



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.

SUPER SUNDAE: SEPTEMBER 23

Back to Two Services & Church School!

Join us for SUPER SUNDAE when we will resume our 2-service worship schedule, and celebrate after our 10am worship with an:



* 8:45am worship is a shorter service with fewer musical pieces.

* 10:00am worship includes our choir, a children's message, and Sunday School for children ages 3-13.

If you prefer, children of all ages are welcome to stay in worship—we love to see families worship together, and we have resources available to help you do so.

A CALL TO THE CONGREGATION:

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

AT 10:30AM

A CONGREGATIONAL VOTE WILL BE HELD FOR THE NEWLY PROPOSED

HYMNAL:

GLORY TO GOD



BEFORE THE VOTE: ON SEPTEMBER 9

Come to our September 9 service (at 9:30) which will focus on the importance of the hymnal to our services—with readings related to music, comments from the Search Team about why Glory to God was chosen, songs from the hymnal and a Q&A session after worship.

From the Pastor...

The selection of a new hymnal is not something to be taken lightly. This resource shapes how we worship and communicates something about who we are to guests and visitors. Over the last 15 months, a team of your fellow church members crafted and carried out a search process that we compared to the search for a new pastor – one that took into serious consideration the needs and values of the congregation that the hymnal shall serve.

It has not been an easy task, and I am grateful to the team members who met month after month, who asked questions, who listened (to one another and to the Holy Spirit), who laughed, who read, who played, who deliberated, and who in the end came to the same conclusion. A conclusion that Marylou and I, though non-voting members of this team, both heartily support.

Over the next several weeks, you are invited to get to know the hymnal search team's recommendation for our next hymnal: "Glory to God." More information about the hymnal, as well as the next steps in the selection process (including an all-church vote on September 16th) can be found in an article on page 5 by Gwen Marrion entitled, "Introducing the Proposed New Hymnal: *Glory to God*."

In addition, we have reprinted a few of the articles from earlier newsletters about the process. We hope that these are helpful as we all move forward together.

~Pastor Nicolette

Caregiver Collective

The life of a caregiver is often hectic – not only are you taking care of your own needs (appointments and obligations), but as a caregiver you are also helping the person you care for meet theirs. Juggling calendars sometimes means that finding a regular time for caregivers to get together difficult. Thus, we will be alternating Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening meetings. Our next meetings are:

Sunday September 30th at 12pm
Tuesday October 23rd at 7pm

Colors of the Covenant

Starting on September 16th, we will once again dive into the stories of the Old Testament, following along with the Spill the Beans' theme "Colors of the Covenant." A covenant is a promise, in the Bible, often between God and humanity. Each week's story will be connected with a different color and an aspect of our covenant with God and one another.

September 2 – 9:30am – Communion Sunday

September 9th – 9:30am
Celebration of Music and Baptism

September 16th - 9:30am
Covenant with the World (Blue) Genesis 6:16-22, 9:8-15

September 23rd – 8:45 & 10:00am
Covenant with a People (Yellow) Genesis 12:1-9

September 30th – 8:45 & 10:00am
Covenant to be Present (Orange) Genesis 39:1-23

****PLEASE NOTE: TWO WORSHIP SERVICES BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 23rd*****



Thank you to everyone who provided special music during the summer months.

Senior Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 26, at 6:30 p.m. We are always looking for singers—so come join us. We do have a good time together!

I am always looking for soloists and instrumentalists. If you can't commit to Choir, perhaps a solo on a Sunday would work for you. See me after church or call me.

As the fall begins, I would like to start a Junior Choir. If there are children who are interested in joining Junior Choir, please let me know or meet me after church!

Mary Lou

Church School Updates

There are moments that come where we either must change our ways or risk being stuck. We have come to such a time in our church school's life. The way things have been no longer works for us. We have a limited amount of volunteers and a constant struggle to make church a priority for families in a world that pulls us in too many directions. So, where does that leave us? We certainly cannot abandon Christian Education. If we do not teach our children about our faith and our church where will we be in the future? Therefore, we must change the way we do things.

