

SEPTEMBER 2026 HILLTOP HERALD

Rev. Andrew Harris
 Pastor

Mark Omobono
 Moderator

CONTENTS

Pastor Message	1
Welcome Brunch	2
Deacons	2
Bible Study	3
Music Notes	3
Missions	4
-Red Wagon	
-C4C	
-Financial	
Finance & Stewardship	4
Christian Ed	5
Coffeehouse	6
Joys/Concerns	7
Worship Participants	8
Calendar	9

"The Christ in one's own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of another Christian. The heart in one's heart is uncertain; the Word is sure." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

Beloved,

As we enter into the new church program year and we return to Sunday school, don our choir robes, and settle into our familiar church pews, I invite and encourage each of us to consider what it means to live in Christian community.

Again, we find ourselves in an election year, and again it is made apparent to us that the powers of this world conspire to divide us apart. We are told to fear those who appear different from us, to make enemies of neighbors, to distrust what we read and hear, to retreat ever inwards, alienated from the intertwined communities and diverse ecosystems in which human beings flourish and thrive.

It's no secret that communities are disappearing as our lives become more isolated. Now, rather than greeting the delivery driver at the door, our pizzas are just placed on our porches. Now, rather than asking the clerk at the store about movie or music recommendations, an algorithm tells us what we should play next. Now, more than ever, it is easy and ever-tempting to remain in our own private bubbles, safe and sheltered from the chaotic world outside; in control of everything that permeates our little cloister. Now, more than ever, we must resist the temptation to give into the placating ease and comfort of modern atomized life.

This is the call of the Christian community, eloquently laid out by theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book *Life Together*. We are called out of the individual expressions of our lives to life lived together richly and deeply, as one body and one Spirit. We are called out into the world, in all of its chaos, strife, division, persecution, trial, and turmoil. We are called into the world to bring a message of peace to a world that has been broken; a message of healing to a world in pain; a message of love to a world without enough of it.

We do this work together, in community, because we need one another. We encounter God in one another. We speak God's Word to one another. We feel God's love in one another. We receive God's forgiveness in one another. We know God's mercy in one another. This is life together in Christian community. This fall, we're going to explore this concept of Life Together in Christian community. We're going to read it, speak it, sing it, pray it, and do it – together.

I thank God that soon we will all worship together again in the sanctuary. I thank God for the gift of your voices, your hands, your presence in our congregation. God has blessed us graciously. Let us praise God together with joyful hearts.

Peace,
 Rev. Andrew Harris





WELCOME BRUNCH ON SEPTEMBER 13!

We are preparing for our Welcome Sunday on September 13th the service will be an all worship Sunday including the children, new members joining and our band performing. We will recognize the 296 anniversary of the 2nd Parish of Woburn being established on September 16, 1730. After worship we hope everyone will join us for our Welcome Sunday Brunch. The Deacons and Christian Ed boards are providing our traditional breakfast casseroles, including meat and vegetarian choices, French toast, and breads, fruit and yogurt.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons hope you all had a wonderful summer. On July 19th, we celebrated the 294 Anniversary of our church building with a wonderful picnic on the lawn with our friends from the Presbyterian church. We have enjoyed sharing our worship at our church in July and the Presbyterian church in August, everyone enjoyed this time of joint worship and fellowship. On August 30th we return to start another exciting season in the life of our church.

Our Called to Care team has been active all summer visiting and sending cards. We want to Thank Jan McSheffrey for her many years leading this team and Marcia Rich for stepping up to the lead. They provide a meaningful service to our community.

On Sunday, September 20th our choir will be back under the guidance of Sarah Del Dotto, our new director. We hope you will come to join us and provide a warm welcome to her.

The Deacons are planning many opportunities to gather in fellowship including a "Bring a Friend to Church Day", we hope you will watch the announcements and join us to help grow our congregation.

THE LOVE OFFERING/DEACON'S FUND

The Deacon's Fund, supported by your generous Love Offering contributions, provides assistance to individuals and families facing financial hardship. The need for this support remains great.

Your Love Offering contributions help us provide Market Basket gift cards to families experiencing food insecurity. Last year, we distributed 20 \$50 Market Basket gift cards over the entire year; by the end of August this year, we had already provided 56. The fund also supports individuals and families with other urgent needs. We are grateful for all donations, including your generous support of the Venezuela Earthquake Fund. To date, we have used more than \$4,500 for emergency housing, medical and utility bills, transportation, moving assistance, and other transitional needs.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Donations may be made at any time using the envelopes in the pews or through our online giving platform (<https://uccburlington.org/giving>). We encourage you to consider supporting this important ministry as we assist families in need.

Sincerely,
The Board of Deacons

BIBLE STUDY EVERY WEDNESDAY 2-3PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AND ON ZOOM

Women of the Bible

There are so many stories centered on women in the Bible and yet throughout church history they have often been overshadowed and sidelined. In this Bible study session, we will explore these stories and discuss the ways women have always played an essential role in God's creation, in the church, and in the story of our faith. Come join us and learn about Hannah, Tabitha, Rahab, Deborah and more amazing women in God's continuing story.

