

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

APRIL 2016

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.: 9:30-12:30

Pastor's email:

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Church Office

Contact Information

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Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.: 9:30-1:00

Church email:

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columbiacongregationalchurch.org

Mission Statement

The Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ as part of the United Church of Christ and the worldwide Christian Church is called by God to be disciples of Jesus, the Christ. Therefore, the mission of the Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ is to worship God and to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ: to promote Christian fellowship among our members and friends, and to live in Christian fellowship with the Church Universal and the whole creation; that we might live faithfully, serving God and humanity, and striving for righteousness, justice, and peace.



FROM THE PASTOR'S PORCH

As I made my way along the path after an evening church meeting, the full moon shown through the thin clouds, still bright enough to cast tree shadows on the lawn. Later, the porch was bright as day, though it was near midnight. The white walls and black shutters of the church shown boldly in the night and the shadow-fingers of the branches seemed to be holding the building in place, as if it would lift up and disappear without them

We have entered the season of Eastertide when we unravel the impact of the Easter Event. We consider how Jesus' resurrection affects our lives, how it defines the nature of discipleship, and how belief leads to life, conversion and commitment: the shadow fingers of our faith. As an Easter congregation, we inquire, share, and trust each other's experience as we build a great storehouse of faith from which we all can draw nourishment. We are not left grieving by the empty tomb, but emboldened by the risen Christ and grounded in faith by power of the Holy Spirit.

April 17th is Stewardship Sunday and it is fitting that it comes in the midst of our focus on being a community of post-Easter faith. We are changed by the knowledge that Jesus lives, that God's love overcomes darkness and death, and by our commitment to love God, neighbor and self, which we do, in part, by ensuring this community of faith remains open and active in Columbia and in the world.

While my knee surgery is now scheduled for April 20th, I am confident the work of the church will continue. Familiar clergy will be leading worship, local clergy will be on call for emergencies, and the community of faith will care for one another. Church is more than one person. What holds the Body of Christ in place is the community of believers working together in life-changing and world-changing faith.

Keep the faith,

Pastor Betsey

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

APRIL 2016

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

APRIL 3/COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeters: Millie Ramsey, Kim Foss, and Ellie Foss

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

APRIL 10

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeter: Millie Ramsey

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

APRIL 17/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeters: Millie Ramsey

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

APRIL 24TH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Rev. Jamie Harrison

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeters: Millie Ramsey

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

COMING EVENTS

For our **COFFEE HOUR** contributions of finger foods are encouraged.

Donations in the Coffee Hour basket helps fund the coffee, milk, sugar and paper goods. Thanks for supporting this ministry.



**BIBLE STUDY CLASS/MONDAY'S
7PM -8:30PM/Parish Hall**

**FINANCIAL CLASS
SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 10, 17, 24
6PM – 8PM/Lounge**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH
CHURCH BREAKFAST
8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH
Church School Teachers Meeting
10AM – 12PM/Lounge.**

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
APRIL 17TH
Ice Cream Social following Worship
Service!**



LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by reading the Scripture or bringing a children’s sermon, please sign-up on the appropriate list on the bulletin board by the elevator door **and** speak with Pastor Betsey Polglase.

DEACON OF THE MONTH

APRIL – Millie Ramsey

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

APRIL – Doug Erickson

GREETERS AND USHERS

APRIL 3– **Deacons:** Millie Ramsey, Kim and Ellie Foss

APRIL 10 – Millie Ramsey

APRIL 17 – Millie Ramsey

APRIL 24 – Millie Ramsey

PARISH NOTICES

WAIM is frequently in need of the volunteer services of skilled craftspeople. If you are skilled as a carpenter, painter, electrician, plumber, sheet rocker, heating systems, computer technician, etc. and would be willing to become part of a craftsperson resource guide for WAIM please see Dixie Silvestri for survey form.

FOOD PANTRY IN URGENT NEED OF FOOD: The Church is collecting food for the Soup Kitchen and the Columbia Food Pantry. Items especially needed: Soups, Pastas and Cereals. If you would like to contribute, please leave items in the basket found at the front of the sanctuary or deliver directly to the Soup Kitchen.

Worship Schedule

APRIL 2016

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
April 3	Psalm 150 Acts 5:27-32	<i>"Servants of God"</i>	COMMUNION Dedication of Endowment Fund Plaque
April 10	Psalm 30 Acts 9:1-20	<i>"Most Unlikely Chosen"</i>	BAPTISM
April 17	Psalm 23 Acts 9:36-43	<i>"God Centered Life"</i>	
April 24			Rev. Jamie Harrison

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Does Church School help shape and nurture the faith of our children? Are you wondering why this is a question? Because I sometimes wonder if what we as teachers do makes a difference. My question was answered when I attended the Sunrise Service and listened to our Confirmands deliver the Service. Seeing them as young adults and exuding confidence in their faith made me realize that we do make a difference and I hope as their journey continues that they will always know that God loves them!