One of the best ways to teach our children about our faith is to have them actively participate in our church services. When our children see us worshipping together they will learn how important it is. Last year we started having our youngest church school students remain in church with the other students and leave for church school with them. This year we will have only the Pre-K - 3rd grade students leave church at the halfway point and go over to church school. The older students will remain through the entire church service. When the service is over they will go over to Chandler Hall and join in on a time of reflection about what they learned in church. This may include a round table discussion, a game or activity, or even a craft. Spill the Beans is a wonderful curriculum which takes lessons from the Narrative Lectionary so that the children learn the same lesson in church as they do in church school.

Pastor Nicolette and I will work together with the Christian Education Board to make sure the church service embraces the youth and makes them feel that this is where they belong. Encourage your children to share during joys and concerns. However trivial you may think what they want to share is, it is very important to them, and therefore very important to us. Ask them to listen to the announcements, just for the simple fact to know what goes on in our church besides just Sunday services.

We are hoping these changes will strengthen our congregation and our new generations coming up. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Nicolette or me.

With these changes I will be in need of some volunteers to help out with both aspects of the program. If you are interested in helping with the younger group, or leading one of the reflection times with the older children please let me know.

Additional items to be aware of:

September 9th - Meeting for prospective Confirmation students and their families - following the New Hymnal Q & A.

September 23rd - First day of church school and Super Sundae Sunday and the return of two services.

Jessica Romeo

THE 14TH ANNUAL BCC GOLF TOURNAMENT



SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

**WILLOW BROOK COUNTRY CLUB
SOUTH WINDSOR**

REGISTRATION: \$90.00
*(INCLUDES GREENS FEES, CART,
BEVERAGES, SNACKS, AND AN ALL-
YOU-CAN-EAT LUNCH!)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Pick up a registration form on the table in the narthex, or click [Here](#) to sign up.

CRAFTERS/STORE NEWS

PLEASE NOTE: Until the Education Building renovations are completed:

1. The Crafters/Store volunteers will not be meeting.
2. The Church store will be closed on Tuesdays and Sundays (however, the store is available to anyone who has access to the Education Building—please make sure that you leave the lights off and doors closed after you shop).

Thank you to all who donated to the Store throughout the summer months as well as to all of our volunteers who continued to meet during the summer.

We hope that you all had a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you again once we are back on a regular schedule. We expect to be open again beginning on September 18th: Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Lynn Ralston

BCC Crafter/Volunteers

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. 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



This September the Board of Missions is asking for your generous donations to support the Bolton Food Pantry, which is located at the Senior Center on Notch Road. The food pantry supports Bolton residents that are in need of food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies.

Beyond food items, the food pantry could really use paper goods (paper towels, napkins, etc.), cleansers (laundry detergent, dish soap, etc.), and toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc.). There will be a list of suggested items on the table in the narthex. Please bring in your donations on any Sunday in September. Item donations can be made via a box in the narthex; monetary donations may be placed in the collection plate during service (be sure to mark your checks "Bolton Food Pantry"). Your support to this worthy cause is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Trip Barnett

Board of Missions

Chandler Book Nook

OCTOBER BOOK TALK

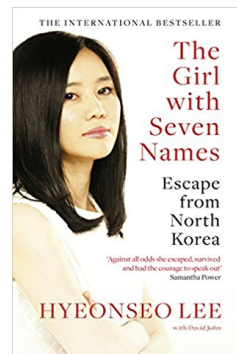
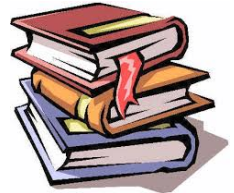
WHEN: Sunday, October 14, 11:30am

WHERE: BCC in Chandler Hall

(Please sign-up in the Parlor.)

WHAT: **The Girl with Seven Names; Escape From North Korea** By Hyeonsoo Lee

Questions about this mysterious country abound. This memoir answers many of those questions. Librarians at First Church in West Hartford judged this book as drawing the most interest last year. You are sure to find this book a compelling read. WE SURE DID!



The Girl With Seven Names;
Escape from North Korea

By Hyeonsoo Lee

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships – and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom. As a child growing up in North Korea, Hyeonsoo Lee was one of millions trapped by a secretive and brutal communist regime. Her home on the border with China gave her some exposure to the world beyond the confines of the Hermit Kingdom and, as the famine of the 1990s struck, she began to wonder, question, and realize that she had been brainwashed her entire life. Given the repression, poverty and starvation she witnessed, surely her country could not be, as she had been told, "the best on the planet"? At age seventeen, she decided to escape North Korea.

