

JUNE 2026 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Mark Omobono
Moderator

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Ah, that Pentecost morning when the tongues of fire lit upon the disciples' heads and they were filled with the Spirit. That was then, this is now. Yet, Paul claims that we are still led by the Spirit. That amorphous ephemeral being that joins with us to let us become the people of God.

For all who have led young people through the process of confirming their baptismal vows, you might recall the conversations where God is easily proclaimed as creator; the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus is almost comprehended; and the Holy Spirit is met with blank stares. What is this Spirit? Who is this Spirit? Why is this Spirit? The Holy Ghost of my youth, still sung in the Gloria Patri, is almost more understandable.

Paul is tackling this question in his letter to the Roman church. This Pentecost Spirit, the flaming-overcoming presence of God frees us and helps us to be brave in the midst of trouble. Come Holy Spirit, come! Have we ever needed God's Spirit more? Yet, we often cling to news channels and social media commentaries as our sources of affirmation. We are accustomed to living in a world that is filled with trouble: war, violence, hatred, corruption, and dysfunction. How do we release ourselves from these bonds and live without fear? What might the world be like if we could listen and hear and understand?

In Mary Oliver's poem *I Worried*, she concludes that she "went out in the morning, and sang." What might our song be? How do we sing about injustice, human rights, and dignity? How do we sing about prejudice, indifference, and discrimination? How do we sing about the intrinsic value of each person who was knitted together by God in their mother's womb? What will our song be? What song does the Spirit put on our hearts?

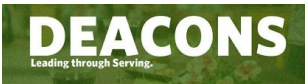
As it is with the Spirit, I have more questions than answers. Perhaps the Spirit is the spark that puts in us the question, "Why?" The question of every two-year-old, of every sentient being, is to wonder why and connect these divergent pieces of life together. War and peace. Good and bad. Love and hate. Joy and sorrow.

If we turn to the movement of the Spirit, listening not to our angst, but to the leading of God, we will find our path. Jesus said, follow me, and that God will send the Holy Spirit to teach you everything. Come, Holy Spirit, come. We need hearts tuned to your grace now more than ever.

The Spirit may call us to proclaim in the public square, others to speak in the tongues of comfort, encouragement, or solidarity. If we shake off our own anxiety and fear the Spirit will move us to speak in the tongues our community and the world so needs to hear. Let us say, "Here I am Lord, use me for Christ's glory."

Regarding Pentecost! Written by Rev. Dr. Katherine Adams, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Billerica, MA.





We extend our congratulations to the Harris family on the birth of their son, **Joseph Vincent Harris**, born on April 29 and weighing 8 lbs. 10 oz.

While Andrew is on paternity leave, we are grateful for the support of several guest ministers and speakers. Our Guest Ministers were Renee Manning, Dave Woessner, and Kate Kennedy. We want to extend a special Thank You to Debbie Claar who has done a wonderful job as Interim Director of the choir and band, selecting all of our music. She has stepped in to assist with organizing worship services and delivering a heartfelt sermon herself. We also thank Aline Beck for her continued dedication in providing music accompaniment as we are searching for a new music director.

Thank you to all those who helped to organize and to make the May 8 plant/bake/ and craft sale a success!
Coming events:

6/7 **Children's Sunday**, We celebrate our children and the wonderful staff of teachers and caregivers. It will be followed by an Ice Cream Social.

6/13 **Leo's Pride Celebration** Saturday June 13th 11:00-2:00

Please join us to embrace and celebrate the LGBTIA+ community in our town. We will have a table on the Burlington Town Common.

6/14 **Love Offering**, On the Second Sunday of each month we will take a second collect for our Love Offering. These gifts are used to assist families in our community in times of need. So, far in 2026, we have assisted families with grocery gift cards, utilities, and accessibility needs.

6/ 21 **Music Sunday**, A Special Sunday Worship to show appreciation to our members which share their musical gifts with us.

