



# The Signpost

APRIL 2019

VOLUME 46, 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, April 14<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.

#### April 14<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday 1pm

The Bolton Ecumenical Council (made up of our congregation, St. Maurice, St. George, and Bolton United Methodist churches) will once again host an outdoor Stations of the Cross style service at Bolton Notch State Park (same location as last year - the parking along the Rail Trail has enhanced signage). Everyone is invited to walk, sing, reflect, and pray with fellow Christians.

#### April 14<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday 4pm

**Jesus Christ Superstar** - Please join us for the showing of this beautifully done 2018 production in Chandler Hall from 4:00-6:00pm.

#### Maundy Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> - Potluck at 6:00pm, Service at 7pm [\*\*In Chandler Hall\*\*]

In remembrance of Jesus' last meal with his disciples, we'll meet in Chandler Hall for a potluck supper. During dinner, Pastor Nicolette will share a bit about the history of communion and the various ways it is practiced. At 7pm, we'll switch to a service of storytelling, music, and communion inspired by that night with his disciples. Music will be provided by Lynn Tracey, our "Storytelling" musician.

#### Good Friday, April 19<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 21<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 27, 2018

The Board of Missions is seeking volunteers to help our neighbors in need 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:**

- Fill out a 'Volunteer's Agreement' as soon as possible (waiver form). The forms are on the table in the Narthex. Please place them in the box on the table, give them to Tripp, or leave them in the church office no later than **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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

If you would like more information or have any questions, please call:

Trip Barnett at 860-539-3697 or the Church Office at 860-649-7077.



Rebuilding one home  
at a time.

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

### **Beloved ones (and you are loved),**

I know my leaving has been upsetting to many, and I want to clarify a few things. First, I have not been asked to resign. In fact, many of the church leaders have asked me to reconsider.

Second, this decision was not made quickly, easily, or lightly. Though this may seem sudden to you, it is because I have chosen to share my struggles and possible solutions in only those places appropriate to do so, rather than with the church as a whole.

Third, people have not been hostile to me because of my sexual orientation. However comments about 'lifestyle' or 'preference,' saying 'don't shove it in our faces' after I tell a story, have been hurtful, diminish my identity, and hinder me from being authentic. My experiences of being out, of being excluded and rejected, of having my family legislated against, have deeply shaped my theology and worldview and are thus a part of my biblical interpretation and preaching.

Fourth, my leaving is not 'giving in' to the people who are unhappy with me, or who only want me to stay if I avoid saying certain things and keep everything the same. A second vote on whether I should stay means the majority rules, and what I believe this congregation needs is time and space separate from a settled pastor to discern who you want to be.

During my first year, I gave a sermon about being a melting pot (everyone is expected to blend) or a stew pot (everyone adds their own texture and flavor), but even if you decide to make stew, you have to figure out what kind. If someone wants to make beef stew, and another vegetarian chili, and a third peanut curry – well each one has its own characteristics and flavor profiles. It's only through conversation that you can reach consensus on what to make. Consensus is different from majority rules – it takes into account everyone's thoughts and feelings, involves compromise, and the humility to be able to let some things go for the good of the whole.

Going back to our stew – perhaps through discussion about values and goals, the consensus is to make beef chili. We understand one another better and this feels like the right direction taking into account many points of view, including the movement of the Holy Spirit and the needs of the community around us. What about those who really wanted the dish to be vegetarian? Rather than spoil the meat ('oh no! the meat's gone bad, I guess it has to be vegetarian now'), my prayer is that those who disagree will either stay and support the decision or find a place where they are better fed.

I believe that if I were here during these conversations, the conversation would center on me – what kind of stew can I make? What flavors do I like? The congregation will be better served if you talk together about what you want, and then look for a chef to help make that a reality. I have such hope for you, dear ones. Recent conversations have led me to believe that you are going to end up making something delicious.

