

HILLTOP HERALD OCTOBER 2026

Rev. Andrew Harris
 Pastor

Mark Omobono
 Moderator

CONTENTS

Pastor Message	1
Bible Study	2
Music notes	2
Deacons	3
Green Team	3
Missions	4
-Red Wagon	
-C4C	
-Financial Info	
-Clothing Drives	
Pumpkin Patch	5
Coffeehouse	5
Upcoming Events	6
Christian Ed	7-8
Joys/Concerns	9
Worship	10
Calendar	11

Sisters, brothers, and siblings in Christ,

We are about to enter into every church member's favorite time of year: Stewardship Season. I know that one of the major complaints about church membership in America is that the church is always asking for money, or at least it can feel that way.

But please don't tune out this annual plea for money and instead let's explore together why we give. One myth I'd like to dispel is the idea that we give (to the church, to charity, to your neighbor) because it makes us feel good. Now, this is usually how it starts. I remember the feeling of satisfaction after participating in my church's Thanksgiving meal drive as a kid. But there are two problems with this feeling as the reason for our giving.

First, that feeling doesn't last. Sure, the first turkey feels great, but after a dozen years and a thousand turkeys the lingering feeling isn't so much satisfaction as a begrudging acceptance of Jesus's truism, "the poor will be with you always." We're not going to be able to donate our way to the end of poverty and hunger. We all still feel *something* when we give, but it's not exactly *good*.

Second, if we're giving because it makes us feel good, we're not really serving others. We're serving ourselves. The act of giving is an imitation of Jesus's act of self-giving love. Jesus did not die on the cross because it felt good to do something nice for others. Jesus died because he loves us, wholly and unconditionally, sins and all.

We give because we are called to be Christ's body on earth. We give because we are blessed to be able to share Christ's self-giving love with others, wholly and unconditionally, with no expectation of reciprocation. We give because it's what Jesus did for us. In the light of God's grace and overwhelmed with gratitude, we give because through our giving we make Jesus's love real, tangible, and visible to the world. Frankly, we give because we have received.

And also, we give simply because God tells us to. There's great peace to be found in surrendering in obedience to God, who is good, loving, and just. We spend all our lives having to make decisions, big and small. There's grace in giving in to God's will and just doing what God asks of us.

God loves you no matter how much you give. The church loves you, supports you, and will be there for you no matter how much you give. Stewardship Season is not about asking for money, but about sharing gratitude for the blessings we've received, remembering the great love Jesus gave to us, and committing to manifest that love in the world.

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Peace,
 Rev. Andrew Harris



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.

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)

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



MUSIC NOTES

Dear Friends,

Choir season has officially started, and all are welcome to join! Whether you are a seasoned vocalist or have never sung in a choir before, we would love to have you.

Rehearsal Schedule:

- **Wednesdays:** 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- **Sundays:** 9:30 AM (on performance Sundays)

Special Music Opportunities We are also looking for singers and instrumentalists to share their talents during the Anthem and Offertory. If you'd like to participate, please reach out via email or stop by to chat after church.

If you have any questions about the choir or our church music program, feel free to contact me at my new email address: sdeldotto@uccburlington.org.

Warmly,

Sarah Del Dotto



On September 13, we celebrated Welcome Sunday. The service included worship for All Ages and Band Sunday, and Welcoming six new members: Elliott and Christa Brown, Joyce Cushman, Joe Greco, Judi Mack, and Laura Rexer. Members of the Boards of Deacons and Christian Education prepared and served a wonderful traditional welcome brunch. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success!

Come take a look! Our long-awaited kitchen renovations are coming along nicely, and we were able to utilize all 4 new ovens on Welcome Sunday. We are waiting for the arrival of new countertops and a sink to complete the project. Many Thanks to the Kitchen Task team who are working hard to complete the project.

Important upcoming events:

October 1 at 7pm – The Burlington Historical Society is meeting in our sanctuary for a presentation by local and church historian, Mike Tredeau. Our Beginnings-The Struggle to Become Independent Community and Meeting House of the Second Parish in Woburn

October 4 - World Communion Sunday

October 11 - Stewardship Sunday

October 17 - Coffee House plans are in full swing, and we hope everyone will come join us, see the Coffee House section to learn more. Tickets and our signup sheet are at Coffee Hour.

November 21 and 22 Thanksgiving Ingathering -We will be looking for volunteers again this year, we hope you will consider helping us give back to our community in need.

We will be selling Christmas Trees and hosting the Mistletoe Market on November 28th, please join us to make this a successful sale this year and need lots of volunteers.

Once again, we want to thank you for your generous donations to our Love Offering/Deacons Fund. As we are all aware of the great need and we continue to provide grocery gift cards and other basic needs to members of our community.

GREEN TEAM

The Green Team will be meeting on Wednesday,
October 7, 2026 at 12:45 in the conference room.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

MISSIONS UPDATE!



