

# EPISTLE

October, 2018



**Bradford Congregational Church – UCC**  
**An Open & Affirming Congregation!**  
**Bradford, VT (802) 222-4034**

our website: <http://bradforducc.org>  
email us at: [bradfordvtucc@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordvtucc@gmail.com)  
see us on Facebook: **Bradford Congregational Church**

## **Message from Pastor Jeff:**

Remember Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>? It was the start of the church's program year – Church School was in session, special programming was being planned and the public school system was up and running. So, we dedicated backpacks – along with students, support staff, teachers, administrators, and our own church school teachers. We lined the backpacks up on the chancel along the table that holds the cross and candles. There were a lot of them. Following worship, we had delicious Sundaes with all the toppings. It was a great day to start our fall season.

But here's what you might not have known. The deacons knew of one family that was financially struggling. Backpacks might have been out of the question. So the deacons approved the expenditure of \$125 so the children could get backpacks and school supplies. The earth didn't shake. The heavens didn't open. There was no blinding light or blaring siren. Indeed, I suspect that most of us in the church didn't even know this gift had been given. Well, you do now!

Why? There are many things this church does in the community that many of us don't know about. The deacons have provided temporary housing for those with no place to stay. They have supported the efforts of our wonderful town library as it provides food to children who would otherwise be under nourished. It stands ready to assist anyone who is in need and with the winter coming and fuel costs mounting, our deacons are ready to help where help is needed. All of us should know about these efforts and our church's ability to continue to assist others.

You make this possible, you know. Each communion Sunday when you donate to the Deacons Fund you help to finance these efforts. Your generosity has given the deacons the ability to help others in the name of Christ and it truly makes a difference. Thank you.

But I have an additional request. The deacons are a great group of people, but they can only reach out in God's love if they know there is a need. That's where you come in. Let me or a deacon know of anyone who could use some help. We cannot promise that we can be of assistance but it's a sure bet that we can't help if we don't know there is a need. If it is someone in our church, our community or in our world, we want to know. Our church members and friends have been so generous. Help us to make use of the gifts we have received that the mission of the church might be expanded.

One final note, at the Deacons last meeting they approved up to \$250 in matching funds for hurricane relief. That means that if folks give \$250 to this effort, the deacons will match it. All of us were shocked by the devastation visited upon those in the path of Hurricane Florence. And Asia experienced a devastating Typhoon. The need literally reaches around the world. This is one small step we can take to be of help. You will find elsewhere in this edition of the Epistle how to make out your checks. And please, keep the relief efforts in your prayers.

Faithfully,  
**Pastor Jeff**

### **Pastor Jeff's office hours**

Sunday afternoons  
all day Mondays

**978-273-6399** is his recommended number to use at any time  
calls to 802-222-4610 will be answered only when he is in the parsonage

**Diaconate news:** here's how to make that donation Pastor Jeff just mentioned

If you wish to make a UCC Hurricane Relief donation, here are two ways

- 1) make out a check to Bradford Congregational Church. On the memo line write Hurricane Relief. Place this in the offering plate on Sunday or give to any Deacon. Our treasurer will make sure the donation, along with the matching Diaconate donation, goes to the UCC Hurricane Relief fund.
- 2) If your donation is by cash, let an usher or a Deacon know it is for the Hurricane Relief fund and the treasurer will be notified.

The website link for the UCC 2018 relief news is at [2018 Hurricane Relief](#)

Blessings and Ice Cream .... that was the **delicious** theme for our annual Welcoming Sunday in early September.



**Blessings:**

Students and educators brought in their school bags and we prayed for a wonderful year ahead.

**Ice Cream:**

Sundae Sunday is one of our favorites ... fruit, nuts, candies, sprinkles, jimmies ... OH BOY!



Book Brunch ... a **Mission/Social Action** gathering on September 30<sup>th</sup> Earlier, copies of Alan Gratz's "The Refugee" were handed out and we gathered over a delicious potluck brunch to discuss not only what we found most compelling about the book but also about how we felt compelled to action. A more detailed recap of our great discussion will be published in the November edition.

(about "The Refugee,") A *tour de force* from acclaimed author Alan Gratz (*Prisoner B-3087*), this timely and powerful novel tells the story of three different children seeking refuge.

**Josef** is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

**Isabel** is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America...

**Mahmoud** is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...

All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers, from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

If you would like to read this book, contact Holly Young at the Bradford library. You'll be glad you did!

Sunday School:

**Where important lessons are taught by caring teachers to kids eager to learn!**

The lesson shown here is that what we say and do has far-reaching consequences for everyone around us.

