

NOVEMBER 2026 HILLTOP HERALD NEWSLETTER

Rev. Andrew Harris
Pastor

Mark Omobono
Moderator

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Dear Church,

This is our season of giving and our season of giving thanks. God has blessed our church so graciously. I'm awed with wonder each week as we gather in our historic sanctuary. It is warm and loud with conversation. It is filled with life and light. Music echoes around our sacred space. The smell of fresh baked goods drifts down from Sewall Hall. Children's laughter bounces up the stairs from Skelton Hall. In the sanctuary, I trust that we feel welcomed, safe, comfortable, and at peace. How truly blessed we are and how grateful our spirits.

Having been so blessed, may we also be motivated to share. During Stewardship season, we talk often of the way we share our time, talents, and treasure. God has blessed each of us with wonderful gifts to share with our church, with our community, with the world. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Let it shine!

But as we talk of sharing, I would also like us to reflect on how we can share the Good News of God's unconditional love. The feeling that we get when we worship together – how can we share that with our friends and neighbors? Often, we feel comfortable just doing the work quietly, whether giving or serving, but we get terribly uncomfortable when it comes to talking about it. How can we share the Good News of this church? How can we share the warm welcome that we find here? What would you say to a stranger about your church?

In this season of giving and sharing, I pray that God helps us to find the words to say and the courage to say them, so that we might delight in sharing the Good News of God's love with people who need to hear it. In our culture, we develop skills to hide our hurt, our doubt, our seeking questions. We worry about being zealous, pushy, or insensitive. But God has a way of tearing down these barriers that separate us. God reminds us that vulnerability is our strength. God brings us together with fellow pilgrims on life's journey and God needs us to give words to this transformative ministry of fellowship and love.

In the spirit of gratitude, in awe of God's wonderful blessings, may we share the Good News of God's love that we have found here in this community of faith.

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.

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://uso6web.zoom.us/j/89076641525>

THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

First Parish Church

7 Concord Road, Billerica, MA

Join us for food from 6-7pm followed by worship 7-8pm

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC OPPORTUNITY

I hope you're all doing well and enjoying this beautiful fall season! I know Halloween hasn't even arrived yet, but I'm already looking ahead to Christmas (and apparently, so are the stores!).

I'm excited to invite the children to participate in our service on **Sunday, December 13th**, by singing a sweet Christmas song called "*The Friendly Beasts*." It's a lovely song, and I think the children would have so much fun learning it!

We would begin practicing on **Sunday, November 15th**, meeting after church from **11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** each week.

One of the things I love most about the Christmas season is seeing children take part in our celebrations. There's something truly special about hearing their voices and watching them share in the joy of the season together. I would love to make this a fun and meaningful experience for the children, and I hope you'll consider having your child join us! At the very least, we'll all have the chance to learn a wonderful new Christmas song along the way.

If you think your child might be interested, please let me know by **November 8th** so I can plan accordingly. And, of course, if you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd be delighted to have the children participate, and I'm looking forward to making this a special part of our Christmas celebration! Also, feel free to pass this along to any other children in the church who may be interested.

Warmly,

Sarah Del Dotto

sdeldotto@uccburlington.org



We have a lot of wonderful activities planned for our busy fall schedule!

First let's look back at some of our terrific October events: Six new members were added to our congregation! Welcome to all!

There were 3 baptisms: Callum Frances Kelly on October 4, parents are Lacey Perkins-Kelly and Patrick Kelly, Henry Oliver Tierson on October 18, parents are Matt and Sonja Tierson and Jacoby Ierardi on October 25, parents are Daniel Ierardi and Alisha Duffy.

Mike Tredeau, as Guest Speaker of The Burlington Historical Society, on October 1st presented an informative history of the beginning of Burlington and church which honored its upcoming 295 anniversary in 2027.

Our annual Coffee House on October 17 was a great success once again. It featured many of our talented performers from the church with help from the Presbyterian Church and Burlington Temple. The hall and tables were beautifully decorated with a fall theme. As always, the fall-themed refreshments were spectacular. We want to thank the Music Committee and all the many contributors.

Our new Memorial plaque recognizing "members and friends" that have received donations for the church in their name will be dedicated and blessed on November 1.

