

THE LAMPLIGHTER

MAY 2021



United Methodist Church of Bolton
1041 Boston Turnpike, Bolton CT 0604
<http://UnitedMethodistChurchBolton.org>

Pastor David Martin
North United Methodist Church
649-3696

Office Hours:
Monday & Thursday, 8:00 to 3:00P.M.,
Tuesday: 8:00 to 5:30
(At North United Methodist)

Bolton United Methodist Church
Carol Franklin, Pianist

CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Holy Communion first Sunday of the month.
Food Collection for MACC First Sunday of each month.
AA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Monday
NA Meeting Zoom
Cub Scouts 5:30 p.m. Friday

ZOOM will continue to broadcast Sunday worship service at 9:00 BUMC and 10:30 from NUMC.

Praise the Lord. BUMC sanctuary is now open for Sunday worship. Come and join us. Bring your mask and cleanse your hands as you walk in with hand sanitizer outside the sanctuary door.

If you would like to receive the bulletin and insert to follow along the Sunday service on Zoom, just email me (marthabaskerville3@gmail.com) your email address and I will be glad to send it to you. They usually go out on Tuesdays.

OUR MISSION
To Invite Everyone to know God's
Love through our community of Faith

Pastors Corners

A few weeks ago, I lent my youngest daughter a book entitled “Creation and the Persistence of Evil” by Jon D. Levenson. I often write in the margins and underline my books, and she noticed a word I



had written on the cover page: pedantic, which mean overly wordy or verbose. She picked up on that and called me later and laughed about it saying that I had properly critiqued the book in one word. To her credit, she finished the book, and then sent me a voicemail about his conclusion. She wanted to know why he couldn't just say what he wanted to say, and cut out the repetition and excessive pedantry. I answered something like: because in academia if you want to be taken seriously you must make your argument as complete as possible. I then asked her if he was right, to which she replied of course he was right.

I bring this up because I wanted her to know what I am sharing with you now. A religion built on the premise that creation cannot be complete until our God comes back, and destroys evil (again) so that he (or she) can be re-enthroned over creation. This opens the door to questioning the transcendent nature of God. Is evil truly that powerful that God is no longer in control? If our faith is based on a “rapture” scenario, or some other eschatological perspective where God must once again conquer evil because it has grown too powerful, then our God is either inattentive, or not all powerful. My message to you this month is this: God has conquered the forces of chaos. If we see evil in the world, that evil is a result of the agency of human kind. Each of us has a choice, we have free will, we can do good, or we can give in to the forces of chaos. By blaming a third party (the devil made me do it) we falsely attempt to divest ourselves of our moral responsibility to address the systemic evils of our society. I have used a lot of words here to say: if we want toe world to be good and just, we must make it so. But like all academics, I want my point to be taken seriously. It is the ministry of the church to make the world a just place. “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

As we are not sure how long Covid 19 protocol will last, modern technology has provided us with a connection to share Bible studies, Childrens Worship (11:00am, NUMC) and Adult Worship (9:00 BUMC, 10:30 NUMC). You will find instructions and links inside to connect you at home through Zoom.

If you want to attend church service on Zoom and would like a copy of the Bulletin, the insert with upcoming event information and the hymns, please email me at: marthabaskerville3@gmail.com.

Tentative Worship Schedule:

(times and venues subject to change if Covid numbers spike)

May services will remain on Zoom. Services will also be held in the sanctuary at BUMC and NUMC following Covid protocol. Those who wish to worship in the church at BUMC on Sunday morning are welcome.

9:00am BUMC/Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/268830607>

10:30am NUMC/Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102141139>

Password: 1234

By phone: 1 929 205 6099 then mtg number 83102141139

By phone: 1 929 205 6099 then mtg number 268830607

DOWNLOAD ZOOM ONTO DEVICE

Download the Zoom app onto their computer, tablet or phone.

o For PC <https://zoom.us/download>

o Apple Store <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id546505307>

o Google Play <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=us.zoom.videomeetings>

- Click/select link for the meeting at the meeting time.
 - Gallery/Speaker View – you can toggle between Gallery and Speaker View
 - o On iPad/Tablet – Tap the screen, then select the grid icon in the upper left-hand corner to display Gallery view. You can see up to 9 people.
 - o On Smart Phone – swipe left to see Gallery View. Swipe right to go back to active speaker view.
 - o On the computer select Gallery View in the upper right-hand corner to see up to 49 participants.
- Select Speaker View to go back to the speaker view (also in upper right-hand corner)

- Audio, Video, and Chat controls are at the bottom of the screen. You may need to move your mouse to the bottom of the screen to access.

