



The Signpost

Summer 2022
Volume 49, Issue 7

The Bolton Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
228 Bolton Center St., 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.*

Reflections from the Interim Minister for the Moment

Something amazing and wonderful has been happening in worship lately. Some moving things have taken place. People have a sense of the Presence and Spirit of God. People have laughed and cried, have spoken of joys and concerns, and been speechless when they had something breaking their hearts.

A month ago, we celebrated the Confirmation of 5 young people. (By the way, it was the church confirming the promises you made when those young people were baptized, more than their confirming that they believe everything Christians are “supposed” to believe. How many adults believe everything Christians are “supposed” to believe. If anything, they were confirming that they are on a faith journey and willing to share that with the church).

Communion is always an important part of worship. Perhaps 4 or 5 times in my life, tears have come to my eyes during, or as a result of communion. That Confirmation communion service was one, and July 3 was another:

Last month Deacons invited our Confirmands to serve the elements to the congregation. It was something we had not previously done. These young people all said yes - without hesitation, no questions asked. We did not practice or give much direction. They had seen it enough to know what to do and did it completely and well.

Deacons and Pastoral Relations Board in their joint meeting last month decided to ask them if they would like to do it again this time. Holiday weekend notwithstanding, 2 volunteered. When the time came I invited them to come forward. I saw movement from the back row where 5 year old Victor sits with his mother most weeks. I handed trays to the older girls. They turned to begin serving the right aisle. I asked Victor if he wanted to serve too. He said yes. I gave him a tray with bread. I took a tray of cups and we began serving those on the left aisle. He was so dignified as we served together. He knew just what to do. Tears filled my eyes and a warmth filled my heart. Children sometimes “get it” better than adults do.

“For to such as these belongs the kin-dom of God”

The Holy Spirit has been and is very much astir at BCC. I can't wait to see what She will do next!

Rejoice and give thanks! God is good, all the time.

Faithfully,
Pastor Bruce

Finance Financial Snapshot

As we transition into the Summer months, I just want to share this “Psalm” I found on line:

Psalm of Summer

Now it came to pass that spring turned to summer again. God’s people raised their voices and said:

*“Recreation is my shepherd, I shall not stay at home;
He maketh me to lie down in a sleeping bag;
He leadeth me down the Interstate each weekend.
He restoreth my suntan;
He leadeth me to State Parks for comfort’s sake.*

*Even though I stray on the Lord’s Day, I will fear no reprimand,
for Thou art with me; my rod and reel they comfort me.
I anointest my skin with oil, my gas tank runneth dry;
Surely my trailer shall follow me all the weekends this summer,
and I shall return to the House of the Lord this fall.”*

But then it is hunting season and that’s another psalm.

Source unknown

Now, for the June numbers (we’re half way through the year, whoot whoot!):

Congratulations to the five confirmands who joined our church in June, it was a great ceremony and so wonderful to see them step right in, as new members, to serve communion during the service;

Our Christian faith base also grew by two in June with the baptisms of Declan Kelley and Austin Pospisil, congratulations to their families as well;

Through the congregation’s generous contributions in June, a gift of \$500 went to Hawkwing Inc. in support of the People of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe;

The congregation also contributed \$175, in June, towards “Tools of Hope/Mother’s Day Blankets” directed by Church World Services helping neighbors around the world who are trying rebuild their lives;

To cover an anticipated income shortfall during the Summer months, the Finance Committee, with approval from the Church Council, took a \$10,000 withdrawal from the Connolly Endowment money market fund as a loan, to be repaid by the end of the year once our other investments recover from the market’s current down trend;

With the withdrawal of \$10,000, total income year-to-date is \$105,785 which is \$9,667 above the year-to-date Income projection;

Total expenses for year-to-date were \$108,842 which is \$1,136 less than our year-to-date Expense projection of \$109,978; the bottom line, year-to-date, expenses were \$3,057 greater than our income, better than expected but still behind; thank you for keeping up your contributions.

You know that our church bills don’t take a Summer vacation even while many of us may be away from church. Please remember to try and continue your intentional giving throughout the year. As discussed in our Congregation’s conversation at the end of June, we do need to look at the long-term direction for our church, how we can ensure being our church is a beacon in the community for the next 300 years! Your contribution is important.