Please make note on your calendars for these upcoming fall and advent events: Volunteers are needed and appreciated for all events!

- In Gathering - November 21 and 22
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service in Billerica - (TBA)
- Mistletoe Market - November 28
- Christmas Tree Sales begin - November 28
- Our Advent Season will feature many opportunities to worship with us.
- On December 13, we are planning a Bring a Friend to Church Sunday.
- Our Christmas Eve Services will be at 4 pm and 10 pm.

We are excited to "note" that Sarah Del Dotto our Director of Music Ministry is planning to organize a future Children's Choir! (Stay tuned).



OCTOBER WAS PASTOR APPRECIATION - WE HONORED ANDREW!

MISSION NEWS



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 November 29 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=TVJ3L2xDOdFxeUVSM0dWRnFhelli3dz09>

Meeting ID: 935 6718 8274
Passcode: 01803



MISSIONS TREASURER'S REPORT

In October \$1600 was paid to SNEUCC. This completed our annual donation of \$4500, which includes \$900 paid directly to the MBA. We also made a \$500 donation to the UCC Pension Board designated for The Christmas Fund-Veterans of the Cross. This donation helps make us a 5 for 5 Church. In addition, \$1000 was paid to two Benevolences: Science with a Mission and VNA Care.

The purpose of Science with a Mission, located in Sharon, is to combine scientific knowledge with Christian compassion, dedicated to producing diagnostics for developing countries. VNA Care, located in Woburn, provides Home Health Care, Palliative and Hospice Care, and Home Care to those in need.

WISH TREE



The People Helping People Holiday program was established to help Burlington families in need during the holiday season. One part of this project 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 11 until 7PM. There is a sign-up sheet outside the office.



COAT BOSTON

Until November 8 (only 2 weeks away) Missions will be collecting new coats for Boston's children in need. In 2025 Coat Boston collected over 2,000 new winter coats which were distributed to Boston's children in need of coats. This year they are hoping to collect 3,000 new coats sized infants to 4XL. These will be distributed by 27 schools and organizations in Boston. ***UCC Burlington will be collecting coats through the Church service on November 8.***

There is a bin for coats outside the office.

WISH PROJECT IN NORTH CHELMSFORD

Wish Project is now collecting all sizes of gently used winter clothing. The clothing needs to be freshly washed, and free of holes, tears, and stains. There is a labeled bin under the coat rack for your donations. Recently we took 2 carloads of clothing up to Chelmsford.

NOVEMBER HILLTOP HERALD FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Now that fall has arrived and we are approaching the end of our Stewardship Campaign (November 15, 2026) and Thanksgiving, we should step back and consider, prayerfully, for what we're truly thankful.

When determining your pledge amount, please consider that costs have also risen for the church. Like everyone else, the Church's operating expenses have increased as respects heating oil. We will probably see an increase of 20% or more. If you can increase your pledge from last year, it would be greatly appreciated.

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 and not be subject to any capital gains. (You should talk with your accountant and/or financial advisor for tax advice) If you have any questions, you may also ask members of the Finance & Stewardship Committee.

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

Respectfully Submitted - Laura Nowell - Chairperson



Three of Cups, our own Debbie Claar and friend Anne Marie Messbauer will be performing at Old Sturbridge Village in Center Meetinghouse on Friday, December 11 at 2:15 and 3:45 for "Christmas by Candlelight"- although there will still be daylight when we are singing, ha ha! But you can hear us and then enjoy other activities at the Village while the sun goes down and the festive lights come on.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN ED

The past few months in Sunday School; wow, we have been having fun and have been busy.



The animals are coming on board the Ark!



Room on the Broom for everyone!



It was a beautiful day to celebrate Halloween inside and out! Thanks to everyone who participated!

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

Sunday Nov 1, Sunday School Open House. Please come down to the Sunday School/Nursery right after church, and before coffee hour. Noah's ark is awaiting your visit.

INGATHERING SERVICE 11/22

This is a Band and All Church Sunday, the kids will stay in church for the full service. The weeks before November 22, we will focus on Stewardship. The kids will earn cans of food to donate on November 22.

NURSERY SCHOOL

We have a lively nursery each week. The nursery is working on our project for the ark!