In celebration of Music Sunday, please consider making a donation to the Deacons' Special Music Fund. Our wonderful Easter Guest Musicians are a great example of how we use these donations.

The fund supports not only Guest Musicians, but other music expenses not included in the Church's Operating Budget. Donations are accepted online as well as in the weekly offering.

MUSINGS FROM THE MUSIC CORNER

Hello Everyone,

As always, Aline and I have enjoyed being Co-Interim Music Directors over the past year. Whether finding meaningful melodies for the choir to sing, helping Andrew in leading our wonderful band or choosing soloists to share their many talents with us, we have kept the music happily alive in the church and will do so until the end of June. With that said, I will just refer you now to an announcement by our Music Director Search Committee in the Hilltop.

Musically Yours,



ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear UCC Congregation,

The Music Director Search Committee is pleased to announce that Sarah Del Dotto will begin her new position as our Director of Music Ministries effective July 1, 2026.

Sarah brings extensive experience in music education and performance. She holds a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the Longy School of Music (2010) and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. For over ten years, she has served as the Middle School and Upper School Music Director at Dana Hall School in Wellesley. Her previous roles include: Youth Choral Director and Festival Youth Choir Director at Old North Church in Marblehead, a Teaching Artist with the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and a Piano Instructor and Lead Teacher for the Boston Yamaha Music School.

Sarah was selected unanimously by the search committee for her passion for sacred music, demonstrated ability to work effectively with both children and adults, and commitment to learning the organ. During her interview with the choir, she demonstrated exceptional musicianship and collaborative leadership.

We are honored she has chosen to accept the position, and we look forward to welcoming her and her family to our congregation. We thank the congregation for your patience during this process. We had a few solid, extremely talented candidates but we wanted to wait for the best fit for everyone and we found her! More news will follow as we get closer to July 1 but for now, just know it has been a pleasurable and worthwhile experience for all of us who have served on this committee. We'll be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

The Director of Music Ministries' Search Committee

Debbie Claar and Mark Omobono, Co-Chairs

Sarah Clark

Deb Glancy

Andrew Harris

Nick Karwan

Dave McNeil



MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

Pantry needs to prepare for summer lunches for children. Please bring to worship on June 28th.

- Spaghetios
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Cooking Oil
- Juice Boxes
- Kid's Snacks (individually wrapped)

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

C4C will continue to meet throughout the summer on Thursday afternoons. Our location may vary as we look forward to using the new picnic tables in front of the Church, weather permitting.



THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you notes were recently received from the following for donations we made in 2025: \$1000 to each of the following: VNA Care, Fistula Foundation, HELPIS, LGBT Asylum Task Force, Science with a Mission, Habitat for Humanity, SNEUCC, and the UCC for a \$2000 donation for Hurricane Relief in Jamaica and Cuba. Notes are posted on the Missions bulletin board in the hallway between the sanctuary and Sewall Hall.

MISSIONS FINANCIAL REPORT - MAY 2026

In May \$1000 was paid to the Beyond Bond & Legal Defense Fund (the Bond Fund), which raises money for immigration bonds to free people in ICE prisons in Massachusetts and Rhode Island or those detained elsewhere who are from or returning to MA. Also, a disbursement of \$500 was made to the Chaplaincy of ICE. Both causes are supported by Rev. Harris.

PRIDE DAY - June 13

PRIDE DAY - SATURDAY JUNE 13 11-3 PM (Rain date June 14)

On Saturday, June 13, our church will be represented for a second year at Pride Day on the Burlington Common. We will sponsor a table of Pride-related gifts and tokens as well as literature and themed gifts. Our table had many visitors last year from around the community and was well-supported by the congregation. We look forward to that strong participation again this year. Our two large Pride banners will be installed on the church lawn in early June, while other smaller signs and banners will be displayed on Pride Day.