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

September 2 - Esther (Esther 4:9-17)

September 9 - Deborah/Yael (Judges 4:4-22)

September 16 - Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12,
Proverbs 31)

September 23 - Rahab (Joshua 2:1-21)

September 30 - The Wisdom Woman (Proverbs 8)

October 7 - Mary (Luke 1:26-55)

October 14 - The Hemorrhaging Woman (Mark 5:25-34)

October 21 - The Anointing (Mark 14:3-9)

October 28 - Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43)

November 4 - Woman at the Well (John 4:1-42)

November 11 - Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

November 18 - Anna (Luke 2:25-40)

MUSIC NOTES



"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth."

—Psalm 96:1

Hello, everyone! I'm so happy to be serving as the new Music Director. I've really enjoyed getting to know some of you in the congregation this summer, and I'm excited to begin a new season of music together.

I'm especially excited to start our church choir this fall! Rehearsals will be on **Wednesday evenings from 7:00–8:30 p.m.**, and again on **Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on the weeks that we sing**. Our first rehearsal will be **Wednesday, September 9, in the sanctuary**, and our first Sunday singing will be **Sunday, September 20**. The choir will sing in worship about twice a month.

Everyone is welcome to join us! Whether you've been singing in a choir for years, sang when you were younger, or have never sung in a choir before, I'd love to have you be a part of it. There are no auditions—just come as you are! If you're curious but not quite ready to commit, come try a rehearsal and see what you think.

We'll sing a variety of music throughout the year, and my hope is that the choir will become a welcoming, joyful community where we can **make music, worship, and grow together**. I hope that you'll consider joining us—or invite someone you know who might enjoy singing with us!

I'll also always be looking for **soloists and instrumentalists**, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you're interested in participating in worship in that capacity.

If you have any questions about the choir or music at church, please feel free to contact me at my new email address: sdeldotto@uccburlington.org. And if you see me after worship, please come and say hello!

I'm looking forward to making music with you all and am excited to begin this new chapter together.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing."

—Psalm 100:1-2

—Sarah Del Dotto



MISSIONS UPDATE!

RED WAGON

The Burlington Pantry is in need of the following Items to help stock the shelves:

Cereal
Pasta-Pasta sauce
Kids snacks Individually wrapped
peanut butter-Jelly
Tea
Coffee

Bring to worship on September 27 and we will bring forward during our service.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Join us on Thursday afternoons here in the church conference room from 1-3pm. We work on prayer shawls, prayer squares. Don't knit or crochet, come and join the conversation. Join by Zoom as well.

<https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09>

Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274
Passcode: 01803



MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Tool/Blanket Sunday donations totaled \$714.69. Payment was made to Church World Service. Founded in 1946, CWS works around the world with the vision that everyone has food, a voice and a safe place to call home. Our One Great Hour of Sharing donations totaled \$832.81. Payment was made to the UCC, Disaster Relief Fund, to assist those affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

September is welcome back month in our Church. As we return from our summer activities, we gear ourselves up for fall and all the activities at our Church and in our community. Fall is the season in which we start our Finance & Stewardship Campaign for the 2027 year. Our theme is "There Our Hearts Will Be".

We will be starting our Campaign on Sunday October 11, 2026 and ending it on Sunday Nov 15, 2026. At which time we respectfully request people to return their pledges along with Time & Talent sheet.

Some people may not be aware that the Church has a brokerage account. It's been a great year for the stock market. If you have stock that has escalated in price and selling it would cause a large Capital Gain Tax, consider donating the stock. If you donate it to a Non Profit (the church is one) you can write off the charitable donation but not be subject to any capital gains. If you have any questions, you can ask members of the Finance & Stewardship Committee.

Respectfully Submitted - Laura Nowell - Chairperson

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read, Set Go... it's time for our new Sunday School Year!

September 13 - Welcome Sunday. Yes, this is our traditional brunch after church! It is an all-church worship service with the band! Deb will be in touch with parents for participation assignments for the students supporting the church service.

Don't forget to read your Hidden Scrolls book, and have lots of thoughts and questions ready!

We will be working in units, 1st up is Noah's Ark.



UPCOMING OUTSIDE SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

Sunday October 18 - Halloween party - time to be determined.

YOUTH GROUP

For ages 6th grade - high school.

This will be held in concert with at least 5 other churches from the Northeast region of the UCC.

Meeting other youth will be a new fun experience.

There will be 4 events held this Sunday School year, so mark your calendars!

1. September 27. This is our 1st meeting so there will be ice breaker games to open the meeting. Our give back project is packing meal baskets for *My Brothers Table Soup Kitchen* in Lynn.

