



The Signpost

FEBRUARY 2018

VOL. 45, NO. 02



The Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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



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 10:00 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 3rd

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 27th! Together, we are a strong and vibrant community of faith. Additional copies of the 2018

Annual Report are available in the entrance to the church or in the Church Office.

From the Pastor...

One of the reasons why I love to worship elsewhere when I am away on vacation is because I enjoy experiencing how another congregation worships. Congregations of different ages, regions, races, ethnicities, denominations, languages worship God and follow Christ in different ways. Worship may include any number of sung and spoken responses, various elements, organized in myriad patterns. I love to experience something different – it both helps me appreciate how we worship, and gives me fresh ideas.

Similarly, one of the reasons why I love to hear other people preach, whether as guest preachers or in their own setting, is because it is interesting to me to hear how another person reads and interprets scripture. Preaching is a deeply personal process – the way I read and understand and interpret scripture is of course framed by my seminary training, but it is also impacted by who I am as a person, by my experiences. This is one of the reasons why my preaching and focus is different from what this church has heard before, because my life experiences are vastly different from your previous pastors.

During Lent, we will be exploring several of Jesus' parables. On Sunday, you will hear my interpretation of those passages, but during Monday-Friday, I'm hoping to have brief devotionals written by YOU on a small portion of that same passage, and then Saturday will be a day for you to reflect on your own. I will be looking for 5 people to write 1-3 paragraphs on 1-3 verses from the following sections:

Week 1 – Matthew 18:15-35

Week 2 – Matthew 20:1-16

Week 3 – Matthew 22:1-14

Week 4 – Matthew 25:1-13

Week 5 – Matthew 25:31-46

Submissions are due March 1st, so that the devotional can be ready to be picked up by Ash Wednesday, March 6th. I will host a drop-in writing workshop on February 13th from 5:00-7:00pm, and will be available to answer questions throughout the month.

Thank you for enriching one another's faith journey by sharing your understanding of scripture.

Pastor Nicolette

Worship Schedule for February

Sunday, February 3 ~ 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Message: "We Are Worried" ~ Rev. Nicolette Siragusa

Sunday, February 10 ~ 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Last Sunday after Epiphany

Message: "We Are Judged"

Guest Worship Leader ~ Joanne Myer

Sunday, February 17 ~ 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Message: "We Are Sown" ~ Rev. Nicolette Siragusa

Sunday, February 24 ~ 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Message: "We Are Fed" ~ Rev. Nicolette Siragusa



Lenten Devotional – Writing Workshop

The period of time before Easter, known as Lent, is a sacred time of reflection and preparation. It is generally a time when people find ways to recommit themselves to spiritual practices.

This year, we hope to create a Bolton UCC Lenten Devotional – a booklet of forty brief reflections written by you, to share with one another. Think about a favorite passage you might want to share with the community, and a paragraph or two of what this passage means to you.

A drop-in writing workshop will be held on Tuesday February 13th from 5:00-7:00pm in the Parlor. Read "From the Pastor" for more information.

Storytelling Has Returned

Mark your calendars! Storytelling resumed on January 17th with stories from "The Past" and will continue monthly on the Third Thursday at 7pm in Chandler Hall through April. Please join us as we share stories, music and special celebrations.

February 21 – "The Present"

March 21 – "The Future"

April 18 – Maundy Thursday

We hope you will join us for an evening of remembering that very special night.

If you have a story to share, please email Pastor Nicolette at pastor.nicolette@gmail.com.

Church School News

This year Lent will begin on March 6th. As is custom we will have a pancake breakfast to support our Lenten Mission Project. The breakfast is scheduled for the Sunday before the beginning of Lent, March 3, 2019. 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.

We are still in need of volunteers to teach our Pre-K/K children on a regular basis. Please come and see me if you would like to help out. All that is required is that you are 18 or older and have been a regular attendee of the church for at least one year. We are still using Spill the Beans curriculum which follows the Narrative Lectionary. The children are hearing the same scripture in church school that the congregation is hearing in church.