Continued on next page

Finance Financial Snapshot (continued)

A parting thought from the admin at Bible.org:

I don't know how many more Sundays God may give me. It would be poor preparation for my first Sunday in heaven to have slighted my last one on earth.

Faithfully yours,
Jim Bahre

Church School News

Happy Summer! I hope you are enjoying some time off. If all goes according to plan the Romeos will be heading to Alaska in mid July. A dream vacation that has been postponed for 2 years.

Looking forward to the fall; Sunday School will begin on September 11, 2022 and we will go back to every Sunday. We will also be returning to having the children in church for the first half of worship and then heading over to Sunday school for an hour. The parents are invited to coffee hour in Chandler Hall as they wait for the children to be done. If there are any youth that have completed confirmation and would like to help with Sunday School I would appreciate it. Have them contact me and let me know.

I hope you are all enjoying your summer and I will see you in September.

~Jessica Romeo

From the Missions Committee

Thank you for supporting recent mission projects. During the month of May we focused on monetary donations to hawkwing which provides basic need items and critical services to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. Donations totaled \$500. During June the mission project has been the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets of Love and Tools of Hope Programs. Funds are used by CWS to respond quickly with compassion to help people to survive and rebuild when disaster strikes. To date the total donations from members of the congregation is \$175.

During July and August one of our mission projects will focus on supporting Bolton residents in need through donations to the Bolton food Pantry and the Bolton Resident Assistance Fund. Both are Bolton Social Service programs.

Please support the Food Pantry by bringing some needed items to church each Sunday. Needed items include nonperishable food for family daily meals, dog and cat food, personal care products, paper goods and cleaning supplies. Put donated items in a labelled collection bin on the landing outside of the

Continued on next page

From the Missions Committee (continued)

church entrance. A member of the Mission Board will deliver the denotations to the Bolton Food Pantry each week. If you are not attending church regularly during the summer and want to make donations to the Bolton Pantry you could go to the Bolton Senior Center at 104 Notch Road where the Food Pantry is located. The hours of operation are 9:30 to 4 on Mondays through Thursdays and 9:30 to 3 on Fridays.

The Bolton Resident Assistance Fund is used to stock the Food pantry as needed and, at the discretion of the Social Service Director, to help Bolton Residents who are faced with an urgent financial difficulty related to a basic need. You can make a donation to this fund by sending a check made out to BCC via the collection plate, mail, or electronically. Please note on the check / donation "for the Bolton Resident Assistance Fund".

If you are interested a mission volunteer opportunity during this summer please sign up as a member of the BCC team to serve at the MACC Community Kitchen or Community Threads Shop on Saturday, July 23rd or Saturday, August 27th from 9:45am to 1 pm. Four volunteers are needed to work with the chef at the kitchen to make lunch for that day and prepare food for meals which will be completed and served later in the week. Two volunteers are needed to sort and organize donations at the Community Threads Store under the supervision of a staff member. Volunteers at the Community must be 18 years or older; however, volunteers 13 years and older can help at the Community Threads Store. Sign up by contacting Susan Schardt at wmschardt@comcast.net by July 15th to volunteer on July 23rd and by August 19th to volunteer on August 27th.

Last but not least is the August mission project Adopt-a-Family to help Bolton families who need some assistance with the not-insignificant costs that attend return to school. Your donations are used to purchase store gift cards which are given to the Bolton School Counselor for distribution to families. As you might imagine the list of items of parents of kindergarteners is not long and expensive, but by the time students are in middle and high school the supplies are more costly. Please consider making a contribution to Adopt-a-Family. You can mail a check to the church office, electronically donate, or place a check in the collection plate. Please print "Adopt-a-Family" in the memo section of the check. A mission board member will turn the funds into gift cards and deliver the cards to the school counselor. Year after year our efforts have been warmly received with profound thanks.

As always, your participation in the mission projects is an act of compassionate giving and is appreciated.

~Susan Schardt



Thank You! 😊
♡

Thank you!

