



# The Signpost

MARCH 2020

VOL. 46, NO. 03



## The Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

228 Bolton Center Road, Bolton, CT 06043 ~ (860) 649-7077 ~ www.boltonucc.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 1st**  
**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:

### From the Heart

FTHEART@COMCAST.NET

#### Our Mission

"From the Heart" is all about bringing support to others when life's difficult "seasons" show up. In 1998 we began creating programs to help support children, seniors, soldiers, individuals with disabilities and families in need. The best way to describe how we work is to picture a heart. One half of that heart is filled with wonderful people who donate because their heart is open and filled with compassion and caring for others. The other half of the heart is filled with people who have fallen on difficult times or have come into a difficult circumstance currently beyond their control. The heart becomes one when lives are connected through unconditional kindness, support, friendship, understanding and empathy...some of the greatest gifts we can offer to each other!



### The Bolton Congregational Church's Annual

### Corned Beef Dinner

will be held on

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**  
**5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

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

Adults—\$16.00

Children 12 & under—\$10.00

**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!!!!**

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## From the Pastor...

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### An Interim Lenten Reflection

[If you don't like poetry, this just looks like a poem. I think it makes it easier to read]

A squash lies cut open on the countertop.  
I see the orange flesh, hard and weeping,  
waiting for me to separate it  
from the entwined seeds and encasing rind,  
waiting for me to cut it into chunks for cooking.

Last fall I saw the seeds and wondered:  
could I use more of the vegetable and waste less of it?  
If people eat pumpkin seeds, why not squash seeds?

I know why people don't eat squash seeds.  
The price is right, but freeing them from the stringy pulp takes  
time and fussy effort.

Toasting them takes time (though not very much).  
But cracking and removing the meat from each individual  
shell- that takes TIME! No wonder people don't do that.

Yet I have done it several times since then, with a variety of  
squashes.

I have done the same with hickory nuts, despite their too-  
small-to-bother size.

I have taken to baking bread, and fallen in love with kneading.

When I begin,  
those tiresome tasks loom out before me.  
They seem thankless. They seem endless. Will I ever make a  
dent in this pile?

So many little nuts or tiny seeds (or so much sticky dough),  
such tiny or immediate reward.

I begin. I knead, or I crack. I remove the meat. I set it aside.  
The routine begins to mesmerize me. I get into a rhythm or  
"zone".

As the pile of unshelled seeds decreases and the pile of  
shelled meats grows,

I feel a sense of satisfaction,  
excitement. How strange.

And suddenly, after 10, 15, 37 minutes, or hours  
(it can take days to get through 144 hickory nuts),  
the task complete, I feel both pleased and disappointed.  
I miss the routine, the rhythm, the way my mind and spirit  
go to a peacefulness, a time-out-of-time away from stress or  
what troubles me.

When it comes time to eat, it's gone in a moment.  
But I notice this bread, these seeds, these nuts I eat.

Perhaps I have met and talked with God.

What do you make of that?

Faithfully,  
Bruce MacLeod  
Intentional Interim Minister

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## Worship Schedule for March

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**Sunday, March 1 ~ 9:30 a.m.** Rev. Bruce MacLeod  
Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-42 (Psalm 15)

**Sunday, March 8 ~ 9:30 a.m.** Rev. Joanne Myer  
Lament over Jerusalem - Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (Psalm 122)

**Sunday, March 15 ~ 9:30 a.m.** Rev. Bruce MacLeod  
Lost Sheep, Coin, Son - Luke 15:1-32 (Psalm 119:167-176)

**Sunday, March 22 ~ 9:30 a.m.** Guest Minister  
Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31 (Psalm 41:1-3)

**Sunday, March 29 ~ 9:30 a.m.** Rev. Bruce MacLeod  
Zacchaeus - Luke 18:31-19:10 (Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12)

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## Pastor Bruce's Hours

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Pastor Bruce is in the office on Wednesdays (times may vary so please call ahead) and by appointment. If you would like to meet up, 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.

