

FEBRUARY 2026 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Mark Omobono
Moderator

CONTENTS

Pastor Message	1
Annual Meeting	2
Deacons	2
Ash Wednesday	2
Missions	3
-Red Wagon	
-C4C	
-Financial	
-Missions News	
Bible Study	3
Christian Ed	4
Joys/Concerns	5
Worship Schedule	6
Calendar	7

Dear UCC Burlington,

I have a confession to make. I don't think I've ever signed up to be a greeter, a coffee hour host, or a coffee hour baker. Yes, I've got other responsibilities on Sunday mornings, but that doesn't mean I can't spare half an hour once or twice a year to provide an important service to our congregation.

So, I'll tell you now, I'm signing up. Some time in 2026 you will see the Harris family standing at the front door greeting everyone as they enter the sanctuary. Some time in 2026 you will feast upon cookies, brownies, and crackers shared from my family with yours. Some time in 2026 I will finally figure out how to brew a proper batch of coffee in our coffee machine. And I hope you and your family or friends will do the same!

We have an amazing and dedicated group of volunteers who provide an outsized portion of our coffee hours, and the same goes for greeters and ushers. I know there are many other people and families who also sign up for their fair share of Sunday morning duties. But I know there must be at least a few more people like me (I hope I'm not alone!) who rarely are able to spare the time to sign-up for these ministries.

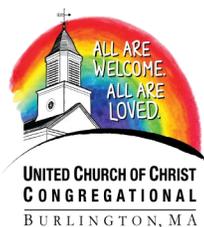
I also suspect that often it's not even about the time it takes. I would guess that for many of us, it's just not front and center on our mind. It's hard for me to remember to look at our signup list and pick a day where I can help. Well, this is a reminder – for you and for me!

I would like to make a concerted effort to sign up to be the coffee hour host (and baker and greeter and maybe even usher) at least one Sunday this year and I hope you will join me! Could every family, or individual, or group of friends or pew neighbors, sign up to do each of these jobs at least once this year?

I know that it's a ministry – an act of service and love – to welcome people to worship and provide a hospitable coffee hour after worship. I trust that serving our church in these ways feeds our souls and pleases God. So, finally, I promise, I'm going to do it and I hope you will too!

Thank God for the spirit of love, care, and welcome that flows so generously in our congregation! May God continue to inspire us to welcome one another, and to love and care for one another.

Peace,
Rev. Andrew Harris





ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON

TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 8TH AFTER WORSHIP

Join us as we vote of articles for our church. Join us for a wonderful potluck luncheon provided by members of our congregations!



The Deacons both looked to the past, at how the Advent and Christmas Eve services went, and planned for the future, specifically Ash Wednesday events on February 18.

Using various church boards as candle lighters was considered a good idea, as was resuming the singing of carols before three of the four Advent services. Both Christmas Eve services were well attended, with 150 at the 4 pm service and about 40 at the 10 pm service. The additional musicians were very well received. The only things we'd change would be to host our own 'Blue Christmas' service and to have the foiling and delivery of poinsettias better organized.

While the idea of hosting a coffee hour highlighting the purpose and activities of the various church boards was considered good, there was extended discussion about the timing. Doing it in November would be good because it would be before submission of the Time & Talent surveys, but it would then face the challenge of potentially interfering with the Ingathering. Having speakers from the boards talk about what their board does as a Stewardship moment would be another possibility.

For Ash Wednesday February 18, there will again be 'ashes to go' from the church early in the day, then ashes available at True North and a 7 pm service.

All the people who helped take the Christmas decorations down in sanctuary were greatly appreciated.

With new people attending church quite often, everyone is reminded to please wear name tags; if you've come in through the Sewall Hall doors rather than the sanctuary doors, it's just a short detour to pick up your name tag from where you pick up your bulletin, and it's so much more welcoming.

The Deacons are updating the guidelines for Greeter, Lay Leader, Coffee Hour Host and Head Usher so they can be made available to people who are interested in those roles.

The Deacons voted to spend up to \$5000 from memorial funds for two new stoves as part of the kitchen renovation, and Parish Council approved the expenditure at their subsequent meeting. There will be an effort to consolidate some of the smaller memorial funds which haven't been used in years and move them to the General Memorial Fund.

