

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

BLANKET AND TOOL 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."

May 17, 2026

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

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

"Ascension Day" by Malcolm Guite

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed.

***Morning Psalm - Excerpts from Psalm 125 -A song of ascents.**

One: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,

All: which cannot be shaken but endures forever,

One: As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

All: so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.

***Opening Hymn** Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? Attached

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Passing the Peace

***Devotional Hymn** We Are One in The Spirit Attached

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Our Sermon The Kingdom of God Is Within You Debbie Claar

Anthem Here I Am Lord Band/Choir

Praying...

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering...

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.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sending...

***Closing Hymn**

I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me

Attached

***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.

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Conrad Fong

Skip Glancy

Nancy Davis's son George, Ross's wife Jackie

Molly Kyokunda's sister

Bobbie and Tom Killilea

Aimee Bence-Tredeau's friends Christy and Katie

Auri Musselman former student Jason

Tonia Egan, her mom and dad

Joe Stoddard's family member Jada

Cindy Phillip's friend's husband pancreatic cancer

Prayers Laura Nowell's friend Mary

Barbara Naddaff's grandson and friend Mary

Sally Willard's sister Vicky

Anna Karwan's sister as caregiver for mom

Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe

Joyce Carpenter, nieces Breanna, MaryJane
and brother-in-law Ken

Auri Musselman and her sister-in-law's family

Woody Knowles

Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda and
brother-in-law Rick

Deana Tredeau's great niece Katie Wise

Bill Livezey

Kay Shute

Roberta Low

Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob

Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby

David Knowles

Ted Brierley

Andrew's friend Lorenzo

Bill Hitchcock

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

Julia Lynch donated today's altar flowers to celebrate her mom, Kari's birthday.

May 17 – Worship 10:30am

Blanket and Tool Offering

Guest Lay Preacher: Debbie Claar

Organist: Aline Beck

Lay Leader: Marcia Rich

Head Usher:

Usher:

Greeter:

Collector: Lucy Damiani

Flowers: Julia Lynch

Nursery: Kritika Agarwala

Sunday School: Deb Raymond

Donna Ferro

Coffee Host: Marge Zamanian

Baker/Snack: Marge Zamanian

May 24 Worship 10:30am

Guest Pastor: Rev. David Woessner

Organist: Aline Beck

Lay Leader: Debbie Claar

Head Usher: Dave McNeil

Usher: Carol Downing

Greeter: Carol Downing

Flowers: Lynn Tirrell

Collector: Dick Butler

Nursery: Kritika Agarwala

Sunday School: Deb Raymond

Auri Musselman

Coffee Host:

Baker/Snack:

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Join us every Thursday afternoon from 1-3pm in the conference room as we make prayer squares, shawls, baptism blankets. If you don't knit or crochet, come for the conversation. All are welcome! If you can't join us in person, we try to make Zoom an option.

BLANKET AND TOOL SUNDAY IS TODAY

With the help of CWS agricultural programs over 100,000 people receive training, seeds, livestock and tools to help them grow more food. Once they are properly nourished and healthy people can provide for their families and build sustainable futures. CWS will also use our donations to distribute blankets to the homeless, to disaster sites, to refugee camps, and anywhere people need to know they are not alone. These numbers represent real people, real hope, and real transformation. Special envelopes for Blanket and Tool Sunday are in the pews. If you wish to donate by check please note "blanket/tools" on the memo line. You may also donate online.

YOUTH GROUP

TODAY 4 - 5:30 AT UCC

BURLINGTON

Along with Hancock Church Youth Group, we will have Backyard Olympics! It will be a competition including Corn Hole, Ladder Golf and Croquet for the grand championship. We will have a cookout with hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers.

This will be the last Youth Group gathering of the year, so come and compete and eat!

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES...

Join us on Wednesday afternoons from 2-3pm in the conference room for discussion on scripture.

THE NEW ENGLAND TENORS

On May 24th the New England Tenors will be performing A Broadway Tribute in our sanctuary at 3pm. Doors open at 2:30pm Tickets can be purchased by contacting Mike Fay at [**coachmikefay@gmail.com**](mailto:coachmikefay@gmail.com)

Signup at coffee hour if you can make a dessert for after the performance.

THE LITTLE MERMAID

The TTS Players are holding another performance here in Sewall Hall this July. Auditions will take place this afternoon 1-2:30pm and on Tuesday May 19th 6-7:30pm. All voices are welcome!

JUNE HILLTOP ARTICLES ARE DUE BY MAY 20TH!

Opening Hymn: Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Won't you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too

We are pilgrims on a journey
We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony

Won't you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too

Devotional Hymn: We Are One in the Spirit

We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
They will know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
They will know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity, and save each one's pride,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
They will know we are Christians by our love.

Closing Hymn: I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me

I'm gonna live so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime
I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime

I'm gonna work so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime
I'm gonna work so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime

I'm gonna pray so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime
I'm gonna pray so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime

I'm gonna sing so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime
I'm gonna sing so God can use me,
Anywhere, Lord, anytime