



# The Signpost

June 2022  
Volume 49, Issue 6

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.*

## Reflections from the Interim Minister for the Moment

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As of this past weekend, we have summer upon us. On June 22 we had a wonderful Church School Sunday celebration in (wait for it...) Chandler Hall!

Why? We decided to interview the children for the message, and thought they might be more comfortable doing so on camera rather than standing up in front of the whole congregation to do it. After all, they have spent a *whole* lot of time on camera the last couple years. The recording is now available on our YouTube Channel. You can access it on the church's Facebook page.

It turned out to be good for another reason: we had a baptism. We had planned to baptize Hannah 2 years ago, but we all know how *that* went. And, as it happens, Chandler Hall was more accessible than the sanctuary is. That made us more welcoming to Hannah's family, some of whom would have had a hard time getting into the sanctuary. (The elevator doesn't work well these days).

And, it was a whole lot cooler in Chandler Hall than it would have been in the meetinghouse.

I have a seminary classmate, the Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston, who writes a blog about church matters. In her denomination, she serves in a role that corresponds to our Area (or Associate) Conference Minister. Our current ACM is the Rev. Isaac Lawson.

Jan gets it right, about 95% of the time (95, because, well, she *is* human, and only God is 100%).

I had thought I'd share a post she wrote last week, "*This is What Congregational Sabotage Looks Like*" [May 20, 2022]. Then I saw the one she posted this morning: "*What if the Very Thing We Value Most is Actually Killing Us?*"

Jan has written a whole lot of posts I've wanted to share. Why? Because she's articulate, and honest about churches. She's spot on about the problems churches have *AND* she loves the Church. She writes lovingly.

Jan's posts are pertinent to BCC. We are the Church. We are in transition.

The Pastoral Search Team are almost done with the church profile. They will share it with the congregation soon. They'd like to know if you think they have accurately captured and represented the spirit and substance of BCC.

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

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Given where we are, we could do well to consider and talk about the things Jan writes about.

*"We must be the Church God is calling us to be right now. And we can't be that Church if we are afraid."*

A few of the things Jan mentions that might be killing a church:

Beloved Former Pastor and glory days

Wanting new / young families to come, to take their turns on committees

Not wanting to renovate or alter the sanctuary

*"Let's say that a congregation calls a new pastor and everyone's feeling great about the future ... There will be challenges because, when a church agreed to changing some things, they didn't imagine they would be asked to change their favorite things." [emphasis added]*

Let's talk about it - you've gotten pretty good at that.

And in case you'd like to read more, or see how I've mangled Jan's post, check her out at *A Church For Starving Artists*. It's worth your time.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Bruce

<https://achurchforstarvingartists.blog/2022/05/23/what-if-the-very-thing-we-value-most-is-actually-killing-us/?fbclid=IwAR0BEOGwez3Yr4f9-vUWQxgwqy0DmVqIqpqulTwgeZ5IAACSzFrLBrLPyhLE>

## Church School News

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It's the unofficial start to summer and with that the official end of our Sunday school year. We had a great time at our Church School Sunday Service on May 22nd. If you missed it you have a chance to see the video the kids made if you visit our Facebook page.

June 5th we will witness the confirmation of five young people. I am so proud of these 5 for the dedication they gave. Coming to each class, volunteering at MACC and choosing to raise money for Boomer's Best Buddies Animal Rescue. I hope you all get a chance to congratulate these five young people:

- Nicole DeNunzio
- Libby Hannon
- Jack Martin
- Riley Martin
- Emma Walsh

We are done with church school until September and I will be taking some time away to be with my family this summer. As always you can reach me via email. I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

## Finance Financial Snapshot

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### May Financial Snapshot

Beloved Church Family,

May always has lots of happy memories for me: Making May baskets for our family and friends; celebrating Mother's Day with our moms, our children's moms and our children who are now moms; celebrating Memorial Day with picnics and parades. I can still hear my father singing Nat King Cole's "Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer" while he fired up the charcoal grill, and we kids cranked the handle on ice cream churn until it felt like our arms would fall off. Ribs on the rotisserie and corn on the cob, watermelon, pitching horseshoes and listening to the Indianapolis 500, this was my family's tradition, our kick-off to the unofficial start of Summer.

This May, Children' Sunday broke out of its traditional setting and format. It was held in Chandler Hall and we viewed a video of all the Sunday School kids being interviewed in their familiar surroundings. A nod to the COVID era perhaps, but an opportunity for everyone to see the kids close up and personal as they answered questions such as "why do you like Sunday School" and "what do you love about our church". Then our CE director, Jessica Romeo, turned the spotlight on the congregation and asked "what do you love about our church?"

