

EPISTLE

October, 2019



Bradford hills - October, 2019

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

Our website: <http://bradforducc.org>
email us at: bradfordvtucc@gmail.com
see us on Facebook: **Bradford Congregational Church**

Word from the Pastor

In this age of the internet with the ability for instantaneous communication, I ran across something disturbing. Dr. Emma Seppala writing for *Connectedness & Health: The Science of Social Connection* in May of 2014 shared this:

Research unfortunately shows that loneliness is on the rise. Despite its clear importance for health and survival, research shows that social connectedness is waning at an alarming rate in the US. A revealing sociological study showed that the modal number of close others (i.e., people with whom one feels comfortable sharing a personal problem) Americans claimed to have in 1985 was only three. In 2004 it dropped to zero, with over 25% of Americans saying that they have no one to confide in. This survey suggests that one in four people that we meet may have no one they call a close friend!¹

For all our technological mastery, despite a world wide web of connection, we feel less connected rather than more. Could it be that the technology we have created and rely upon is nothing more than a mask for anonymity? Are we sharing our opinions while withholding our presence? The poet T.S. Eliot perhaps said it best:

"Where is the Life we have lost in living?
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?

¹ Emma Sepalla, *Connectedness & Health: The Science of Social Connection*, Accessed September 24, 2019.

Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?"²

This was to be a revolution of connectedness where the boundaries of space and time were to be brought low. Instead, it is becoming the age of isolation where a sense of social connectedness is marginalized in the interest of speed and efficiency.

We are in need of those places where one's life is valued, where it is safe to share one's pain and celebrate life's victories. So, in worship, when I ask during Prayer Concerns and Joys, for folks to share those places in life where emotions are raw or joy runs deep, we listen to each other and find the warming of the Spirit as we lift all that has been said to the throne of God's grace. In the quiet moments of our shared worship we find a Spirit that makes us one. We are connected not by race, class or nationality but by the One who loves us all. The church, my friends, today offers what Information Technology cannot. "Behold, I am with you always even unto the end of the world." So Jesus promised and so I have found it to be.

Faithfully,
Pastor Jeff

From your Diaconate

A reminder: every Communion Sunday the small "Diaconate Fund" envelopes are placed in the pews. It is through your generosity that the Fund is available for helping those in need, be it heating oil, electricity, shelter, food, or medicine. Every donation, no matter its size, is graciously accepted!

If you know of someone in our area who is in need, please contact any Deacon, Pastor Jeff, or our church's Care Coordinator Carole Taylor.

The Diaconate and Pastor Jeff have signed his contract renewal for November through April. He recently served communion to our members at the Margaret Pratt Home on Plateau Acres. We are looking into holding a service of worship there on a regular basis; it's not only meaningful for the residents but is deeply moving for us as well. We will let you know what we learn and how you might be able to help.

Keeping warm: this is a reminder that if you ever feel chilly in the sanctuary there are fleece throws hanging on the coat rack near the entrance. Please use them!

Do you have a spiritual concern? We urge you to contact Pastor Jeff or any one of us on the Diaconate to listen to you, pray with you and for you in confidence.

Blessings to you all, from your Board of Deacons

²T.S. Eliot, *Choruses from the Rock*.

BMSA (Board of Mission and Social Action)

Hi All,

1. We will do our annual Neighbors In Need Collection on Sunday, Oct. 13 (from the UCC website) **Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Der Roman zum Twentieth-Century-Fox-Kinofilm



ANGIE THOMAS 

2. Our Fall Book Group will read **The Hate You Give** from Oct. 6 - Nov. 3. **The Hate U Give** is Angie Thomas's first **novel** about a teenage girl who grapples with racism, police brutality, and activism after witnessing her black friend murdered by the police. The **book** became an immediate young adult bestseller and was adapted into a movie shortly after its release. Our book group brunch will take place after church on Nov. 3.
3. The BMSA will have **SERRV items** on sale at the Women's Bazaar on October 19 from 9:00 - 2:00. SERRV items are made from crafts people around the world who are trying to improve the lives of their families by selling handmade items using locally sources materials.
4. The Board of Missions and Social Action will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at church. **Anyone is welcome to join us!**

Musically speaking ... October builds up to Reformation Sunday which emphasizes chorale preludes based on Martin Luther's, "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God). The organ music will be a mixture of German and Dutch music, except for Communion Sunday where I usually select French, Spanish, Italian, or south German music.

It is the Gathering music that will be new with the recently rebuilt Hamburg Steinway

piano, model O. The tone and responsive action is perfect for the piano music of Joseph Haydn. Having started on Sunday 29 September with sonata (entitled: "Divertimento in G Major"), I will continue with sonatas from Haydn's early period. Joseph Haydn (1732--1809) started publishing his sonatas rather late in life when he was about 34. The second sonata ("Divertimento in C Major") is scheduled for Communion Sunday, and "Divertimento in F major" for the second Sunday of October, and more are sure to follow.

