

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

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*"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."*

**July 19, 2026**

**10:30am**

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*Celebrating the 294<sup>th</sup> Birthday of UCC*

Summer Worship Series  
Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God  
Week Three: START

Have you ever sat down before a blank page and wondered, "Where do I begin?" We might have an idea of where we want to go, but how do we get there? All the possibilities begin to weigh on us. In order to start, we must consciously overcome the fear that we might make a mistake, that we might ruin the perfect idea that exists in our imaginations, that the finished project might fall short of our expectations. Eventually the time comes when we must start; when we must turn possibility and potential into actuality. The Holy Spirit of God encourages us to take the first step, to enter into the sacred act of *beginning*. We don't need to have everything perfectly mapped out. We just need to start and trust that God will guide us and walk with us every step of the way.

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

# **Gathering....**

## **Prelude**

## **Words of Welcome**

## **Opening Prayer**

**God of beginnings, may your creative Spirit move within us and inspire us. Bless us with the courage to take the first step and to enter into a creative dance with you. Lead us into the unfolding mystery of your divine plan. Here we are, ready to answer your call to discipleship; ready to begin our ministry of love and service, justice and peace. Amen.**

## **\*Opening Hymn**

They Did Not Build in Vain

NCH #373

## **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

## **Passing the Peace**

## **\*Devotional Hymn**

What Gift Can We Bring?

NCH #370

## **An Imaginative Word**

"The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean—  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?

### **Reflecting...**

#### **Scripture Readings**

1 Corinthians 3:8-17

The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Let each builder choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If the work that someone has built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a wage. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

**Our Sermon**      You Are God's Temple and God's Spirit Dwells in You  
Rev. Andrew Harris

**Anthem**      Chris and Liz Silva

### **Praying...**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

## Offering...

**Invitation of Offering**

**Offertory**

Chris and Liz Silva

**\*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**

How Firm a Foundation

*NCH* #407

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Fong Family donated today's altar flowers in memory of Conrad's parents  
Gim and Fay Fong.*

Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor  
Rev. Trina Portillo, Pastor, The Presbyterian Church  
Sarah Del Dotto, Organist  
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education  
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant  
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

## 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.

***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!***

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**Join us after worship for a CHURCH PICNIC.**

**All are welcome to stay and celebrate our church's 294<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!**

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## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

*Passing of Deana's friend Jenna  
Passing of Emily's Uncle "D"  
Passing of Andrew Moore's Aunt  
Joan Ross, passing of her son Brian  
Colleen Goodsell, brother's passing  
Pastor Trina's daughter traveling to  
Mexico,  
mother-in-law Myrna health issues  
Marylou Lynn traveling/pneumonia  
Anna Karwan's brother Steve upcoming  
procedure  
Bobbie Killilea's godson Chris  
Dan Shea  
Shirley and Geoff Fong and Uncle  
Skip Glancy  
Nancy Davis's son Ross's wife Jackie  
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda,  
brother-in-law Rick  
Bobbie and Tom Killilea  
Tonia Egan, her mom and dad  
Joe Stoddard's family member Jada  
Cindy Phillip's friend's husband  
pancreatic cancer  
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  
Auri Musselman's sister-in-law's family  
Woody Knowles  
Joyce Carpenter  
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  
  
Middle East  
Our Country  
The World  
Mother Earth-Earthquakes-Fires-Storms*

## **AUGUST WORSHIP**

Worship on August 2, 9, 16 and 23 will take place at The Presbyterian Church,  
335 Cambridge Street here in Burlington. The time will remain the same at 10:30am.  
All are welcome!

### July 19<sup>th</sup> Worship Participation

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Pastor:      | Rev. Andrew Harris  |
|              | Rev. Trina Portillo |
| Organist:    | Sarah Del Dotto     |
| Lay Leader:  | Chris Stahlinski    |
| Head Usher:  | Dave McNeil         |
| Usher:       | Carol Downing       |
| Greeter:     | Andie Joseph        |
| Collector:   | Lucy Damiani        |
| Flowers:     | Fong Family         |
| Nursery:     | Volunteer           |
| Coffee Host: |                     |
| Baker/Snack: | Deana Tredeau       |

### July 26<sup>th</sup> Worship Participation

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Pastor:      | Rev. Trina Portillo |
| Organist:    | Sarah Del Dotto     |
| Lay Leader:  | Andie Joseph        |
| Head Usher:  |                     |
| Usher:       | Carol Downing       |
| Greeter:     |                     |
| Collector:   | Marge Zamanian      |
| Flowers:     | Marcia Rich         |
| Nursery:     | Volunteer           |
| Coffee Host: |                     |
| Baker/Snack: |                     |

### **A message from the Deacons - Support for Venezuela**

The Love Offering is a fund which helps those who may be struggling financially, both within our community and beyond. After two major earthquakes in June and continuing aftershocks, the people of Venezuela are certainly struggling.