BELOW IS A MEETING INVITATION: Join Zoom Meeting

It has a call in number, and the meeting number so you can join only by phone.

Those who do not have a smart phone or computer with internet can still participate!

David Martin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NUMC Sunday worship

Time: 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sunday morning.

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us04web.zoom.us/join/https://us04web.zoom.us/join/v5Ilf-qoqDstFiY1pPDfgo1ivI_EqRrtsQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuuupjMpGtKVt1-Ce6ovW53ib9_ylldHk_JNrDvjEi8CaxXfCc dTAKBrA-mB

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/268830607>

Meeting ID's: 268 830 607 BUMC Sunday Worship

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,268830607# US (New York)

+13126266799,,268830607# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 268 830 607

Find your local

number: https://us04web.zoom.us/join/https://us04web.zoom.us/join/v5Ilf-qoqDstFiY1pPDfgo1ivI_EqRrtsQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuuupjMpGtKVt1-Ce6ovW53ib9_ylldHk_JNrDvjEi8CaxXfCc dTAKBrA-mB



OUR PRAYER LIST

Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2



Pray for all the “MOMS” of the world today. Today there are moms that may not be a “birth parent” but may be someone like grandmothers, stepmothers, aunts, love moms who just take in kids because they need love. We must pray for all MOM’s because they make us feel so good about ourselves and can teach us all how to show and spread Gods love.

Pray for all that are struggling with the decision to volunteer in these challenging times. Help them to hear your words of encouragement to share their gifts with others and spread the light of your love to all.

Pray for those in hospitals and convalescent homes, and for their caregivers.

Pray for those recovering from recent illness, those who are homebound and their caregivers: Lanie Bickford, Jennifer Ostrout, Taylor Schipani, Joan and Bob Potterton.

Prayers for Manchesster leaders to establish a permanent homeless shelter to create a prototype for surrounding towns to follow so that homelessness can become a word and way of life that becomes obsolete.

Prayers for the world today. Pray for all the families that have lost someone to the virus so that they may feel Gods love as they mourn their loved ones , as they are secluded in quarantine.

Pray that lessons learned through this pandemic may not be lost when the air becomes clear once again. That changes will be recognized and the world will be a more loving, and kinder place to live.

AMEN



BIBLE STUDY

There will be a new Bible Study starting in June. Watch your bulletin and newsletter for further updates to dates, times and possibly Zoom meeting invitations.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Kris Flemke-Boland

4 Patrick Mitchell

15 Debbie Schaffer

15 Denise Angell

18 Christopher Olson

19 Kelly Corcoran

28 Valerie Parsons



MOBILE FOODSHARE TRUCK

The Mobil Foodshare Truck will be at St. Georges Episcopal Church, 1150 Boston Tpke. Bolton, May 11 & 25 from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. Just bring 2 bags and receive a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables and sometimes bread. If you know of someone in need, please pass this information along. There are no forms to fill out or questions asked. You can also come and help pass out the food.



OUTREACH CORNER

It's TIME!!! The garden is tilled, manure spread, just waiting to till it again. We scheduled planting day for Sunday, May 23rd right after church. We've decided to bring our own lunches due to Covid, but will socially distance to enjoy fellowship after we've planted. Hope to see you there!!

Once again we will be supporting the Bolton Scholarship Fund with our annual scholarship. We started doing this in 2000 and want to continue to support our youth.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on planting day!

Outreach Committee

Denise Angell JoAnn Mayo Laurie Parsons

Hello Greater Manchester Peace and Justice Supporters!

The Manchester Winter Warming Center got off to a good start this season providing many guests with not only overnight warming, but also connections with local organizations and service for more permanent solutions. Thanks to the Town of Manchester, to Cornerstone, other local organizations, houses of worship, and to many individual volunteers

Please write to the Town Board of Directors to request that the Town continue to move forward swiftly to address more permanent solutions to homelessness. For ideas for drafting letters to the Town, please see Louise's or Marti's great example letters below. Town Board of Director email addresses are included below in Marti's letter.

Thanks for all you can do for our unsheltered neighbors.

Jeff Kieft
Greater Manchester Peace and Justice

Letter from Louise Leिताo to the Manchester Town Officials

Subject: Manchester Warming Center

To: epaquette@manchesterct.gov, jmoran@manchester.gov, jcox@manchesterct.gov, csilver@manchesterct.gov

Date: March 22, 2021

Gentlemen- I am writing you all to say thank you and to share the great success of the Winter Warming Center (WWC) created and held at the Community Y. Without everyone's willingness to help and support this project it never would have occurred. It also has created a more interactive working relationship between those agencies that serve the homeless. The mandate from the Board of Directors, and especially the assistance and work from Joel Cox and Ed Paquette, have been immeasurable to the success of the WWC.

