

# HILLTOP HERALD

**MARCH 2016**

**Rev. Angela V. Wells**  
*Pastor*

**Michael Lewis**  
*Moderator*

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Dear Friends,

It's Lent and we are in the thick of it. Did you give something up? Did you take something on? Did you make a new commitment to yourself? How is that going? Only 27 more days to go! Or, if I were a Lenten motivational speaker, would you want to get up and leave the room because you're tired of hearing about Lent, and are you feeling badly because you didn't make any life changes, and you aren't quite sure what repentance is and you'd rather just skip all this stuff and get to Easter?

I hear you. I do. We are busy, and there are so many things in our lives, which remind us that we aren't good enough, we don't have enough, we aren't doing enough, that maybe being asked to be repentant and reminding ourselves of all the ways we fall short isn't something we have space for in our minds and hearts. I hear you, and if that's where you are, I empower you to do what you need to do for you. This season is tough, and it doesn't speak to everyone.

But for me it's not oppressive, it's liberating. Sure, it's about us remembering our sins and imperfections but that's only half of it! The other very important half is being reminded that we are beloved just as we are. It's about remembering that we aren't always perfect parents or friends or coworkers, but(!) each time we mess up is an opportunity to apologize, deepen our relationship with someone, learn from the experience and move on. Lent isn't about sitting in our sackcloth (a really uncomfortable and coarse fabric that people like Jacob

and Job in the Bible wear as an expression of self-punishment). Lent is about lifting up to God that which is burdening us, weighing us down, and then standing up straight, pushing our shoulders back and being grateful that we aren't perfect and we aren't expected to be and yet God still loves us unconditionally.

Your worth and your value are not determined by your commitment to the season of Lent. Be gentle with yourself and with your loved ones. We are all at different places on the journey, one place not being better than another. Sometimes it's all we can do to keep functioning day in and day out and if you are in that place, may you never forget that you are held, loved and supported by our community. Or, if you decided to deepen your Lenten practice this year, blessings to you on the journey, and remember, it's not about perfection; it's about progress.

I leave you with this quote that is attributed to Plato, "*Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.*"

With God's Peace,

*Rev. Angela V. Wells*

Rev. Angela Wells



*We are on BCAT! Our services are being recorded so that they can be broadcast on BCAT, our local cable access channel. You can watch the service on Mondays at 4:30pm and Sundays at 6:00pm. Please note, the only people whose faces are on camera are the choir and those who lead the worship service.*

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

## ***Palm Sunday***



***March 20 @ 10:20am (10 minutes earlier)***

***Everyone is encouraged to gather next door in the Big Hall at 10:20am .*** We will all process into the sanctuary while singing and waving our palms! As we enter, please proceed to the back of the sanctuary coming forward to lay your palms near the altar. (After worship you may take your palms upon leaving).

## ***Maundy Thursday Service***



***March 24 @ 7:30pm***

Please join us for a traditional Maundy Thursday Service in the sanctuary. We will hear the story of Jesus' last days on Earth. Candles will be given out at the start of the service. After receiving Communion by intinction, we will form a circle and extinguish our candles one at a time until we are in darkness, symbolizing Christ's light going out for three days. This is a solemn service for older teens and adults.

## ***Good Friday***



***March 25 from noon-3pm***

Please come sit in the sanctuary between noon-3pm for quiet meditation. There will be quiet music and scripture for you to read if you like.

## ***Easter Sunrise Service***



***March 27 @ 6:30am***

This year's Confirmation class will plan and lead our Easter Sunrise Service. Come and join us in celebrating Christ's resurrection. It is sure to be a wonderful and inspiring service planned by our youth. We will gather across Bedford Street, near the outcropping of the rock for the service. Dress warmly! Donuts, hot chocolate and coffee will be served immediately after the service!

## ***Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee Hour at 9:30am***



Join us for coffee and fellowship in the Ed Building Hall prior to our 10:30am worship service. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt for children.

## ***Easter Worship Service at 10:30am***



The sanctuary will be filled with flowers and music to proclaim the miracle of Christ's resurrection! At this Easter Festival service, we will adorn the large cross with flowers this year like we've done in year's past. Coffee and conversation to follow.

