



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.

Pastoral Transition

Progress is continuing as we seek to fill our pastoral needs. As I indicated last month, we anticipate a three step process: (1) selecting an Interim Pastor, (2) undergoing a detailed and thoughtful assessment of BCC and its goal, concerns and needs, and (3) finally the formation of a search committee and selection of a Settled Pastor.

An interim pastor Selection Committee has been appointed. A representative of each BCC Board comprises this committee. The committee is chaired by Susan MacDonald, and includes Alan Potter, Dan McLennon, Lloyd Pedersen and Sarah Young. The committee will prepare a brief profile of our Church and a summary of the desired skills a candidate for interim pastor should possess. Such profile is then sent to the UCC who will circulate it. Interested candidates will forward personal profiles/resumes for review by the Selection committee. Interviews and discussions will follow. It is envisioned that a candidate will be identified and recommended to the BCC Council for approval within the next few months; hopefully to be hired by mid-summer 2019.

Since Pastor Nicolette will be leaving 6/16/19, a gap in pastoral coverage is expected. Pastor Nicolette has coordinated pastoral coverage for worship services (and pastoral care on an as needed basis) with the assistance of the UCC and its Pulpit Supply pastors through 9/1/19. A candidate for Interim Pastor should also possess skills leading the congregation is an open and honest discussion of our needs and concerns. The Pastoral Relations Board will serve as the liaison of the Interim Pastor. The Interim Pastor will help guide us through an assessment of our Church, our congregation, as well as our needs, goals, and objectives. It is difficult to predict the duration of this process. We plan to take whatever time is needed to form a consensus, and resolve whatever issues might arise from the process.

Once we feel that the needs, goals and objectives of the BCC are clarified and a consensus reached, a formal Search Committee will be appointed to locate and recommend a permanent Settled Pastor for BCC. This search for a permanent pastor is expected to take 12 – 18 months from the appointment of the Search Committee.

Coming Soon:

The 15th Annual BCC Golf Tournament



September 7, 2019

...At Willow Brook Country Club in South Windsor. Registration fee is \$90 per golfer and includes greens fees, cart, beverages, snacks and an all-you-can-eat lunch!

Registration forms will be available soon in the narthex and on our website:

www.boltoncongregational.org

From the Pastor...

Jesus told his followers, "Behold. I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). It does not matter where we are, or what we are doing, Jesus is with us. As the body of Christ, we are knit together, whether gathered or scattered.

One of the hardest parts about leaving is figuring out boundaries that both honor our ties and give the space needed to grow. While it may be painful, this boundary gives you space to embrace a new pastor, and space for me to embrace whatever may come next. In my resignation letter, I wrote that it is my responsibility to follow the Ordained Minister's Code, which prohibits me from interfering with the life of Bolton UCC after June 18th. The specifics of what this looks like (discerned after consulting with colleagues, reading, praying, and in light of what I have learned from my last leaving) are outlined below.

From June 19-September 2020, I will no longer be just a phone call or email away. After that point, if you feel that

our relationship extends beyond a pastoral one and would like to reconnect, you may reach out to me, but know that out of respect for your next pastor, I will not reach out to you first. If you'd like to follow me in my ministry feel free to connect to my professional facebook page at facebook.com/revnicolette .

Over the last three years, I have been privileged to hear your confidences as you shared some of your most sacred and intimate moments. While I will continue to *want* to know these things, when I am no longer your pastor, I give up this privilege. I will still receive the church newsletter, just as I have continued to receive the newsletters of the other churches I have been a part of over the years. This way I can read the prayer requests – who has married, who is ailing, who has passed, who has welcomed children – all those significant life changes, and continue to hold you in prayer.

A complicating factor in all of this is family who are in relationship here as well. Reg and others are in charge of managing their own relationships, but I will ask that you respect the boundaries I am outlining here. Even something simple, like “let Pastor Nicolette know the test went well” or “tell Nicolette I say ‘hi’” puts them in the middle.

Finally, beloved ones, we've been through a lot together. We are not strangers. You are important to me, and always will be. If we see one another at the grocery store or UCC event, it's appropriate to say hello and chat. When you turn 300 in a few years, I'd love to be invited back to be part of the celebrations.

As we enter these last weeks together, I've kept my calendar relatively free in order to make room for coffee, ice cream, lunch, dinner, etc. with you. If you'd like some one-on-one time before I go, please don't hesitate to ask. This is our time.