We will meet at 1 pm at First Congregational Church in Reading, 25 Woburn St. Reading MA

Carpooling can be discussed.

2. November (dates to be determined) Overnight Retreat lead by Rev. Andrew
3. January/February City Reach!
4. Spring will be our end of year cookout!

OWL PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Whole Lives. This is a fabulous program that will be presented by and for the same Northeast Region of UCC.

"Owl provides a safe and welcoming space to discuss and learn about some of the most important aspects of life- aspects that are otherwise often brushed aside and not talked about..." -Pastor Andrew

Andrew will be in touch with families about this attending this stupendous program.

NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery School will be back September 13, 2026. See the signup link if you would like to help out!



COFFEE HOUSE

OCTOBER 17, 2026 7-9:30 PM

**A FUN EVENING FILLED WITH MUSIC, FOOD,
AND FELLOWSHIP.**

Interested in singing, talk to Debbie during coffee hour
or email deborahsclaar@gmail.com,
she is organizing the performers once again.

Volunteer to help, talk to Deana during coffee hour
or email deanatredeau@gmail.com.

There will be a signup sheet at Coffee Hour.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Anna Karwan's brother Steve surgery	Debbie Claar's dear friends Victor and Bob
Bobbie Killilea's godson Chris	Jan Blandino, her grandson Toby
Dan Shea	David Knowles
Shirley and Geoff Fong, Uncle hospitalized	Ted Brierley
Nancy Davis	Andrew's friend Lorenzo
Skip Glancy	Bill Hitchcock
Nancy Davis's son Ross's wife Jackie	Shirley Fong's Mom Mary
Donna DeSiome's sister Brenda, and	Julie Lewis' cousin Alicia
brother-in-law Rick	Shirley Garside's daughter Lynn
Tonia Egan, her mom and dad	Jessy McNeil's sisters Grace and Joyce
Joe Stoddard's family member Jada	Kelly Sievert
Cindy Phillip's friend's husband pancreatic cancer	Ginger Mungillo, daughter Cindy, son Jim
Barbara Naddaff's grandson and friend Mary	Barbara Garland
Sally Willard's sister Vicky	
Anna Karwan's sister as caregiver for mom	Middle East
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe	Nepal
Auri Musselman sister-in-law's family	Our Country
Woody Knowles	The World
Joyce Carpenter	Mother Earth with storms, fires, floods
Bill Livezey	
Kay Shute	
Roberta Low	



3	Eric Forbush	18	Samantha Livingston
5	James Omobono	18	Jared Ciano
7	Dominic Ramirez (Killilea)	20	Salvatore (Sal) Harris
7	Nick Nowell	24	David Hooper
7	Wayne Higden	26	Lucy Damiani
7	Steve Samarjian	26	Shirley Garside
7	Peter Silva	28	Forrest Knowles
9	Donna DeSimone		
16	Katherine Baker		
17	Kate Byers		

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEUDLE

September 6 Communion-10:30am

Communion Prep: Marj Zamanian
 Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
 Lay Leader:
 Head Usher: Dave McNeil
 Usher:
 Greeter:
 Collector: Dick Butler
 Nursery:
 Coffee Host:
 Baker/Snack:

September 20 Worship-10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
 Lay Leader:
 Head Usher:
 Usher:
 Greeter:
 Collector: Deb Raymond
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Coffee Host: Chris Stahlinski
 Baker/Snacks: Chris Stahlinski

September 13 Worship-10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
 Lay Leader: Sarah Clark
 Head Usher:
 Usher:
 Greeter: Chris Stahlinski
 Collector: Joan Zink
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Coffee Host: Deana Tredeau
 Baker/Snacks: Deana Tredeau

September 27 Worship/Red Wagon-10:30am

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
 Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
 Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
 Head Usher:
 Usher:
 Greeter:
 Collector: Lucy Damiani
 Nursery:
 Sunday School: Deb Raymond
 Coffee Host:
 Baker/Snacks:

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>

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9-3p Church Office	2 2p Bible Study	3 9-3p Church Office 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts	4	5
6 10:30a Communion Noon Music Committee Meeting	7 LABOR DAY 6p AA	8	9 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	10 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	11	12 Noha Rental Open 5pm
13 10:30a Worship/SS Welcome Brunch 	14 6p AA	15 7p PC Mtg.	16 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	17 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts	18	19 Murina Rental TBD
20 10:30a Worship/SS 1-3p Mike Fay	21 6p AA	22  <i>First Day Of Fall</i> 5:30-7:30p Mike Fay	23 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	24 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts	25 5p Dan Shea Drum Rental	26 Riyza Rental Open 4pm
27 10:30a Worship/SS Red Wagon 1p Youth Group @ UCC Reading 1-3p Mike Fay	28 6p AA	29 5:30-7:30p Mike Fay	30 2p Bible Study 7p Choir			

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

TO:



HILLTOP HERALD NEWSLETTER 2026