

Rev. Ruth L. Boling



The Rev. Ruth L. Boling brings 23 years of ordained ministry, 24 years of marriage, 14 years of motherhood, and a lifetime of rich and varied experiences in Presbyterian churches to the position of Designated Pastor of Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green.

Ruth grew up on the McCormick Seminary campus in Chicago, in faculty housing provided for her father, an Old Testament scholar and professor. She was formed as a Christian in the bilingual, bicultural community of her home church, Ravenswood Presbyterian, located in a changing Chicago neighborhood. She experienced Christianity in its global context through family travels, including three sabbatical years living in Jerusalem. She began to sense God's call to ministry during her undergraduate years at Yale.

She tested that call by working for three years as Coordinator for Education and Youth Ministry at the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland, Ohio, developing skills in youth & children's ministry, outdoor ministry and the "nuts and bolts" of church life. She was admitted to McCormick Theological Seminary as a G. Ernest Wright Scholar and Fund for Theological Education Fellow, and graduated in 1988 having received the Nettie F. McCormick Award for Old Testament Studies and the George Tressler Scott Fellowship in Practical Theology.

She married Carlos Monteagudo in 1988, and they moved to New England, where Ruth was ordained as Associate Pastor of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, in Bedford, NH, with primary responsibility for

educational ministry. While there, she discovered her love for storytelling, preaching, & writing, and gained experience in outreach, evangelism & stewardship. Her work with the Bedford church earned it the Tolly Thompson Award for Overall Excellence in Educational Ministry, given by Presbyterian School for Christian Education. She was named the 1995 recipient of the Alfred P. Klausler Sermon Award given by the Chicago Sunday Evening Club & the Christian Century Foundation. She has appeared and preached on the television program “Thirty Good Minutes” which features America’s finest religious thinkers.

Sorrow visited her in 1994 with the sudden death of her parents in a car accident. Joy visited in 1998 with the birth of her son Daniel. Opting to be a stay-at-home mom, Ruth turned to writing, collaborating with illustrator Tracey Dahle Carrier to create the popular “church mouse” books: A Children’s Guide to Worship, Come Worship With Me, and Mouse Tales: Things Hoped For.

She obtained a Birthday Offering Grant from Presbyterian Women to fund community based support groups for women in Haiti with lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis) and she chaired the project Advisory Committee. She also chaired the Presbytery of New York City’s Committee on Developing Congregations, which supports new immigrant fellowships from Ghana, the Congo, Pakistan, Thailand, Korea, South India, Latin America and Egypt. In 2008 she resumed full-time ministry as Interim Pastor of Olivet Presbyterian Church in Staten Island.

Along with these experiences, Ruth brings to Bloomfield an abiding faith in the tender mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ, and an abiding commitment to the work of peace, justice and healing in his name.

The Designated Pastor position is for an initial three-year term, and allows both our congregation and Rev. Boling to determine if we wish to make this a permanent position. Both the DPNC and Ruth feel grateful that God has led us to each other for this new relationship.