John Atwood

Lectionary Readings OCTOBER (Year C)



October 6

Lamentations 1:1-6 (smothering the fires of hope)

2 Timothy 1:1-14 (keep on telling the gospel, no matter the cost)

Luke 17:5-10 (we are God's servant, not the other way around)

Psalm 137

theme hymn: Faith of Our Fathers

October 13

Jeremiah 29:1,4-7 (seek the shalom)

2 Timothy 2:8-15 (God's word is never shackled)

Luke 17:11-19 (one turns back to thank Jesus)

Psalm 66:1-12

theme hymn: Let All Things Now Living

October 20

Jeremiah 31:27-34 (He will no longer even remember their sin)

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5 (stand firm and preach the gospel)

Luke 18:1-8 (parable of an unrighteous judge)

Psalm 119:97-104

theme hymn: O Word of God Incarnate

October 27

Joel 2:23-32 (visions of hope, a new creation)

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (Paul has fought the good fight and finished the race)

Luke 18:9-14 (free Grace is mind boggling!)

Psalm 65

theme hymn: Thine Is the Glory

November 1: All Saints Day

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 (a perplexing dream)

Ephesians 1:11-23 (know the hope to which Christ calls)

Luke 6:20-31 (love and serve your enemies and pray for them)

Psalm 149

For All the Saints

November 3

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 (the just know to wait and live by faith)

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 (a struggle of a paradox)

Luke 19:1-10 (Jesus really shocks the status quo)

Psalm 119:137-144

theme hymn: Take My Life

November 10

Haggai 1:15b - 2:9 (God reassures: I am still with you)

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 (Thanking God for prior grace)

Luke 20:27-38 (a soap opera of trick questions for Jesus)

Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

theme hymn: Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

November 17

Isaiah 65:17-25 (vision of a new earth ... this calls for joy!)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (persist in doing well)

Luke 21:5-19 (all that glistens really, truly is not gold)

Isaiah 12

theme hymn: Christ, whose Glory Fills the Skies

And Youth Group:



The Youth Group had a great time at their first event, a family cookout and bonfire

Patrick Peters
Youth Group leader

Women's Fellowship

The Fall Harvest Bazaar will be Saturday October 19th from 9-2 in the vestry of the Church. We will have an attic collectables & antiques table, crafts table, Holiday table and food & candy table, and SERRV table. We will also have our Corn Chowder luncheon at 11am. We'd love your donations for any of the tables just mentioned. Some ideas for the food table are: Cookies, breads, pies (regular size and 4 or 5" sizes). Please label your food donations if they have nuts included. Please drop off your donations for all tables the Thursday or Friday or Saturday morning before the bazaar at the church.

The following ingredients are needed for the luncheon. There is a signup sheet in the Church Vestry or you can email

- Onions 5 pounds
- 15 cans of creamed corn
- 1 bag oyster crackers
- 4 dozen eggs
- 3 loaves white bread
- 3 loaves of wheat bread
- 5 cans evaporated milk
- 3 gallons of whole milk



(see the vestry sign-up sheet for which of the above are still needed)

Please let Maribeth know if you will be donating any of the above. The more donations we get the less we have to purchase! Maribeth can be reached at 222-9696. These items need to be at the Church by Wednesday October 10/16/19.

ADULT STUDY

A class offered by Pastor Jeff on Monday nights began September 23 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the church's vestry (the downstairs).

WE are exploring the lectionary readings that are assigned for October 20th. If you want to prepare in advance, here is a listing of the readings we are be exploring:

Jeremiah 31:27-34 [Alternate: Genesis 32:22-31]

Psalms 119:97-104 [Alternate: Psalm 121]

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

After we have explored the readings and gained some understanding of their meaning, we'll ask what common theme, if any, they share, what import they may have for our lives and then explore what shape the sermon for October 20th should take. Please let Pastor Jeff (pastorjeffuccbradford@gmail.com) know of your interest.



Another education offering ...

REFLECTION TIME will take place each Sunday from 11:30 a. m. until 12:30 p.m. alongside the coffee hour following church. It is a time to share our reflections about the service that Sunday. It is very informal and open to

anyone who wants to discuss the sermon or elements of the service that moved them. The sessions are facilitated by the Pastor Jeff and are sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

Steinway Restoration!

Our 1925 model O Steinway Grand Piano was in much need of restoration. It's now back!

Donated to the Bradford UCC Church by its beloved former music director and long time Bradford resident Katrina Munn, our Steinway is one of the very few in the United States that was made in Hamburg, Germany. Pianos made in Germany are considered by many to be superior in sound, character and feel. Our goal was to invest the necessary restoration efforts in order to bring the piano back to its melodic beauty so that musicians near and far can come to Bradford to experience its quality and perform for the community.



On June 8, the piano left the sanctuary for its journey to Lindeblad Piano Restoration in Pine Brook, NJ where the 4th generation family owned shop has been providing world class restoration of Steinway pianos since 1920. There it

underwent an historically accurate restoration and was recently returned to the sanctuary.

