



# The Signpost

November 2022  
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The Bolton Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
228 Bolton Center St., Bolton, CT 06043  
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*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

At the very moment the Pastoral Search Team (PST) announced they had found a candidate to present to the church to the next pastor of BCC, I was asked, "Are you sad?"

I was surprised by the question. It didn't occur to me to be sad. I felt joy and happiness. This is the culmination of our work together. It is what we were working for.

Sadness will come as we say our good-byes.

I've never met Pastor Brandon, as far as I know, so I only know what most of you know. And one more thing perhaps:

I know that I can trust the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been very busily working with us and with the PST; and with Pastor Brandon. I trust that to be true.

I have seen God at work in all of the settings where I have served over the years. Sometimes it was obvious. Other times, it took time to notice.

I believe God had a guiding hand in bringing BCC and Pastor Nicolette together, as well, even if it didn't turn out as anyone hoped. I also believe God had a hand in leading her to a new ministry. God was able to cause good to come of it. Without Pastor Nicolette's presence and ministry, we would never have come to this place and time.

I am deeply grateful to have had a part in this "wilderness" (Exodus) experience (or "Exile", if you will, as we have read this fall from Jeremiah). It has been a time of seeking and learning, of faith deepening and growing. I trust that no matter what happens - *no matter what - God will be there with you and will always keep turning the situation to good.*

Trust God. Pray for Pastor Brandon and his family in the midst of their transition. Pray for one another. Give one another the benefit of the doubt. Work with Pastor Brandon so he can be the best Pastor he can be, just as he will work with you to be the best Church and people of faith *you can be. Be gracious and grace-full with one another. Forgive. Speak up when you have ideas or concerns. You've learned how to talk and listen, to come up with ways to address issues.*

God loves you - and there's nothing you can do about that - except ...

Faithfully, Pastor Bruce

P.S. This is not what I intended to write. God has a way of doing that!

## Finance Financial Snapshot

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Thank God for Thanksgiving

<sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations. *Psalm 100 (NIV)*

Although Thanksgiving was proclaimed a national holiday by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, being thankful to God for the Grace and Love gifted to us all goes deeper than a proclamation or the start of Black Friday sales.

Of course, for some in the U.S., Thanksgiving dinner can be the highlight of the holiday. For others, in our country and around the world, it can be, at best, just another day or maybe all too often, it is a sad reminder of personal loss or of dire situations around the world that cry out for God's love and direction.

As Christians, we can and do, partake in thanksgiving every day. Think of how many times you have experienced a thing of God's glory: a rainbow or the beautiful fall foliage, a chilling wind, or a warming gentle breeze, the touch of a loving hand or a sympathizing smile from a friend, helping a neighbor in need or receiving help from a stranger. I am sure we thank God for the small things as well as the largest ones that we can pray so hard to receive: a healthy baby, a good prognosis, support and guidance when we realize we are not, and cannot do it, alone.

God's hand is everywhere, and we can hear even God's smallest voice if we stop and listen for it. As we head towards Thanksgiving and into the Advent season, remember to thank God for all the Good around us.

Now, for the numbers:

Thank you all who donated to the CWS Crop Walk in October with over \$525 contributed, thank God for your generosity in helping others around the world;

Thank you all who donated, and to Cathy Nelsen for coordinating, the collection of items and over \$100 for purchasing and distributing necessities to the Homeless later this year, thank God for helping neighbors you have yet to meet;

Thank you all who donated food items and approx. \$40 towards the Bolton Food Bank and MACC Food Fund this month, thank God for sharing your bounty;

Thank you all for supporting the Family Spaghetti Dinner, and to Connie and David Vincent for coordinating the event, which took in over \$1000 plus donations and for bringing us together in a sense of community, thank God for your outreach and support;

Thank you all who supported our Capital Initiatives with \$710 donated in October, thank God for helping our church to be a shining beacon of light in the community;

Thank you all who participated with Pumpkin Carving highlighting the front steps of our church, and to Lauren Mainville for coordinating the event and to Pesce's Farmstand for supplying the pumpkins, thank God for your celebration of our children.

## Finance Financial Snapshot (continued)

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Oh yeah, expenses over income through October... well let's just thank God we are strong and vibrant with great new opportunities coming our way and we will be provided for by God with appropriate measure.