Dear Friends at Bolton Congregational Church UCC:

Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support disaster relief in Ukraine. Your gift of \$930.00 was received on 4/20/2022. Through your gift, families that have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support.

Hand in hand with our Partners in Service and other volunteers, congregations, and conferences, UCC Disaster Ministries seeks to serve families and communities by identifying and meeting unmet needs and providing spiritual and emotional support.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our global partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families in local and international communities. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance as the United Church of Christ continues to build a just world for all. If you have questions regarding your donation, please feel free to contact us at giving@ucc.org or 1-800-846-6822.

In faith,
Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
General Minister and President

Dear Bolton Congregational Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$60.00 to MACC Charities.

Your continued support plays a crucial role in accomplishing 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

Thank you! (continued)

Dear Bolton Congregational Church,

On behalf of the entire Bolton Scholarship Fund Committee, I want to thank you for your generosity and support. On June 14 2022, the BSF awarded scholarships totaling an unprecedented \$107,800! What a way to celebrate our 50th anniversary. That brings the total awarded in 50 years to over \$2.2 million! Thank you for making this possible. We are deeply grateful and humbled by the trust you put in BSF. We treasure your support and the opportunity to assist students as they move on to the next phase of their lives.

We are pleased to announce the recipient of the Bolton Congregational Church Scholarship in Memory of Pam Connelly is: Lilly Dudek

This year, high school scholarship awards were presented at Bolton High School's graduation. Recipients already in college were notified via email. Enclosed is a listing of the 2022 scholarships and recipients. [Posted outside the office at BCC.] This list was shared with graduating seniors and attendees at the BHS graduation ceremony and can also be found on our website www.BoltonScholarshipFund.org.

Thank you again for your part in helping the young women and men of our community realize their educational dreams.

Sincerely
Trish Brudz, President

Dear Friends at Bolton Congregational Church UCC:

Thank you for believing in the passionate work of the United Church of Christ. Your donation of \$573.53 to One Great Hour of Sharing was received on 4/19/2022.

Our ministry embraces a wider church that is global, multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all. Your gift shapes our advocacy work, grows sacred community in our weekly webinar series, and is inspiring more than 10,000 readers of our Daily Devotional.

Your gift will help our neighbors in the United States and internationally recover from disasters. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. Your partnership makes these and other services and programs possible.

Thank you again for your financial assistance. Through your generosity and God's grace, we will continue to build a just world for all. If you have questions regarding your donation, please feel free to contact us at giving@ucc.org or 1-800-846-6822.

In faith,
Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
General Minister and President

FILL A PAIL

"FROM THE HEART" needs your help to fill as many beach pails as possible this summer! We invite you to be a part of helping us donate over 100 beach pails to children in foster care throughout Connecticut! We can't do it without your help!

How It Works: Fill a beach pail with brand new summer toys, coloring books, stuffed animals, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, balls, and personal items etc. The dollar stores are great places to completely create a pail for under 10.00!

It is a great idea for any organization, team up with friends and co-workers, or even create one as a family! You will certainly help to bring some much-deserved fun into a child's day with the items you select!

Listed below are just a few suggestions...the list is truly endless! Create pails according to boy/girl, or often times items work easily for both! Donations of several items are needed to make it all work and you can be a big part of helping to show a child he/she is special by donating a completely filled pail or even just an item or two. The contacts FTH works with will ensure each pail gets into the hands of a child whose day needs an emotional pick up!

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| *SAND PAILS | *COLORING BOOKS | *ACTIVITY BOOKS |
| *MARKERS | *CRAYONS | *BUBBLES |
| *PLAY DOH | *SIDEWALK CHALK | *BALLS/ALL KINDS |
| *BASEBALL CAPS | *HOT WHEELS | *CARS/TRUCKS |
| *BARBIES/BRATZ | *FRISBEES | *LEGOS/DUPLOS |
| *PUZZLES | *DECK OF CARDS | *UNO/GO FISH ETC. |
| *STICKERS | *BRAND NEW GAMES | *BIONICLES |
| *HAIR ACCESSORIES | *HAIR BRUSHES | *STATIONARY |
| *JOURNALS | *BEACH BLANKETS | *FLIP FLOPS |
| *SUN SCREEN | *SUMMER SPORTS GAMES | *STUFFED ANIMALS |
| *DEODORANT | *NEW BATHING SUITS | *WATER BOTTLES |
| *DRAWING PADS | *PLAYING CARDS | *NECKLACE KITS |
| *SIPPI CUPS | *POPSICLE MAKING KITS | *PAINTS/BRUSHES |
| *CHAPSTICK | *HAND/BODYLOTION | *KIDS SHAMPOO |
| *KIDS TOOTHPASTE | *KIDS TOOTHBRUSHES | *KITES |