In prayer and in peace,

Pastor Nicolette

Summer Worship

The Rev. Tamara Moreland, who is our resource person during the Interim Process, recommended instead of having a single Bridge Pastor (as we did between Chuck's retirement and Nicolette's arrival) to have many different types of preachers over the summer between when Nicolette leaves and the Interim pastor arrives. Each pastor will bring their own leadership style, theological perspective, and have been empowered to change the liturgy to what they are used to. The hope is that by having many different experiences, you will better know what you like and what you want when it comes time to seek the next settled pastor.

Below is a schedule of the summer as well as a brief bio on the guest preachers.

June 23 Connor Filkins (MID)
June 30 Caryne Eskridge (MID)
July 7 Rev. Jill Olds
July 14 Connor Filkins (MID)
July 21 Rev. Joanne Myer
July 28 Caryne Eskridge (MID)
August 4 Rev. Jill Olds

August 11 Rev. Edwin Perez
August 18 Rev. Edwin Perez
August 25 TBD
September 1 Rev. Kristen Provost Switzer

Connor Filkins

I am a recent graduate from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. I graduated from Albertus Magnus College in 2016 with a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy in 2016. I am a candidate for ministry in the United Church of Christ! I'm particularly passionate about youth ministry and mission. Since coming to and graduating from seminary, my faith focus and personal theology has evolved towards being explicitly inclusive and affirming, as well as being a vocal advocate of marginalized communities. Living in a diverse environment of St. Louis, Missouri has opened my eyes to the injustices and intolerance still present in the world, which has greatly influenced my theology and ministry. I am committed to an idea that theology, religion, and Christianity are deeply contextual.

Caryne Eskridge (MID)

(she/her) recently completed her first year as a Master of Divinity student at Yale Divinity School. She is currently discerning her call to ministry in the UCC as a Member in Discernment in the New Haven Association. Caryne plans to enter parish ministry and will complete her ministerial internship at the First Congregational Church of Guilford, CT beginning in late August. She is passionate about making ever-growing space for the LGBTQIA+ community to live and worship openly in the church, and seeks to encourage the church to be a place of healing and wholeness for all. She lives in New Haven's Wooster Square neighborhood with her partner, Bailey Sullivan and their wonderful dog, Samson.

Rev. Joanne Myer

We joyfully will welcome Rev. Myer back to lead worship with us. She is a member of First Congregational Church of Vernon where she serves as the director of their Stephen's Ministry. We are thankful that in addition to leading worship this summer, she will also serve as our oncall person in case of pastoral emergencies between when Rev. Nicolette leaves, and when the interim arrives.

Rev. Jill Olds

The Rev. Jill Olds is delighted to be worshipping with all of you this summer! Jill attended Princeton Theological Seminary; she was ordained in 2009 to hospital chaplaincy, and primarily worked with patients and their families in the Medical ICU in a Pennsylvania hospital. Jill has served UCC churches in Marblehead, MA (2011-2013) and in Tolland, CT (2017-2019), and she also answered the call to stay at home with her children for four years in the meantime. Jill, her husband Kevin (an Episcopal priest) and their two sons reside in Fairfield, CT.

Rev. Edwin Perez Jr. is a Member in Discernment with limited Standing in the New Haven Association. Edwin is a member of the United Church on the Green in New Haven, CT and, where he serves as a deacon, facilitator of Adult

Faith Formation, and leader of a new charismatic bilingual worship service/ministry. His interests beyond the Church still involve activism, LGBTQ, Immigrants' and Latinx rights organizing, and the New Sanctuary CT. His involvement with the wider Church includes being a Board Member of AFIRM (Apostolic Fellowship International Revival Ministries), where he was ordained for social justice ministry in 2017. He attended Korsinos Bible College in 2010-2012 and Apostolic Seminary in 2017.

Rev. Kristen Provost Switzer (pronouns she/ her/ hers) currently services as the Minister of Youth and Mission at the Newtown Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Church of the UCC. A native of Newtown, Kristen has served three churches in CT. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Northeastern University, a diploma from Hartford Seminary and a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. When she is not serving her church, Kristen enjoys spending time with her spouse, Scott and their three children. As a family, they enjoy hiking, playing with their three cats and cooking and eating vegetarian cuisine together. Kristen is thrilled to be with you this morning!