If you volunteered last year, please wear your Pride t-shirt June 13. If you would like a t-shirt please let a member of the committee know before June 1 and one will be made for you. Let's make this an all-church event! Susan Eby, Sally Willard, Lucy Damiani

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has been working on Pentecost Sunday, Bring a Buddy to church, and the Children's Celebration Service on June 7.

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

END OF SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR JUNE 7

Please join the Sunday School program in church as we celebrate our volunteers and the Bible award. The Sunday School will complete the year with an All Church Sunday and will participate in the full Service. But best of all, CE will host the annual Ice cream Sunday Coffee hour!

NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery School is held every week 9/7/25 - 6/7/26. Thank you to our attendant Kritika Agarwala.

YOUTH GROUP

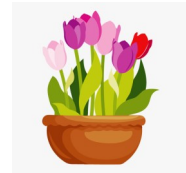
The group is for people 7th - 12th grade.

FINAL YOUTH GROUP

We did not have any UCC youth attending, but UCC Burlington hosted Hancock Church's 6 youth and their leader for Backyard Olympics and a cookout. It was a beautiful summer day and we enjoyed it together!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Conrad Fong	Roberta Low
Skip Glancy	Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor, Bob
Nancy Davis's son George, Ross's wife Jackie	Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby
Molly Kyokunda's sister	David Knowles
Bobbie and Tom Killilea	Ted Brierley
Tonia Egan, her mom and dad	Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Joe Stoddard's family member Jada	Bill Hitchcock
Cindy Phillip's friend's husband pancreatic cancer	Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Prayers Laura Nowell's friend Mary	Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia
Barbara Naddaff's grandson, friend Mary	Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Sally Willard's sister Vicky	Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Anna Karwan's sister as caregiver for mom	Kelly Sievert
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe	Ginger Mungillo, daughter Cindy, son Jim
Joyce Carpenter, nieces Breanna, MaryJane and brother-in-law Ken	Barbara Garland
Auri Musselman and her sister-in-law's family	
Woody Knowles	
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda and brother-in-law Rick	
Bill Livezey	
Kay Shute	



CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy to Karen Butler and family on the passing of her dear sister-in-law.

Prayers to Jean Williamson and family on the passing of her brother Earl who was 99 years old.

Prayers to Joyce Carpenter and family on the passing on her relative Bobby.

CONGRATULATIONS



Welcome baby Joseph Vincent Harris, new son to Rev. Andrew and Ally and baby brother to Cooper and Sal. We are so excited. Blessings to all of you!



Congratulations to Jason Cahoon who graduated from UCONN with his Doctorate in Immunology

JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

1	Nancy Davis
3	Susan Eby
4	Jessy McNeil
6	Soren Wells-Bean
9	Brenda Cahoon
15	Jan Costa
16	Joyce Baylor
20	Joshua & Jason Cahoon
23	Bobbie Killilea
29	Thea Killilea
30	Donna Ferro



June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 AA	2 5:30-7p Mike Fay	3 2p Bible Study	4 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts	5 Manish Rental Open at 5:30p 7-9 Gathering	6
7 10:30a Communion 1-2:30p Mike Fay (Pride Day Rain-date)	8 6:30p AA	9 5:30-7p Mike Fay	10 2p Bible Study 6-10p Scouts Event	11 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	12	13 PRIDE DAY Burlington Common Graduation Rental TBD
14 10:30a Worship Love Offering 1-2:30p Mike Fay	15 6:30 AA	16 5:30-7p Mike Fay 7p PC Mtg	17 2p Bible Study	18 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts	19 JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY Office Closed	20 Open 4pm Riyaz Rental 5-10pm
21 FATHER'S DAY 10:30a Worship 1-2:30p Mike Fay	22 6:30p AA	23 5-7:30p Mike Fay	24 2p Bible Study	25 5:30p Scouts	26	27
28 10:30a Worship Red Wagon 1-2:30p Mike Fay	29 6:30p AA	30 5-7:30p Mike Fay	July 1 Office Closed Summer Hours Begin	July 2 9-3p Office Open	July 3 Office Closed	July 4 

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TO:



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