



The Signpost

FEBRUARY 2020

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The Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

228 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT 06043 ~ (860) 649-7077 ~ www.boltonucc.org

The vision of the Bolton Congregational Church UCC is to be true to the model and example set by the early Church of the Apostles, in our own time.



Food Collection

February is MACC Community Food Pantry Month. That being the case, the Missions Board was hoping everyone could swing by the Chandler Hall Market after the 9:30 service each Sunday this month. There you will find the Chandler Hall Market shelves stocked with food items (and other goods) that the Community Food Pantry needs—and if you "buy" those goods there, every \$1.00 you spend will be amplified by a power of ten through the power of Foodshare's network of perishable and non-perishable food providers.

So for every \$5.00 you spend at the Chandler Hall Market, you will be empowering the Community Food Pantry to purchase \$50.00 worth of groceries to line their shelves. If you find \$10 in the pants you put on Sunday morning, that can enable the purchase of \$100 in groceries that the food pantry can then get to families that need them.

The Chandler Hall Market employees are friendly and the checkout aisles move quickly. Stop by and help us to grow, by a factor of ten, our shopping dollars -- all with an eye toward feeding the over 1,000 people who shop at the Community Food Pantry each month!!!!

Lloyd Pedersen
Board of Missions



Pancake Breakfast

March 1st
9:00 a.m. - Noon
In Chandler Hall

Includes sausage, coffee, tea, hot cocoa, and orange juice...

Your Free-will donation supports the Church School's Lenten Mission Project

****Gluten-Free Pancakes Available****



Annual Meeting



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting on January 26th! Together, we are a strong and vibrant community of faith. Additional copies of the 2019 Annual Report are available in the entrance to the church or in the Church Office.

From the Pastor...

I have now completed my first month at BCC. It's been a time of beginning to get to know one another. It has felt rather like a whirlwind, in part because Heather, the church's office manager submitted her resignation effective January 31. I don't think it had anything to do with me, so I won't take it personally. In fact, she got a job opportunity that she felt she needed and wanted to pursue. Still, it's been a challenge for me since I usually have lots of questions for the office administrator, to learn how things been done.

Some things you might want to know:

I will never ask for gift cards or emergency money by email or text. I have been reading about colleagues in churches, and even Conference staff who have been targeted. Scammers collect addresses, names and phone numbers of church members and then pretend to be the pastor or Conference staff person. They ask for Ebay gift cards or Amazon Gift Cards or the like and then ask the victim to send the code numbers on the card so it can be used immediately. I will NOT ever ask for money in that way. (You may read an article about it on the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ website or by using this web address - <https://www.sneucc.org/newsdetail/scammers-pretend-to-belocal-clergy-and-conference-staff-1317774>)

- Some have wanted to know how they should address me. You may call me Pastor Bruce, Bruce as you prefer. I'm comfortable with that or any other appropriate address.
- Generally, I plan to be in Bolton on Wednesdays. I will also come on other days if something here needs my presence. Otherwise I will work from home. If you would like to talk with me here it's best to arrange a time. I am also available for phone conversations.
- Our covenant/contract sets a tenure of up to three years. I will not be available beyond that time, nor will I accept called to be your next "Installed" Pastor.
- If you would like to have coffee, or lunch, let me know. We'll set a time to do that. I'd love to have the chance to get to know you. You have been gracious and welcoming. Your warmth and faithfulness fill me with joy and anticipation.

God has amazing things in mind.

Faithfully,
Bruce MacLeod
Intentional Interim Minister

Worship Schedule for February

Sunday, February 2 ~ 9:30 AM ~ Rev. Bruce MacLeod

Sunday, February 9 ~ 9:30 AM ~ Rev. Craig Cowing

Sunday, February 16 ~ 9:30 AM ~ Rev. Bruce MacLeod

Sunday, February 23 ~ 9:30 AM ~ Rev. Bruce MacLeod



Church School News

Why is church school important? That is a question that seems to be going around these days. Families struggle to get to church on Sundays and wonder what are the benefits of attending Sunday School?

Sunday School teaches children how to navigate the Bible. We don't only teach the stories of the Bible we teach the children how to find the stories in the Bible.

Sunday School gives children a chance to ask questions. We encourage the children to ask questions about the Bible lessons they are learning and any other questions they may have about religion.