*~ Pastor Nicolette*

## ***Worship Schedule***

### **Sunday, April 7 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

*Message: "Thy kingdom come" ~ Rev. Nicolette Siragusa*

**Holy Week** – Please see page 1 for information on all services and special events during the upcoming week.

### **Palm Sunday, April 14 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

*Message: "Thy will be done on earth"  
~ Rev. Nicolette Siragusa*

### **Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Message: "Thine is the kingdom, power, glory forever"  
~ Rev. Nicolette Siragusa*

### **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 28<sup>th</sup> – 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

*Message: "All Nations" ~ Rev. Nicolette Siragusa*  
**Matthew 28:16-20**



## ***Letters Mailed . . .***

A statement from our Church Moderator, Bill Dakin, the letter of resignation that Pastor Nicolette read and handed out at both services on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and a copy of her sermon on that day were sent out through the Signpost distribution or mailed to those not receiving electronic communications on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Copies are also available in the Church Office. Please take the time to read these important documents.



*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*



*Colossians 3:14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

## Church School News...

Spring is upon us and we are in the middle of our Lenten Mission Project. The children have chosen Healers with Halos as their project. We began Lent with our Pancake Breakfast and it was a huge success. As always our children were our servers and with the guidance of Susan MacDonald and a little from me they did a fabulous job! There is nothing better than seeing the youngest members of our church taking so much pride in what they do. We were a packed house and our cooks Ken Romeo and Sue DeNunzio made some delicious pancakes and sausage. At the end of the day we took in donations of approximately \$680.00! That is the most we have made at a pancake breakfast in recent history. The children will be doing more fundraisers throughout Lent. We thank you all for your support.

As we move into Spring we look forward to Summer and what activities we can offer to the youth of our congregation and our community. We have done Vacation Bible School programs in the past, but over the years our attendance has dropped to where it doesn't make sense to have a full week program. However, I am working with the CE Board and we are brainstorming ideas of things that we can do for our children over the summer. Stay tuned.

I hope you all enjoy this Lenten Season and have a Happy Easter.

*Jessica Romeo*

Director of Christian Education

Happy  
EASTER!

## FROM THE HEART

Thank you for your continued support through donations of **non-perishable groceries, personal items, and cleaning and paper products!** From the Heart's "Adopted Family" program continues to help individuals and families in need and we always in need of these items.

It can be so easy to help...never feel that donations need to be large. Even one item makes a difference. Often times we can simply open our pantry and find items we have multiples of or, for a few dollars, purchase great deals at the store.

All donations are helpful and any kind of donation is a great help. Our top needs at the moment are:

**Cereal Bars / Breakfast Bars**

**Snacks**

**Canned or individual snack sized fruit cups**

**Soups of any kind**

**Pasta and non-breakable pasta sauce**

**Macaroni and Cheese kits**

**Laundry Detergent**

**Dishwashing Detergent**

**Hand Soap (pumps)**

**Paper towels**

**Toilet Paper**

**Kleenex**

**Gift cards in any amount to Aldi's, Big Y, or Stop & Shop for perishable items**

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40.

Thank you for your support and have a Happy Easter!

*Laura Ann*



## Our Joys and Concerns

**Birthdays...**Amy B; Jim and Amy's daughter, Kelley; Adam D; Lori B; Bill W; Lori B's mother-in-law, Bev (89<sup>th</sup>), and her friend, Marion G (90<sup>th</sup>); Alan and Heidi P's grandson, Greyson (1<sup>st</sup>); Arlis and Randy B's granddaughter and grandson, Steven and Ayla (2<sup>nd</sup>); Dylan D (27<sup>th</sup>); Tom and Laureen M's granddaughter, Amelia (1<sup>st</sup>); Julianne F (18<sup>th</sup>); Kay and Bob P's son, Jeff; Madison W (10<sup>th</sup>); Herb F's granddaughter (2<sup>nd</sup>); Kathy 's brother; Andy S's oldest son (58<sup>th</sup>); Valerie K's grandmother;

**Other Joys...**Shirley P in worship; a visit from Arlis' mom; surgery for Debbie K's mom went well; surgery for Valerie K's grandmother went well; Dan and Denise M are expecting their first grandchild in August; Herb F back in worship; dialysis for Donna F's dad is going well; Julianne F's college selection (Clemson); Tom M for a project Samantha L will undertake at TGM; Andy S - "no news is good news"; Lori B's visit with friends from out-of-state; Jan F's upcoming retirement May 1<sup>st</sup>; UCONN Pep Band; Debbie B's visiting family and grandchild; the ministry of Pastor Nicolette; all the volunteers and fellowship of the Corned Beef Dinner; Ruth and Dick T's new puppy; Debbie K's mother's new medicine; Herb F's music;