The following special appeal is an excerpt from the UCC Director of Philanthropy:

*"In response, the United Church of Christ is launching an urgent appeal to support both immediate life-saving aid and long-term recovery. Working through our trusted partners on the ground like Global Ministries and ACT Alliance, we are delivering emergency relief to displaced families, distributing food and water, and offering pastoral care to those facing profound loss and trauma.*

*Please consider making a gift today. Be a source of hope in the midst of crisis and help rebuild communities for the long term. Your support is essential. Together, we can provide hope, healing and love to our neighbors in Venezuela.*

*We also ask you and your families to pray for everyone affected. Your generosity is a witness of compassion in action. We deeply appreciate your consideration."*

The **Deacons** have decided to donate the July Love Offering collection to this cause. And **Missions** has offered to add to the monies collected this Offering.

We are collecting for another week. There are "Love Offering" envelopes in the pews for your use and on the table outside Bobbie's Office. Or you can give online or mail your check to the church (subject: Love Offering). Thank you.

## They Did Not Build in Vain

*Acts 2:1-4, 43-47; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 12:1-2**Alan Luff, 1989; alt.*

1 They did not build in vain who found - ed here a church  
 2 Those who have loved this place, a cloud of wit - nes - ses,  
 3 In ev - ery place our world is storm and tem - pest tossed,  
 4 Make this the meet - ing place where doubt finds grounds of faith,

as wit - ness to God's love a - mid a world of pain;  
 sur - round and urge us on as we now run our race;  
 the flames of fear and hate are e - vil's flags un - furled;  
 where hurt finds heal - ing love, our pen - i - tence your grace;

They built up - on the rock that is the ris - en Christ,  
 Though the ho - ri - zon's bend con - ceals the way a - head,  
 Yet still the Spir - it's power in wind and fire of love  
 Where God in Trin - i - ty is bridge from death to life,

the one foun - da - tion laid, that stands each earth - ly shock.  
 the foot - prints on the road show Christ waits at the end.  
 pours gifts up - on the church for ser - vice in this hour.  
 from sin to ho - li - ness, time to e - ter - ni - ty.

*Alan Luff, a graduate of the Royal College of Music, has served the Anglican Church as parish priest, precentor of Westminster Abbey, and canon of Birmingham Cathedral. He is also known as the author of Welsh Hymns and Their Tunes (1990).*

*Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.  
 Traditional Yigdal melody  
 Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770*

## What Gift Can We Bring?

370

Jane Marshall, 1980

1 Sam. 9:7; 1 Cor. 3:8-9; 1 John 4:13-16

Unison

1 What gift can we bring, what pres - ent, what to - ken?  
 2 Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi - sion,  
 3 Give thanks for to - mor - row, full of sur - pris - es,  
 4 This gift we now bring, this pres - ent, this to - ken,

What words can con - vey it, the joy of this day?  
 who plant - ed and wa - tered so dreams could come true.  
 for know - ing what - ev - er to - mor - row may bring,  
 these words can con - vey it, the joy of this day!

When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,  
 Give thanks for the now, for stud - y, for wor - ship,  
 The Word is our prom - ise al - ways, for - ev - er;  
 When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,

what song can we of - fer in hon - or and praise?  
 for mis - sion that bids us turn prayer in - to deed.  
 we rest in God's keep - ing and live in God's love.  
 this song we now of - fer in hon - or and praise!

Jane Marshall received the first "Woman of Achievement" award at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, where she teaches. She wrote this hymn for the twenty-fifth anniversary of her home church, Northaven United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Tune: ANNIVERSARY SONG 11.11.11.11.  
 Jane Marshall, 1980

## How Firm a Foundation

*Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5**"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; alt.*

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;  
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you, has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."  
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

*In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names since it first appeared in Funk's Genuine Church Music (1832).*

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.  
 Early United States melody  
 from Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832  
 Alternate tune: ADESTE FIDELES