Sunday School develops a community of believers. When children learn together they learn how to work together and help each other.

Sunday School plants spiritual seeds. Each Sunday we are planting seeds of learning in our children. Those seeds will grow and help our children grow into strong Christians.

We need Sunday Schools!

That being said, I will continue to try and come up with new and exciting ways for our children to learn about the Bible and become good Christians.

Important dates coming up:

This year Lent will begin on February 26, 2020. As is custom, we will have a pancake breakfast to support our Lenten Mission Project. The breakfast is scheduled for the first Sunday of Lent - March 1, 2020. For a free-will donation you can help us raise funds for a special Lenten Mission Project that the children will select. We will have more information regarding the mission at a later date.

Jessica Romeo
Director of Christian Education



Winter Reminder

A reminder that **on Sunday mornings**, church will occur as scheduled, except in extreme weather circumstances (in consultation with the Deacons, and under the advisement of our first responders). If church is in fact closed, the local TV stations (WFSB - CBS, WVIT- NBC and WTIC - FOX) will be notified and closing information will be posted. This is both for your safety, and for the safety of our first responders who will have enough on their hands without potential accidents. **On weekdays**, the office will be closed if the Bolton Public Schools are closed. If you are uncertain if the office will be open, it is best to call ahead.



Men's Group Meeting



The Men's Group held their first meeting of the year on Thursday, January 23rd, in Chandler Hall.

It was the consensus of the group that we would meet once a month through April, starting at the same time (11:00am) and meeting at the same place—in Chandler Hall, around the fireplace. Bring your lunch and stay to enjoy a movie after our sharing/discussion hour.

So mark your calendars and join us! The next meeting date is Wednesday, February 26th.

~ Tom Mortimer

Town of Bolton Doings

We are doing a project on Saturday, April 25th for the town of Bolton. The name of it is **Build & Bloom in Bolton**.

It's just like Rebuilding Together in Manchester, but is for Bolton residents.

If anyone wants to participate please sign up on the list in narthex. We need to get the list by March 6th. Not sure what we will be doing but helping people in town that need things done.

I will be the contact for any questions. This is the first year and it would be great to have BCC be a large part of it.

Thanks.....Trip

Crafters

We would like to thank everyone who made donations to the Store last month. We appreciate the continued support of so many of our members and friends that have made it possible for our volunteers to make the Store an inviting place to shop. All of our sales have gone to support the missions of our church for more than 25 years.



We have a substantial selection of greeting cards (many handcrafted) for all occasions, including holidays. At present, our Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter cards are on display. We realize that purchasing greeting cards can take some time and effort so we have moved our holiday cards to the entrance area of the Education Building for your convenience. We think that you will find that we carry many beautiful cards that sell for substantially less than most other stores. This is one area that we try to specialize in as we feel that we can make a real difference in the amount that you might spend on greeting cards during the year. Plus, if you can find what you need at the Church Store, your money is being contributed directly to your own church and the work that it does for our members and our community. We hope that you will stop by often to see the wonderful selection of merchandise that your Store offers.

You are welcome to shop at the Store any time the building is open. If there is no attendant on duty, the Store operates on a self-serve basis with several containers located throughout the store into which you may place your cash, check or I.O.U.

Our regular hours are: Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from 9:00 am-12:00 p.m.

Our Tuesdays have turned into quite a social time. We love seeing each other each week. A couple of us are from the original group that started meeting in 1991. Others have been coming for 10 - 15 years, and some are newcomers in the last year or two. About half are members of our church and the other half are friends, and most are seniors.

We have made many friends in the community and surrounding areas who stop by to shop and/or spend time socializing over a cup of tea or coffee and pastry. Please feel free to stop by and join us at any time.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Lynn Ralston

For THE CRAFTERS/ STORE VOLUNTEERS

Save The Date



The Bolton Congregational Church's Annual **Corned Beef Dinner**

will be held on

Saturday, March 21, 2020
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

*Dinner Includes: potatoes, carrots,
cabbage, beverage, and dessert*

**For tickets or more information, call the
church office at 860-649-7077.**

TAKE OUT WILL BE AVAILABLE!
BRING YOUR FRIENDS !!!!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are a dedicated group of knitters meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. year round in the parlor. Our next meeting will be on February 24, 2020.



Anyone can make a request as a gift of caring, comfort, or for the joy of a celebration. There is never a charge. Sometimes we take on special requests to knit other items of need and we enjoy the change.