The figures in the tub represented the kids. Notice that one is in the center right next to a large fizzy tablet. A few drops of colored water on the tablet (a small unkindness by one person) resulted in a fizzy puddle that touched only that one figure. But when the whole group joined in unkind behavior (a larger amount of water on the tablet) they were all engulfed.

It was a powerful message of the importance of kindness and love.



## **Adult Ed**

- Pastor Jeff's Monday evening study of the Bible (part 2) is underway.
- Under review is an Advent devotional series which will be announced in November.
- A survey was sent out to interested parties about a study on the Lord's Prayer. The respondents indicated an overwhelming desire for the series to be in May, on either Sunday afternoons or Monday evenings. If you did not receive the survey and would like to answer its 4 questions please contact [Marcia Tomlinson](#).

## **YARD SALE NEWS:**

This year the yard sale was held on August 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> and was a real success. Thanks to everyone for their donations and for shopping with us. The total take was almost \$1300.00 for the church's general fund. We couldn't pull off this fundraiser without a lot of worker bees helping to set up, sell items and take care of all the items left behind. Thanks to Vida Munson, Martina Stever, Dan Perry, Dale Maclam, Charlotte Welch, Janice Larabee, Linda Gross and Evan Eastman for all of your hard work. Until next year.....

## **Annual Harvest Bazaar**

The 2018 Harvest Bazaar is right around the corner and we need your help! Below are the areas that need donated items for

- Candy table- fudge, brittle, bark, treats. Please label your items if they DO HAVE nuts.
- Food table- breads, cookies, jellies, pickles, and other baked goods. Please label your baked goods if they DO HAVE nuts.
- Craft table- knitted and hand made items of any kind. some examples are socks, scarves, aprons, hats, mittens, quilts, jewelry
- Attic collectibles table- any gently used items that someone may find as a collectible.
- New addition this year, All Holidays Table! - if you have anything holiday related that we could sell, for example pre-owned ornaments or decorations, hand made holiday items. All holidays welcome: Any season!

Luncheon will be chili and cornbread with apple crisp and cider. Please contact Maribeth if you could work in the kitchen.

**Date 10/20/18**  
**Time 9am-2pm**  
**Luncheon Time 11-1**

Please bring items in beginning Thursday 10/18 and Friday 10/19. Please bring food items on Friday. Church will be unlocked.

## Community Supper

The Community Supper in September was a great success ... so much so that extra tables and chairs were brought out to seat all who came. Kids, parents, and grandfolks ... it was so much fun.

The next supper will be October 25<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see YOU!

**Reminder: The Community Suppers are now the  
4<sup>th</sup> THURSDAY of each month**



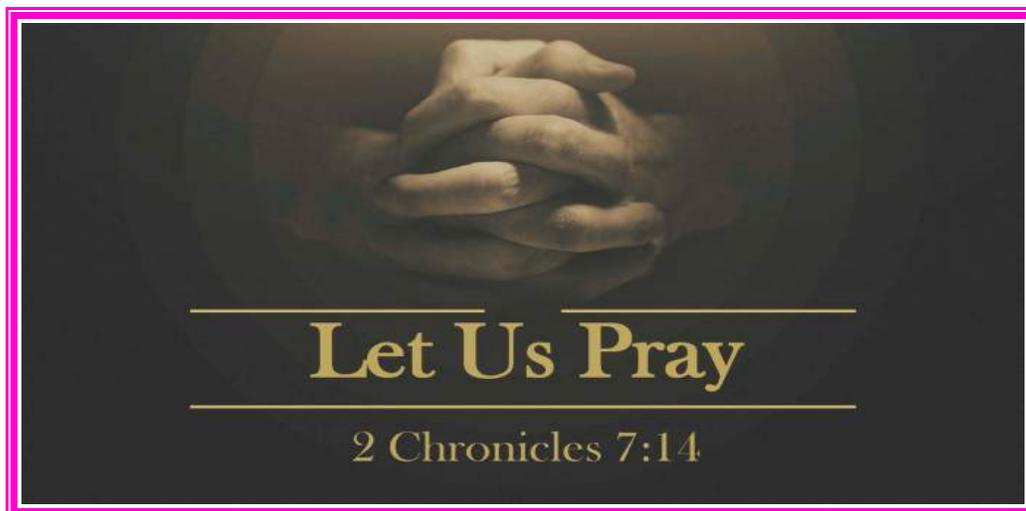
Hope you can join us!

