

The Signpost



MARCH 2019

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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.



Pancake Breakfast

March 3rd
9:00 a.m. - Noon
In Chandler Hall

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

****Gluten-free Pancakes Available****

Your free-will donations
will support this year's Church School
Lenten Mission Project:

Healers with Halos Therapy Dogs



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



**Tickets MUST be purchased
in advance. They will be on
sale in Chandler Hall during fellowship
each Sunday or at the church office
during office hours. For more information,
call the church office at 860-649-7077.**

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

From the Pastor...

The Saturday Night Live character “Debbie Downer” is one of my favorites. She is able to take anything – a trip to Disney, a nice dinner out – and finds something sad, or less than ideal, to bring up that brings the whole room down.

If I was Debbie Downer, I would tell you that on my recent trip to Costa Rica, we never saw one of the ‘blue jeans’ frogs, my masseuse had a cold, we had to walk a kilometer uphill to the nearest store, the music in the restaurant was terrible, my legs are covered in bug bites, there were ants in our cabana, the road was unpaved and made me slightly carsick, and each morning I was awoken at 5:00am by a bird that sounded like a dog’s squeaky toy.

All of this is true. However, I’m rarely a Debbie Downer. A realist sometimes, but more often than that I try to be a Pollyanna – the girl who plays the Glad Game and finds a reason to be happy even in the most dire of circumstances.

Pollyanna would talk about all the wonders – the perfect weather, the kind people, the delicious food, the amazing experiences, the laughter, the interesting animals, the colorful flowers, the time spent with my sister, and the joy of using the minimal Spanish I know.

Which comes easier to you?

- Finding the good in something, or pointing out what is wrong?
- Hoping when times are hard, or fearing when all is going well?
- Enjoying the moment, or wishing it could be better?

This month, you’ll be invited to engage in a process called “Appreciative Inquiry.” Through telling stories about the best of the past of the church, we’ll figure out what it is that makes this community of faith so special, and then together envision our deepest hopes for the future.

The point of this exercise is not to pretend that we’re perfect (no church or human institution is), but to think deeply about what it is that draws us to this community, what makes us want to stay, what we value, and what we hope to pass on to the next generation.

Look for more information from the Pastoral Relations Board in the month of March about how to participate in this worthwhile experience.

Pastor Nicolette

Worship Schedule for March

All sermons will be delivered by Pastor Nicolette

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

Message: “We Are Transformed”

Ash Wednesday, March 6 – 4:00 – 7:00pm

Prayer Stations

Lent is the 40-day period of preparation before Easter, in honor of Jesus’ 40 days of preparation for ministry in the desert. It is a time of spiritual reflection and growth, and begins on March 6th, Ash Wednesday. The church will be open from 4-7pm with prayer and reflection stations for those who want time and space to reflect on that day.

Scripture, prompts, and other materials for contemplation will be available at each station, and Pastor will be on hand to offer ashes to those who wish to receive them.

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

Message: “Lead us not into temptation”

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

Message: “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”

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

Message: “Give us this day our daily bread”

Sunday, March 31 ~ 8:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Message: “Deliver us from evil”

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.

An Evening of Storytelling

Please join us as we share stories, music and special celebrations.

March 21st – “The Future”

April 18th – 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 nastornicolette@gmail.com.

Church School News

It is almost the season of Lent. That means it is almost time for our annual Pancake Breakfast to support the Church School's Lenten Mission Project. This year, the children have chosen Healers with Halos. Healers with Halos is a not for profit organization that sends therapy dogs out to hospitals, veteran's centers, nursing homes, and to individual homes. Dogs are amazing and they certainly are healing. Please stay tuned for more Lenten fundraisers that the children will be holding to support this great organization.

If you are interested in learning more about this organization, please visit the table the children will have set up during the Pancake Breakfast on March 3rd and at coffee hour on Sundays beginning on March 10, 2019.

Do I need to give something up during Lent? I say that is totally up to you. During my childhood, it was customary that during Lent we had to give up something that we loved. Almost every year I gave up chocolate. It was one of my very favorite things to eat and it was not easy to give it up. I had asked my dad why was it that I had to do this. He said it isn't meant to be easy. It is meant to show what sacrifice is. However hard it was for me to give up chocolate, imagine how it was for Jesus to give his life. So, every Lent I would give up something that would not be easy. Then, I became a mom and my views changed a little. Yes, sacrifice is important, but it should be so much more. So, what we do in our house is not to give up something, it is to give something. Give time to church, or our community, donate your own money to a charity of your choice, use the talents you have to help someone not as fortunate as you are. So, this Lent talk to your kids about how you can make sacrifices to help those around you.

