

HILLTOP HERALD MAY 2026

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Mark Omobono
Moderator

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Dear church family,

Right now my mind is on liminal spaces. A liminal space is a threshold; a time between *what was* and *what's next*. As I write this, I'm waiting for news that our family's new baby is on the way. As I stand at the precipice of an impending life transition, I feel as if I'm in an in-between state; between *what was* and *what will be*.

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr writes, "[W]e often remain trapped in what we call normalcy — 'the way things are.'... To get out of this repetitive cycle, we have to allow ourselves to be drawn into sacred space, into liminality. All transformation takes place here."

As I find myself thrust into this liminal space, between "the way things are" and "what will be," I find new meaning in age old Christian wisdom. "Old things are passed away" (2 Cor. 5:17). "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. See, I am about to do a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?" (Is. 43:18-19).

In this space, God can create anew. In this space, we sit with uncertainty, finding faith that God will guide us; we sit with possibility, imagining what God might have in store, remembering that God can bring about new things we cannot yet imagine.

Father Rohr continues, "I believe that religion's unique and necessary function is to lead us into liminal space. Religion should lead us into sacred space where deconstruction of the old 'normal' can occur."

As I enter my own liminal space, I invite you to join me here in this space between *what was* and *what will be*. What old things are falling away? What newness in God creating in our midst? Together, let us find the courage to let go of the old "normal," and embrace this in-between liminal space (which can be decentering and uncomfortable!) so that God can create something new.

Peace,
Andrew



Happy Spring to all!

The Deacons would like to applaud all those who helped make our Easter celebrations successful! Those who participated in the Maundy Thursday supper, Good Friday service with the Presbyterians, and our beautiful Easter services with talented musicians, choir and beautiful flowers contributed to a special Holy Week worship.

We are looking forward to our Plant/Bake /Craft Sale on May 9, 10-2. Volunteers are encouraged to help out!

The Deacons are requesting ideas for future fellowship opportunities. Some suggestions include: a movie night, trivia night, pot luck supper and A Murder Mystery night where members could highlight their acting skills!

The church is collecting the LOVE OFFERING on the Second Sunday of the month. There is more need for support for many people within our church community and beyond.

Reminder: Please continue to wear your name tags

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

We were pleased to have guest musician violinist Lisa Brooke perform on Maundy Thursday and the Coffeehouse Brass on Easter. The Easter musicians was made possible by your donations to the Deacons Special Music Fund. Thank you to those who have contributed to this fund.

On May 24th we are partnering with The New England Tenors as host of a special Broadway Tribute Concert. After the concert, we will host a small reception in Sewall Hall and will be looking for a few food donations. There will be a signup sheet on May 10th.

We will be planning a Coffeehouse for October, stay tuned for more information
Members are Aline Beck, Carol Downing, Deb Glancy, Deana Tredeau and Debbie Claar as our Interim Director.



THE MUSIC CORNER MUSINGS BY DEBBIE CLAR

First of all, I want to thank all those who contributed to the music for the services in April. We were very lucky to have such talented guest musicians as Lisa Brooke and Coffeehouse Brass. And between the choir, the band, Mark Omobono and myself, the music enhanced each service with poignancy and celebration. Thank you everyone for making April a magical month for music. And though we will miss Andrew very much as he goes on paternity leave, the music will continue to fill the sanctuary throughout the month of May as Aline and I lead the choir and band to share their talents with you all. It has been a pleasure for Aline and I to serve you all in this way.



UCC CHURCH * BURLINGTON

Annual
PLANT & CRAFT
Sale

Fresh plants & garden goodies
Handmade crafts & artisan creations
from local vendors
Homemade baked goods
and refreshments

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH
10 AM TO 2 PM

6 LEXINGTON ST. BURLINGTON

Rain or Shine

If you are donating plants, crafts, baked good please be sure to bring these by the hall on Friday May 8th noon-2pm or Saturday morning May 9th. Please have your items priced. Baked goods please label gluten free, etc.

Thanks everyone!

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

The pantry is in need of the following items to help stock the shelves:

- Applesauce cups/pouches**
- Fruit cups**
- Coffee K-cups**
- Tea**

Please bring to worship on May 31st.



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 and option.

MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT - APRIL 2026

In March \$1000 was paid to the SNEUCC. This is the second of 4 payments, which will total \$4500 by the end of 2026. \$900 of this goes directly to the Metropolitan Boston Association; this check was also written this month. Thank you to all who donated to One Great Hour of Sharing and the Easter Offering. The totals to date are OGHs \$832.81 and Easter \$3440.94.



BLANKET AND TOOL SUNDAY MAY 17

"For God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." - Psalm 107:9 Sunday, May 17 we will have our annual special offering to support the Blanket and Tool projects of Church World Service. Across the United States and around the world, seeds are being planted - seeds of nourishment, resilience and dignity. 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. Details are on the church website.

NEWD FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!



Easter 2026! Lots of eggs, chocolate, community and fun! Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for bringing the hunters.

We planted seeds. Grow Sunflowers grow!



UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

End of Sunday School Year June 7

The Sunday School will complete the year with an All Church Sunday. They will participate in the full Service. But best of all, CE will host the annual *Ice Cream Sundae Coffee Hour!*

NURSERY SCHOOL

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

YOUTH GROUP

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

Schedule:

SUNDAY MAY 17 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!

WRAP UP OF EVENTS



A beautiful day to celebrate and remember Jesus entering Jerusalem. We were led by mini horse Clive. Clive was donated by Sandy from Chip-In-Farm. Thank you from all at UCC, and several other churches in Burlington for walking the walk!

CHURCH CLEANUP DAY MAY 2ND FROM 9-1PM

**COME AND HELP THE TRUSTEES WITH A LITTLE SPRUCING UP THE CHURCH
INSIDE AND OUT!
MORE HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!
PLEASE JOIN US!**



A New England Tenors
BROADWAY TRIBUTE

Damian Corcoran, Ethan Bremner
& John Middleton-Cox with Mary Metivier
& Celeste Pellegrino

Sunday, May 24 • 3:00 p.m.

UCC Burlington
6 Lexington St., Burlington, MA

Doors Open at 2:30 p.m. ★

🗺️ Tickets: \$20 Adults | \$10 Students



Join us for an afternoon of Broadway favorites,
opera, sacred music, and even a special performance
by the cast of **Annie Kids** from the TTS Players!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Conrad Fong	Roberta Low
Skip Glancy	Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob
Molly Kyokunda's sister	Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby
Tom Killilea	David Knowles
Passing of Karen Butler's sister-in-law	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 and 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	Middle East
Woody Knowles	Our Country
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda and brother-in-law Rick	The World
Deana Tredeau's great niece Katie Wise	Mother Earth
Bill Livezey	
Kay Shute	

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest condolences to Bill Beyer and family on the recent passing of his dear sister. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

MAY BIRTHDAYS!

1	Joe Stoddard	17	Theo Brierley
1	Dennis Huebner	19	Kari Lynch
4	Rachel McNeil	20	Cindy Phillips
7	Rev. Angela Wells-Bean	21	Brielle Ramirez (Killilea)
9	Ella Ciccone	23	Jennifer McDonough (Eby)
11	Aimee Tredeau	23	Tonia Egan
12	Sally Mansfield-Smith	24	Brian Gionet
12	Everett Langley	24	Stephanie Samarjian
14	Jennifer Baylor	28	Sue Wisniewski
15	Marj Zamanian		
15	Alex Lewis		
16	Karen Butler		



WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEUDLE

May 3 Communion Worship

Communion Prep: Marge Zamanian
Guest Preacher: Rev. Renee Manning
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Sarah Clark
Head Usher: Deb Glancy
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers: Karen & Dick Butler
Collector: Deb Raymond
Nursery:
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bake/Snack: Donna Flecchia

May 10 Worship-Love Offering

Mother's Day

Guest Preacher:
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers: Nancy Davis
Collector: Marcia Rich
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bake/Snack:

May 17 Worship

Guest Preacher:
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers: Kari Lynch
Collector: Lucy Damiani
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bake/Snack:

May 24 Worship-Memorial Weekend

Guest Preacher:
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter: Carol Downing
Flowers: Lynn Tirrell
Collector: Dick Butler
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bake/Snack:

May 31 Worship-Red Wagon

Guest Preacher:
Organist: Aline Beck
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Joan Zink
Nursery: Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond
Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Bake/Snack:

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>

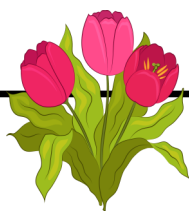
May 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
Please note Andrew will be on leave through the month of May! Call the church office if you have a pastoral emergency, 781-272-4547						9-1p Church Cleanup Day! Open 3:30p 4:30-8:30p Razia Rental
3 10:30a Communion Worship	4 6:30p AA	5	6	7 1p C4C 6p Scouts	8 8:30-10:30a Montessori Mother's Day Noon-2p Plant Sale Drop off items	9 10-2 Plant Sale Setup 10-2pm Plant Sale
10 MOM'S DAY!  10:30a Worship Love Offering	11 6:30p AA	12 Hollygroup Rehearsal Evening Rental TBD 5p HR MTG	13	14 1p C4C 6p Scouts 7p Deacons	15	16 9:30a open 11:30-6:30p Kudia Rental
17 10:30A Worship 4-5:30p Back- yard Olympics 1-2:30p Mike Fay	18 Church Kitchen Floor Install this Week 6:30p AA	19 5:30-7p Mike Fay 7p PC Mtg.	20	21 1p C4C 6p Scouts	22 Open 4:30p 6-10pm Noha Rental	23 Training Seminar
24 10:30a Worship 3pm The TENORS Concert	25 MEMORIAL DAY Office closed 6:30p AA	26	27 Montessori Daytime Rehearsals	28 1p C4C 6p Scouts	29 9-noon Montessori Graduation 5pm Dan Shea Drum	30 Open 4:30p 6-10pm Baqui Rental
31 10:30a Worship Red Wagon						

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

TO:



MAY 2026 HILLTOP HERALD NEWSLETTER