Prayer requests may be emailed to  
[our prayer group](#) or [here](#)



**It is our privilege to pray for you and those you care about.**

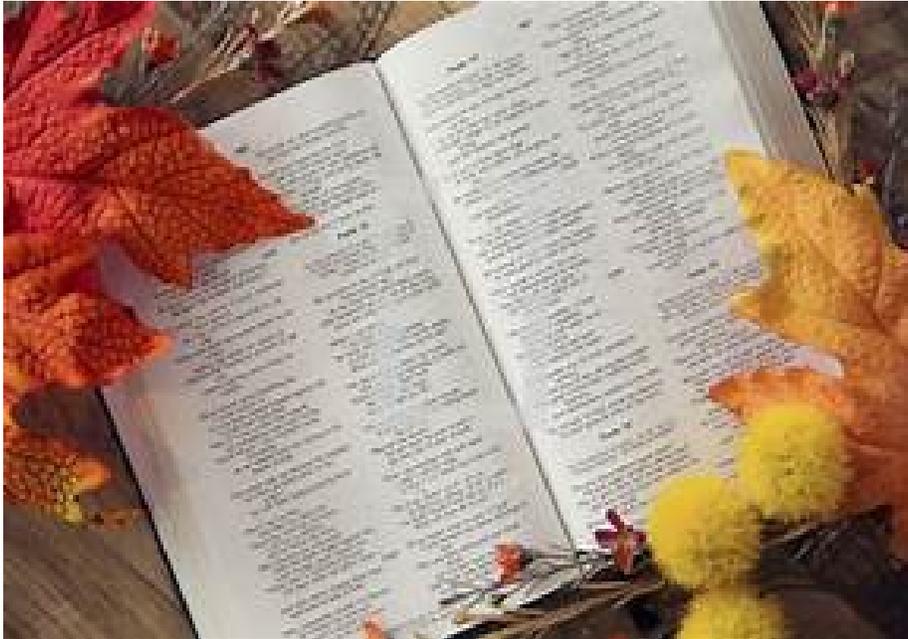
**We pray for each other,  
*without ceasing*  
and your prayer requests  
are held in strict confidence.**



## Lectionary Readings OCTOBER (Year B)

*The theme hymns may be linked to video performances ... click on each if you desire listening to hymns as you read your scriptures or meditate on them*

Everywhere is where you can think on the Word



### October 7

**Job 1:1; 2:1-10** (Job remains faithful)

**Hebrews 11:4; 2:5-12** (Jesus identified with all humanity)

**Mark 10:2-16** (adversaries continue to test Jesus)

**Psalm 26**

theme hymn: [\*The Lord Is My Light and My Help\*](#)

### October 14

**Job 23:1-9, 16-17** (Job asserts God's mercy and justice)

**Hebrews 4:12-16** (approach God with confidence)

**Mark 10:17-31** (follow Jesus along the Way)

**Psalm 22:1-15**

theme hymn: *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

## October 21

Job 38:1-7 (YHWH answers Job)

Hebrews 5:1-10 (fully human yet fully obeying God's will)

Mark 10:35-45 (truth told to James and John)

Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35c

theme hymn: *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

## October 28

Job 42:1-6, 10-17 (a theophanic\* whirlwind) \*God manifestation

Hebrews 7:23-28 (Jesus is the One alone we can trust)

Mark 10:46-52 (a beggar's faith made him well)

Psalms 34:1-8

theme hymn: *Here I Am, Lord*

## All Saints Day

Isaiah 25: 6-9 (the cloud of sorrow and death will vanish)

Revelation 21: 1-6a (God will make all things new)

John 11:32-44

*Psalms 24*

## November 4

Ruth 1:1-18 (Ruth pledges)

Hebrews 9: 11-14 (Christ attains eternal redemption for us)

Mark 12: 28-34 (Jesus gives us the greatest commandment)

Psalms 146

theme hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

## November 11

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 (God bestows life through Ruth and Boaz)

Hebrews 9:24-28 (in Christ it's a whole new age)

Mark 12: 38-44 (the widow's mite)

Psalms 127

theme hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

This Epistle is a monthly publication of the Bradford Congregational Church. It is uploaded the last day of each month. Anyone wishing to receive the email notification to it may request it by emailing the church email below.

Some helpful links:

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- our website is <http://bradforducc.org/>
- our church's email is [bradfordvtucc@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordvtucc@gmail.com)
- Click on [EPISTLE](#) to read back issue of this newsletter
- our Sunday School, Music and Missions are at [Programs](#)
- Past Sermons can be accessed at [News & Sermons](#).
- our congregation's activities are listed on our [online calendar](#)
- our Facebook page link is [Bradford Congregational Church](#)