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Youth Group

An email has been sent to all high school youths and parents, requesting their interest in the two programs being offered in conjunction with the Northeast Conference Churches. The programs are: CityReach and the Owl Program (Our Whole Lives). If you are a high school student or parent of a high school student and did not receive this email, please contact Deb C: 857-373-9156.

COMMUNITY DINNER 5:30 PM

Wednesday, October 28 UCC hosted the October dinner at the Presbyterian Church
335 Cambridge St., Burlington.

Thank you for the generosity of time and food to those helping make this a great dinner party.



2026 THANKSGIVING INGATHERING DINNER DISTRIBUTION

Our church is blessed to serve as the collection and distribution point for the Burlington Community Thanksgiving Dinners to families in need this year. Currently, we are soliciting 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 United Church of Christ, Congregational, 6 Lexington Street. For this food drive, we are requesting Thanksgiving and Food Pantry non-perishable foods. Cub Scouts Pack 555 will be collecting hundreds of pies at Shaw's, so stop by and buy a pie.

We are requesting that our church and our neighboring faith communities provide non-perishable food for the Thanksgiving Dinners. You may bring these donations on Saturday to the food drive and items will be taken directly from your car or bring your donations to worship on Sunday, November 22nd. We encourage all our families to participate in the sorting.

This is a short list, but we need DOZENS and DOZENS OF EACH ITEM. **Please, NO EXPIRED DATES!**

Stuffing (bags or boxes)	Corn, canned
Gravy	Chicken broth
Mayonnaise	Cornbread mix
Cranberry sauce, canned	

Fresh vegetables (potatoes, green beans, squash, carrots, etc.) will be purchased, so if you would like to make a monetary contribution it would be welcome. Checks should be made payable to People Helping People. These may be mailed to the church office or put in the collection on Ingathering Sunday.

OUR SCHEDULE AT UCC

Saturday 11/21

- 10:00 am- 1:00 pm- Burlington Thanksgiving Food Drive. (Donations accepted- Thanksgiving and any non-perishable items to stock our Pantry.)
- 10:00 am- 3:00 pm- We will be doing setup, sorting, bagging produce, and advance preparation.

Sunday 11/22

- During Worship-Thanksgiving Ingathering Food Drive.
- Immediately after worship until 1:00 pm- We will do final sorting and preparation of distribution; we would love to have our youth and other volunteers participate in this activity.
- 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm- We will have drivers picking up deliveries at sanctuary doors.
- 2:00 pm- 5:00 pm- We will assist families with picking up their food in Sewall Hall. Volunteers must be over 18.
- 4:00 pm- 6:00 pm- We will have a crew to transport leftovers to pantry and clean up.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Fresh-cut Balsam Firs for your family to enjoy through the holidays

Lot opens Saturday, November 28th



CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Our tree sale opens Friday, November 27, the day after Thanksgiving! Hours are 4–6 PM on weekday evenings and 12–6 PM on weekends. We need volunteers to set up and staff the lot. Thank you for sharing your time and spirit! Along with beautiful trees, we'll sell fresh wreaths and handmade ornaments throughout the sale.

Prepay before November 27 to save \$5 on your tree this year, then pick it up anytime during the sale. You can also sponsor a tree for someone in need. If you don't need a real Christmas tree, consider buying one for another family; we'll work with People Helping People to deliver sponsored trees to families who would like one.

Pre-order here:

<https://unitedchurch-of-christ-burlington.square.site/>



MISTLETOE MARKET

We're delighted to welcome back the Mistletoe Market! Local vendors will rent tables to display their goods, and UCC's craft and bake table will feature handmade contributions from our congregation. Crafters and bakers, please contribute a few holiday-themed items or gifts, including Christmas cookies individually wrapped for hanging on our cookie tree.

Santa Claus will also join us for photos on the Sewall Hall stage!

The Market needs many volunteers! Save the date and contact us to help or look for the signup sheet at Coffee Hour in early November.

Raffles & Silent Auction: Many vendors are generously contributing raffle items for the Mistletoe Market, and a silent auction is also planned for that day. We'd welcome themed baskets and a few higher-value donations, such as vacation rentals or gift card bundles, to help make the fundraiser a success.



Want to Get Involved? If you have questions about the Market, feel free to email us at

UCCMistletoeMarket@gmail.com. Vendor spots are filling quickly! Interested or know of someone who is?