I thank God for all of you, Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christian Love,

Jim Bahre

## From the Missions Committee

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### November & December Project

We will participate in the MACC Joy of Community Sharing Program by adopting four area families for the holidays. These families have requested help to provide holiday meals and Christmas gifts for family members. Due to safety and health concerns, we will again alter past procedures to accomplish this project. Instead of a food collection during the church service we are asking members of the congregation to send monetary donations to the church office. Please make a donation at the beginning of November for Thanksgiving food baskets and make another donation at the beginning of December for Christmas food baskets and the \$25 gift cards for each member of the four families. Donations can be put in the collection plate, mailed to the church office, or made online at the BCC website. Please note on your check or when making a donation online that the donation is for the Missions Holiday Project. Members of the Missions Board will shop, package, and deliver the bags of groceries to the families. The delivery dates are November 19th and December 18th. In December the families will also receive a \$25 store gift card for each immediate family member to be used to purchase Christmas gifts. Please be generous in supporting our November and December Mission Projects which will give a joyful holiday to our adopted families. Together we can do this!

### Join Us for Fall Work Day



**Saturday, November 12th**  
**(Rain date—November 19th)**

**9 am—12 pm**



**Rain date—November 19th**

**There is outside cleanup & some inside repairs to tackle.**

**All are welcome. Many hands make light work.**

# **WE GATHER TOGETHER**

SAVE THE DATE

## **BOLTON'S COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

WHEN: Tuesday, November 22, 2022; 7:00 PM

WHERE: United Methodist Church  
1041 Boston Turnpike, Bolton, CT

WHY: To join in the spirit of Thanksgiving, offering worship and gratitude to God as a community of believers, and enjoy the singing of traditional hymns.

The Bolton Ecumenical Council will host this service. Bolton's four churches join together in worship. Please plan to join us with the congregants of:

Saint Maurice's Catholic Church  
United Methodist Church  
Saint George's Episcopal Church

There will be assistance provided by our local Scouts organizations. There will be a collection of nonperishable foods donated to the Bolton Food Pantry. A freewill offering will be used in sponsorship towards the Bolton Scholarship Fund.  
Refreshments to follow the service.

\*\* Choir members: Please consider joining the unified choir. \*\*

For more information contact:

Linda Brown  
860-214-0293

LBrown.614@comcast.net



## From the Heart

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“From the Heart” is once again seeking donations of brand new **Hats, Mittens, Gloves, Socks and Fleece or crochet/knit blankets!**

We will be collecting these much needed items throughout the fall and winter months and will be distributing them as we receive them!

Your support, over the years, has helped to bring warmth and comfort to children in foster care and helped children and adults in our “Adopted Family” program. Even one item makes a difference when we put our donations together! All sizes, all styles are accepted and one size is not more important than another. A child without mittens, a teen without socks, an adult without a hat...in the midst of fall and winter...they are still cold. L

“From the Heart” also has a program called “Squares of Care”. We collect knit and crocheted 10” X 10” squares and attached them with others making squares to create blankets! Our intention was to find a way to donate additional blankets and we love the idea that each square is unique in color and design just as each child is unique.

Thank you for your help and wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Laura Ann / From the Heart  
PO Box 804, Manchester, CT 06045  
ftheart@comcast.net  
www.fromtheheartct.com

## 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.

## Save the Date!

### MACC IS TURNING 50 YEARS OLD!

That's 50 years since churches and community partners in the greater Manchester area united to support those with emergency needs of food, clothing, and other general assistance. BCC was one of those churches.

As an expression of its gratitude, MACC is having a celebration of its half century of successful service. It will be held at Georgina's Restaurant in Bolton on the evening of January 19, 2023, to thank the faith, community, and civic organizations who have partnered with MACC in its mission.

The evening will include:

- Appetizers
- Chicken dinner
- Coffee/tea/soda (cash bar available)
- Music provided by a DJ
- Live entertainment
- Silent auction

There will also be speakers, one of which will be our very own Chuck Ericson, who was a long-time MACC Board member.

A free-will donation for the event is welcome, but not expected.

BCC has been a steady contributor to MACC of time, talent, and treasure over the years. Let's help celebrate MACC's milestone birthday! Contact Dick Brown ([DBrown.614@comcast.net](mailto:DBrown.614@comcast.net)) if you would like to attend.



