The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PLEDGE SUNDAY

"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."

November 15, 2026 **10:30am**

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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!*

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

Gathering....

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

***Morning Psalm** Adapted from Psalm 123

One: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
All: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
One: As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
All: so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.
One: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.
All: Have mercy upon us,
One: For we have had more than enough of contempt.
All: Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are comfortable and complacent.
One: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.
All: Have mercy upon us.

***Opening Hymn** We Praise You O God NCH #420

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***Devotional Hymn** Take My Gifts NCH #562

Reflecting...

Scripture Readings

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet

the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest. So, take the talent from him and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Our Sermon Faith to Overcome Fear Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem "Walk with the Lord" by Don Besig Choir

Praying…

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Offering…

Invitation to Offering

Sharing Our Gifts With God

All are invited to bring forth their pledge cards, time and talent surveys, and morning offering.

***Offertory** What Gift Could We Bring Attached

***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** Great Is Thy Faithfulness NCH #423

***Benediction**

Postlude

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Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor
Sarah Del Dotto, Director of Music Ministries
Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education
Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant
Uccburlington.org / 781-272-4547

CHURCH VISION STATEMNT
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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Passing of Barbara Naddaff
Donna DeSimone
Barbara Moran
Jan McSheffrey
Deb Raymond's friend Keith
Anna Karwan's brother Steve
Shirley Garside and daughter Lynn
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
Sally Willard's sister Vicky
Rev. Cheryl Kerr's son Gabe
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

BIBLE STUDY

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**

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

Worship Participation
November 15 Worship 10:03am

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:	
Bakers:	Marcia Rich

Worship Participation-Ingathering
November 22 Worship 10:30am

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
Bakers:	Chris Stahlinski

WISH PROJECT CLOTHING NEEDS

As you start to take out your winter clothing, please remember 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.

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 noon until 7PM. Thank you to all who have volunteered!**

PAJAMA/UNDERWEAR/SWEATSHIRT DRIVE FOR PHP



The Wish Tree pajama drive request cards have arrived and will be available from Lucy Damiani, or Susan Eby after services Sunday November 15th. These requests are for the children of clients of Burlington's People Helping People. The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the Church office by December 6th. Missions thanks you for your donation to this worthy cause.



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 of 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	

When families arrive to shop in the afternoon, we ask that only adults are allowed to help due to privacy reasons.



CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

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.
Sign up link will be available soon!

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.
Home | Mistletoe Market at UCC Burlington! **EXTRA HANDS WILL BE NEEDED TO HELP SET UP LIGHTING FOR THE TREE SALES. STAY TUNED!**



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!
******SIGNUP SHEET IS AT COFFEE HOUR!******

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.

If you are making crafts for the church table, please bring these on November 27th by 5pm. If preparing baked goods, please bring these by 5pm on November 27th.

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.