On Sunday January 27th we had our first confirmation class of the year. We have 5 bright and ready to learn students. This is going to be a great class. We have done something a bit different this year, we are having only one class a month that will last 3 hours including lunch. If anyone from the congregation would like to provide lunch for the class and teachers on one of the Sundays, please let me know.

Jessica Romeo

Director of Christian Education

"Old" Hymnals Are Available

Our Glory to God hymnals are in the pews! The decommissioned red, blue, and green hymnals are now available to anyone who would like one (or one of each) for their personal library.

Please stop by the parlor (lower level of the church) during office hours Mon-Thurs 9:30am-1:30pm, or after worship on Sundays. Multiple copies will be available beginning in March for crafters and others.



Pastoral Relations

The Pastoral Relations Board will be leading the congregation through the Appreciative Inquiry process during March and April to solicit information and feedback from the Congregation. Members of the PRB will contact Board chairs to arrange to meet with the boards as well as meeting with other established groups in the Church.

For members who are not in one of the groups or miss the opportunity, there will be three other times **available** in March. One will be a Thursday evening, March 14th, time to be announced and the others will be Sunday March 24 after each service.

The Board is seeking input from all members and friends that wish to participate.

Kathy Minicucci, PRB chair

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.



Pastor's Hours

While Pastor Nicolette can usually be found in her office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30-2:00pm (in addition to other times), her schedule varies significantly from week to week.

Thus, if you need to see her, it is best to **CALL, TEXT, OR EMAIL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**. Same day and next day appointments are almost always available, especially for urgent situations. Cell phone - 517.927.8739; Email - pastornicolette@gmail.com.

Pastor Nicolette will be on vacation February 4th -10th



Men's Group Meeting



The Men's Group held their first meeting of the year on Thursday, January 24th, in Chandler Hall.

It was the consensus of the group that we would meet once a month on the last Thursday of the 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 dates are: February 28th, March 28th, and April 25th. We'll decide at the April meeting if we want to continue into the spring or summer.

~ Tom Mortimer

Crafters

It is already time to think about your sweetheart, family and friends on Valentine's Day. You may be able to find that special card or gift at our Church Store. Please "check us out". If you can make a purchase at our store you will also be supporting the missions of our church.



Our Crafters and Store Volunteers meet each Tuesday from 10:00 - 3:30. We have many visitors during these times who shop, make donations, come for conversation over a cup of coffee or tea and sometimes bring their lunch and eat with us. Please feel free to stop by and join us.

As always, the Store is open whenever the building is open and available to you. Whenever there is no attendant the Store is run on a self-serve basis. There are several receptacles located in various places throughout the Store into which you may place your cash, check or I.O.U.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Lynn Ralston
BCC Crafters/Store



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 25, 2019.



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

Save The Date



The Bolton Congregational Church's Annual

Corned Beef Dinner

will be held on

Saturday, March 16, 2019
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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

Adults—\$15.00

Children 12 & under—\$8.00

Seniors—\$13.00

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



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

From the Heart

Hope this newsletter finds you feeling well physically and emotionally. Let's face it, when we are feeling well we feel full of energy, full of love and overall pretty happy about what each new day may hold.

While we all have ups and downs in our week, as well as life's "seasons" of joy and at times difficulty, overall, we are blessed to have family, friends and our church always there for every season we are going through. We look forward to meeting each Sunday at BCC to be able to share our joys and concerns where we have support when we need it and also celebrate with one another for the blessings we experience.

Not everyone, as we know, has the same support. Some may not know how to reach out to ask for support. Some may not even know there is support available. Some may feel that their "problems" may not be worthy of support. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"From the Heart" is all about bringing H.O.P.E. = Helping Other Persevere Every day. February is our "One Item" month and with your help, you can join us once again in bringing support where it is needed. "From the Heart" believes that everyone from the youngest child to the oldest senior and everyone in between has the ability to make a difference in the life of someone else who needs it. How can you help?

If you haven't checked out our new website yet, we hope you will take a moment. All of our programs are listed on the website along with photos and collection needs. Our site is: www.fromtheheartct.com

"One Item" - one blanket, one pair of socks, one box of cereal bars, one can of fruit, one box of juice boxes, one deodorant, one gift card, one school supply item, one handmade picture or card, one hand lotion, one shower gel, one laundry detergent etc...