To date, the center has served 35 individual clients. Some of the coldest nights of the year were able to be withstood in a humane way because of the way the Cornerstone Foundation and the WWC and town hotel vouchers were available. In addition, referrals and access to services and other resources have impacted in a positive way many, many of the clients. Phones, housing resources, social service programs and other types of assistance have made a huge difference in many of the clients lives. Some have even successfully been placed in permanent housing.

With the end of the WWC looming, many of these folks will once again be in our community-living in the shadows of the town. While I know that due to the success of the WWC there will undoubtedly be a plan similar for next winter-I ask you now all to consider three bold ideas. The reality is we have a number of homeless in our midst. There are even more than we have seen at the center as I recently met at least two other homeless persons who had no knowledge that the WWC was open. Three thoughts for our community to consider:

1. Identify a building that could be used as a summer cooling center. This could be run as the WWC has been run- with Cornerstone and a cadre of volunteers.

2. Deal with the problem of homelessness in a supportive and humane way--to end or minimize the number affected. Just as clean needle programs for opiate addicted persons exist with great success of reducing illness--why not create a town sanctioned area that homeless could tent on safely and be available for outreach, services, and case management?

3. Face the fact that we need a permanent shelter in this town. It could run without the concerns that led MACC decide to close that shelter five years ago. Funding from non-government agencies is a possibility as Cornerstone currently does. Utilize the quality standards and protocols that have worked so well in Cornerstone run programs. Identify a space zoned for such a purpose or re-open the old Church of the Nazarene building that was originally for the MACC shelter. Have it run by MACC and/or Cornerstone or a combination. Allow ALL faith communities to again be involved and support the shelter--this would add the synagogue, the Bahai community, the Unitarian Society and mosques that were not part of the MACC organizations. Utilize the vibrant works and workers of the faith communities, the East of the River Mutual Aid Society and the Greater Manchester Peace and Justice Committee. It is so possible and so needed.

The need for long term sheltering is one again a fact in our community and the region--with the goal of not just sheltering--but dealing with it by utilizing all available resources. Let us in Manchester be the leader to other towns to create such resources for the homeless. As the Hartford centers shut down, and shelters still not opening due to the pandemic, we need to be the suburban leaders in this mission. We can be the beacon to others to deal with a very real crisis in a very real humane way.

Thank you all again for your past and present help, and to a even more successful future!

Letter from Marti Baskerville to Manchester Town Officials

To: Epaquette@manchesterct.gov,
SShanley@manchesterct.gov, JMoran@manchesterct.gov, JCox@manchesterct.gov,
Csilver@manchesterct.gov, Sjones@manchesterct.gov, Ycastillo@manchesterct.gov,
Tbergin@manchesterct.gov, Pconyers@manchesterct.gov,
Edougan@manchesterct.gov, Pfloyd-Cranford@manchesterct.gov, DSchain@manchesterct.gov

Re: Manchester Winter Warming Center

This is a shout out and a plea to all who are involved with the procurement and inception of the Manchester Winter Warming Center held at the Community Y on North Main Street. First, on behalf of all of us that have had the pleasure of operating and participating with the center since the first day, I would like to thank the board members of Manchester for their support and willingness to support so many. For many, the warming center has been a gift of warmth, caring, security and support at a time that may well have been one of the lowest points in their lives. I have always heard that Manchester has village charm and the center is a prime example of how a caring village functions. There have been many success stories of guests coming to us and with the support and resources they utilized while at the shelter were able to get back on their feet. Bryan Flint, Deputy Director of the Cornerstone Foundation in Vernon has spent countless hours advocating for each and every one of our guests on a daily basis. Access to resources such as social service programs, state phones for applying for jobs and rentals, 211, and vouchers for hotel rooms to accommodate some of the overflow have been, without a doubt, an integral part of the success of the center. The kindness and understanding of the staff at the Y added to the peaceful atmosphere which was in contrast to a presumably chaotic place most of our guests had just come from. We received donations of food, clothing and accessories for daily living from all over the community on a daily basis. Since the Warming Center opened, there have been countless numbers of volunteers with which I would like to thank. Without them the success of the center would not have been so noticeable.