~ An Amazon Review

Multiple copies are available for borrowing in the church parlor. A borrowing card is in each book.

The Library Ladies:

Linda Brown & Denise McLennon

Worship Bags for Children

We love including children in worship, and want to be supportive to the adults (parents and other special people) who worship by their side. Recognizing that children are at many different levels and have different learning styles (some pay attention while coloring, some can calm their bodies better when their fingers are working), we have worship bags for the children to use on Sunday mornings. In the bags there are multiple quiet toys, books, and games to keep fingers and minds occupied.

Orange bags are for children who are more confident readers, though there are plenty of activities that don't involve reading. **Green bags** include easier books and more non-reading activities. Each one has similar items, but different varieties. After worship - the children will leave them at the church to pick up the next week. If you have an idea of what the bag should (or should not) include, if the coloring gets filled up, or if anything else arises - please let Jessica Romeo know, and we will swap out the items.

Your Stories - Told LIVE!

Hear your friends and neighbors tell TRUE STORIES from their lives. We'll gather in Bolton UCC's beautiful Chandler Hall at 7pm for an hour of storytelling and live music centered on the following themes:

September 20th - First Day
October 18th - Mask
November 15th - Harvest

Sign up here to tell YOUR story:

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

Thank you to everyone who came to our June *Storyteller's Workshop*. Our next workshop will be held on September 13th at 7:00pm in Chandler Hall.

2ND Annual Festival of Trees

Last year, we welcomed more than two dozen non-profit organizations and businesses to set up trees, and gave away \$1,550 in prize money to local organizations, while raising \$2K for ourselves from the teacup raffle, and welcoming having 400 people walk through our doors over a three day period!

This year's event will take place November 30th - December 2nd. If you are interested in helping to make this year's event even bigger and better than last year, please contact Pastor Nicolette. Our first meeting will be **Thursday, September 13th at 5:30pm** in the parlor.

Introducing the Proposed New Hymnal: Glory to God

After over a year of research and discussion, your Hymnal Search Team is happy to propose Glory to God as our next hymnal. Published in 2013, Glory to God includes the largest number of our congregation's identified favorites, introduces a wide range of new, enjoyable, high-quality songs and is in line with our core values and beliefs. Samples of the hymnal will be available during services in the coming weeks to review.

Our September 9 service (at 9:30) will focus on the importance of the hymnal to our services, with readings related to music, comments from the Search Team about why Glory to God was chosen, songs from the hymnal and a Q&A session after worship.

On September 16th after worship we will hold a congregational vote on whether to adopt Glory to God as our church's next hymnal.

Soon there will be a timeline in the narthex depicting the history of the search process and the steps taken by the Hymnal Search Team to arrive at the recommendation of Glory to God. More information about the need for new hymnals, the criteria used to choose one and the importance of the language of hymns can be found in the January, February and March 2018 Signposts which are posted on the church website.

The Search Team looks forward to sharing our thoughts about Glory to God on September 9, and in the meantime please contact any member of the committee if you have questions or comments.

Gwen Marrion, chairman - gmarrion@snet.net

Andrea Sauer - sauerct@att.net

Barbara Maheu - wmaheu@comcast.net

Rick Bulach - bluechiptl@aol.com

Ben Davies - bdavies2303@hotmail.com

Bill Willis - bill.icycle@gmail.com

Pastor Nicolette - pastornicolette@gmail.com

Mary Lou Prescher

Past Articles from the Hymnal Committee

The following are excerpts from prior Signpost articles from the Hymnal Committee. For more detail, please see our website for the original article in the Signpost in the month listed.

January 2018 – Hymnal Committee

In January of 2018, the Hymnal Search Committee was formed to explore the process of finding one new, comprehensive hymnal for our church.

A number of questions arose at the beginning of the process. The first of which we will discuss here: Why do we need new hymnals?