RED WAGON

The Burlington Pantry is in need of the following items to help stock the shelves and help feed those in need in our community:

Cereal
Pasta-Pasta Sauce
Coffee-Tea
Kids snacks individually wrapped

Please bring to worship on **Sunday, October 25** and we will bring items forward during worship!

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Join us on Thursday afternoons, 1-3pm in the church conference room as we work on many different projects such as prayer shawls, baptism blankets, prayer squares, hats/mittens for donating to the Wish Tree. If you don't knit or crochet, join us for some great conversation! All Welcome!

If you want to join us on Zoom here is the link:

[https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?](https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09)

[pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09](https://zoom.us/j/93567188274?pwd=TVJ3L2xDODFxeUVSM0dWRnFhell3dz09)

Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274

Passcode: 01803



MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT

This year 100% of the Christmas Offering went to our church. Missions voted to match that amount by making two donations. The funds became available to do so in September. \$2000 was donated to the International Institute of New England, which provides humanitarian relief, education, employment support, and immigration legal services to refugees and immigrants. \$2000 was also donated to UCC Disaster Relief in Jamaica and Cuba from Hurricane Melissa.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN)

Fall is the busiest time of the year for your Mission's committee. We pledge to support 5 special projects of the UCC. This lets us support the UCC missions of peace and justice on a larger scale. **This year on October 18 there will be a special offering for NEIGHBORS IN NEED.**

"The Neighbors in Need" offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries."

Special Neighbors in Need envelopes will be in the pews by October 3rd and outside the Church office. You may also donate on line.



COATS BOSTON

Coat Boston collected over 2,000 new winter coats last year which were distributed to children in need of coats in Boston. This year they are hoping to collect 3,000 new coats sizes for infants to 4XL. These will be distributed to 27 schools and organizations in Boston. UCC Burlington will be collecting coats through November 1.

There will be a bin for coats outside the office area.

WISH PROJECT IN CHELMSFORD



Wish Project in Chelmsford is asking for fall and winter donations of clothing. All sizes of clothing are needed. All donations need to be free of stains, with no holes, missing buttons or tears. Your donations can be left in one of the bins underneath the hall coat rack.

PUMPKIN PATCH AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH



By the time you read this the pumpkins will have arrived at Saint Mark's Church. They have traveled from a Navajo reservation in New Mexico. It's a wonderful site to see all the pumpkins and realize that the money from their sale goes to the Burlington People Helping People food pantry. The Burlington food pantry will supply their clients with food for Thanksgiving dinner. The pumpkin patch is open from September 28 to October 30. The UCC will help with the sale of pumpkins on October 1 and 15 from noon until 6PM. Missions is looking for volunteers to help at the Pumpkin patch. There is a signup sheet outside the church office if you can volunteer an hour or two to this cause.

COFFEE HOUSE

OCTOBER 17, 2026 7-9:30 PM

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

United Church of Christ, Congregational
6 Lexington Street Burlington MA

Call for Tickets 781-272-4547

Advanced Sale- \$20
At Door Tickets-\$30 Adults/\$20 Seniors

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

INGATHERING SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 22



What is Ingathering Sunday you ask? Our church is blessed to serve as the collection and distribution point for the Burlington Community Thanksgiving Dinners to families in need this year. This is in conjunction with the Burlington Food Pantry. We will need volunteers and donations, advertising, and planning for this huge event.

We are having a **Thanksgiving Food Drive on Saturday, November 21st from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at our church. For this food drive, we are requesting Thanksgiving and Food Pantry non-perishable foods. Cub Scout Pack 555 will be collecting hundreds of pies at Shaw's, so stop by and buy a pie that day.

More detailed information and signup sheets will be out and the end of October.

WISH TREE AT THE BURLINGTON MALL TO SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES



The People Helping People Holiday Program was established to help Burlington families in need during the holiday season. One part of this is the Wish Tree Program which provides clothing and gifts requested by a child of pantry clients. The Wish Tree has a table located on the second floor of the mall. People stop by, obtain a wish, buy the gift from wherever they want and bring the item back to the Wish Tree table. UCC will be at the Wish Tree table handing out the special wishes on December 1 and 7 from noon until 7PM. There is a signup sheet outside the office for volunteers.



CHRISTMAS TREES ARE COMING & THE MISTLETOE MARKET

We will need lots of volunteers, Raffle Baskets, Crafts and Bake Goods. Let's get creative and make this year a huge success! It was a wonderfully fun event last year! The Mistletoe Market is planned for Saturday, November 28.

CRAFT NIGHTS IN SEWALL HALL

Join us on Fridays in October to work on crafts to sell at our church table for the Mistletoe Market. If you have items you are working on, bring them along. We plan to meet on October 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 5:30pm. All are welcome!

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN ED



Welcome Sunday with bubbles of joy!