I think the kids were actually more responsive than the rest of us who offered only a few heartfelt observations. Pastor Bruce picked up the mantel though and pressed us all for more reactions. It was good to hear from others how and why they love our church. I think it's best to keep that in the fore front of our minds so we can easily share our Good News with others especially as we search for our next settled pastor.

Now, for the numbers:

- Through bake sales and the generosity of the congregation, this year's Confirmation class was able to purchase approximately \$325 worth of items for Boomer's Best Buddies in May, which was their selected outreach project for April;
- At this time, the congregation's Year-to-Date total contributions are ahead of budget by \$2,949.31 while total income of \$77,765.10 is \$2,491.20 behind the budgeted YTD income of \$80,256.30 mainly because we have not taken a withdrawal from Endowments/Investments this year to date as the market is at a low;
- The year to-date Expenses as of the end of May are \$88,425.12 which is \$10,660.02 greater than our year to-date Income, driven primarily by cost of Oil Heat over the past months (to date \$7,104.58 over budget) and, as noted above, holding off any withdrawals from Investments;
- The finance team is looking at ways to avoid taking a withdrawal from the devalued Investments during this down period so that funds will be available to cover expenses going forward;
- I encourage congregation to continue to support the church financially as much as you can as that is the best long-term solution.

So as June takes hold and school winds down and your Summer officially start, please remember to keep your church family in mind and in your prayers as you make your vacation plans, no matter how near or far you are going, God is watching over us all. And that's the good news!

Jim Bahre

## Crafters' Corner & Church Store

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On June 14th, we will celebrate all June birthdays with cake and song. Please feel free to join us and we will celebrate you. The cake is served around 12:30ish.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make donations to the store. Thank you to all of our shoppers and volunteers. You all make the Store an inviting place to browse and shop. All of your support has made this a great fundraiser for our church with 100% of the proceeds going to our missions programs for over 30 years.

Our Tuesday gathering has proven to be an extremely pleasant place to be for many members, friends and residents from our community. Sometimes we have had as many as seventeen of us meeting with much interesting conversation taking place over a cup of coffee or tea.

Some of those in the group have taken to making hats for our winter missions program that makes up bags that contain much needed items for the homeless population in several of the surrounding communities. This is an easy project to work on while making conversation and visiting. Please feel free to join us on any Tuesday between 10:30 and 3:30. We look forward to your visit.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY from all of us.

## From the Missions Committee

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Church World Service Tools and Blankets

"In everything I have shown you that, by working hard, we must help the weak. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus' words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive". " Acts 20-35

The UCC/BCC Board of Missions would like to celebrate Father's Day by supporting the Church World Service program, Tools of Hope and Blankets of Love. Together we can continue to make a difference through CWS, to offer the tools and resources families need to become more secure, and also offer immediate disaster relief to those who are suffering.

Hunger remains as the #1 risk in global health. In many places, locally and internationally, CWS delivers all of the tools and supplies necessary to grow food and provides access to the water needed to allow the crops to flourish. Also, in 2021, the CWS provided blankets and hygiene kits to thousands of homeless individuals and families; such as in New York, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, and due to devastating hurricanes in North Carolina, causing widespread destruction and homelessness.

Church members are encouraged to make an impact with their heartfelt donations. Choose to donate a Tool of Hope or a Blanket of Love, to honor or in memory of a father/mother or male/female caretaker. Donations are \$10. each, (chks made payable to Bolton Congregational Church, incl. note of donation), and may be mailed in or placed in the collection plate in the church narthex. Please make sure to include a note with name(s), donation and relationship to named individual. A list will be printed in the Summer Signpost. Thank you for the many blessings you share, which shows compassion and offers comfort to those who are struggling in our world!

Debbie Krawic, BCC Board of Missions

## From the Heart

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Thank you for your continued support. There are many ways to help so if you are seeking ways to make a difference this month, below are just a few of the ways your support will bring hope and kindness where it is needed:

