



# The Signpost

March 2021  
Volume 48, Issue 3

The Bolton Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
228 Bolton Center St., Bolton, CT 06043  
860-649-7077 ~ [www.boltonucc.org](http://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.*

## Worship Schedule for March

Worship will be held  
at 9:30 am.  
in Chandler Hall.

## Reflections from the Interim Minister for the Moment

### Temptation and Angels

Lent has come.

The Gospel reading for the first Sunday in Lent tells about how Jesus was baptized. Immediately afterward, he was led (according to Matthew 4:1 and Luke 4:1) or driven (Mark 1:12) out into the wilderness, where, fasting and alone, Temptation kept him company.

One thing I have learned during the Season of Covid: those circumstances allow the voice of Temptation to grow louder, more persistent, more demanding. In the wilderness, without the normal distractions of life, it's harder to ignore Temptation's demands and seductions.

What Temptations talk to you this year? What Lorelei or Siren song lures you to run aground on the treacherous rocks and shoals of your life?

As we begin to see the prospect of easing restrictions, the idea of returning to normal (or to the way things were) may Tempt us.

## Calendar of Events

**Mondays, 7pm**, Planning Committee—Z

**Tuesdays, 10:30am-1:30pm**—Crafters in Chandler Hall

**Tues., Mar. 2, 6:15 pm** Missions Committee Meeting—Z

**Tues., Mar. 2, 7:15 pm** Stewardship Committee Meeting—Z

**Wed., Mar. 3, 6 pm** Deacons Meeting—Z

**Tues., Mar. 9, 6:30 pm** Finance Committee Meeting—Z

**Wed., Mar. 10 6:30 pm** Church Council Meeting—Z

**Wed., Mar. 17, 6 pm** Deacons Meeting—Z

Z—indicates meeting is taking place remotely via Zoom

## Reflections from the Interim Minister for the Moment *(continued)*

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As good as those things may have been, they may or may not help us move forward in response to God's calling. Food is good, but not all food is good for us, depending on its nutritional value, or how it was grown, or how those who did the work were treated. Some things that were good in their time have outlived their capacity to help us share the Good News as life and circumstances changed.

As we engage the Discernment Process that will help BCC to move into a new or altered calling and life, don't let Temptation lure you back into things you liked about the past but hinder what God lays before you. It's not about you. It's about God, and about those who haven't necessarily felt comfortable, or perhaps even welcome within BCC or any church, for that matter. Jesus didn't take the easy way to food. He didn't test God. He refused to take advantage of the opportunity to grasp power to coerce people to worship him. Rather, he took the hard route of teaching, healing, inviting, loving those he met.

Temptation accompanied Jesus.  
Even so, God's angels ministered to him and saw him through.

May it be so for us.

## Church School News

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The season of Lent has arrived and with that comes our Lenten Mission Project. This year things have to be done a bit differently. We will still do our annual pancake breakfast, however this year it will be a drive-thru, order ahead breakfast. This year we have chosen MACC as our mission. There have been many families hit hard financially because of the pandemic and MACC is in need of so much. In addition to monetary donations we will also be collecting food and other items (please see the flyer in the Signpost).

We continue our lessons each week remotely. We are focusing on the Old Testament and covenants right now. A symbol of one of God's covenants is a rainbow<sup>2</sup>. "When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh." Genesis 9:14-15

I read an article about a school in the UK that asked its children during the pandemic to fill their windows with rainbows as a sign of hope for the world. I have asked the children to create their own rainbow art that I can hang in the windows of the education building that overlook the road as a sign of hope for us all. I am also asking any adults that feel inspired to also create rainbow art for our windows. I look forward to seeing all the artwork. We need signs of Hope now more than ever. Signs that we are still here listening to and teaching the word of God even though it may be a little different for the time being.

## From the Missions Committee

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### One Great Hour of Sharing

Your Missions Committee has voted to again showcase OGHS for our project for March.

The theme this year is “Let Love Flow,” and it seems so timely after all these months of struggles with a pandemic and altered lives and circumstances.

“Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, for the compassionate one guides them to the best springs.” Isaiah 49:10 MSG

One story from the UCC particularly struck me, as it spoke of One Great Hour of Sharing - and Caring! The pandemic has certainly gone beyond our own country and again shown how clearly what harms one of us, harms us all. I think of the many countries I have been blessed to visit and imagine how the pandemic, natural disasters, poverty, or job loss has affected them all.

Your checks for OGHS may be put in the offering plate at our services or sent to the church office. Please indicate that they are for OGHS. We will be collecting for the month of March.