Call or text: 508-769-1809

Email: [mailto:interim\\_pastor.bcc@yahoo.com](mailto:interim_pastor.bcc@yahoo.com)

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## Church Office Hours

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Lori Vadnais will be in the church office at the following times:

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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## Healers With Halos - Therapy Dog Visit

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Saturday, April 18<sup>h</sup>

**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.

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## Church School News

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Lent is now upon us and with that comes our Church School's Lenten Mission project. Each year the students take on a mission. They work at the annual pancake breakfast raising money for that mission, they may do extra chores around the house to earn money to donate towards that mission and they ask you the congregation to donate towards their mission. This year the mission is *From the Heart*. As most of you know *From the Heart* is an organization, run by Laura Ann Weekes, that does many wonderful things. As stated on their website [www.fromtheheartct.com](http://www.fromtheheartct.com):

*"From the Heart" is all about bringing support to others when life's difficult "seasons" show up. In 1998 we began creating programs to help support children, seniors, soldiers, individuals with disabilities and families in need.*

*The best way to describe how we work is to picture a heart. One half of that heart is filled with wonderful people who donate because their heart is open and filled with compassion and caring for others. The other half of the heart is filled with people who have fallen on difficult times or have come into a difficult circumstance currently beyond their control. The heart becomes one when lives are connected through unconditional kindness, support, friendship, understanding and empathy...some of the greatest gifts we can offer to each other!*

This year we have chosen the foster care program. We will be collecting items to make Easter baskets for the children. Below I have given you a list of items that we will be collecting throughout Lent. Please give what you can to this wonderful cause.

### Items being collected:

Personal items (toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, face wash, etc)  
Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Socks, Coats, Snowsuits, Snow pants, in brand new condition  
Brand new blankets: fleece, knit, crocheted, sewn or store purchased  
Brand new pillows and pillowcases  
Brand new Twin Size bedding sheets  
Brand new Stuffed Animals (any size)  
Diapers/Pull Ups (Any Size)



Thank you in advance for your assistance.

*Jessica Romeo*

Director of Christian Education

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## Men's Group Meeting

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The Men's Group will meet on Thursday, March 26th.

We meet once a 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!

~ Tom Mortimer

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## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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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 23rd, 2020.

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*



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## Pastoral Relations

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The next meeting of the Pastoral Relations Board will take place on March 29<sup>th</sup> after church service.

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## Crafters

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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.

Each month we are able to make significant changes to the store because people are so willing to share their time, talents and treasures in support of the Store.



We have added a great number of items to our house goods section thanks to two large donations from one of our church members and a friend of hers. We also have added several new small pieces of furniture as well as small stuffed animals made by some of our crafters. At present, our Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards are on display. You are welcome to shop at the Store any time the building is open. If there is no attendant on duty, the Store operates on a self-serve basis with 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 AM - 3:00 PM and Sundays from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

We will also be open during and after the Corned Beef Dinner.

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

*Lynn Ralston*

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## Bolton Road Race

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March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm



Come cheer on our friends and neighbors who are running in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bolton Road Race – the route goes right by our church!

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

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

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## From the Heart

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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:

Coloring Books	Playdoh	Sunglasses
Kites	Hair Accessories	Hair Brushes
Lightweight Balls	Stuffed Easter Bunnies	Kids Shampoo
Sidewalk Chalk	Card Games	Bubbles
Legos/Bionicles	Small Cars/Trucks	Markers
Crayons	Craft Kits	Jump Ropes
Stickers	Baby Dolls	Action Figures

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:

Shampoo	Hair Accessories	Hair Brushes
Conditioner	Shower Gel	Hair Bands
Toothpaste	Deodorant	Scented Soap
Toothbrush	Body Sprays	Chapstick
Hand Lotion	Face Wash / Wipes	Lip Balms

Please contact [ftheart@comcast.net](mailto:ftheart@comcast.net) or check out our website at [www.fromtheheartct.com](http://www.fromtheheartct.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for helping to make a "Happy Easter" for those in need!

*Laura Ann*

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## Our Joys and Concerns

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**Birthdays:** Linda Brown's father (94)

**Anniversaries:** Ginny & Wick Wickersham (50<sup>th</sup>)

**Other Joys:** prayer shawl dedication - sending love, positive thoughts, & prayers to Donna Wagner; Ben Davies' daughter; Andy Sauer's family illnesses are settling down; safe travels for Dot Lessard as she travels to visit her daughter, Mindy.

**Hospitalized, Ill, etc:** prayers for Donna Wagner's battle with cancer; Andy Sauer - daughter-in-law ill with pulmonary embolism; Cathy Nelson's brother, Conrad, who had a foot amputated and is in rehab and recovering; Jonathan Cowles' wife, Lisa, is recovering; Joanne Myer as she continues to improve; Barbara Maheu's friend & neighbor, Teresa Foran, who is starting chemo; Dot Lessard asks for prayers for Dye Hooper who is not doing well.