Share this application link: <https://forms.gle/V3b7RmdMZJeFFxT99>

We can't wait to celebrate the season with you - bringing joy, connection, and the spirit of giving to our church and sharing our joy with the community.

Warmly, The Christmas Tree Sale & Mistletoe Market Committees

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Passing of Laura Nowell's friend Barbara

Jan McSheffrey

Barbara Naddaff, grandson and friend Mary

Deb Raymond's friend Keith

Anna Karwan's brother Steve

Shirley Garside and daughter Lynn

Bobbie Killilea's godson Chris

Dan Shea

Skip Glancy

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

Tonia Egan, her mom and dad

Joe Stoddard's family member Jada

Cindy Phillip's friend's husband pancreatic cancer

Sally Willard's sister Vicky

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

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



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

1	Chris Silva
2	Billy Forbush
3	Elizabeth Silva
3	Joyce Carpenter
5	Scarlett Costa
5	Cameron Bonnell
6	Elizabeth Forbush
6	Ken Keyser
10	Geoffrey Fong
11	Keri Beyer
18	Aline Beck
19	Marcia Rich
21	Jeremy Todd
21	Barbara Nee
23	John Getsinger
23	Carol Downing
29	Liam Egan
29	Kiera Egan

BLESSINGS TO:

-Callan Perkins, son of Patrick and Lacey Perkins, baptized on October 4th.

-Henry Oliver Tierson, son of Sonja and Matt Tierson, baptized on October 18th.

-Jacoby Daniel Ierardi, son of Daniel Ierardi and Alisha Duffy, baptized on October 25th.

WORSHIP 10:30AM

November 1 Communion

Communion Prep: Chris Stahlinski
Mage Zamanian
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Debbie Claar
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter:
Cornucopia: Deacons
Collector: Deb Raymond
Nursery: Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Baker/Snacks:

WORSHIP 10:30AM-Love Offering

November 8 Love Offering

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Chris Stahlinski
Head Usher: Dave McNeil
Usher:
Greeter: Marcia Rich
Cornucopia: Deacons
Collector: Dick Butler
Nursery: Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
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>

WORSHIP 10:30AM

November 15

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Lucy Damiani
Head Usher: Chris Stahlinski
Usher:
Greeter:
Cornucopia: Deacons
Collector: Marge Zamanian
Nursery: Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host:
Baker/Snacks: Marcia Rich

WORSHIP 10:30AM

November 22 In-gathering Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist: Sarah Del Dotto
Lay Leader: Sarah Clark
Head Usher:
Usher: Carol Downing
Greeter: Marcia Rich
Cornucopia: Deacons
Collector: Marcia Rich
Nursery: Kanika Agarwala
Sunday School: Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Host: Chris Stahlinski
Baker/Snacks: Chris Stahlinski

WORSHIP 10:30AM

November 29 Advent Sunday

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

NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30a Communion	2 6:30AA	3 5:30-7P MIKE FAY	4 2p Bible Study 5:30-7P MIKE FAY 7p Choir	5 1p C4C 5:30-7pm MIKE FAY No SCOUTS	6 5P THE SHOW FROZEN	7 2PM THE SHOW FROZEN 6PM THE SHOW FROZEN
8 10:30a Worship-Love Offering 2PM THE SHOW FROZEN	9 6:30AA	10	11 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	12 1p C4C 5:30p SCOUTS 7p Deacons Mtg.	13	14
15 10:30a Worship Noon Children's Choir	16 6:30AA	17 7P PC Meeting	18 2p Bible Study 7p Choir	19 1p C4C 5:30p SCOUTS 7p Missions Mtg.	20	21 10-noon FOOD DRIVE HALL SETUP FOR INGATHERING
22 10:30a Worship INGATHERING SUNDAY Noon Children's Choir 2-5P Food Distribution	23 6:30AA	24 4P BHS RENTAL THANKSGIVING DINNER	25	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 	27 Church Office Closed 4-7p Tree Sales	28 10-3pm MISTLETOE MARKETPLACE 12-6p Tree Sales
29 ADVENT 10:30a Worship-Red Wagon Noon Children's Choir 12-6p Tree Sales	30 6:30AA 4-7p Tree Sales					

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

TO:



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