaceful place for everyone.

Kari Lynch donated today's altar flowers in memory of Kari Lynch's Dad, Ken Drs.

BIBLE STUDY!

Meet with us on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm in the conference room. We will explore the Book of Exodus.
We hope you will join us!

If joining us remotely here is the Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84363847241>

Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor
Aline Beck, Organist
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Deana Tredeau's great niece Katie Wise

Rob Sears

Mike Meehan Nancy Davis's son-in-law

Conrad Fong

Tom Killilea

Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad

Bill Livezey

Kay Shute

Roberta Low

Laura Nowell's cousin Nigel, and
friend Mary

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

Bill Hitchcock and 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

Shirley Fong's Mom Mary

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, daughter Cindy, son Jim

Barbara Garland

Mother Earth

Gun Violence

Our Country and beyond

RED WAGON

Our Red Wagon will roll next Sunday. The
Burlington Pantry is in need of the following items:

-Cereal

-Individually wrapped snacks for school lunches:
Granola bars, chips, crackers, fruit cups, etc.

Bring items to worship next week and we will bring
these forward during worship.

Pastor:

Organist:

Lay Leader:

Head Usher:

Usher:

Greeter:

Collector:

Flowers:

Nursery:

Sunday School:

Coffee Host:

Bakers:

Rev. Andrew Harris

Aline Beck

Laura Nowell

Dave McNeil

Carol Downing

Marcia Rich

Lucy Damiani

Kari Lynch

Mark Flecchia

Deb Raymond

Donna Ferro

Chris Stahlinski

Jan Costa

Jan Costa

October 26 Worship – Red Wagon

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew Harris

Organist:

Aline Beck

Lay Leader:

Lucy Damiani

Head Usher:

Chris Stahlinski

Usher:

Carol Downing

Greeter:

Flowers:

Jan Costa

Nursery:

Sunday School:

Deb Raymond

Donna Ferro

Coffee Host:

Bakers:

Jen Irving



PUMPKIN PATCH AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH **ALL OF OCTOBER**

Shop local and support this wonderful event.
Proceeds support People Helping People!

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

Conditioner

Nail clippers

Emory boards

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Mouth wash

Band-Aids

First aid cream

Tampons/pads

Combs

Hand cream (moisturizers)



MISTLETOE MARKET
Here at our Church
Saturday, November 29 10-3pm
Craft Vendors Welcome
Raffles - Music - Hot Cocoa
Santa Visits
Church Craft Table

Christmas Tree Sale: Our tree sale returns on Friday, November 28, the day after Thanksgiving! This year, the lot will be open on weekday evenings from 4–7 PM and weekends from 12–6 PM. We'll be looking for volunteers to help staff the lot - thank you in advance for lending your time and spirit! In addition to beautiful trees, we'll be offering fresh wreaths and handmade ornaments throughout the sale.

We are pre-selling trees for a \$5 discount this year, including the opportunity to sponsor a tree for someone in need. Prepay for your tree anytime in October to receive a \$5 discount and then pick it up whenever you'd like during the sale. If you don't need a real Christmas tree for yourself, consider purchasing one for someone in need, and we will be working with People Helping People to get the sponsored trees to families who would like one! If you would like to pre-order, you can click here: <https://united-church-of-christ-burlington.square.site/>

Introducing the Mistletoe Market on Saturday November 29th 10-3pm!

We're thrilled to launch our first-ever Mistletoe Market. Local vendors will rent tables to showcase their wares, and UCC will host a craft table featuring handmade items from our talented congregation. If you're a crafter, we'd love for you to contribute a few holiday-themed or giftable creations!

To keep things simpler for our members, we won't be asking for bake sale donations this year. Instead, we're focusing on creating a joyful experience with carolers (get ready, choir!), a performance by the church band, and a special outdoor service led by Rev. Andrew to close out the day. And yes—Santa Claus will be joining us for photos on the stage in Sewell Hall!

We will need a good number of volunteers for the Market, so mark it on your calendars and feel free to let us know if you'll be around to help. Otherwise, look out for a signup sheet at Coffee Hour in late October or early November.

Raffles & Silent Auction: Many vendors are generously donating items for our raffle table at the Mistletoe Market, and we're also planning a silent auction for that day. If you'd like to contribute a themed basket, we'd be so grateful! We're also seeking a few higher-value items, such as vacation rentals or gift card bundles, to help make this fundraiser a success. While we won't be hosting an online auction this year, we're confident the raffles and silent auction will help us close the fundraising gap.

Want to Get Involved? If you have questions about the Market, feel free to email us at UCCMistletoeMarket@gmail.com. Vendor spots are filling up quickly, so if you or someone you know would like to participate, please share this application link: <https://forms.gle/V3b7RmdMZJeFFxT99>

We can't wait to celebrate the season with you - bringing joy, connection, and the spirit of giving to our church and sharing our joy with the community.

Warmly, The Christmas Tree Sale & Mistletoe Market Committees.

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus' radiant glory,
of Jesus' endless love.
I love to tell the story
because I know it's true.
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story!
And when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story
of Jesus' endless love.