**Concerns:** Ron Alleman: for all afflicted with viruses; Barbara Maheu: continuing prayers for two friends; for caregivers and the Wagner family; Linda Brown's dad who is in Vernon Manor; for Dye & Jane Hooper; Jim & Amy Bahre's daughter, Sara, who had to have her cat, Viper, euthanized; Herb Fernandez: for those who are going through "stuff."

**Bereaved:** The Guidoboni family on the passing of Frank, December 12, 2019; Corenda Haugh's friend & neighbor, Ilona Lengyel, died suddenly, as well as Paul Santos of Oakdale, the son of a friend who passed due to cancer complications; Amy Bahre: the passing of good friend, Pam Connelly (funeral Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> in Newington, memorial service @ BCC on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM); MaryLou Prescher: the death of Cathy Turkington's son, Matthew (42) of Manchester / Colchester; Tom Mortimer for wife, Beth Mortimer, whose father passed; for the family of Pam Connelly; Sarah Young: prayers for the family and friends of little Miles Bishop (5 y.o.), who passed of liver cancer.

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**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
BEGINS**

**ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>**



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

## *The Bolton Congregational Church Presents:*



**Belle of the Fall is Tracy Walton and Julia Autumn Ford, an indie folk rock pop alternative Americana duo from Northwest CT.**

**Saturday  
April 25, 2020  
7:00 P.M.  
In Chandler Hall**

Coffee, Tea & Desserts

Tickets: \$20.00

\$15.00 Seniors & Students  
(Advance Purchase Recommended)

For Tickets:  
Call/email the Church Office at:  
860-649-7077  
boltonucc@gmail.com

**Make checks payable to "BCC". Please  
put email address in Memo section of  
check.**

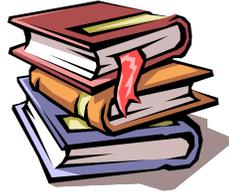
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## Chandler Book Nook

"So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall." ~ Roald Dahl

### SPREADING THE MAGIC of READING

We've expanded our reading nook with a bookcase just for kids. It's been such a joy to see our youngest readers become absorbed in the storybooks they discover on the shelves.



We'd like to thank Ed Biske for refurbishing the bookcase, located to the right of the fireplace. We've had recent donations of children's books, so expect to see some new titles on our children's shelf soon.

### NEW TO OUR COLLECTION

New acquisitions may be found on our Chandler Book Nook table, ready to be checked out:

1. *Lean In; Women Work and the Will To Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg
2. *The Road To Character* by David Brooks
3. *Being Mortal: Medicine and What It Means in the End* by Atul Gawande
4. *Daily Guidepost : 2019*

As always, we enjoy having an on-going conversation with our fellow readers. If you've discovered a book that has inspired you, we'd love to hear about it. We will be planning another fall Book Talk and welcome any recommendations you might have.

The Library Ladies  
Linda Brown  
Denise McLennon

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## Pastoral Relations

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The next meeting of the Pastoral Relations Board will take place on March 29<sup>th</sup> after church service.

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## Winter Reminder

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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.



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## Church Photo Directory

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We would like to update and publish a photo directory this spring. And we are asking you to submit appropriate individual and / or family photos for consideration to be included in the directory. They can be formal or informal

Please include the full names of the family members as you want them to appear and the order, i.e. left to right, right to left, if more than one person in the photo.

Email them to us at [boltonucc@gmail.com](mailto:boltonucc@gmail.com).

Thanks a bunch! And if you have any questions, please call Lori at the church office at 860-649-7077.

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## Let Me Know, Please

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Hi All,

This is my first time sending out the Signpost by email.

If you are on the email list and don't want to be, please email me at [boltonucc@gmail.com](mailto:boltonucc@gmail.com) or call the church office, and leave a message stating that you would prefer a paper copy either to be mailed to you or to be picked up in the church narthex.

Thanks a bunch!  
Lori Vadnais, Office Manager



# One Great Hour of Sharing

Our March mission collection envelopes will be in pews beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please open your hearts to the world!

*"You are God's field; God's building. For we are co-workers in God's service."*

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life.

Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.

These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed. Today, you have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God.

Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity



## Invest in Futures

In Thailand, a 13-year-old girl arrives at the New Life Center, seeking relief from the cruel conditions that have brought her here. Her life up to this point has been mostly about survival. Here, she meets others like her. Some are survivors of sexual abuse, domestic violence or human trafficking. Some have been forced to work when they wanted to go to school.