Jessica Romeo

Director of Christian Education



Ash Wednesday Prayer Stations

**Wednesday, March 6th
4:00-7:00pm**

For those who would like to begin this Lenten season with a quiet space for spiritual reflection and preparation, our Church Sanctuary will be open on this evening.

There will be prayer stations of scripture, prompts, and other materials for your contemplation and Pastor Nicolette will be on hand to offer ashes to those who wish to receive them.

You may come any time between 4:00 and 7:00pm for as short or as long a visit that you would like.

Pastoral Relations - Appreciative Inquiry

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 and other established groups in the Church to arrange to meet with their members.

For those church members who will not be at any of the above-mentioned meetings, there will be three other times **available** in March to meet with the PRB and share your thoughts:

Thursday, March 14th, at 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 19th, at 11:30am

Sunday, March 24th after both services

(These meetings will be in Chandler Hall)

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

Kathy Minicucci,

PRB chair

Healers With Halos - Therapy Dog Visit



**Saturday, April 6th
11:00am-1:00pm
Chandler Hall**

Church member, Trip Barnett, works with the Healers with Halos therapy dogs and has graciously offered to bring these very special healers to BCC. Bring your family and friends and come meet these amazing dogs and see the wonderful things they do to help so many

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: March 28th, and April 25th. We'll decide at the April meeting if we want to continue into the spring or summer.

~ Tom Mortimer

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 March 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. We have been meeting for almost 20 years and have lovingly given approximately 1000 shawls over the years.

Dot Lessard



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 St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards are on display.

Please stop by 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 to you. If there is no attendant on duty, there are 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.

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY
FROM ALL OF THE STORE VOLUNTEERS**

Lynn Ralston

Bolton Road Race

March 10th at 1:00pm



Come cheer on our friends and neighbors who are running in the Bolton Road Race – the route goes right by our church!

We'll play runner-inspiring music through our carillon, have hot cocoa and coffee available for spectators, and provide information about our upcoming events.

Please contact Pastor Nicolette if you are interested in helping make this community outreach event a success.



From the Heart

Each year, "From the Heart" creates and donates Easter pails for children in foster care and children in our "Adopted Family Program". While Easter is still a month away, we need to begin our assembly early in order to have them ready for donation. We would love for you to join us in helping to ensure many children receive a pail filled with small toys and personal items on Easter morning.

We love using the beach pails because kids can use them all spring and summer and they are deep enough so items stay in them making for easier transportation. While beach pails or plastic pails with Easter or spring decorating on them are preferred, feel free to use gift bags or Easter Baskets as well! You can't go wrong with any of these choices!

How can you help?

One way to help us out is to go ahead and create your own Easter pail making it all set for donating. Another way is to donate individual items. We will add your donations with other donations and create as many pails as possible. One item makes a difference when we put them all together!

Please do **NOT** include any candy or food items, plastic eggs, or easter grass.

Feel free to get creative. Below is simply a suggested list of items we would love to have:

Sidewalk chalk - coloring books - crayons - markers - bubbles - stickers - lightweight balls - kites - Playdoh - craft kits - card games - sunglasses - small cars/trucks, Legos/Bionicles - baby dolls - Jump Ropes - action figures - hair accessories - kids shampoo - hair brushes - and of course stuffed Easter Bunnies (any size).

We never want to forget the older children and teens so "From the Heart" is collecting personal care items and "fun items" that an older child or teen uses:

Suggested items are: Shampoo/Conditioner- Toothpaste/Toothbrush- Hairbrush - Hand Lotion- Shower Gel - Deodorant - Body Sprays - Hair Bands - Face Wash/Wipes - Scented Soap - Chapstick etc.

Please contact theheart@comcast.net or check out our website at www.fromtheheartct.com if you have any questions. Thank you for helping to make a "Happy Easter" for those in need!

