

OCTOBER 2025 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Mark Omobono
Moderator

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This month, I thought I'd share the speech that I delivered outside the ICE Building in Burlington on September 24. May you find a word of hope within.

Peace,
Andrew

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I've been troubled these past few months; troubled by the acts of violence and cruelty I've seen perpetrated by my fellow siblings in Christ *against* my fellow siblings in Christ; by my neighbors *against* my neighbors; against those we are commanded, by divine mandate, to love.

But I've been troubled too by the shadow of anger and hatred growing in my own heart. I trust it troubles you as well. The shadow of evil is unsparing. It hides in each of our hearts, crouches by the doorway ready to seize us (Gen. 4:7), possess us. But we must triumph over it.

I've been meditating on the words of the prophet Isaiah, who was sent by the God who longs for justice, to bring good news to the oppressed, to proclaim liberty for the captives, and release to the prisoners.

I've been praying for God to liberate our immigrant neighbors from the powers of oppression and release the prisoners detained within this infernal damnation (the ICE Detention Facility at 1000 District Ave. Burlington).

But, recognizing the shadow of evil lurking within my own heart, the anger and hatred that I've allowed too often to possess my spirit, I see that if liberation is to come for our vulnerable neighbors, then it must also come to their assailants. I pray for those who work inside this building to be liberated from the shackles of evil; from the anger, hatred, and fear that possess them.

Because the evils of fascism harm everyone. No one is safe. No one is free. We seek liberation for all people from the shackles of hatred that bind and possess us.

We must be ever vigilant against the shadow of evil that looms within us; that gives in to anger, fear, despair, and hopelessness; that divides us; that invites us to demonize those we see as our enemies.

We must shine a light of love and mercy, hope and peace, justice and liberation into this chasm of darkness. Be full of heart and have hope, my friends. There are more of us than there are of them. Love will win and the day will come when all people will be free. Love will win.



BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday 2-3pm In-person and on Zoom

All are welcome to join us for our weekly Bible study as we explore scripture and listen for God's word of good news in our lives. We'll conclude our study on Genesis on October 1. October 8 we'll take a brief digression to explore Robin Wall Kimmerer's book "The Serviceberry." Starting on October 15 we'll begin a new Bible study session on the Book of Exodus. We hope you will join us!

Here is the zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84363847241>



People loved the children's role in Welcome Sunday and the amount of food was just right.

Andrew asked for feedback on what's a good balance on all ages/band Sunday between a service that is accessible/meaningful to children and has enough substance for adults.

Deana, Bill Beyer and Donna Desimone inventoried the chairs in Sewall in regard to the chairs' condition. They've been labeled as useable or due for replacement. Other ideas were discussed for improving the kitchen and hall.

Bobbie Killilea, a long term Deacon and secretary for the group for many years, has resigned due to family needs. Kari Lynch offered to fill in as secretary until the Deacons reorganize after the Annual Meeting in February.

The Deacons, along with other boards and committees, have been reviewing members' length of service. Dave McNeil, the treasurer, and Marcia Rich are due to rotate off in the new year. Anyone interested in serving on the Deacons should talk to Andrew.

Donna Desimone has joined Called to Care. This group supports the congregation in times of need due to bereavement or health problems with cards, meals, rides, etc.

More memorial donations have been received in honor of Lee Tirrell.

The Deacons approved Nancy Todd's proposal to use memorial funds to purchase two picnic tables and a 'little free library' with children's and adult books as outreach mechanisms. The proposal goes next to Parish Council.

Kari passed around a form she had created for people to put forth ideas for Fellowship Events! The forms are on a bulletin board in the hallway for use by all.



TICKETS!

For audience members, tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door (\$15 for seniors at the door). Call the church office 781-272-4547 to reserve your tickets today!

Interested in singing, talk to Debbie during coffee hour or email deborahsclaar@gmail.com, she is organizing the performers once again.

Volunteer to help, talk to Deana during coffee hour or email deanatredeau@gmail.com. There will be a sign up sheet at Coffee Hour.

THE MUSIC CORNER

Hello Everyone,



Aline and I are happy to continue acting as interim music directors through the Advent and Christmas season. Over the next few months, between the band, choir and soloists, beautiful and inspiring music will resound through our sanctuary to enhance our services every Sunday. As the icing on the cake, the **COFFEEHOUSE** will take place on Saturday, October 18 from 7-9:30 and we will welcome Ben Silver from the Temple, Pastor Tina Portillo from the Presbyterian Church, Pastor Andrew Harris from our own church and some very talented people within our own congregational to share their music with us. We hope many of you can join us and feel free to bring friends along. It is a wonderful and relaxing evening to hear good music and eat homemade seasonal treats.



MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

The Burlington Pantry is in need of the following :

They are very low on cereal!
Individually wrapped snacks such as:
fruit cups
crackers
granola
chips
raisins

Please bring to worship on October 26th.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Join us in the conference room on Thursdays from 1 to 3 for our regular activities. We also have zoom options for those who cannot attend in person.

<https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDOdFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09>

Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274
Passcode: 01803



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING SUNDAY OCTOBER 5

Fall is the busiest time of the year for our Missions program. Throughout the year we pledge support to 5 different projects of the UCC. This enables us as an individual congregation become part of a church-wide initiative to support ministries of peace and justice on a much larger scale.

October 5 will be the offering for Neighbors in Need. This offering will be shared between the Council for American Indian Ministries and justice and witness ministries including a Neighbors in Need grant program.

Special Neighbors in Need (NIN) envelopes are in the pew racks and also outside of Bobbie's office. Online contributions may be made through Vanco.

MISSION'S FINANCIAL REPORT

In September \$1600 was paid to SNEUCC. This completed our annual donation of \$4500, which includes \$900 paid directly to the MBA. In addition, we contributed \$1000 to two benevolences, VNA Hospice Care and Dig Deep.

PUMPKIN PATCH AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH

The Pumpkins have arrived and will be for sale every day through October 30 noon to 6pm. All the proceeds from the sale of the pumpkins will be given to People Helping People, Burlington. This will be used to support their effort to give all their clients food for Thanksgiving dinner.

Members of UCC Burlington will be selling pumpkins on October 2nd and 9th.





The Missions Committee is pleased to announce that we have pledged again to support the efforts of **Coat Boston**. This organization aspires to collect 2,000 children's coats this year. The need for coats is enormous, and demand is increasing daily.

We are again partnering in this project with our UCC friends from Hancock Church in Lexington.

There will be a box to receive donations in the office from November 2 to November 30.

Coats must be new. All sizes are needed from infants to adult (keeping in mind that some adolescents need larger sizes.)

Cold weather does not always wait until winter. We want to have warm coats on the backs of children who need them when the temperature falls. Take advantage of sales and shop early to help fill the box by November 30. Please contact Jan McSheffrey or Lucy Damiani with questions.

MISSION'S TOILETRY DRIVE

We are still collecting toiletry items for students at the Middle and High schools. You have filled the bin outside the office once, Thank You. Let's work on filling it again as we continue to collect items needed through November 1. Suggested items are listed below. ***There is a great need for feminine hygiene items, toothpaste and toothbrushes.***



Hand soap
Shampoo
Conditioner
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Mouth wash
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Disposable razors
Band-aids
First aid cream
Feminine hygiene products

WISH PROJECT IN CHELMSFORD

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

MISSIONS SUNDAY - OCTOBER 12, 2025

On October 12 we will hear Alynne McLean speak about Science with a Mission during the service. Science with a Mission is one of our Mission's Benevolences that your pledges support.

Science with a Mission's purpose is to combine scientific knowledge with Christian compassion. They are a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to producing diagnostics for developing countries. We develop and distribute these diagnostic tools to enable accurate diagnosis and subsequent treatment of those afflicted. Science with a Mission is using a technology, called immunoassays, to test for diseases. There are many advantages to immunoassays:

- o They do not require electricity or expensive equipment, so they can be used in remote areas.
- o They give results rapidly, allowing medical personnel to treat people in a timely fashion.
- o They are amenable to mass screenings

Alynne has a passion for chemistry and a strong desire to help those in developing countries. She learned about a technology called enzyme immunoassays (EIAs) while pursuing her graduate studies. Alynne saw this technology as the way to use her chemistry skills to help the poorest people in our world. In 2001, after years of developing EIAs for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, Alynne founded Science with a Mission, Inc. The dream has spread to include Directors, Officers, volunteers, prayer partners and financial supporters.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

We have an exciting year planned in Sunday School and beyond. We are trying out a new program, *Bring a Friend to Breakfast*. The 1st event will be October 12th. Please bring a friend, or friends. We will also invite our friends from The Presbyterian Church. We will meet in Sewall hall at 10:30am, have a lesson and make a snack to eat together at coffee hour.

We are studying creation for September and have an open house on October 12th (details are below). Also that day there will be an all church fire drill, which will include the kids/youth while in Sunday School.

NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery School is held every week from Welcome Sunday in September – last day of Sunday School in June.

We are actively seeking a person for nursery full time or job share
Sundays from 10am – noon
Please ask friends neighbors and coworkers for people interested

UPCOMING EVENTS DURING CHURCH

10/5/25 11:30am All congregants' invited down to Sunday School to experience our version of creation. The Sunday School has been studying the creation story for the month of September. They ask you to join them in their Sunday School Space to experience their version of creation.

10/12/25 10:30am Sunday School bring a buddy to breakfast with The Presbyterian Church. 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 10:30am. We will prepare something together to eat during coffee hour. No Children's time.

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

YOUTH EVENTS

PILGRIM CHURCH LEXINGTON: S'MORES IN THE PUMPKIN PATCH!
Sunday 10/19 at 1:30 pm

This is for 6th – 12th graders.

Temple Isaiah will be co-hosting the event with Pilgrim. (rain date 10/26).

Call/text me if you'd like to join us! 857-373-9156 Deb is going to attend. Please join her at this event.



HALLOWEEN PARTY IN SEWALL HALL
10/26/25 3:30- 4:30 pm

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!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mike Meehan Nancy Davis 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
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
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 and daughter Cindy, son Jim
Barbara Garland

Our Country
Mother Earth
Gun Violence

CONDOLENCES

Sadly our dear Claire Simas has passed on September 22. Claire was loved by many and will be dearly missed. Our deepest sympathy to her family and friends. We just learned a first great-granddaughter was born on September 25th. The circle of life.

Our sympathy to Sally Willard's wife Eileen' whose sister Helen passed away. Keeping you in our prayers!

Condolences to Deana Tredeau on the passing of her brother-in-law Jim. Our prayers to you and the family.

WEDDING BELLS!

Congratulations to Sam Flecchia and Alec Livingston on their recent marriage, September 13th. Congrats to the couple and to Mark and Donna Flecchia! God Bless you both on a very happy life together!

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Roberta Low | 22 Deana Tredeau |
| 2 Rob Costa | 27 Julie Lewis |
| 3 David Leonard | 28 Karen Calandrelli |
| 3 Precious Kabagahya | 31 Steve Fennelly |
| 8 Joan Zink | |
| 10 Cooper Harris | |
| 19 Adric Tredeau | |
| 21 Gary Stahlinski | |



SUNDAY WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

October 5 Communion Neighbors In Need

Communion Prep:
Pastor: Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Sall Willard
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter:
Flowers: Chris Stahlinski
Collector: Deb Raymond
Nursery: Mark Flecchia
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bakers:

October 19 Worship Stewardship Sunday

Pastor: Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Laura Nowell
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter:
Flowers: Kari Lynch
Collector: Lucy Damiani
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host: Chris Stahlinski
Bakers:

October 12 Worship-Love Offering Missions Sunday

Pastor: Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter: Sally Willard
Flowers: Fong Family
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bakers:

October 26 Worship-Red Wagon

Pastor: Andrew Harris
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter:
Flowers: Jan Costa
Collector: Joan Zink
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
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>

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <div> Pumpkin Patch is open all month at St. Mark's Church, 1 St. Mark's Road, Burlington. Come and shop local and support People Helping People. </div>			1 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	2 1p C4C Noon-6 UCC volunteers @ Pumpkin Patch 5:30p Scouts	3	4 Munria Rental Setup 4p Rent 5-10p
5 10:30a Communion NIN Sunday Called to Care Meeting @ Noon	6 6:30p AA 7p Trustees	7	8 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	9 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	10	11 Hanif Rental Setup 4p Rent 5-10p
12 10:30 Worship Love Offering Missions Sunday	13 INDIGNEOUS PEOPLE DAY (Office closed) 6:30p AA 7p CE Mtg	14 7p HR Mtg	15 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	16 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts 8p Pub Theology	17 Coffeehouse Setup!	18 2:30p-7p Burlington Spooktacular Town Common 7p COFFEEHOUSE Music and Refreshments
19 10:30a Worship Stewardship Sunday	20 6:30p AA	21 7p PC Mtg	22 1p Council On Aging Craft Event Senior Ctr. 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	23 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts	24	25 11am Claire Simas Funeral
26  10:30a Worship Red Wagon  3-4p Halloween Party/Sewall Hall	27 6:30p AA	28	29 2p Bible Study 5:30p Community Dinner @ Presbyterian Church 7p Choir	30 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts	31 Happy Halloween Kiddos! 	

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

TO:



OCTOBER 25 HILLTOP HERALD