



# The Signpost

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 45, NO. 4



## The Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

228 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT 06043 ~ (860) 649-7077 ~ [www.boltoncongregational.org](http://www.boltoncongregational.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.*

### Holy Week

#### Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:45am & 10:00am

This is the day of Jesus' triumphant march into Jerusalem. It was a day when the city would have been busting at the seams with Jewish visitors from all over, gathering in advance of Passover. Our sanctuary will be filled with the scent of cut palm branches as we shout words of praise.

#### Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Potluck at 6:30pm, Service at 7pm [\*\*In Chandler Hall\*\*]

"Maundy" shares a root with the word "commandment" and reflects Jesus' final commandment to his disciples to 'love one another.' We'll meet in Chandler Hall for a potluck supper. Just as Jesus celebrated with his disciples at the table (and not in the temple) we will continue our worship in that same space, hearing John's version of what happened on Jesus' last night with his disciples.

#### Good Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Tenebrae Service, 7pm

"Tenebrae" is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." We will gather in the sanctuary to read scripture, extinguish candles, and dim lights as we hear the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, execution, and burial.

#### Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

##### 6:00am Sunrise Service

Easter morning will begin at 6:00am outside (weather permitting) with a service of water and light. We begin Lent in repentance and ashes, and end the journey with the promises of forgiveness and new life. Begin your Easter morning with this simple yet uplifting service when we rejoice in the promises of God as we watch the rising sun.

**8:45 & 10:00am Services** – Two services at our regular times, filled with flowers, music, and the good news of the resurrection.

### Rebuilding Together Manchester Saturday, April 28, 2018

The Board of Missions is seeking volunteers to help our neighbors in need of help with chores such as painting, home rebuilding or yard work! Trip Barnett is putting together a team of BCC volunteers. No special skills are required to participate, but if you do have special skills, or would prefer certain tasks, please let Trip know.

Children of all ages, accompanied by an adult, are welcome! **To participate, please:**

- **RSVP by April 2<sup>nd</sup>** by calling the church office or Trip Barnett
- Fill out a 'Volunteer's Agreement' (waiver form), located on the table in the narthex and leave in the basket or return to the church office—by April 15.

The workday is generally from 9:00am – Noon, with a free picnic luncheon for all at Northwest Park at noon. And...all volunteers go home with a FREE T-shirt!

For more information, please contact Trip Barnett at 860-539-3697.

## ***From the Pastor...***

At annual meeting, two months ago, I announced that we were soon to be approved as foster parents. Who knew that our fingerprints would take this long to be checked!

I've had several folks express their congratulations on our adopting a child, and while we are certainly open to adoption, we first intend to be foster parents. For this article, I'm going to take some time to explain what that means.

Through adoption, parents are granted legal, permanent custody of a child and have full parental rights and responsibilities. As a result, they are able to make decisions and do all of the things that folks can do when it comes to the well-being of their biological children.

As foster parents, we are part of a parenting team – a team that includes social workers, agencies, and a child's family of origin. When a child comes into our home, it may be for a short while, or permanently, but we will not know which at first. In the state of Connecticut, the first goal is always reunification with the child's family of origin.

As foster parents, the child is in our care but is not legally ours, and thus there are certain rules that we are required to follow. Some are safety rules that impact our home, while others are privacy protections that impact our friends, family, and church.

For example, we are not allowed to post pictures of children in foster care to social media. We know that you are excited, as we are excited, and that you are curious about who will come into our care. However, there are many questions – questions that you may feel are perfectly natural – that we will be unable to answer. We are required to protect the child's privacy, and thus will not be able to answer any questions related to the child's background or reason they are in our care. We recognize that your questions are reflections of your enthusiasm, and we want to tell you because we're excited, too. However, we also honor that these rules are meant to protect children.

Feel free to ask us (or the child) about favorite sports, colors, activities, classes, animals, foods, desserts, etc.

If you have any questions about the process, or want to learn more about becoming a foster parent yourself (respite providers, for example, provide care a few days or weeks at a time), feel free to reach out to me. Other than the waiting, it has been a great experience.

~ *Pastor Nicolette*

## ***Worship Schedule***

### **Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### **6:00am Sunrise Service**

Easter morning will begin at 6:00am outside (weather permitting) with a service of water and light. We begin Lent in repentance and ashes, and end the journey with the promises of forgiveness and new life. Begin your Easter morning with this simple yet uplifting service when we rejoice in the promises of God as we watch the rising sun.

