

# Reverend: 'Let's light up Branford'

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By Lisa Reisman

BRANFORD — It's an idea that's brightening up the nation.

In American rural areas, towns, and cities, neighbors are challenging each other to dig out strings of twinkling Christmas lights, electric candles or even illuminated candy canes, and display them in their yards and windows.

Rev. Angela Rowley is asking her fellow Branford residents to join in. The idea came from her sister in England who "loves coming to Branford," she said.

"Looking out at night and seeing lights from other homes is a sign of reassurance and comfort," Rowley said. "It's a way to show that we're all in this together and

to show solidarity even though we're isolated."

The decorations don't have to be for Christmas. They can be homemade, or for any holiday, including St. Patrick's Day or the Fourth of July.

The idea is not to go to the store to get supplies, just to use what you already have. Rowley said if you don't have Christmas lights, just turn your porch light on, like it's Halloween, or if you have a lamp, put it closer to your front window.

"It sends the message that, as real and scary as this virus situation is, we'll get through it," she said. "Dark as this time might be, history, religion, and our own hearts tell us that light always overcomes darkness."



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