## NEUTRAL PULPIT PREACHER: MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

When someone is being considered for a pastoral position in a congregation, the search committee of that church needs to have an opportunity to hear the candidate preach, but it cannot be in their home church because they're not ready to introduce the person to the entire congregation. Therefore, neighboring churches will often host a "neutral pulpit," in which a search committee comes to hear their candidate preach on a given Sunday. Our church will play host to one such event on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Wells will be in worship and she will lead the majority of the service, as per usual, but she won't preach that day. This is a great way for us to be in community with other local churches and to support them during a pastoral transition. Out of respect for the search process, it's not appropriate for us to disclose the name of the church that is in the midst of a search. Please be in touch with Angela if you have any questions.

## NEW MEMBER'S CLASS MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, AFTER WORSHIP

Church membership? What's that? Why would I *join* the church? I have commitment issues. Come to this class to have all your questions answered. We'll learn more about our church, the wider UCC and what it means to formally become a member. No commitment required, this class is just for explorers. The class will be held right after church in the Conference Room, a light lunch will be provided. The class is led by Pastor Angela, but the Deacons Committee hosts it. Please RSVP by emailing Pastor Angela at RevWells@uccBurlington.org or the church office if you plan to participate. Just a heads up, for those who do decide to join the church, our New Member's Sunday will be on April 17th, so mark your calendars!

## EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase flowers for our Easter Service on March 27th

**Flowers are \$10 per plant.**

Please return your payment with the enclosed slip identifying how many plants, in memory/celebration of those you would like listed and please let us know if you are keeping your plant or donating yours to someone who has been ill, or lost a family member

**Deadline for ordering is March 20th**



## SANCTUARY DECORATING FOR EASTER



The Deacons will be decorating for Easter services on Saturday morning, March 26th (the day before Easter) beginning at 9:30 AM, and we'd love to have you join us. We'll be hanging the banner, foiling plants, setting up the risers, getting cut flowers ready for the cross, getting materials ready for the pews, and a number of other activities. We need help, so please join us if you can! Any assistance is welcome and appreciated!

## FROM THE GREEN TEAM Save the dates!



Friday, April 15th at 7:30 join us as we view a documentary on the plight of bees. Did you know 1/3 of what we eat depends on bees?

AND then...

Sunday, April 24th, for our Earth Day worship service, Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, our conference minister will be the guest preacher.



More information will be available in the April Hilltop.

## CHURCH TREASURER

The church is still looking for a new Treasurer! Mark Flecchia has generously offered to train and support the new person during the transition. If you have a head for numbers and would be interested in learning more about what the role entails, please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee: Carol Downing, Janet Knudsen or Marcia Rich.

## MUSIC NOTES

### March Rehearsals

The Adult Choir will rehearse every Wednesday in March from 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin for Youth Choir rehearsal dates in March. When they meet, it will be on Wednesday night from 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm.

### Brass Quintet on Easter Sunday!

Our principal service at 10:30 on Easter Sunday, March 27, will feature a brass quintet conducted by Ipswich musician Kevin Carubia. Make sure to come early to hear their magnificent prelude! This joyous musical offering is made possible by your support of the Special Music Fund managed by the Deacons and the Music Committee. (Form on page 9)

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The *Sunday School* focus for March will be on the season of Lent. The big ideas are that Lent is a Journey to Easter and that it is a time of questioning and choosing, as was the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. We will also learn that God wants to shelter and protect us, hear stories about God's loving ways and renew our relationship with God.



The Valentine bookmarks created by the youth and passed out by Sunday School students on Valentine's Day was a big hit!

Thanks everybody for helping!



### SAVE THE DATES

**March 20** The youth of our church is invited to help CE *stuff Easter eggs* during coffee hour for our annual egg hunt on Easter Sunday. At 8:45am on Easter they can help hide the eggs in Skelton Hall and monitor the egg hunt at 9:30.

Also on March 20th an Intergenerational Bowling Event is planned for 12:30 at Kings Lanes Bowling in Burlington. Everyone is invited – kids under 14, please bring parents! CE will cover the costs of one game and shoe rental for youth under 18. Come join us for lunch at the lanes whether you bowl or just watch the fun! See signup sheet (headcount needed).

**March 27** – All younger children are invited to our annual *Easter Egg Hunt* at 9:30! Bring a basket!

## VISION MEETINGS

**The Vision Team sponsors final conversation dates - let your voice be heard!**

Please sign up for one of the dates below during coffee hour or by emailing Ted Brierley [tedtina@rcn.com](mailto:tedtina@rcn.com) or Debbie Claar [dsclar@bu.edu](mailto:dsclar@bu.edu). We look forward to meeting with you.