There are several people likely to be interested in taking a new members class this spring. Anyone who is interested, please reach out to Andrew.



Come receive ashes at church in the morning between 7-9am. Then from 9-11am, Rev. Andrew will be offering ashes at True North Coffee Shop. Ash Wednesday worship will take place at 7pm in the sanctuary.



MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

The Burlington Pantry is in the need for the following items:

- kids snacks (fruit cups, chips, goldfish, etc. all individually wrapped)
- hot chocolate mix
- canned tuna
- canned diced tomatoes

Bring to worship on February 22nd we will bring items forward during our worship service.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

We are busy making prayer shawls and prayer squares. Weather permitting, we will meet every Thursday at 1PM in the conference room.

All are welcome!



MISSIONS FINANCES FOR 2025

Balance Forward plus 10% of Pledged Income	\$22,051
Disbursements	\$10,710
Special Offerings	\$14,532
Benevolences (10)	\$10,000
Total Missions Outreach for 2025	\$35,342
 Balance Forward	 \$1,341

MISSIONS NEWS

The Board of Missions was very busy in November and early December with the coat drive for Coats Boston, the pajama drive for People Help People and the Wish Tree at the Burlington Mall. Once they were successfully completed, we took a hiatus from meetings in both December and January. We do not know the total of the Christmas offering. At our meeting in February, we will begin to discuss which benevolences we will support in 2026.

BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY, 2-3PM

We will begin a new Bible Study session on Revelation. No, not the Book of Revelation (although we will touch on that), but the concept of revelation. Scripture tells many stories of the ways in which God reveals truth to mortals. In the United Church of Christ, our motto is "God is still speaking." As we explore revelation, we'll explore questions like, "How does God speak to us?" and "What does God say?" All are welcome!

Here are the scheduled readings for Bible Study:

- 2/4 - Daniel Ch. 8
- 2/11 - Book of Revelation



Follow this link if you'd like to join on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89076641525>

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School provided a delectable coffee hour.
Thank you to Cooper, James, Thomas and Donna

NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery School is held every week 9/7/25 – 6/8/26

YOUTH GROUP

Beginning in November UCC will bring back a youth group in conjunction with the Hancock church in Lexington. The group will be for people 7th – 12th grade.

Schedule: March 22 at UCC Burlington 4 – 5:30pm The Labyrinth presented by Debbie Claar.



Quick update on CityReach overnight to
Boston overnight 1/9- 1/10



Precious, Lindsay, Andrew and Deb had a rewarding, amazing experience, especially on minimum sleep! We met new friends both from other churches & people living the streets of Boston. Coming soon is a review by the group.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ALL

Sunday 2/1/26 1:30pm. Sledding at Simonds Park

Due to the impending Nor'easter the event was cancelled for January 25th rescheduled. We will be joined by several of our friends from the Presbyterian church. Hot chocolate will be served at the top of the hill. It should be great sledding with the new snow! All are welcome to sled or watch, bring your friends.

Sunday 3/15/26 2-3pm Pool Party at the Billerica Boys & Girls Club

The heated pool invites you to: fun playing pool volley ball, swim short laps or just hangout in the warm water. All participants must sign up on the signup sheet at coffee hour or contact Deb at 857-373-9156. If more than 20 people attend we need to give the pool a weeks notice to provide a 2nd life guard. **Signup no later than 3/8/26!** There are changing rooms but no towels. Please bring your own towels. Boys & Girls Club at 19 Campbell Rd. Billerica.

Sunday 3/29/26 starting promptly at noon Palm Sunday procession

We are just awaiting the approval of the Selectboard to hold our procession lead by Clyde the mini horse or a donkey. The walk begins at St. Mark's Church and proceeds .7 miles up to UCC Burlington. Put this on your calendar!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