Please contact Laura Ann at ftheart@comcast.net if you have questions!

Please also check out our new website: www.fromtheheartct.com

Thank you for your kindness!!

Crafters' Corner & Church Store

The crafters will meet and the Church Store will continue to be open during the summer months on Tuesdays from 10:30 - 3:30 and, also, on Sunday mornings on a self-serve basis from 9:30 until the building is locked. As always, if you have access to the Education Building, you are welcome to shop.

We continue to knit hats for the Missions winter program for the homeless that will begin sometime this fall. These hats will be just one item that is included in the backpack that is filled with several items of comfort and personal care. I believe that last year over 145 backpacks were filled and distributed to several area homeless shelters and to other organizations that had direct knowledge as to where these backpacks would be most helpful.

We have been teaching those interested who would like to help but do not know how to knit or crochet how to use the knitting looms. We have made over 65 hats so far and are hoping to make extras that we will be able to offer for sale at the Store in the fall with all proceeds from them going to the Missions program to help defray the cost of the items that are needed to fill the backpacks. I, personally, feel that as we have done this mission for three years now that perhaps with a little "press" it could become one of our church's "signature programs" that quite possibly would interest others in our community who might like to get involved in some way.

If you are handy and this program appeals to you, please feel free to make some hats or mittens in your spare time or while you watch TV in the evening. If we fill the bags and we have hats left we can donate them to the From the Heart program that supports children in the Department of Children and Families Foster Care program. Many of us have these skills and don't know what to use them for. These are two great programs that will keep you busy and at the same time feel the satisfaction that you are contributing to the welfare of others. Some of us are also making squares for The Squares for Care program that From the Heart sponsors. We are happy to supply the yarn to anyone needing it.

Please keep us in mind if you have yarn to donate. These projects have allowed us to use much of the yarn that had been donated to us in the past but we will probably be looking for more donations of yarn in the near future. Donations can be left behind the counter in the Store or brought into the meeting on Tuesdays. If you would like additional information, feel free to contact Lynn Ralston (860-643-6788), Cathy Nelson (860-543-0204) or anyone in the Tuesday craft group.

Continued next page

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

Crafters' Corner & Church Store (continued)

We will celebrate birthdays for July on 7/12 and August 8/9 with cake and song. We would love to celebrate you.

ALL JEWELRY AND PURSES WILL BE ON SALE AT 50% OFF THE ORIGINAL PRICE DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.

Have a nice holiday and summer.

*Lynn Ralston
for the crafters/Store volunteers*

Prayer Shawl Update

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.



July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C	2
3 9:30 am Worship - S	4 6:30 pm Search Cmt. Mtg. - C	10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open 6:30 pm Missions - Z	6	7	8 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C	9
10 9:30 am Worship - S	11 6:30 pm Search Cmt. Mtg. - C	10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open 6:30 pm Finance - Z	12 6:30 pm Council - P/Z	13 6:30 pm Council - P/Z	14 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C	15 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C
17 9:30 am Worship - S	18 6:30 pm Search Cmt. Mtg. - C	10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open	19 6:30 pm Deacons - P/Z	20 6:30 pm Deacons - P/Z	21 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C	22 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C BCC @ MAACC
24 9:30 am Worship - S	25 6:30 pm Search Cmt. Mtg. - C	10:30 am Crafters - C Church Store Open	26	27	28	29 7:30 pm Al-Anon - C
31 9:30 am Worship - S						30

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 ~ SUMMER 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 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, or 24/7 in case of pastoral emergency.