The 1st unit of the Sunday School year is Noah's ark. We had a book group about *Hidden Scrolls Noah's Ark* and are currently working on a project for a Sunday Open House planned for October 18th.

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE.

Come down to the Sunday School right after church to see what we have been up to!

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 25



Our church hall is very booked for the month of October, so we won't be holding the Halloween party, BUT.. we are going to hold a Halloween church service as such. The kids will wear costumes to church. AND adults please wear costumes too.

CE will hold a Halloween themed coffee hour and a parade of costumes. There will then be a pie throwing contest on the lawn outside.

NURSERY SCHOOL

We have a lively nursery each week. The nursery is also working on our Open House for October 18!



Youth Group is for people 6th – 12th grade. This program is held in conjunction with at least 5 other churches in the Northeast conference of the UCC. Meeting other youth will of course be a fun meaningful time.

Plans for November retreat are in the works date TBD.

Jan/Feb CityReach

Date TBD, in the Spring end of year party

OWL PROGRAM. OUR WHOLE LIVES. COMING SOON, DATE TBD

This is a fabulous program that will be presented by and for the same Northeast Region churches 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*



COMMUNITY DINNER

Wednesday 10/28/26 UCC will host the October dinner at the Presbyterian Church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

-Volunteers for the meal

Making Halloween themed Shepherd's Pie. Recipe will be available.

We will need a few volunteers to make Shepherds pie and to make desserts.

-Volunteers to setup 4:30pm

-Volunteers to cleanup until 7:30pm

There will be signup sheets at coffee hour

Please text or call Deb Raymond 857-373-9156.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy to Tom Killilea and family on the sudden passing of his brother Jim. Keeping you in our prayers.

Deepest sympathy to Anna Karwan on the loss of her dear mother Irena. We are sorry for your loss. Keeping you all in our prayers.

Sympathy to Kari Lynch and family on the loss of her brother-in-law Tom. Keeping you in our prayers.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Christa and Elliott Brown, Joyce Cushman, Joe Greco, Judi Mack and Laura Rexer.

We are so happy to have you as part of our church family!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

1	Roberta Low	10	Cooper Harris
2	Rob Costa	19	Adric Tredeau
2	Paul McDonough	20	Nicholas Turgiss
3	David Leonard	21	Gary Stahlinski
3	Precious Kabagahya	22	Deana Tredeau
5	Nicholas Ciardi	25	Joan Proctor
8	Joan Zink	27	Julie Lewis
		28	Karen Calandrelli
		31	Steve Fennelly

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION SCHEUDLE

OCTOBER 4 COMMUNION

Baptism

Communion Prep: Chris Stahlinski
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader:
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Dick Butler
Nursery: Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Baker/Snack:

OCTOBER 11

Love Offering

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sara Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Nursery: Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Baker/Snack:

OCTOBER 18

Baptism/NIN

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Lucy Damiani
Nursery: Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Baker/Snack:

OCTOBER 25

Baptism/Red Wagon

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader:
Head Usher:
Usher:
Greeter:
Flowers:
Collector: Joan Zink
Nursery: Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host: Chris Stahlinski
Baker/Snack: Chris Stahlinski

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>

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
   Pumpkin Patch opens at St. Mark's Church 1 St. Mark's Road, Burlington. Open October 1-31				1  Noon-6PM UCC @ the Pumpkin Patch 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts 6:30p Historical Society	2 5:30p Crafts In Sewall Hall	3 TBD Muntz Rental
4 10:30a Communion Baptism 11:30a PPR 1-3p Mike Fay	5 6:30p AA 7p Trustees	6 5:30p-7p Mike Fay	7 12:45p Green Team 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	8 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts 7p Deacons	9 5:30p Crafts In Sewall Hall	10 TBD Murina Rental
11 10:30a Worship Love Offering 1-3p Mike Fay	12 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p AA	13 5:30p-7p Mike Fay	14 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	15  Noon-6PM UCC @ the Pumpkin Patch 1p C4C 5:30p Scouts	16 5:30p Crafts In Sewall Hall Setup for Coffeehouse	17 Coffeehouse 7-9:30pm 
18 10:30a Worship NIN Baptism CE Open House at Noon 1-3p Mike Fay	19 6:30p AA	20 5:30p-7p Mike Fay 7p PC Mtg	21 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	22 5:30p Scouts	23 5:30p Crafts In Sewall Hall	24 TBD Noha Rental
25 10:30a Worship Red Wagon Baptism Halloween Event 1-3p Mike Fay 3:30-5:30p Scouts	26 6:30pAA	27 5:30p-7p Mike Fay	28 2p Bible Study 5:30p Community Dinner @ Presbyterian 7p Choir	29 5:30p Scouts	30 5:30p DRUMS Dan Shea	31  Turn your Clocks BACK before you go to bed!

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

TO:



OCTOBER 2026 HILLTOP HERALD NEWSLETTER