**8:45 & 10:00am Services** - Two services at our regular times, filled with flowers, music, and the good news of the resurrection!

#### **Sunday, April 8 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

*Second Sunday of Easter*

*Message: Special Message*

*~ Jonathan Cowles*

#### **Sunday, April 15 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

*Third Sunday of Easter*

#### **Sunday, April 22 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

#### **Sunday, April 29 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*



### **Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers Needed**

Kyleen Welchman, the Bolton Rec. Director, is seeking teens and adults to help run the games at the Easter Egg Hunt at Herrick Park on March 31st (plan to arrive at 11am, the hunt is at 12pm). Games include "pin the tail on the bunny," ring toss, bean bag toss, and an egg race. If you are able to help with this community event, please call her directly (860.649.8066 x6109) and tell her you are from Bolton Congregational Church. When we show up for our community, they will show up for us!

## Church School News...

We will continue to collect donations for our Lenten Mission Project **UCC Disaster Ministries** until the week following Easter. So you may put any amount you would wish to donate into the collection plate, just mark it Lenten Mission Project. We thank you all for your continued support of our youth as they strive to help their neighbors in need.

Believe it or not we are talking about the end of the school year. Church School Sunday will be on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00am service. There will be **only one service** that day so the children can practice before the service. This year we are changing things up a bit and it promises to be a very fun and entertaining morning in church. So, mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces.

The Christian Education Board is working hard to plan a successful Vacation Bible School program for this upcoming summer. VBS has been scheduled for the week of **July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> in the evenings from 5:30-8:30**. This year our program will be *“ReNew: The Green VBS.”* It is a 5-day program for pre-schoolers - 6<sup>th</sup> graders that teaches the children how to take care of our planet, and all that God has entrusted us with. We will play games, do crafts and enjoy locally grown farm to table goodies for snacks. We will also have some wonderful guests that will teach us all about how to plant our own gardens, make honey, and much more. Registration forms will be going out in the upcoming months and I will be looking for adult and youth helpers.

As we look to the future of our Church School and growing Christian faith within our youngest churchgoers, I ask you to consider being a church schoolteacher. The youth of our church is the lifeblood of our church. We have planted the seeds, and now must tend to them and help them grow into faithful adult members of our congregation. To do that successfully, we need dedicated teachers. Please pray on this, and if this is something you feel you would like to do, please let me know. If you have any questions regarding what being a church schoolteacher entails, please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Jessica Romeo*

Director of Christian Education

*Happy*  
**EASTER!**

## Welcoming New Members ~ May 6<sup>th</sup>

To join or not to join? Is that the question you are asking? What does it mean to be a member of Bolton Congregational UCC? What does it take to become one? Why would someone want to join? **On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Nicolette and the Deacons will host a dinner at 6:00pm** in Chandler Hall to talk about what membership means, and answer your questions. It will also be a time of fellowship when we can get to know one another. Look for the date in the April newsletter.

We will welcome new members on May 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining the church, or simply want to learn more about membership, please RSVP by calling the church office (860-649-7077) – please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions or if you need childcare.

## Storytelling Series – Third Thursdays at 7pm

**April 19<sup>th</sup> – Freedom**

**May 17<sup>th</sup> – Fire**

**July 19<sup>th</sup> – Visit**

**August 16<sup>th</sup> – Hope**

**September 20<sup>th</sup> – First Day**

**October 18<sup>th</sup> – Mask**

**November 15<sup>th</sup> – Harvest**

We are always looking for storytellers – YOU have a story to tell! To sign up, go to:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4fa4a92ea7ff2-storytelling>

Our next *Storyteller's Workshop* (for people wanting to build their skills) will be held June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-8:30pm in Chandler Hall.

## 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 lower level of the meetinghouse. Our next meeting is



on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have provided hundreds of hand-knitted shawls and mantles for friends and family members of our church. There is never a charge and anyone can make a request as a gift of caring, comfort, or for the joy of a celebration. We have some made ahead with a variety of colors and patterns, ready to fill any requests.

