

## Faith Connection Story – St. John’s, Boalsburg

What is more ordinary than a safety pin? From holding a baby’s diapers in place to temporarily “mending” an embarrassing rip in a pair of pants, safety pins have been a staple in our home remedy kits for many years. Who would have guessed that this same mundane and utilitarian object could and would become a symbol of solidarity and support; an example of “hiding in plain sight”.

When St. John’s UCC in Boalsburg was looking for a way to quietly but meaningfully speak out to those being marginalized by the current climate of mistrust and fear in our country, the safety pin was once again put to good use. The following explanation was printed on a small card and accompanied by a safety pin decorated with various charms of hope such as hearts, peace signs, crosses and globes; also colorful beads.

Over 200 pins were made and given out as reminders to those who wear them, to reach out to those in need and to speak up for those who have no voice.

**You are Safe**  
*“Not all those who wander are lost.”*

J. R.

R. Tolkien

**Safety Pins Show Our Support**

In WWII the Dutch used safety pins as a secret symbol of solidarity for and with their Queen Wilhelmina, and against the Nazis. No words were needed to identify a friend. Today this tradition is being retooled as a symbol of safety and acceptance for those who are vulnerable and afraid in a cynical world. Wear this to show others that they are “safe” with you. Choose to promote a culture of unity, kindness, tolerance, peace, love, and freedom!