Since 1950 "Miss Munn" taught hundreds of local children on this piano and our community will enjoy the music from it for many years to come. Her desire to share her

love of music through teaching, lives on through our Steinway.

Your donations are tax deductible and will go directly to the cost of this restoration. Please help by donating here ([Steinway Restoration Fund](#)) or you may also send a donation in the US Mail to Bradford UCC- piano fund. PO Box 387. Bradford VT 05033. Please join in our effort to preserve the beauty, honor and joy that the Steinway that brings to our community.

Do you have photos and stories of when you were a student playing this piano? Please let us know! Here's what Bradford Alumni have written about the piano lessons they took from Katrina Munn on this piano:

I took lessons from Miss Munn... though not for very long, maybe a year... I didn't like to practice!! My sister Linda-BA junior high in '62-'64 and my Mom-Phyllis Perry Bowles '46 (I think), also took lessons from her!! [Phyllis was in the Class of 1947]

Patty Bowles Aja '71

I sang in the junior choir of the Congregational Church from 1st through 8th grades and Miss Munn played piano for our practices. Mine was the last class to be in the choir in 1st grade. The following year they moved the minimum age allowed to 2nd grade and the year after that to 3rd grade. I remember telling a student that I was in the choir in 1st grade and he wouldn't believe me because only 3rd graders and older were allowed after that. I don't remember our choir director's name, but she and her husband left to spend time in the Peace Corp and I thought it was strange since I thought folks did that only right after school before having a family and such.

Charlie Thompson '63

I was a long-time piano student of Katrina's from 6th grade through high school went on to be a music teacher and performer. She opened up the world of music to me and I shall be forever grateful. She was an amazing teacher. She prepared me well for college. I loved playing on Miss Munn's grand piano. She also taught me how to play the organ at the Bradford Congregational Church.

Through the years I have been a guest musician at the Bradford Congregational Church and yesterday I was fortunate to be the guest organist/pianist. I believe I was the first to play the newly restored grand piano. What a beautiful piano it is and how wonderful this fine instrument was restored.

Wanda Drew Kivela '67

I took many lessons on that wonderful piano in her living room. She was a dedicated musician, and put up with my too-small hands, and my casual approach to my lessons! Wish we could give to help pay for this renovation, but we had issues with a leaky pipe this summer. Please add my name to the hundreds of students who remember her well.

Franni (White) Goodine '58

I took lessons on both piano and organ from Miss Munn. I forget now exactly when I began with her, but for certain at least 6 years, maybe 7 or 8 years. I played that piano frequently and also the Congregational Church organ. I also sang in the choir at the church under her direction for several years. She was hard taskmaster, but fair and I learned a great deal from her.

Jim Palmer '66

I took piano lessons from Miss Munn for two years. I remember sometimes she would play the tune I was to practice for the next week near the end of the weekly lesson & have me dance around the room with my arms in motion while she played. Said it would give me a better sense of the tempo I should play at.

Shureen Bedell Metcalf '63

Miss Munn was my piano teacher too....she was cousin of mine too.. my mother was a Munn and of course that make us cousins of sorts.

Dale (Moore) McLam '63

I did, indeed, take lessons from Miss Munn, as did many, many others. I also recall John Cole, Class of 66, and Sandra Eastman, Class of 67 taking lessons from her as well.

Sarah Williams Polli, Class of 1966

I took piano lessons from Miss Munn. She was a wonderful teacher. I still play piano occasionally.

Lynn (Grant) Stocker '71

The late Marilyn Benjamin Betts Class of 1950 took lessons and sang under her leadership in the North Country Chorus. Also, Kasey Benjamin Weidman, Oxbow Class of 1996, daughter of David Benjamin, BA Class of 1966 took piano lessons from Ms Munn.

Peep Benjamin

I took lessons from Katrina...besides shoveling her snow in the winters.

Ronnie Bonneau '62

I was one of Miss Munn's piano students. She had amazing patience with me. She saw a talent that I was not prepared to explore, but she kept me going and ultimately I studied music in college and became a public school music teacher. A career that I truly enjoyed for 28 years.

Bonnie (Gibby) Machia '63



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.**

VERMONT CONFERENCE NEWS

Take the UCC Climate Survey

Each year the UCC partners with **Blessed Tomorrow** to conduct a climate survey. This survey helps us know what our members are thinking, how opinions change from year to year, where future possibilities for collective action reside, and how our denomination compares with the broader population.

[Take this 15-minute survey now!](#)



Sometimes events and/or changes come up after the Epistle has been uploaded. It's always good to check the Weekly Email for last minute updates.

To be added to the **Weekly Email** list, [click here](#). If you have an area event to list in the weekly Email's "Around Town" section, please let us know (send to mccmarciam3@gmail.com)!

This Epistle is a monthly publication of the Bradford Congregational Church. It is uploaded just before the 1st of each month. The deadline to submit news or articles to mccmarciam3@gmail.com is the 25th. Anyone wishing to receive the email delivery of the Epistle may request it by emailing the church email below.

Some helpful links:

- our website is <http://bradforducc.org/>
- our church's email is 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](#)