Sunday, March 6 at noon in the UCC conference room  
Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm in the UCC conference room  
Saturday, March 19 at 2pm at Debbie Claar's house  
Sunday, April 3 at noon in the UCC conference room

# BOARD OF MISSIONS

## RED WAGON



### ROSIE'S PLACE

We will be volunteering in Boston on May 7th (Sat) to prepare, cook, serve and cleanup for lunch at this homeless shelter for women. If you would like to volunteer please contact Jan McSheffrey at [afdove@verizon.net](mailto:afdove@verizon.net)



The last Sunday of the month we take a collection of specific items needed at the Burlington Food Pantry.

We have been asked to donate the following:

**Coffee/tea/cocoa**  
**Salad Dressing**  
**Pancake syrup**  
**Single wrapped toilet paper**

Please bring items to worship on March 27th and we will bring them forward during the service.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OGHS

March 6th during worship!



OGHS supports DSPR (Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees) through partnership with Global Ministries. Support of refugees is vital as more of the world's people live forcibly displaced from their homes than at any time in the past century. Your gifts to OGHS also helps with worldwide disaster relief efforts. Special envelopes will be provided in the church pews. However, if you would like to make a donation please make your check out to UCC and on the memo line write OGHS. Thank you for your generosity!

## GIFT CARDS ARE AN ONGOING GIFT TO OUR CHURCH

When you buy or reload a gift card with Shop With Scrip, a percentage of what you spend comes back to the church. Our next round of ordering dates are timed perfectly for Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. Also, remember all the local stores, restaurants, gas stations and movie theaters that you frequent on a regular basis.



<u>Order by</u>	<u>Cards Delivered by</u>
3/13	3/20
4/24	5/1
6/5	6/12

There are several ways to buy:

- Leave a completed order form and check made out to UCC Burlington (note "gift cards" in the memo line) in the Gift Card Orders mailbox in the church office.
- Order online at [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com) (use code BB483284315L1 to link your account to the church). Either leave a check in the Gift Card Orders mailbox in the church office, or use your own credit card to complete your online purchase. You can request traditional plastic gift cards or print paper gift cards from your home computer.
- See or email Nancy Todd to link your checking account to Shop With Scrip. This enables instant payments for your online orders -- and you can order any time, regardless of our batched ordering dates.



# MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4-6p True North Pastor Hours <b>6p Body Sculp</b> 6:30pm CE Meeting	2 1p C4C TBA Jr. Choir <b>7p Scouts</b> 7:15p Choir	3 9-11a True North Pastor Hours <b>6p Body Sculp</b> 7:30p Lenten Book Study	4	5
6 8:45a Meditation 10:30a Communion One Great Hour of Sharing Noon Vision Gathering at UCC	7 10a Missions Mtg <b>3:30a Irish Step</b> <b>6p Body Sculp</b> 7:30p Trustees <b>8p AA</b>	8 4-6p True North Pastor Hours <b>6p Body Sculp</b> 7p Vision Gather- ing at UCC	9 1p C4C TBA Jr. Choir <b>7p Scouts</b> 7:15p Choir	10 9-11a True North Pastor Hours <b>6p Body Sculp</b> 7:30p Lenten Book Study	<b>Confirmation Retreat</b>	
13 8a Men's Breakfast 8:45a Meditation 10:30a Worship (Neutral Pulpit) Love Offering & Church School 11:30a Youth to stuff eggs  11:30a New Members luncheon	14 <b>3:30a Irish Step</b>  <b>6p Body Sculp</b> <b>8p AA</b>	15 4-6p True North Pastor Hours <b>6p Body Sculp</b>  7:15p Parish Council	16 1p C4C TBA Jr. Choir <b>7p Scouts</b> 7:15p Choir	17 9-11a True North Pastor Hours <b>6p Body Sculp</b> 7:30p Lenten Book Study	18  <b>7:30p Sushi Class</b>	19  2p Vision Gathering at Debbie Claar's
20 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:45a Meditation  Worship is at 10:20a today! Church School  11:30a Called to Care Meeting  12:30p Intergenera- tional Bowling at Kings Bowling	21 <b>3:30a Irish Step</b>  <b>6p Body Sculp</b> <b>8p AA</b>	22 4-6p True North Pastor Hours <b>6p Body Sculp</b>	23 1p C4C TBA Jr. Choir <b>7p Scouts</b> 7:15p Choir	24 No True North Pastor Hours  <b>7:30p Maundy Thursday Service</b>	25 <b>April Hilltop Articles are due!</b>  <b>1-3pm Good Friday Meditation</b>	26 9:30a Sanctuary Decorating for Easter!
27 <b>EASTER</b> 6:30a Sunrise Svc  9:30a Easter Egg Hunt/Coffee Hour  10:30a Worship  11:30a Coffee Hour	28 <b>3:30a Irish Step</b>  <b>6p Body Sculp</b> <b>8p AA</b>	29 No true north Pastor hours  <b>6p Body Sculp</b>	30 9:30a Hilltop Folding/Mailing 1p C4C  TBA Jr. Choir <b>7p Scouts</b> 7:15p Choir	31 No true north Pastor hours		