Your generous gifts have made it possible for us to be self-supporting all this time.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings and we enjoy teaching new knitters. It is a social evening. You can come anytime—come to learn, or share your patterns, or just to visit.

*Dot Lessard*

## Resurrection Gifts

We hear the news from all over the nation— churches are closing their doors. One question we ask is what happens to a church's assets when they close? In the UCC, it is customary (though like most things in our Congregational polity, not mandatory) for a church to turn its assets over to the Conference of which it is a part. Bound in covenant relationship, the death of one church can bring the promise of the Resurrection to another.

Yet, just like any major gift, churches are able to dictate how they would like the money used. For example, one recent church designated a good chunk of their assets to support Silver Lake Conference Center. A church with a strong interest in the environment might dictate that their money be used to fund renewable energy projects; a church with a strong ministry to people with physical challenges may choose to fund church ramps or renovate bathrooms; a church whose neighborhood has changed might want their property used as a new ministry center.

When you give to our church's endowment, you make a gift to the present and future generations of this congregation. Yet, even if the unexpected happened (as a strong congregation, it is hard to imagine a future without our church), know that the money entrusted to the church's care will always be used to further our congregation's best hopes, dreams, and values. As an Easter people, we know that death is never the end of the story.

If you are interested in learning more about making a legacy gift (of any size) to the church, please feel free to talk to one of the members of the Legacy Team: Bill Dakin or Ruth Treat.



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## Caregiver Collective

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We are re-imagining our Caregiver Collective. Please help us shape the future of this group by filling out this survey:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYB755M>

## *Create a Dish Garden!*

*Please Join Us*

*Thursday, May 3, 2018, 7:00pm*



*We'll meet at:*

*Cropley's Garden Center*

*Route 44, Bolton*

*\$25 per garden*

*Makes a great Mother's Day gift!*

*Preregistration & prepayment encouraged.*

*Call the Church Office (860-649-7077) or*

*Cathy Nelson (860-543-0204) to save*

*your spot!*

*Signup Deadline is April 29<sup>th</sup>.*

*All proceeds to go directly into the general fund of Bolton Congregational Church for its programs and ministries*



## Our Joys and Concerns

**Birthdays...**Aella, Steve, & Dad Steve M.; Amy B.; Bill W.; Madison W.; Eric B. (18<sup>th</sup>); Dan L.

**Other Joys...**Shannon M.'s baby due soon; music in our church (Jonathan C., MaryLou); Josiah's visit; Ray B.'s mom visiting; Sandy H. visiting; Helena T.'s granddaughter's singing; Girls' Empowerment group; people who come together when the power goes out; Arlis B.'s mom & sister in church; Lindsey P. had a baby boy; Bolton Road Race; Corned Beef Dinner; Karan B.'s acting principal, Jenny Brooks; Pam B.'s mom coming back home; the joy of our congregation.

**Anniversaries...**Ginny & Wick W. (48<sup>th</sup>).

**Concerns...**Traveling mercies; families with addiction; Andy S.; friends & family members of church members; cancer patients; Ruth T; refugees around the world; Beth M.'s parents at home needing care; Lynn R. recuperating; Julian, NICU baby who is 2.5 pounds.

**Bereaved...**The family of Bob Colland; The Strong family of Vernon; Jan Finch upon the loss of her mother.

**Other...**Andy S. thanks congregation for prayers; the altar flowers, placed by Cathy N. in loving memory of Dusty Nelson's birthday.

## BOLTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

INVITES YOU TO  
A Community Gathering With



Everyone is invited to come and visit with all different types of working therapy dogs!

Learn about the work they do; or if you would like to read to a therapy dog, bring a favorite book, or choose one from our church library!

WHEN: Saturday, April 21, 2018  
1:00pm – 3:00 pm

WHERE: Bolton Congregational Church  
228 Bolton Center Rd.  
In Chandler Hall

## FROM THE HEART

*"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting someone up."*

—John Holmes

Thank you for your help with the Easter Pail project! Every year "From the Heart" creates as many Easter Pails as possible. It takes many items in a short amount of time for it to all come together in order for us to get them to our contacts. Thank you for your donations! If you have a chance to go to the From the Heart website, we will be posting a few pictures of the pails that were created. We are also grateful for the brand new pillows, super cute handmade pillowcases, and beanbag donations recently!