I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems
than all the golden visions
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story;
I tell it now to you
Because I want to share it
Because I know it's true. [Refrain]

I love to tell the story;
it's pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story;
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word. [Refrain]

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when I sing in glory
I know the new, new song,
will be the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

Though I May Speak

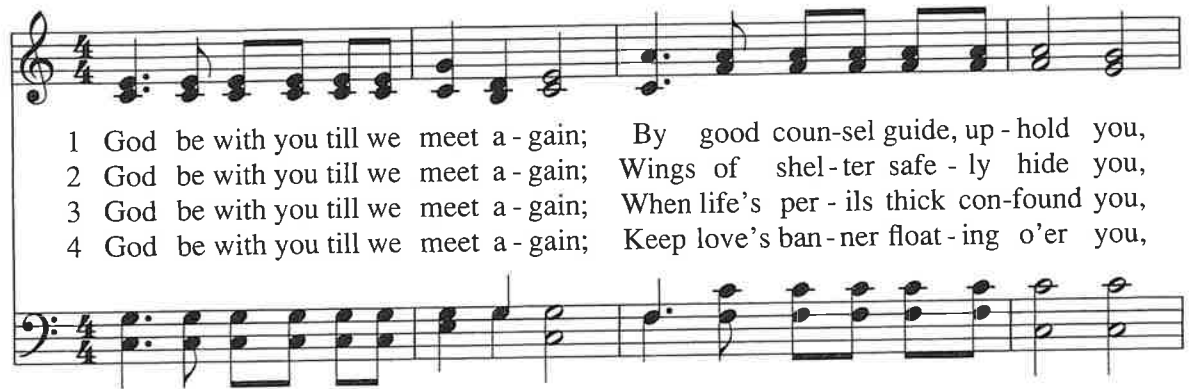
Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love;
my words are vain;
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given
by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

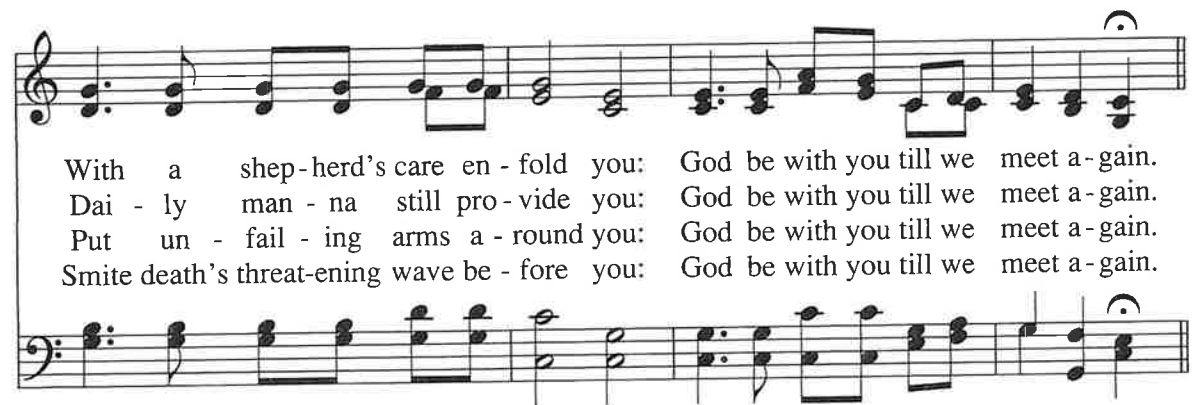
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love
guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

God Be with You

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.

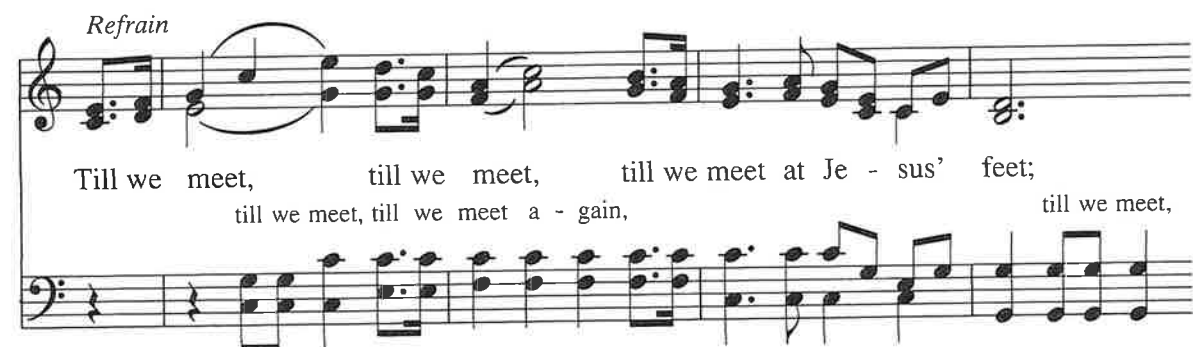


1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban-ner float - ing o'er you,



With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 Smite death's threat-en-ing wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

Written during his last pastorate, at First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., Jeremiah Rankin's hymn spread quickly throughout America and England by way of Moody and Sankey's revival meetings. Rankin later served as the seventh president of Howard University.

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9. with refrain
William G. Tomer, 1880