One reason for a new hymnal is to introduce new music into our church. As we foster the next generation of parishioners, the committee believes we should include music written by the next generation of composers. “The Old Rugged Cross”, “Just a Closer Walk With Thee” and “Amazing Grace” were new hymns once, and perhaps the next new “old favorite” is ready to be discovered.

The committee is adamant that the new hymnal must contain old favorites, but we also feel the congregation should be open to hearing newer hymns that might engage our younger members.

Another reason for a new hymnal is to find one that uses language that is more appropriate in today’s society, which reflects the values of our congregation.

A third reason is that the books are wearing out. The worn books don’t reflect the vibrancy of our congregation, and to a newcomer their appearance could suggest a resistance to change.

February 2018 – Hymnal Committee

Why the Language of our Hymnal is Important

The language of our hymnal reflects the values of our congregation, conveys those values to the community, and teaches young members what we as a congregation believe in. We know that language changes over time, and as the committee continues its work, we will seek a hymnal that uses language that is up to date and makes all who use the books feel they are included in the message of the hymn.

Fear not - the hymnal committee is a fairly traditional group who loves the ‘old favorites’ and are not looking for a hymnal that dramatically changes the words or style of the hymns we sing. However, the committee also recognizes that our hymnal must convey that our congregation welcomes all worshippers, no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey.

Our red Pilgrim Hymnal categorizes a number of hymns as “Negro Spirituals.” The intention was to help people become aware that some of their favorite hymns were not European in origin. However, we now recognize the word “negro” as a word of oppression, evoking slavery, racial segregation, and discrimination. The impact of using such

a word is spiritual harm to people of color. Newer hymnals use different, more affirming language. In addition, *language* has evolved. The impact of certain archaic sentence structures is that unfamiliar songs are hard to understand. Newer hymnals will include new hymns with easy-to-understand language alongside old favorites.

March 2018 – Hymnal Committee

Committee members created a list of criteria to evaluate sample hymnals. Some criteria address the physical characteristics of the books – they must fit in the pew racks, be easy to hold and have a hard cover. Some criteria focus on musicality – the new hymnals must include the congregation’s favorite hymns, have new hymns and include upbeat songs. The language of the new hymnal is important – the hymnal must use language that is culturally appropriate, includes diverse images for God and is easy to understand.

Using these and other criteria the committee created a score sheet for evaluating hymnals so that members’ reviews will be done in a consistent way. The committee is in the process of evaluating four hymnals.

Renovation Update

As of this writing, there has been making plans, demo-ing bathrooms, removing wax, emptying closets, moving walls, wiring electrical, adjusting plumbing, painting trim and freshening wall paint, putting in new ceilings, washing lights, making lunch, sharing fellowship, and countless other activities in the Education Building!

Why are so many volunteers giving hours upon hours of their time? Why are so many people contributing funds to this project? Because we believe that by transforming our Education Building hallways and bathrooms to be accessible to all God’s children that we are doing Christian work, following the way of Jesus who invited all people to come to him.

There are still ways to be involved. Labor is still needed – please contact Arlis (arlisbobb@gmail.com) or Randy Bobb (rbobbct@gmail.com) to be involved. Funds are still being collected – anything that is given beyond the final cost of the project will be applied to other Chandler Hall/Education Building improvements focusing on safety and accessibility (including, but not limited to, a serving buffet with storage for linens and extending the flooring from the hallway into the double classroom).

Our Joys and Concerns

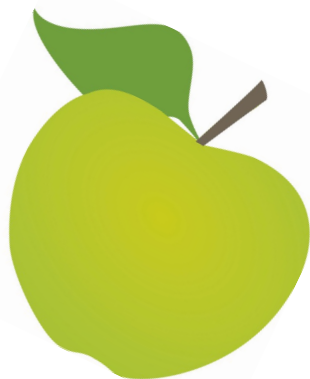
Birthdays...Randy Bobb; Bob Peterson; Ernie H.; Pam B.'s mom (93rd); Haley D. (18th); Doug S.; Sharon W.

Anniversaries...Amy & Jim B. (13th); Lori & Ray B. (36th).