Our Adopted Family Program helps specific individuals and families each month and we are currently very low on grocery items. The individuals and families we help are always moving forward and working hard to better themselves and their situation. Out of respect for their situations, we do not share a lot of personal information; however, please just know that these donations are truly an appreciated helping hand!

One way to help this month is to take a look in our pantries and linen closets – an extra can of soup, box of pasta, or extra box of tissues goes a long way for someone in need. Often times we pick up extra items when they are on sale – perfect way to share without spending a lot of extra \$.

While we are in need of just about everything, the most needed items are always: **cereal, instant oatmeal, snacks, canned fruit, peanut butter, Jelly, tuna, pasta sauce, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, laundry detergent, trash bags, toothpaste, deodorant, shower gel and of course gift cards to Big Y or Stop & Shop of any amount.**

These items are just our top requested needs, however, as we all know from grocery shopping, groceries do not last long so feel free to donate other non-perishable items that you don't see on the list above.

Or...if you would rather help us provide the gift of "time together" as a special treat, we also welcome gift cards to Subway, McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, etc. The gift cards are often times used within the family as an incentive for good grades, helpful behavior, etc.

One item can make a difference when we put them together with other donations! Thank you for opening your heart and being a part of bringing support where it is needed – offering not only the gift of groceries, but also the gift of kindness and hope!

We hope you will check out our new website at:  
[www.fromtheheartct.com](http://www.fromtheheartct.com).

*Laura Ann*



# APRIL 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>  <b>Worship Services at: 6:00, 8:45 &amp; 10:00am</b>  <i>*No Church School</i>	<b>2</b>  Office Closed	<b>3</b> Crafters/Time to Socialize 10:00am  <i>Church Store Open: 10am-3pm</i>  Board of Stewardship 6:30pm	<b>4</b>  Choir ~ 6:30pm  Refuge Recovery Group 7:00pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Al-Anon 7:30 pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  <b>*Pastor Nicolette on Vacation from 4/8 -4/14</b>	<b>9</b>  Office Closed	<b>10</b> Crafters/Time to Socialize 10:00am  <i>Church Store Open: 10am-3pm</i>	<b>11</b> Choir ~ 6:30pm  Refuge Recovery Group 7:00pm  Church Council 7:30 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Al-Anon 7:30 pm	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  Board of Christian Ed 11:30am	<b>16</b>  Office Closed	<b>17</b> Crafters/Time to Socialize 10:00am  <i>Church Store Open: 10am-3pm</i>	<b>18</b> Choir ~ 6:30pm  Refuge Recovery Group 7:00pm	<b>19</b>  <b>Storytelling: "Freedom"</b> 7:00pm in <i>Chandler Hall</i>	<b>20</b>  Girls' Club 7:00pm  Al-Anon 7:30 pm	<b>21</b>  Therapy Dogs 1-3pm Chandler Hall
<b>22</b>  Board of Pastoral Relations 11:30am  Board of Christian Ed 11:30am  Girl Scouts: 2pm	<b>23</b>  Office Closed  Prayer Shawl Gathering 7:00pm	<b>24</b> Crafters/Time to Socialize 10:00am  <i>Church Store Open: 10am-3pm</i>	<b>25</b> Choir ~ 6:30pm  <b>New Members Dinner 6pm</b> Refuge Recovery Group 7:00pm  Board of Deacons 7:30pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Al-Anon 7:30 pm	<b>28</b>  <b>Rebuilding Together Manchester 9am - Noon</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Teacher Meeting @ 11:30am</b> Every Sunday: †Worship Services: 8:45 & 10:00 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted) † Church School at 10:00am service (Unless otherwise noted) † Church Store Open: 9:30am-12:30pm	<b>30</b>  Office Closed  Hymnal Team 5:00pm	<b>1</b> Crafters/Time to Socialize 10:00am  <i>Church Store Open: 10am-3pm</i>  Board of Stewardship 6:30pm	<b>2</b>  Choir ~ 6:30pm  Refuge Recovery Group 7:00pm	<b>3</b> Powerchurch Meeting 6pm  <b>Dish Garden Event</b> @ Cropley's Garden Ctr. 7pm	<b>4</b>  Al-Anon 7:30 pm  Bolton Lions' Club Auction Chandler Hall 7pm	<b>5</b>

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