### Anniversaries...

**Concerns...**for all those going through cancer treatments (Heidi's P's mom, Pam C, Pam B's uncle, and Sharon W's co-worker); our Muslim friends and the violence in New Zealand; and for all those struggling with mental illness and addiction; Donna P recovering from foot surgery; Todd D recovering from knee replacement; Tom and MaryLou P; flooding in the Midwest; world hunger; Jim B's colleague's wife;

**Hospitalized, Ill, etc...** MaryLou P's husband, Tom; Sharon W's father-in-law; for all those battling the flu; Corenda H's friend Beth going through chemo treatments; Doug F; Sharon W's sister's father-in-law, nieces pregnancy, brother's brain cyst, and mother-in-law's neck injury; Laureen's sister-in-law's sister; Debbie K's friend; Corenda H's friend Nancy; Pam C; Valerie K's husband's grandmother, her grandmother, and sister;

**Bereaved...**the family of Tom M's cousin and the family of Ruth T's cousin; Ernie H's friend who lost his wife and children; one year anniversary of the death of Trooper Kevin Miller; the family of Debbie K's friend, Janice B;

**Other...**moving parents to a new care facility or new home (Linda B's father and Arlis's mother); traveling mercies for Lori and Ray B; our church transition; changes for Lee and Jan F;

## Crafters



from Lynn Ralston and all of the crafters and Store Volunteers.

## Easter Flower Orders

Orders for Easter Flowers are now being accepted.



Order forms are in the Sunday Bulletin or on the table in the Narthex. Please place your form, **with payment**, into the collection plate, or mail to the church office.

**The last day to order is April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

You may take your plant home following the 10:00am Easter Sunday service.

If you have any questions, please see Cathy Nelson, Lori Boyd, or call the Church Office at 860-649-7077. Plant selection includes the following (with a foil wrap):

- Lily - 6" Single (4-5 Blooms) \$14.00
- Hydrangea (6" Double Bloom) \$17.00
- Tulips (6+ Blooms) \$13.00



## Church Office Changes

Thank you to Lori Boyd, who has been working in the office since Melanie left at the end of November. She is a dedicated member and an asset to the congregation in many ways. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, please join us in welcoming Heather Hamilton who will serve as our new Office Manager. She has extensive office experience, is personable, organized, and will be a strong addition to our church. When asked to provide some background information on herself, Heather sent us the following:

*"Hello there! My name is Heather. I'm a Bolton resident and love it here! My husband and I have 3 beautiful boys (ages 7, 3, and 8 months). I'm currently studying to be a nurse and I have a true passion for helping others. I'm very excited to come on board and join this community! Please feel free to come introduce yourself and get to know me. Hope to see you all soon."*

Heather's office hours will be:

- Sundays: 11am - 2:30pm
- Mondays: 2:30pm - 5:00pm (in April, then likely switching to 8:30am - 12:30pm)
- Tuesdays: 8:30am - 1:30pm
- Fridays: 8:30am - 1:30pm

## 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 22nd. 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*

## Healers With Halos

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 6, 2019  
11:00am – 1:00 pm

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



## The Bolton Congregational Church Presents:

# Heavenly Humor

**Saturday**  
**April 13, 2019**  
**7:00 pm**  
**In Chandler Hall**

**Featuring**  
**"Comics in Church"**

**Frank O'Donnell**  
**and**  
**Rev. Jen Munroe-Nathans**

**\$10 per person**  
**(advance tickets recommended)**

**Coffee, tea & desserts will be served**

**For Tickets:**  
**See Cathy Nelson or Donna Phillips**  
**after church or call/email the**  
**Church Office at:**  
**860-649-7077**  
**[boltonucc@gmail.com](mailto:boltonucc@gmail.com)**

*\*Funds raised will go to the church budget general fund.*



## Chandler Book Nook

Spring...right around the corner, at last! A new energy is palpable, as we anticipate bulbs ready to pop and buds to unfurl. Similarly, our focus is renewed in the Book Nook.