Church School wants to thank everyone for supporting the Heifer Bake Sale. The success of our Mission relies on the goodness of others and their hope to help end world hunger. It is our mission to help bring awareness to our youth of those living in poverty and hunger around the world and to incorporate in their hearts the importance of reaching out to those in need. Some of our youth spent their time one Saturday serving breakfast at our Community breakfast to help bring awareness of the importance of Heifer International and their quest to help these families living in poverty and hunger. One animal can make a difference in the lives of many.

Remember Hope is a beautiful thing.
Always Blessed, Jean

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Family and Friends
Get Together Breakfast
Come and linger for a while.

Saturday, April 9, 2016
8:00A.M to 11:00A.M
Columbia Congregational Church
Parish Hall, Route 87

“C’mon people now, Smile on your Brother,
Everybody get together. Try and love one another
right now.” Youngblood, Kingston Trio, J. Collins

Breakfast Buffet Menu: Belgian waffles, omelets, eggs, toast,
Bacon, sausage, ham, potatoes, juice, milk, coffee, tea,
Fruits, homemade muffins & coffee cakes
Suggested free will offering: \$10.00 per person
\$28.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

Accepting major credit cards!

SURPRISING GIFTS

Not long ago a security camera captured a little boy leaving a mysterious package at a police station reception window. It contained \$10.85 in coins. His grandfather had been a policeman killed long ago in the line of duty and the boy wanted to honor his memory. One of the officers at the station said, "It was so heartwarming. It made our day."

God surprises us with such amazing, transforming gifts! Sometimes we are the bearers of God's gifts.

Scripture assures us that first God gives to us: "God reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence." We can take heart; God knows our needs and hopes and wants only the best for us.

God's gifts enliven our capacity to respond with our gifts. In the next few weeks, remember how good God has been to you and give thanks for the wonder of your life. As you pray about making your pledge of support for the ministry of our church on **Stewardship Sunday, April 17**, with a confident and hope-filled heart let your response flow naturally. When we open our hearts to God, our response may surprise even us.

Terry and Jackie

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We are hosting a WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministry) day on Sunday, May 22. We will have a truck available for folks to drop off donations for WAIM at church that day. A guest speaker will also be available to answer any questions you may have about the organization and its programs.

They are always in need of pots, pans, dishes, towels and clothing. Please visit their website <http://waimct.org/donations/cash-donations/> and check out the list of items they will accept. **Remember any donated items should be clean and in working order.**

Remember WAIM during your annual spring cleaning. If you have furniture or appliances you would like to donate, WAIM has a truck available.

Summer Outdoor Fun

Silver Lake Conference Center, located in Sharon CT, is the Outdoor Ministry of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC, **Children ages 8-18** can experience a week-long “camp community with ‘unplugged’ friendship-making, outdoor fun, participation in creating the all-camp worship, serving one another, and creating sustainable connections with the environment, each other, and God. Colorful brochures are available at the church. More information, including downloadable registration forms can be accessed at www.silverlakect.org. Most conferences cost \$550 and run Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning. If financial assistance is needed, SLCC has discounts and scholarships, or you can speak with Pastor Betsey.

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Don and Donna Doucette wish to extend a **big thank you** to the congregation for their prayers and concerns for our nephew. Ten year old Nicholas Brierley arrived home to Kennebunk, ME the day after Easter in remission from brain cancer.

The Church Fair Committee has an ongoing need for glass baby food jars with caps, half-pint jars (jelly, or other wide-mouth 4 ounce jars with lids), Starbucks frappuccino bottles with caps (If you have the case that 4 bottles come in, that would be wonderful.) Also, a couple of small cabinet doors, shutters, and ceiling fan blades. We are always collecting wine corks. We no longer are collecting plastic bread tags. Thanks for your attention.

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you show love to one another.” John 13:34-35

We seek to be a loving and caring church community, contributing our time, our resources, and our love to help and support each other in times of need. This is the goal of our Care Team. We have a group approximately 12 members of our congregation that have signed up to offer their help with transportation, meals, short term chores or just a presence offering concern and fellowship. These volunteers do not replace Pastoral visits or calls. **Should you or anyone that you know need a little TLC from our Care Team, please contact Sue Milici at 860-228-4427 or email smilici@earthlink.net** New volunteers are always welcome.

**WELCOME TO THE
MOBILE FOODSHARE AT**

www.foodshare.org

This mobile pantry program provides fresh fruits,
vegetables and bread to individuals & families in need.

Andover Congregational Church

359 Route 6, Andover
(Corner of Rt 6 & Long Hill Rd.)

9:00 – 9:30AM

April 6, 20

May 4, 18

June 1, 15, 29

Baptist Fellowship Church

195 Route 6, Columbia

1:15 – 1:45PM

April 14, 28

May 12, 26

June 9, 23

**Bring your own bags; must be 18 years old
to receive food.**

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The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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