We do appreciate your generous support and donations of yarn, needles, and money.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings...we enjoy teaching new knitters and we will continue to support your learning ongoing. It is a social evening...you can come anytime, no commitment.

Dot Lessard



From the Heart

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do." Edward Everett Hale

February is always our "One Item" month. The possibilities are wide open for you to make a difference where it is needed. Some of you donate specific items all year long, some help monetarily, others volunteer their time and many of you volunteer your talents! "From the Heart" continues to grow and reach out to more and more people because of your support. Everyone at any age can help! We welcome your "One Item" donations as we continue to walk alongside others who simply need a helping hand to continue on their journey.

How are you able to help?

We encourage you to visit our website at www.fromtheheartct.com to read more about our programs. We continue to add photos and information as our programs evolve. Our programs include:

- **Adopted Family Program**
- **Adopted Soldier Program**
- **Senior Bingo Night Program**
- **Creative Card Program**
- **Foster Care Program**
- **Squares of Care Program**
- **Soles for Souls Program**
- **Pillow Care Program**

We also collect items for our specific drives all year long – often times we need to prepare donations early because of the process it takes to get donations to our contacts and then allow time for them to be matched to those in need. If you find a sale on something you know we will use, anytime of year is a good time to donate. Some of our specific drives include:

- **Hat and Mitten Drive (socks too!)**
- **Back-to-School Drive**
- **Fill-A-Pail Drive**
- **Easter Basket Drive**
- **Holiday Food Drive**
- **Fleece Blanket Drive**

Within each of these programs and drives are hundreds of items we can always use. "One Item" can make a difference when we put them all together. Over the years, you have helped thousands of people feel Hopeful; find Resilience and have the Confidence and Courage to keep moving forward. Your generosity and kindness has made a difference! As

the quote above reads... **"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."**

Laura Ann / From the Heart

ftheart@comcast.net

PO Box 804, Manchester, CT 06045

Our Joys and Concerns

Birthdays...Lloyd Pederson, Cathy Sprecher's son Gunther is 41 ("one of the greatest days of her life"), Andrea Sauer (80), Cathy Sprecher, Tom & Laureen Mainville's grandson, Adam, born.

Anniversaries...Randy & Arlis Bobb (48th); Greg & Sharon Witham (37th).

Other Joys...Donna Fisher thankful for the church and those we draw strength from including those no longer here; flowers in memory of Sandra Lane; Beth Mortimer & caregivers; Laureen Mainville in R.I. with grandchildren.

Hospitalized, Ill, etc...Jim Bahre's sister-in law having heart surgery; hospice patients; Dave Lynn – medical issues; Andrea Sauer's daughter, Sharon, home from another surgery, continued prayers; Valerie Kerr's husband's aunt (92) has a broken hip; Dennis, Bruce's brother-in-law's brother-in-law, who had a heart attack on Saturday.

Concerns...Traveling mercies for Valerie Kerr's husband as he travels to other states for interviews; peace in the world; the families with loved ones battling mental illness and/or addiction.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Every Sunday: † 9:30 a.m. Worship Services (Unless otherwise noted) † Church Store Open: 9:00am-12:00pm</p>						1
<p>2</p> <p>Board of Missions 10:45am</p> <p>Girl Scouts 2:00-4:00pm</p> <p><i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i></p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open 10am-3pm</p> <p>Board of Stewardship 6:30pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Choir 6:30pm</p> <p>Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:30pm</p>	8
<p>9</p> <p>Guest Pastor Rev. Craig Cowing</p> <p><i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i></p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open 10am-3pm</p> <p>Finance 6:30pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Choir 6:30pm</p> <p>Church Council 7:30pm</p> <p>Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:30pm</p> <p><i>Happy Valentine's Day</i></p>	15
<p>16</p> <p>CE Board 11:30am</p> <p><i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Presidents' Day</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open 10am-3pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Choir 6:30pm</p> <p>Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:30pm</p>	22
<p>23</p> <p><i>Church Vocations Sunday Seminary Sunday</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Gathering 7:00pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open 10am-3pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Men's Group 11:00-1:00</p> <p>Choir 6:30pm</p> <p>Board of Deacons 7:30pm</p> <p>Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p> <p><i>Ash Wednesday</i></p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:30pm</p>	29