Laura Ann

Our Joys and Concerns

Birthdays...MaryLou's; Jonathan C and wife Lisa; Jim and Amy B's grandchildren (Amberleigh's 2nd and Kason's 16th) and son-in-law, Tim; Paula and Dave L's son-in-law;

Anniversaries...Ginny and Wick W (49th)

Other Joys...Cathy S's daughter and grandchildren home from Sweden; Ruth and Dick T visiting Seattle and Hawaii; Randy and Arlis B taking care of the grandchildren while "Mom" gets a weekend getaway; Arlis B's mom is home from hospital; Tom M has new employees; reconnected family; Gen R is grateful for all her cards, well wishes and prayer shawl; Laureen M's visit with granddaughter; Lori B's daughter, Corrine, is visiting with her best friend, Jenny B; Reggie C's mother is visiting; Doug and Andy S's daughter is home from hospital; Irv G's brother-in-law graduated from the police academy; Lee F is grateful for the Prayer Shawl for his friend fighting cancer; Paula and Dave L's weekend babysitting of grandson; Tom M's joy for our church;

Hospitalized, Ill, etc...the father of a friend of Jimmy F's Debbie K's mom; Linda B's dad; Herb F is in the VA hospital; Tom P's cardio conversion surgery; prayers for the son of Lori B's friend facing heart valve surgery; for Lori B's friend Pat who is battling breast cancer; Donna F's dad is struggling with dialysis port; Pam C's continued battle with cancer; those battling the flu; Sharon W's father-in-law and his care giving daughter; Laureen M is not feeling well; Linda B's father recovering from falls and stroke;

Concerns...Jimmy F for an army buddy; Valerie K's asks for prayers for her 89 year old grandmother who has been diagnosed with breast cancer, her younger cousin has a brain aneurysm and a friend is battling depression; new housing for Arlis B's mom; Cathy S offers prayers for the stresses facing our younger generations; Sharon W's dad is having tests; Karen F prays for our country and for the words of Jesus to provide strength; Debbie K's results from a job test and the theft of her neighbor's car; for all those affected by addiction and mental depression; Wick W's cousin Marion is battling cancer;

Bereaved...the family of Steve W's neighbor who passed away; the family of Cathy M's neighbor who lost her husband; the family of Jim B's friend whose son was killed by gunfire.

Other...Sue M's prayers for finding a new church office manager.

**The Bolton Congregational
Church Presents:**



Featuring "Comics in Church"

**Frank O'Donnell
and
Reverend Jen Munroe-Nathans**

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

**\$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**

Funds raised will go to the church budget general fund

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.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH**



Turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday night!




Many Thanks to Banner Water

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



MARCH 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Every Sunday: † 8:45 a.m. & 10 a.m. Worship Services <i>(Unless otherwise noted)</i> † Church Store Open: 9:30am-12:30pm</p>					1 Al-Anon 7:30pm	2
<p>3 Communion Sunday Pancake Breakfast 9:00am-11:30am Board of Missions 11:15am</p>	4	<p>5 Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open: 10am-3pm Board of Stewardship 6:30pm</p>	<p>6 Lenten Prayer Stations 4:00-7:00pm Choir - 6:30pm Refugee Recovery 7:00pm <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p>	7	8 Al-Anon 7:30pm	<p>9  Turn Clocks Ahead 1 hour tonight!</p>
<p>10 <i>Bolton Road Race</i> 1:00pm Daylight Savings Time Begins <i>First Sunday of Lent</i></p>	11	<p>12 Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Church Store Open: 10am-3pm Finance Team 6:30pm</p>	<p>13 Choir - 6:30pm Church Council 7:30 p.m. Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p>	<p>14 Appreciative Inquiry Evaluation 7:00pm BCC members and community</p>	15 Al-Anon 7:30pm	<p>16  Corned Beef Dinner 5:00-7:00pm</p>
<p>17 CE Board – 11:30am <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i></p>	18	<p>19 Time to Socialize/Crafters 10:00am Appreciative Inquiry at 11:30am Church Store Open: 10am-3pm</p>	<p>20 Choir - 6:30pm Refugee Recovery 7:00pm</p>	<p>21 Storytelling 7:00pm “The Future”</p>	22 Bolton Community Fair 6:00pm at BCS Gym Al-Anon 7:30pm	23
<p>24 Appreciative Inquiry Evaluation After both services <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i></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  Men's GROUP 11:00am</p>	29	30
<p>31 Pastoral Relations 11:15am <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i></p>	1	<p>2 Board of Stewardship 6:30pm</p>	3	4	5	

The Bolton Congregational Church UCC, 228 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT 06043