## ADVANTAGES AND COST OF CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

Our church is a member of the Massachusetts Conference of The United Church of Christ. **For 2016 we are obligated to pay the Conference \$20 per member per year for membership. Starting in 2017 we will pay the conference an amount based on a percentage of the prior year's revenue.** Being a member enables us to utilize the resources supplied by the Conference such as the UCC group medical and retirement plans for our pastor, professional help in navigating the process of finding a pastor, substitute pastors, stewardship resources, educational materials, the "God Is Still Speaking" program and many other things that help keep the church actively involved in the open and affirming values of worship and outreach that embody our church. We feel that Conference membership is valuable and paying your dues individually is a valuable asset to our budget. You can pay in the following ways.

- Put your check made out to UCC marked "Dues" in the collection plate any Sunday.
  - Mail your check made out to UCC marked "Dues" to:  
John Heald, Financial Secretary, UCC Burlington, 6 Lexington St, Burlington, MA 01803
- Pay online on the church website at [www.uccburlington.org](http://www.uccburlington.org)

**Thank you for all of your support from the Stewardship & Finance Committee!**

## PEOPLE TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Kendra Griep's grandfather Phil  
Lorraine Suttie's mom  
Janet Knudsen and her friend Helen  
Rev. Mike O'Brien  
Jessy McNeil's Brother Mel  
Anne Stafford's grandsons Tyler and Zach  
Bill Hitchcock's daughter, Isabella, and  
passing of her grandmother Carol  
Dorothy Murdoch's daughter Judi and  
Brother Frank Walton  
Lucy's cousin Brad Stanley  
Dot Drinkwater  
Frank and Ruth Reddig  
Dot Talalas  
Everett Langley and his brother George  
John Heald's sister Susan & Mom  
Aimee Tredeau's friend Amanda  
Barbara Moran's friend Heather



Kerry Beyer  
Nancy Playle  
Joe Stoddard's parents Joseph & Lillian, and Aunt  
Jacqueline  
Bobbie's sister Karen and family  
Ginger Mungillo's son, Jim  
Joyce Carpenter's great grandnephew Logan  
Jason Vogler's friend, Lathan and his family  
Dick Rockwell's friend Margot Blank

The people of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, the  
Central African Republic and all places where  
war and violence persist

## MARCH BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

1	Katy Marsh	14	Josephine Ursino
3	Ann Onthank	15	Stephen Jacobs
3	Cindy Brown	17	Erika Downing
7	Barbara Moran	21	Jack Arrington
7	Paul Raymond	26	Laura Breau
8	Ann T. Miller	26	Kyle Lawrence
12	Laura Nowell	26	Libby Samarjian
		28	Alysa (Davis) Johnson



## EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory /Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of plants: **(\$10.00 each)** \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to keep my plant: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate my plant: \_\_\_\_\_

I will deliver a plant: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a plant delivered  
to a UCC member/friend \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Person)

**Please return your payment to the church office by March 20th**

## DEACONS' SPECIAL MUSIC FUND DONATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ **Please make your check payable to UCC Burlington  
and write "Deacons' Special Music Fund" on the memo line.**

My donation is (please check one and fill out as appropriate):

\_\_\_ my Easter gift to the church's music ministry.

\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ in celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU!

UCC  
6 Lexington Street  
Burlington, MA 01803  
Address Service Requested



**MARCH 2016**