What will the future be like when she is empowered to share her gifts with her community and the world?

At the New Life Center, she is met with the investment of time, support, and resources. And she is loved. She is allowed to imagine a new future. Finishing school. Learning a trade. Even going to University to earn a degree.

In I Corinthians 3:9 Paul writes that we are all co-workers together in God's service. Some of us plant. Some of us water. But God gives the growth. Paul reminds us that we are all called into the service of God, who cares for each and every one of us. What could the future be like when we work to plant and water together, and trust God to give the growth?



When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you invest in the futures of these girls and countless others like them. Your gifts go to provide education, vocational training, basic necessities, and much-needed community support. When we share the love of Christ in this way, we see lives transformed. Not just their lives, but ours as well. Because when we empower girls to build a life for themselves, we help God build a better world for us all.

As we invest in futures and serve as co-workers with God, the future becomes one of endless possibility and opportunity.

What a great return on our investment!

# MARCH 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> <b>Worship Services</b> † 9:30 AM <b>Church Store Open</b> 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM <b>Pancake Breakfast</b> 9:00 AM-12:00 PM <b>Missions Board</b> 10:45 AM - LL <b>Girl Scouts</b> 2:00 – 4:00 PM –CH Hall	2	<b>3</b> <b>Time to Socialize/Crafters</b> 10:00 AM – CH Hall <b>Church Store Open:</b> 10:00 AM -3:00 PM <b>Stewardship Board</b> 6:30 PM - LL	<b>4</b> <b>Choir</b> 6:30 PM - LL <b>Refuge Recovery</b> 7:00 PM – CH Hall	5	<b>6</b> <b>Al-Anon</b> 7:30 PM- LL	<b>7</b>  <b>Turn Clocks Ahead 1 hour tonight!</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Worship Services</b> Rev. Joanne Myer Preaching † 9:30 AM <b>Bolton Road Race</b> 1:00 PM <i>Daylight Savings Time</i>	9	<b>10</b> <b>Time to Socialize/Crafters</b> 10:00 AM – CH Hall <b>Church Store Open</b> 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM <b>Finance Team</b> 6:30 PM - LL	<b>11</b> <b>Choir</b> 6:30 PM - LL <b>Refuge Recovery</b> 7:00 PM – CH Hall <b>Church Council</b> 7:30 PM - LL	12	<b>13</b> <b>Al-Anon</b> 7:30 PM - LL	<b>14</b> <b>Super Saturday!</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Worship Services</b> † 9:30 AM <b>CE Board</b> 11:15 AM - LL	16	<b>17</b> <b>Time to Socialize/Crafters</b> 10:00 AM – CH Hall <b>Church Store Open</b> 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	<b>18</b> <b>Choir</b> 6:30 PM - LL <b>Refuge Recovery</b> 7:00 PM – CH Hall	19	<b>20</b> <b>Al-Anon</b> 7:30 PM Lower Level	<b>21</b>  <b>Corned Beef Dinner</b> 5:00-7:00 PM
<b>22</b> <b>Worship Services</b> Guest Pastor - TBA † 9:30 AM <b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Prayer Shawl Gathering</b> 7:00 PM - LL <b>Easter Flower Orders Due!</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Time to Socialize/Crafters</b> 10:00 AM – CH Hall <b>Church Store Open</b> 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	<b>25</b> <b>Choir</b> 6:30 PM - LL <b>Refuge Recovery</b> 7:00 PM – CH Hall <b>Deacons Board</b> 7:30 PM - LL	<b>26</b>  11:00 AM-CH Hall	<b>27</b> <b>Al-Anon</b> 7:30 PM Lower Level	28
<b>29</b> <b>Worship Services</b> † 9:30 AM <b>Pastoral Relations</b> 10:45 AM - LL	30	<b>31</b> <b>Time to Socialize/Crafters</b> 10:00 AM – CH Hall <b>Church Store Open</b> 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM				

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

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## Easter Flower Orders

Orders for Easter Flowers are now being accepted. To place an order, please put your order form **with payment** into the collection plate, or mail to the church office.



**The last day to order is March 23rd.**

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

If you have any questions, please see Cathy Nelson 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	\$_____
Total Enclosed:	\$_____	



*Please make checks payable to Bolton Congregational Church.*

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you wish to have your flower donated to the Flower Ministry that delivers to people in need of spring's rebirth and beauty, along with the friendship and connection that it brings.

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