Continuing to pray for you and your family in the midst of transition and the work of the Holy Spirit,
Kristen

Church School News

June 2nd will be our Annual Church School Sunday as well as Confirmation Sunday. Our children and youth have a wonderful service planned for you all. We will welcome 4 new members into our Congregation on that day. Congratulations to Emily DeNunzio, Katelyn DeNunzio, Molly Martin and Josiah Fraser.

We will now take a break from weekly Church School and enjoy worship together as a family. I am still hoping to see the faces of our young people in Church on Sundays. A few special Sundays during the summer we will have a special church school program. Those dates will be announced via our Church Chirps. The Christian Education Board has also decided to have a Family Fun Day in conjunction with the Chicken BBQ, more details to follow.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the youth of our church please come and talk to me. The youth is the lifeline of the church without them how will our congregation continue to grow. We are always looking for new and unique ideas to bring young people and families into our congregation.

I hope you all enjoy your summer and I will see you in worship on Sunday

I would now like to take a brief moment to say a heartfelt thank you and good-bye to a wonderful woman. It has been an honor and a privilege to work beside Pastor Nicolette for the last 2 ½ years. She has brought some wonderful ideas and energy into this congregation and I am extremely

saddened to see her go. Not only has she had some great ideas for our church school program, she has helped implement these new ideas. I believe that even though our little town seems to be getting even smaller, that these positive changes will help to eventually grow our church school. Pastor Nicolette has been an amazing support for me over the past two very difficult years and I am very honored to call her my friend. There will be many tears when I finally have to say goodbye, but I know she was brought to us for a reason and we are only stronger because of her time with us. I know she has only just begun her journey to greatness and I wish her all the best. Thank you Pastor Nicolette for always being true to yourself and to this congregation; I will miss you more than I can say.

Jessica Romeo

Director of Children & Youth Programming

Chandler Book Nook

"Reading is my escape and comfort, my consolation, my stimulant of choice." - Paul Auster

Save the Date!

What: BookTalk on Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

When: October 27, 2019

Where: Chandler Book Nook

#1 New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Boston Globe Bestseller

Educated. A Memoir by Tara Westover



It is said we all have a story to tell. One fascinating example of this is the memoir selected for our annual book talk in October. The writer, Tara Westover, recounts growing up in rural Idaho in a home centered on an extreme survivalist mentality. Despite many obstacles, she challenged her family, and finally broke free, ultimately finding her path and her voice through academic excellence.

It is an inspiring story of power through knowledge and optimism. [Reviewed by Denise McLennon]
In August, we'll have ten copies of this title for your borrowing pleasure. Please join us for this adventure.

The Library Ladies
Linda Brown
Denise McLennon

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. This month we meet on June 24th. 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.

We appreciate your generous support and donations of yarn, needles and money; this has enabled us to be self-supporting all these years.

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

CWS TOOLS

The missions board celebrates Father's Day throughout June by inviting the congregation to support the Church World Service's Tools program. As its name suggests, CWS Tools is an initiative that turns contributions from thousands of churches into hammers, fish nets, hygiene kits, welding equipment, rebar, blankets, concrete and all sorts of tools, equipment and supplies needed to help families that have been displaced from their homes by natural disaster or war or famine or social unrest.

Whether in Syria or Haiti, Australia or North Carolina, CWS Tools provides thousands with the tools they need to rebuild homes, schools and lives. And we commend to your reading CWSTools.org.



The Board of Missions



Church Store News

The Church Store volunteers have offered to open the Store on the first and third Saturdays during the summer months on a trial basis. We will be open on June 1, June 15, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17, September 7 and September 21. The hours will be 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. We

are trying to bring in shoppers from the church and community that normally work during our regular hours. On Tuesday's most of our shoppers are seniors from Bolton and the surrounding communities and on Sunday's our sales are mostly to our church members. However, in the summer months when refreshments are served at the front steps of the church, we have very little activity at the Store. This month we will feature baby and children's item and will offer a 20% discount on our already very reasonable prices. So, if you have any new babies arriving or young children in the family who are having Birthdays or other special occasions, you may want to think of the Store before you go elsewhere to do your shopping. We also have a nice selection of Father's Day cards that sell between .50 cents and \$2.00. many of these cards are hand-crafted. All sales at our Store support the missions of our church. Thinking about shopping at the Store when making purchases for certain occasions is an easy way to add support to our mission programs. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.