- Create a gift bag for a senior in a local nursing home. We deliver them once a month to Evergreen, Manchester Manor and Brookdale assisted living. **Suggested items are: tissues, hand lotion, chapstick, shower gel, word find books and pens, deck of playing cards, stuffed animals and unbreakable spring/summer decorations for their room.** If you would rather donate an individual item, we always are seeking donations to help us create our monthly goal to reach 100 senior citizens. If you know of anyone or of a facility that could use a pick me up, please let me know and we will make it happen!
- Create a gift bag or grocery bag of non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning products, or personal items. Gift cards to local grocery stores and gas cards are also very helpful. These cards are given to individuals we know will use them for food items! Even one item makes a difference when we all donate. These items will be delivered to people in our Adopted Family program who continue to move forward and just need a helping hand.
- Ask your children, grandchildren or their friends to create their own cards or pictures with crayons, markers or colored pencils of happy, spring/summer scenes. Each picture or card will be mailed to someone special on our Creative Card mailing list! We mail to over 80 individuals each month and we know how much the personal messages and pictures brighten so many people's day!
- If you knit, crochet, sew or like to work with fleece, we are always collecting blankets for infants, children, teens and adults in our Foster program and our Adopted Family program.. We also seek lap blankets and prayer shawls for our nursing home donations. Thank you to so many of you who have helped create Squares of Care blankets with your donations of squares. If you would like more information on this program, there is more information on the website at [www.fromtheheartct.com](http://www.fromtheheartct.com) It may be getting warmer but we collect these items all year long!

These are just a few of the ways you can help at any time! We collect these items all year long. Thank you for your support and please know it makes such a difference!

Laura Ann  
"From the Heart"  
PO Box 804  
Manchester, CT 06045  
[ftheart@comcast.net](mailto:ftheart@comcast.net)  
[www.fromtheheartct.com](http://www.fromtheheartct.com)

## Thank You

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Dear Bolton Congregational Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$409.00 to MACC Charities' Emergency Food Pantry.

Your support plays a crucial role in sponsoring the work we do everyday. Some individuals make choices that change lives. Thank you for being one of them!

May the month ahead bring you blessings of endless joy, an abundance of love, happiness, and good health.

Warm thoughts,  
Shannon Baldassario, Assistant Executive Director

## Prayer Shawl Update

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We have not been able to meet since the start of Covid, but we are still knitting and providing beautiful shawls to be given for loving comfort when needed. A shawl can be a wonderful expression of support for friends or family.

We do appreciate your generous support all these years and will continue to offer shawls as long as they are requested.

We are not teaching at this time but would be willing to help with any small knitting problems.

### **Invitation to Crafters to Join the Church Fair:**

46th Annual Craft & Harvest Fair at St. George's Episcopal Church  
1150 Boston Turnpike, Route 44 - Bolton, CT  
Saturday, September 24, 2022 - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Information - 860.643.9203 or bkalina333@gmail.com

# June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1		3 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C	4
5 9:30 am Worship - S Confirmation Sunday	6 6:30 pm Search Cmt. Mtg. - C	10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open 6:30 pm Missions - Z	8 6:30 pm Council - P/Z	9 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship - S Austin Peepick & Declan Kelley Baptisms	13 6:30 pm Search Cmt. Mtg. - C	10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open 6:30 pm Finance - Z	15 6:30 pm Deacons - P/Z	16 11 am Men's Group - C	17	18
Father's Day 9:30 am Worship - S	20 6:30 pm Search Cmt. Mtg. - C	10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open	22	23 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship - S	27 6:30 pm Search Cmt. Mtg. - C	10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open	29	30	July 1 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C	July 2 Memorial Service for Pat Baker - S/C
July 3 9:30 am Worship - S	July 4	July 5 10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open 6:30 pm Missions - Z		Amanda on Vacation/Office Closed June 26-July 4 Summer Signpost Submission Deadline: July 1		

## Meeting Locations

- C - Chandler Hall
- Z - Zoom
- S - Sanctuary
- R - Classroom
- P - Parlor



The Bolton Congregational Church UCC  
228 Bolton Center Road  
Bolton, CT 06043-7636

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## THE SIGNPOST ~ JUNE 2022

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

*The Rev. Bruce MacLeod, Intentional Interim Pastor; MaryLou Prescher, Organist and Choir Director; Jessica Romeo, Director of Children & Youth Programming; Amanda Andersen, Church Office Administrator; Bob Bagley, Custodial Services; Lisa Catanese, Webmaster; The Rev. Dr. Chris Davies, Minister in Mission; The Rev. Charles H. Ericson, Pastor Emeritus*

The Church Office Hours are currently by appointment only. Amanda can be reached via the office email at [boltonucc@gmail.com](mailto:boltonucc@gmail.com) or by leaving a voice mail at (860) 649-7077 (Email is best, although voicemails are checked regularly.) Pastor Bruce is available via phone (508) 769-1809 or email at [interim\\_pastor.bcc@yahoo.com](mailto:interim_pastor.bcc@yahoo.com), or 24/7 in case of pastoral emergency.