February is all about love and kindness...and ok...chocolate too. If you are inspired to reach out to support one of our programs this month, please know that you will be bringing support to others moving forward who just need a helping hand.

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen nor touched but are felt with the heart"

Hope you have a great month!

Laura Ann

Our Joys and Concerns

Birthdays...Freddy L. (80th); Andy S.; Brenda G.; Jim and Amy B.'s daughter, Emily; Dave L.; Ted D (50th); Tom M.; Lisa and Paul C's daughter, Cristina (31st); Julian's 1st;

Anniversaries...Heidi P's parents (57th); Randy & Arlis B. (46th); Greg & Sharon W. (36th).

Other Joys...Tom M. for "Facetime" with grandchildren and "connections" with friends and family; the Treats are back in town; Julian is HOME; Big Brother Program; our church; Daycare providers; Haley D's mission trip to Memphis; all who give their time and talent to our church; Tom M's songs; Dick B's recovery from shoulder surgery is going well; the hope and blessings given to kids by teachers and coaches;

Hospitalized, Ill, etc...Tom M's 96 year old friend having surgery; Debbie K's mom; Arlis B's mom; Susan S's neighbor's surgery; Brenda G's foot surgery; Sharon M; Corenda H's cataract surgery; Karan B's neighbor's baby suffering from seizures; Pam C; Jeslyn A's brother-in-law undergoing back surgery;

Concerns...Traveling mercies; peace in the world; Genevieve R; those going through cancer treatments and the decisions they have to make (Sharon W's sister and Heidi P's mom); bullying; Amber M's broken arm; Ron A's sister is trying new medicine for cancer; the families with loved ones battling mental illness and/or addiction; Jeslyn A's sister; church bombing at a church in the Phillipines;

Bereaved...Lisa and Paul C's neighbor; family of Sharon W's niece; the families of Jean Dooman and Lois Barrett; the family of Lori and Ray B's Uncle Jack; Ross L's 100 year old father-in-law lost his beloved girlfriend at 104; the family of Louis Dascanio;

Other...several noted relief that the Government has reopened and prayers it remains so, as well as back pay being remitted timely to the workers;

Many Thanks to Banner Water

...for continued assistance in fixing our water odor issues in the church parlor bathroom and in Chandler Hall.



Testing - Analysis - Solutions
24 Hour Emergency Service

BANNER WATER

Water Treatment Experts
Radon Mitigation Specialists

Pumps - Tanks - Treatment

860-872-8077

www.BannerWater.com



Brian Banning
CT Lic. 281776



February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Every Sunday:</i> † 8:45 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship Services (Unless otherwise noted) † Church Store Open: 9:30am-12:30pm</p>					<p>1 Al-Anon 7:30pm Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Board of Missions 11:30am <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i></p>	<p>4 Pastor Nicolette will be away Feb. 4-10</p>	<p>5 Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open 10am-3pm Board of Stewardship 7:30pm</p>	<p>6 Choir – 6:30pm Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Al-Anon 7:30pm Office Closed</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 <i>Last Sunday after Epiphany</i></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open 10am-3pm Finance 6:30pm</p>	<p>13 Choir – 6:30pm Church Council 7:30pm Refugee Recovery 7:00pm Writing Workshop 5:00pm <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p>	<p>14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p>15 Al-Anon 7:30pm Office Closed</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 CE Board 11:30am</p>	<p>18 <i>Presidents' Day</i></p>	<p>19 Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open 10am-3pm</p>	<p>20 Choir – 6:30pm Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p>	<p>21 Storytelling 7:00pm "The Present"</p>	<p>22 Al-Anon 7:30pm Office Closed</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Pastoral Relations 11:30am</p>	<p>25 Prayer Shawl Gathering 7:00pm</p>	<p>26 Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open 10am-3pm</p>	<p>27 Choir – 6:30pm Board of Deacons 7:30pm Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p>	<p>28  11:00am</p>		

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