We have just added a 2018 best seller to our collection:

Educated: a Memoir by Tara Westover (to be reviewed in June)

On our Book Nook table is a collection of some "old favorites" for you to consider for your reading pleasure.

By the way, we are in the process of weeding our collection to make room for some new titles. If you have favorites you'd like to see, please write the title and author on a special paper you'll find on our CBN table and place it in our card basket.

Reminder: Our magazine bin awaits you; free magazines donated by your friends in the Book Nook.

Read on!

The Library Ladies,  
Linda Brown and  
Denise McLennon



Spring  
has  
Sprung!



# April 2019



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Every Sunday:</b><br/> † 8:45 a.m. &amp; 10 a.m.<br/> Worship Services<br/> <i>(Unless otherwise noted)</i><br/> † Church Store Open:<br/> 9:30am-12:30pm</p>   | 1   | <p>2</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters<br/> 10:00am</p> <p>Church Store Open:<br/> 10am-3pm</p> <p>Board of Stewardship<br/> 6:30pm</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Choir<br/> 6:30pm</p> <p>Refugee Recovery<br/> 7:00pm</p>                                    | 4   | <p>5</p> <p>Al-Anon<br/> 7:30pm</p>   | <p>6</p> <p>Healers With Halos<br/> Therapy Dogs<br/> 11-1pm</p> |
| <p>7</p> <p><b>Communion Sunday</b></p> <p>Board of Missions<br/> 11:15am</p>   | 8   | <p>9</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters<br/> 10:00am</p> <p>Church Store Open:<br/> 10am-3pm</p> <p>Finance Team<br/> 6:30pm</p>         | <p>10</p> <p>Choir<br/> 6:30pm</p> <p>Church Council<br/> 7:30pm</p> <p>Refugee Recovery<br/> 7:00pm</p> | 11  | <p>12</p> <p>Al-Anon<br/> 7:30pm</p>  | <p>13</p> <p>Comedy Night<br/> " Heavenly Humor"<br/> 7:00pm</p> |
| <p>14</p>  <p><b>Bolton Ecumenical Stations of the Cross</b><br/> Bolton Notch State Park<br/> 1:00pm</p> <p><b>Jesus Christ Superstar (2018)</b><br/> Chandler Hall<br/> 4:00-6:00pm</p> | 15  | <p>16</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters<br/> 10:00am</p> <p>Church Store Open:<br/> 10am-3pm</p>  | <p>17</p> <p>Choir<br/> 6:30pm</p> <p>Refugee Recovery<br/> 7:00pm</p>                                   | <p>18</p> <p><b>Maundy Thursday</b><br/> Potluck &amp; Communion Class<br/> 6:00pm</p> <p>Worship<br/> 7:00pm</p> | <p>19</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b><br/> Worship<br/> 7:00pm</p> <p>Al-Anon<br/> 7:30pm</p> <p><b>Signpost Articles Due</b></p> | 20   |
| <p>21</p> <p><b>Easter Sunday</b></p>  <p>Worship services:<br/> <b>6:00am</b><br/> <i>(back steps of Ed. Bldg.)</i><br/> <b>8:45am &amp; 10:00am</b><br/> <i>(Sanctuary)</i></p>         | <p>22</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Gathering<br/> 7:00pm</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters<br/> 10:00am</p> <p>Church Store Open:<br/> 10am-3pm</p>  | <p>24</p> <p>Choir<br/> 6:30pm</p> <p>Deacons<br/> 7:30 pm</p> <p>Refugee Recovery<br/> 7:00pm</p>       | <p>25</p>  <p>11:00am</p>    | <p>26</p> <p>Al-Anon<br/> 7:30pm</p>  | <p>27</p> <p>MACC<br/> Rebuilding Manchester<br/> 9:00-noon</p>  |
| <p>28</p> <p><i>Second Sunday of Easter</i></p>   | 29  | <p>30</p> <p>Time to Socialize/Crafters<br/> 10:00am</p> <p>Church Store Open:<br/> 10am-3pm</p>  | <p>1</p> <p>Choir<br/> 6:30pm</p>  | 2   | 3   | 4  |

Bolton Congregational Church UCC, 228 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, Connecticut 06043