Lynn Ralston For the BCC Crafters/Store volunteers

Our Joys and Concerns

Birthdays... Lloyd's daughter turning 21; Jim B. for Jenny's birthday; Marylou for Tom's 75th birthday; Amy B for Jim's birthday;

Anniversaries... States and Wife 54th anniversary;

Other Joys... Mary-Lou happy Tom is home; Bill for Michelle's birthday; Debbie joys for women she used to care for; Kaye completed a blanket she'd started; Barbara's friends are getting better from surgery; Debbie shares joys for recent college grads; Joanne is joyful for Kaitlyn's birthday; Kathy S. prayer for family and friends; Valarie's mother's surgery went well; Donna F's daughter's college decision; Irv for Mothers Day; Debbie K for niece's bridal shower; Tom M. face-timed daughter and granddaughter;

Concerns... Linda's father had successful glaucoma surgery; Lori's great-nephew's seizures and is home from the hospital; Joanne gives prayers for Todd and her mother; Debbie B's mother's infection and recovery; Cathy S for friends in PA; Barbara M. for (2) friends' surgeries; Andy S for Marcus' wisdom teeth;

Bereaved...





From the Heart

“The Optimist sees the rose and not its thorns; the Pessimist stares at the thorns oblivious of the rose”

In order for someone to see beyond their current situation, they must be able to feel some spark of hope, some form of strength and, if necessary, have the will to acknowledge and accept that support is available and change is possible.

Through our “Adopted Family Program” your help has been truly life-changing. We are always in need of non-perishable groceries, paper products, gift cards and cleaning and personal items. As quickly as we receive your donations, they are matched and delivered to specific individuals and families in the program! Each week and month, you have donated groceries, purchased gift cards or have helped to fill requests for specific clothing needs with either the clothing or gift cards. Just a couple of donations from everyone brings major support to those who need it. Thank you!!!

“The Yankees shirt fits perfectly and the basketball shorts are just what he likes! Add the UConn Huskies shirt, and he is feeling like a million bucks.”

The word optimistic describes how the individuals and families feel, and is verbalized, when your groceries, gift cards, and clothing requests are delivered...truly a blessing! If you look in your pantry and find you have extra items you may not use (within expiration), or find you can add a couple of items in your shopping cart over the next few weeks....many will benefit because of your support! The grandmother raising her grandson, the father of three raising his children, the mom and son working hard to move forward who never ask for anything yet are so appreciative when they receive the help and many others we support so they can continue to move forward...these acts of kindness bring hope and support on so many levels. Please consider bringing blessing this month with your donation of non-perishable, personal product, paper goods or cleaning supplies and as always...THANK YOU!!!

Laura Ann


“From the Heart”

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <i>6th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	27	28	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 Al-Anon 7:30pm	1
2 Communion Sunday Worship: 10:00am Board of Missions - 11:30am <i>7th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	3	4 Board of Stewardship 6:30pm Crafters/Time to Socialize <i>Church Store Open 10am-3pm</i>	5 Refugee Recovery 7:00pm Office Closed	6 Office Closed	7 Al-Anon 7:30pm	8
9 Worship: 9:30am <i>8th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	10	11 Finance Team 6:30pm Crafters/Time to Socialize <i>Church Store Open 10am-3pm</i>	12 Church Council 6:30 pm Refugee Recovery 7:00pm Office Closed	13 Office Closed	14 Al-Anon 7:30pm	15
16 Worship: 9:30am Board of Christian Ed 11:30am <i>Pastor Nicolette's Last Sunday</i> <i>9th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	17	18 Crafters/Time to Socialize <i>Church Store Open 10am-3pm</i>	19 Refugee Recovery 7:00pm Office Closed	20 Office Closed	21 Al-Anon 7:30pm 	22
23 Worship: 9:30am <i>10th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	24 Prayer Shawl Gathering 7:00pm	25 Crafters/Time to Socialize <i>Church Store Open 10am-3pm</i>	26 Board of Deacons 7:30pm Refugee Recovery 7:00pm Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Al-Anon 7:30pm	29
30 Worship: 9:30am <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	1	2 Crafters/Time to Socialize <i>Church Store Open 10am-3pm</i>	3 Refugee Recovery 7:00pm Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5 Al-Anon 7:30pm	6

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