Other Joys...Paul & Lisa C. are new grandparents to Maxwell; family visits; Ginny & Wick W. traveling to Estonia for wedding of their exchange student; Sharon S. continues to improve; joy of carillon, thanks to Jane L.; Herb F. glad to be back in church; Helena T.'s sister doing well; Linda B.'s friend, Paul is cancer-free; servers at MACC lunch; paper fans in church courtesy of Cathy N.; neighbors who have daisies to donate; recognition of Arlis B. in organizing so much for our church; Arlis B.'s mom's 90th birthday celebration in Niagara Falls; Kason in worship; Lori B.'s mother-in-law home from hospital; Bill W. rescued with bicycle/flat tire; the congregation working together; Tom M. going to Montana; Joanne D.'s mom doing well and at home; Dylan D. has a new job; Haley D. going to Keene U.; Julian doing well at 6½ months old, 11 pounds; Reg C.'s mom visiting; Ryan in Cadets; Amy & Jim B. had great vacation with family; Gen R. thankful for support; Robin's brother in police academy.

Concerns...Traveling mercies; Lori B.'s granddaughter, Lana, undergoing surgery for tonsils/adenoids; health concerns for Laura Ann W.'s in-laws; friends, co-workers, and extended family members of BCC members in need of prayers; Jacob F.; all who struggle with mental illness; Pam C. at Dana Farber; Dan F.; Shirley B. had surgery; Ken R.'s sister Vickie having back surgery; Dot L. caring for George at end of life; families struggling with addiction issues; Gen R. having headaches; California wildfires; Herb F. in program in Bridgeport for two months.

Bereaved...Jim Bahre upon the death of his Aunt Sheila; Barbara Maheu's friend Vivian and family, upon the loss of her mother; Helena Trey, upon the death of her Aunt Jessie, who was 104 years old; Steve Wierzbicki and family upon the death of his nephew (and Godson), Jeremy R. Wierzbicki.



2018-2019 Church School Registration Form

List all children (Infants – 8th Grade)

Family Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent or Adult Contact: _____

Child's Name: _____

Age _____ DOB _____ Grade _____

Allergies or other concerns?

Child's Name: _____

Age _____ DOB _____ Grade _____

Allergies or other concerns?

Child's Name: _____

Age _____ DOB _____ Grade _____

Allergies or other concerns?

Child's Name: _____

Age _____ DOB _____ Grade _____

Allergies or other concerns?

Parent Volunteer Opportunities (Check any):

Classroom Helper ___ Grade preferred ___

Provide food for teacher meetings ___

Help with pageants/special events ___

Please leave this form in the box in the narthex.

September 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| 26 10:30am – CE mtg. | 27 7pm – Prayer Shawl | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 1 |
| 2 Communion Sunday Worship: 9:30am Board of Missions - 10:30am <i>15th Sunday after Pentecost</i> | 3 Office Closed Labor Day | 4 Board of Stewardship 6:30pm | 5 Refuge Recovery 7:00pm | 6 | 7 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 8 BCC'S 14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 8:30AM WILLOW BROOK COUNTRY CLUB SO. WINDSOR |
| 9 Worship: 9:30am New Hymnal Q&A: 10:30am <i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i> | 10 Office Closed | 11 | 12 Church Council 7:00 pm Refuge Recovery 7:00pm | 13 Fest. of Trees Committee 5:30pm Storytelling Workshop 7-8:30pm | 14 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 15 |
| 16 Worship: 9:30am New Hymnal Vote: 10:30am <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> | 17 Office Closed | 18 Crafters/Time to Socialize <i>Church Store Open 10am- 3pm</i> | 19 Refuge Recovery 7:00pm | 20 Storytelling: "First Day" 7:00pm | 21 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 22 |
| 23 Super Sundaes Sunday Church School Begins! Back to 2 Worship Services: Worship: 8:45 & 10am <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> | 24 Office Closed Prayer Shawl Gathering 7:00pm | 25 Crafters/Time to Socialize <i>Church Store Open 10am- 3pm</i> | 26 Choir – 6:30pm Board of Deacons 7:00pm Refuge Recovery 7:00pm | 27 | 28 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 29 |
| 30 Worship: 8:45 & 10am Caregiver Collective 12:00pm <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> | 1 Office Closed | 2 | 3 Choir – 6:30pm Refuge Recovery 7:00pm | 4 | 5 Al-Anon 7:30pm | 6 |

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