The UCC had a lovely quote in their information that I’d like to share.  
*“When you share what GOD has given you, you let love flow.”*

Please help us respond to a variety of global and local concerns, including natural disasters here and elsewhere, and be as generous as you are able.

Kathie Hampp for the Missions Committee

## Finance Committee Update

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I hope all is well with everyone as we enter into March. February is such a short month and this one couldn’t have ended quicker with the snow and ice. We are all looking forward to spring and warmer weather. If you missed the signs of Spring’s progress, you only need to see the maple tree buckets collecting their sap to be boiled down to render delicious local maple syrup. A true sign Spring is near!

To boil down the financial numbers to-date, here is a quick recap:

End of month totals for January and February are on target for donations coming in; thank you all for keeping up with your intentional giving;

Expenses are in-line with our projections as well with a slight difference as we transition to a new payroll system as we work out some of the reporting questions with the new service;

Ticket sales for the upcoming corned beef dinner are going really well, and we added the ability to pay for them securely online via our church’s website;

Don’t forget the Lenten Breakfast at the end of the month.

Happy March! Let’s make it a great one!

Jim Bahre



## **"FROM THE HEART" / EASTER BASKET DRIVE**

**Easter is right around the corner and we need your help! Each year, with your support, we help the Easter Bunny create and donate Easter baskets for children in foster care and in our Adopted Family program.**

**We are happy to share that our contacts at DCF and Covenant-To-Care received the green light to accept our donations. Covid has really made it difficult but the need for these donations are more important than ever! There are many items needed in order to create these baskets and limited time to make it all happen which is why this notice is going out early.**

**One way you can get involved is to create an Easter basket of your own for donation. This is a great project for any individual, family, group of co-workers, a mom's group, a Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop etc. It's easy, fun, and greatly needed and appreciated!**

**The only item we cannot add to the baskets, for liability reasons, is candy... HOWEVER; candy is an item a foster parent or other guardian will be able to add, so no worries on the lack of a chocolate bunny! J**

**We mainly use beach pails and already purchased several on clearance last year to get us started!**

**As soon as you can get them to us, we are in need of items such as:**

**\*Sidewalk Chalk \* Coloring Books \*Crayons/Markers \*Bubbles \*Stickers \*Tennis or Whiffle Size Balls \*Playdoh \*Card Games \*Small Cars \*Legos \*Bionicles \* Craft Kits \*Fashion Dolls \*Action Figures \*Hair Accessories, \*Jump Ropes etc. The list is truly endless!**

**Last but certainly not least, we are seeking donations of Beach Pails and Stuffed Easter Bunnies (any size).**

**This is such a special part of the year for "From the Heart" and we appreciate everyone's help to make it all happen!"**



## Crafters' Corner & Church Store

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### A LITTLE BACKGROUND ABOUT OUR CHURCH STORE

I would like to give you a little background regarding the Church Store. The group evolved from a church social that was held in 1991 for the ladies of the congregation so that we could get to know each other on a more personal basis. It was well attended and several of the ladies wanted to continue meeting. We did this on Tuesdays from 10:00 - 12:00 and shortly thereafter it was suggested that we try to raise money for the church as the group of several years past (The Benevolent Society) had done. We started by handcrafting greeting cards and set up an area in the corner of Chandler Hall where these cards were available to the congregation on Sunday mornings after the service while coffee and tea was served.

Eventually we started adding other handcrafted items to the Craft Booth at the two church fairs that our church held for many years each June and November and helped "man" the booth. We added a plant booth, a jewelry booth and a raffle for a hand-quilted quilt. After the fairs all of the items that did not sell were added to our little corner in Chandler Hall and before we knew it we had a small store. We ran it on a self-serve basis when there was no attendant and it was open on Sunday mornings, at church dinners and to anyone who used the hall. We added second-hand and vintage items. We received many, many donations not only from our church members but from all of their families, friends and the community. We began calling this area "The Church Store" Everyone seemed to love the opportunity to shop there and best of all it was a great fund-raiser for our church. We began to grow and eventually were taking up around one quarter of Chandler Hall and every time we had dinners or other functions we found ourselves trying to move some of our tables out of the way! OOPs! We were outgrowing our space.....

To be continued next month.....

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

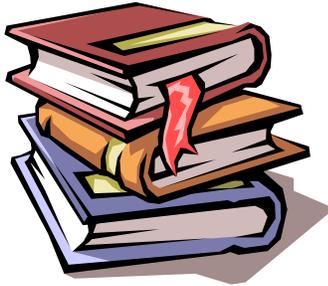
Lynn Ralston Crafter/Store Volunteers

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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We are still making shawls in our isolation. We have some ready for requests as needed. We are hoping that someday soon we will be able to gather again and offer knitting lessons and fellowship.