## Crafters' Corner & Church Store

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At the store, we have been selling hand knitted hats for \$4.00, hats for young ones for \$2.00, and hats for both dolls and Christmas ornaments for \$1.00. Also, included on our table that is located in the hallway as you enter Education Building are several other family member, donate one to our Missions Program or to one of the other charities that our church supports (For the Heart for children in the CT Department of Children and Families Foster Care Program, MACC, or hawkwing), or one of your choice. Or, simply make a small freewill offering. All ideas here are a great way to bring a little warmth and care to others in need. ALL PROCEEDS RECEIVED FROM OUR SALES FROM THIS TABLE WILL BE DONATED TO THE MISSIONS TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF FILLING THE BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS PROGRAM.

We have heard several comments on the great quality and also price of the hats. We feel good about this and hope that more of you will support our endeavor to be helpful to our Missions Board and this program that is in its third year.

In early November, we will be putting out Christmas tree up in the entryway and will be placing our holiday items into the Store. This will include our 10/\$1.00 packages of Christmas cards plus our regular Christmas cards for .25 cents each and in quantities for .15—.20 cents each. We have many items that would make great Christmas gifts. Please stop by to see if we can be of assistance to you.

Our hours are: Tuesdays 10:30am—3:30 pm and after Sunday service.

We look forward to seeing you and also we would welcome donations of holiday items.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!

The Crafters and Store Volunteers

## Men's Group

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Men's Group is beginning in November! Our discussion is open and usually revolves around what we are currently experiencing. While our perspectives differ, we try to treat each other with respect. Pam Connelly's motto is appropriate for our discussions: "Respond with love always."

Bring a brown bag lunches, if you choose. We may plan an organized a shared meal from time to time.

Our first meeting is Wednesday, November 16 and will continue on the third Wednesday of each month through March. We will meet at 11:00 am in front of the fireplace in Chandler Hall. All men are welcome!

## Planning Ahead...

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### Making Plans for Christmas?

Christmas this year falls on Sunday. What's not to love? We get to gather for worship on Christmas Day. It will also be Pastor Bruce's last Sunday at BCC.

The Deacons and Pastoral Relations Board (PRB) suggested some changes for worship that day:

### Worship

1. At 11:00 AM
2. In Chandler Hall
3. In front of the fireplace
4. In "jammies" (if you choose)

\*\*\*Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.\*\*\*

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More information to follow, but keep these dates in mind.

Advent Workshop - December 4th

Christmas Pageant- December 18th with a dress rehearsal on December 11th

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We will plan to have a farewell celebration for Pastor Bruce at some other time in December. If you have ideas or suggestions please speak to Pastor Bruce or a Deacon [dddcmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dddcmc@sbcglobal.net).



St. Maurice Church will hold its **51st Annual Christmas Fair –“Sleigh Bells Ring”–** on Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM at 32 Hebron Road, Bolton. This holiday event features a Country Store filled with homemade jams, pickles, muffin and cookie mixes, “sweet treats”, teacup “friendship candles” and stocking stuffers galore! Handmade Raggedy Ann dolls, fresh holiday evergreen baskets, hand-knit items, a Pet Corner, and clothes for American Girl dolls! “Take-A-Chance” booth. Homemade apple pies! Hot lunch!  
Handicapped accessible.

# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 9:30 am Worship—S <i>Pr. Brandon Preaching</i> After Worship: Special Cong. Mtg—C	7 6-8 pm Private Event—C	8 10:30 am Crafters—C Church Store Open 6:00 pm Finance—Z	9 6:30 pm Council—P/Z	10 7:30 pm Al-Anon—C	11 7:30 pm Al-Anon—C	12 9 am-12 pm Fall Work Day
13 9:30 am Worship—S Sunday School—R	14 6 pm Event—C	15 10:30 am Crafters—C Church Store Open	16 11 am Men's Group—C 6:30 pm Deacons—P/Z	17 7:30 pm Al-Anon—C	18 7:30 pm Al-Anon—C	19 9 am-12 pm Fall Work Day (raindate)
20 9:30 am Worship—S Sunday School—R	21 6 pm Event—C	22 10:30 am Crafters—C Church Store Open 7 pm Bolton Community Thanksgiving Service at United Methodist Church	23 Signpost Deadline	24 Happy Thanksgiving!	25 7:30 pm Al-Anon—C	26
27 9:30 am Worship—S	28 10:30 am Crafters—C Church Store Open	29 10:30 am Crafters—C Church Store Open	30	<b>Meeting Locations:</b> C—Chandler Hall S—Sanctuary P—Parlor R—Classroom		



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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## THE SIGNPOST ~ NOVEMBER 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.