Our plea to you today is: Designate a building in Manchester that will accommodate a

fulltime shelter. We need showers, private rooms, bathrooms for male and female guests and office space for the social service work that is needed to contact resources to get everyone back into the community. The need has been proven in the last few weeks as we have been at full capacity with an overflow of citizens that needed shelter on a daily basis. Many of the challenges of a shelter have been worked out and that knowledge going forward will be advantageous in shaping a more permanent shelter for the future. It is advantageous to the town to give aid to citizens who have lost everything. Homeless does not mean lazy, addicted, dirty or uneducated. The homeless people in our town, from what I have first hand knowledge of, are seeking ways to give back to society and become productive citizens of Manchester.

Cornerstone Foundation promises to be an invaluable resource going forward. With so many faith-based programs in this town, volunteers of many talents would be an integral part of this undertaking. I have spoken to people from these programs as well as many individual citizens from all over Manchester and they have reassured me that when the new permanent shelter in Manchester is constructed there will be no shortage of support.

Also, as the foundation for our new shelter is being created, Manchester will become the prototype for our neighboring towns to utilize in the caring for their own homeless population.

The Manchester website states, “Manchester has the perfect blend of small town feel with a big city convenience”. Let Manchester be the example to all of how to be truly “inclusive, diverse and thriving.”

Thank you all again for taking the time to address this very urgent matter.

Marti Baskerville

Manchester resident since 1973

March 26, 2021



STOMPING OUT HUMAN EXPLOITATION

Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Church of the Nazarene, 218 Main St. Manchester Free

Program; Open to Everyone

- Human Trafficking -- Needs to be extinguished · Labor Trafficking -- Get the facts
- Sex Trafficking -- Make a difference

SPEAKERS:

Taylor De Graffenreid, Anti-Human Trafficking Bloom Initiative, Salvation Army

Michael Distefano, AMIRAH, Inc.

QUESTIONS:

dan.whitney@mcnaz.com or
Dan Whitney 860-646-8599

MASKS REQUIRED

Sponsor: Greater Manchester Peace and Justice Committee

Greetings!

Welcome to our weekly newsletter The MACC Minute. We hope it will inspire you to get involved.



APRIL 29, 2021

News from our Food Pantry

The summer weather is coming, and everyone reminisces about their foodie favorites that they loved having for snacks or lunches as kids, especially when it was hot! I know I loved having popsicles to cool down with. Why not donate a few of **YOUR FAVORITE** foods from summertime and give our families smiles and great memories to pass on?

[Needs List](#)



Beth Stafford

Executive Director/CEO

Money isn't everything! The lack of money is often what we allow to shut doors to opportunities. Money does not solve problems nor should it. Money cannot be the only thing in which we place value on. **Partnerships multiply limited resources.** Invest your time, talent and treasure in something you love, combine it with like-minded people~ **that is your everything!**

[Donate](#)



Shannon Baldassario

Director of Services

Fuel Bank partners are wrapping up the Operation Fuel program season for fiscal year 2021 on May 14th. **What does this mean to the community we serve?** The Community Outreach & Emergency Services department work with families who are attempting to maintain their monthly utility payments to not receive a disconnection. Utility protection programs are available for hardship customers. **#Callme**



Chef Ferdinand Cruz

MACC's Community Kitchen

Starting May 4th, we will be extending our **HOT lunch offering** (carry out) to 3 days a week. Again, with the help of our awesome volunteers, our goal is to serve hot meals 5 days a week. Here's a peak at what we whipped up yesterday for the community!

Asian BBQ chicken thighs, Cheddar creamed spinach and buttered sweet potatoes.

Patti Thurlow

Operations Manager

The Community Threads Thrift Shoppe is currently accepting all spring, summer, and fall donations. We also accept select household items **EXCEPT** electronics. Please note that the items should be cleaned and placed in plastic bags or boxes. We accept donations Monday – Friday 10:00am -1:30 pm and Saturdays 10:00am-12:30pm. Please note: We have a bin outside the shoppe for after-hours too.



Mark Nadeau

Outreach Case Worker

An elderly, home-bound female was stuck figuring out how she was going to get her groceries picked-up and brought home from our Emergency Food Pantry. We discussed need and delivery with them. Outreach stepped up and **delivered 3 bags of food**. The smile on her face was priceless and is what most would call a simple act of kindness.

Executive Chef Michelle

Bistro on Main

Burgers



Burgers & Fries ~ Salads & More ... Bistro has a new look, new hours and a new menu. The menu will be posted on our website and available starting Tuesday, May 4th. Tuesday & Wednesdays we are open from 11:30am – 3:30pm featuring incredible lunch deals, and Thursday-Saturday from 11:30am – 9:00pm, dine-in or carry out and eat under our tent.

Bistro Website

Interested in making a donation or volunteering your time?

Contact Us

Thank you to Paul Ofria for our photos