Dot Lessard



## Chandler Book Nook

"Books are the perfect entertainment:  
no commercials, no batteries,  
hours of enjoyment  
for each dollar spent."  
*Stephen King*

Can you ever imagine a longer wait for spring?  
Winter (and Covid): We've packed you a bag and think it's time for you to leave! And while we wait for spring's arrival, here are some worthwhile reads to fill your time:

### Recent Acquisitions

My Own Words by Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Maybe You Should Talk To Someone; A Therapist, HER Therapist, and our Lives Revealed by Lori Gottlieb

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi **\*reviewed below\***

All the Light You Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

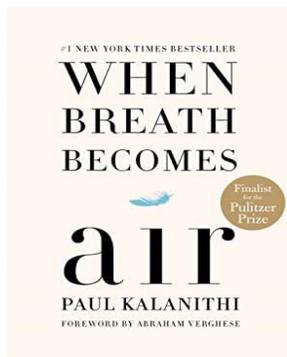
The Hadj: An Americans Pilgrimage to Mecca by Michael Wolfe

Born A Crime; Stories From a South African Childhood

by Trevor Noah (recommended by Lori Vadnais)

How To Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook by Stuart Matlins

Deacon King Kong by James McBride



When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

This past year has inspired meditations on life and mortality. Similarly, in this memoir, written in 2016, neurosurgical resident Dr. Kalanithi confronts his own mortality in his professional and personal life. Diagnosed with lung cancer and knowing his time was limited, he found meaning and fullness in life with abundant support from family and friends. One result was this wise and beautiful book. [Denise McLennon]

Our new books are on display and ready to circulate. Please remember to use the card in the back book pocket and leave it in the basket on the CBN table.

The Library Ladies  
Linda Brown and Denise McLennon

# DRIVE-THRU PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Bolton Congregational Church



**Saturday  
March 27, 2021  
9:00am-12:00pm**

to support our  
Lenten Mission Project:  
MACC

For your free will donation, you will receive a delicious to-go container of:

- ⇒ Pancakes and Sausage
- ⇒ a hot cup of coffee, hot chocolate, or orange juice

**PLEASE PRE-RESERVE YOUR MEALS BY CALLING THE CHURCH  
860-649-7077 or email [jessica.romeo.bcc@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.romeo.bcc@gmail.com)**

In addition to your monetary donations, we will be collecting the following:

*Cereal  
Pasta Sauce  
Pasta  
Pasta Salad Mix  
Boxed Stuffing  
Canned Vegetables  
All Canned Soups  
Jelly  
Peanut Butter  
Mac N Cheese  
Mashed Potatoes  
Canned Tuna  
Canned Fruit  
Mayonnaise  
Ketchup  
Cooking Oil*

*All Hygiene Products*

*Cleaning Supplies*

**Thank you for your support!!!**



**Corned Beef Dinner – Take Out Only**  
**March 20th**

**Curbside Pick up 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**\$15.00 per dinner**

**Dinner includes:**

**Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots,  
Irish Soda Bread, and Dessert**

If interested, click the link below to purchase your ticket online

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YH80>

Or you can call to reserve a dinner/ticket

Laureen Mainville 860-836-7514

or

Steve Wierzbicki 860-808-9162

To view the flyer on our website, click here

[https://static.wpb.tam.us.siteprotect.com/var/m\\_1/14/14c/73879/914067-2021\\_Corned\\_Beef\\_Dinner-c51ce.pdf](https://static.wpb.tam.us.siteprotect.com/var/m_1/14/14c/73879/914067-2021_Corned_Beef_Dinner-c51ce.pdf)



## Notes of Thanks

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Dear Family of BCC,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1590.00.

Your “surplus” came at such a needed time and speaks to your kind and generous ways. The timing could not be better!

Your kindness matters,

Beth Stafford  
Executive Director/CEO  
MACC Charities

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous support of the United Church of Christ as we continue to expand our ministry to communities across the country. Your gift of \$374.00 to One Great Hour of Sharing was received on 12/25/2020.

Your donation will help us to deepen our love for God and serve our neighbors with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.

I pray that this is a time for rebirth and hope for you and your loved ones. Thank you again for your financial assistance as the United Church of Christ continues to build a just world for all.

May God's grace always sustain you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer  
General Minister and President



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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## THE SIGNPOST ~ MARCH 2021

*The Signpost is a publication of the Bolton Congregational Church UCC, Bolton, CT.*

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