<p>Joyce Carpenter's sister Helen, nieces Breanna and MaryJane and brother-in-law Ken Marcia Rich good news on pain relief Bill and Cathy Beyer celebrating Keri Woody Knowles Chris Stahlinski's college Dawn Sonja Tierson's friends Parve and Amon and their daughter Diwani Sally Willard's sister Vicki and friend Rosey Aimee Tredeau's friend Dyann Laura Nowell's friend Mary Carol Downing and Jan McSheffrey's brother Charlie Donna DeSimone's sister Brenda and brother-in-law Rick Deana Tredeau's great niece Katie Wise Ryan Clark's co-workers Conrad Fong Tom Killilea Tonia Egan's Mom and Dad Bill Livezey Kay Shute Roberta Low Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby David Knowles Elaine Glancy</p>	<p>Ted Brierley Andrew's friend Lorenzo Bill Hitchcock 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 Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce Kelly Sievert Ginger Mungillo, daughter Cindy, son Jim Barbara Garland</p> <p>Mother Earth Our Country</p>
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BABY NEWS!

Congratulations to Jenn Irving and David Issac on the birth of their daughter, Margot Harvie Issac born January 16th. Everyone is doing well. We are so very excited for all of you! Many blessings!

Sonja and Matt Tierney are expecting a baby this Spring. We are very excited for them!



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Craig Baker
 1 Ted Brierley
 5 Mark Flecchia
 7 Karen Beck
 7 Kellsee Lynch
 7 Chris Cahoon
 11 Sebastian Griep
 11 Ally Mazzarella
 13 Amy Todd
 14 Karin Keyser</p> | <p>15 Elaine Carpenter
 16 Virginia Mungillo
 19 Donna Flecchia
 22 Robert Knudsen
 24 Julia Lynch
 27 Lynn Tirrell
 27 Sharon McDonough</p> |
|--|--|

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEUDLE

February 1 Worship/Communion

Communion Prep: Chris Stahlinski
 Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Aline Beck
 Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher:
 Greeter: Jan McSheffrey
 Flowers: Aline Beck
 Collector: Deb Raymond
 Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host: Donna Flecchia
 Baker/Snack: Donna Flecchia

February 15 Worship

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Aline Beck
 Lay Leader:
 Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
 Usher:
 Greeter:
 Flowers:
 Collector: Joan Zink
 Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host: Jan McSheffrey
 Baker/Snack:

February 8 Worship/Love Offering

Annual Meeting/Luncheon after Worship

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Aline Beck
 Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
 Head Usher:
 Usher:
 Greeter:
 Flowers:
 Collector: Marcia Rich
 Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host:
 Baker/Snack:

February 22 Worship/Red Wagon

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Aline Beck
 Lay Leader:
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher:
 Greeter:
 Flowers:
 Collector: Marge Zamanian
 Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Donna Ferro
 Coffee Host: Chris Stahlinski
 Baker/Snack: Chris Stahlinski

***TO HAVE A WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE, PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR
 NAME TAG AT WORSHIP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, PLEASE LET BOBBIE KNOW!***

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

Here is the link:

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

February 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 10:30a Communion</p> <p>2-4p Mike Fay</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30p AA 7p Trustees</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7-9p Mike Fay</p>	<p>4</p> <p> 2p Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1p C4C</p> <p>5:30p Scouts 7p Deacons</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Open 4pm 5-10pm Dipti Rental</p>
<p>8 10:30a Worship Love Offering 11:30a Annual Meeting And Luncheon</p> <p>2-4p Mike Fay</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30p AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7-9p Mike Fay</p>	<p>11</p> <p> 2p Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1p C4C</p> <p>4p Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p>5:30p Scouts</p>	<p>13</p> <p> Aimee & Joe Wedding & Reception</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Happy Valentine's Day</p> <p></p>
<p>15 10:30a Worship</p> <p>2-4p Mike Fay</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRESIDENTS DAY</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>6:30p AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7p PC Meeting</p> <p>7-9p Mike Fay</p>	<p>18</p> <p> ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>7-9a Ashes to go</p> <p> 2p Bible Study</p> <p>7p Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1p C4C</p> <p>5:30p Scouts</p> <p>8p Pub Theology</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>LENT 10:30a Worship Red Wagon</p> <p>2-4p Mike Fay</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30p AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7-9p Mike Fay</p>	<p>25</p> <p> 2p Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1p C4C</p> <p>5:30p Scouts</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5pm setup 6-8pm Maher Noha Rental</p>

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

TO:



FEBRUARY HILLTOP NEWSLETTER 2026