

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY 2016

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.: 9:30-12:30

Pastor's email:

pastorbetsey.ccchurch@gmail.com

Church Office

Contact Information

Phone 860.228.9306

Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.:9:30-1:00

Church email:

ccchurch@snet.net

website:

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

*"The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry"
Robert Burns 1785*

My father often quoted this snippet of Burn's poem when I faced frustration because my plans had failed to reach expectations. While Burns is writing about a field mouse's winter nest that he had just destroyed with his plough, it always seems so appropriate when plans go awry. Here I had planned for my knee surgery: prepared myself physically and mentally; selected a date that would be least intrusive in my work in the church; worked with the deacons to line up coverage for several Sundays; informed the church President and the council and the trustees; looked ahead to the Sundays of Lent fast approaching; and coordinated with our church secretary so all would go smoothly. Like the little field mouse, I had prepared for what I knew lay ahead. I was ready, except for that nagging cough. Like Burns' plough that destroyed the neat and well-stocked nest, the diagnosis of pneumonia tossed all the preparations aside. Fortunately, unlike the poor little mouse who might not survive the winter, such disruption is mere inconvenience and irritation.. I guess I could call it a dress rehearsal for when I do get the knee replaced.

In my head I hear Jesus telling the disciples in his Sermon on the Mount not to worry about anything because such worry changes nothing. God provides what is needed. Rather than worry, trust in God (MT 6:25-34). And I hear Paul exhorting the Philippians not to worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving bring our concerns to God (Phil 4: 6-7). I am grateful for everything being in place so I can recover and regain my strength. I am grateful for this loving congregation that supports me whether I am dealing with knee surgery or pneumonia. I am grateful that I will enter into this Lenten season rested and strong.

The course of events is hardly a big bump in the road. Certainly we all have experienced more disturbing and disruptive events in our lives. Yet, this is a strong reminder that when we rest in the love of God and feel the love of others, we can reside in the Peace of Christ. Let us all enter this season of Lent trusting in God's grace. **Wishing you peace in this Lenten season, Pastor Betsey**

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FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

FEBRUARY 7/COMMUNION

LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Rev. Jamie Harrison

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeters: Sally Ruef, and Janice Knight.

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

FEBRUARY 14

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

FEBRUARY 21

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

FEBRUARY 28

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 10TH

7:00PM Worship Service with communion/Sanctuary

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

CHURCH BREAKFAST

8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

WAIM SPAGHETTI DINNER

6:00PM -7:30PM/Parish Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

Church School Teachers Meeting

10AM – 12PM Lounge.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH

CORNED BEEF DINNER

6:00PM – 7:30PM/Parish Hall



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

FEBRUARY – Sally Ruef

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY – Sally Ruef

GREETERS AND USHERS

FEBRUARY 7– **Deacons:** Sally Ruef, and Janice Knight.

FEBRUARY 14 – Sally Ruef

FEBRUARY 21 – Sally Ruef

FEBRUARY 28 – Sally Ruef

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.

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ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday will be observed on **February 10th** with a worship service that includes communion by intinction and an opportunity to light a candle as an expression of a desire for healing.

Ash Wednesday begins the period of Lent, the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) when Christians engage in spiritual disciplines involving repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love. We see an allusion to Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the desert after his baptism by John as well as to Moses' 40 days of fasting and prayer in response to the people making the Golden Calf to worship.

After the 7th century this service was widely used and included, then, an imposition of ashes. Ashes were used in ancient times to express [mourning](#). Dusting oneself with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sin. This practice is continued by some churches.

The day in general, and our service more specifically, is a time for contemplating and repenting our transgressions, acknowledging life's transience, and recognizing God's gift of Jesus Christ through whom we are forgiven. Through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper we are brought back into communion with the Holy and those who have gone before.

LENTEN CARBON FAST

The CTUCC Environmental Ministries Team invites us to participate in this year's Lenten Carbon Fast, an initiative of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC and New England Regional Environmental Ministries. To learn more and sign up for daily reflections on how to take small steps to reduce your carbon footprint and reduce the damage to the environment go to www.macucc.org/carbonfast.

Here's how it works:

Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity.

Initiated by the UCC and endorsed by Episcopalians, people of every Christian perspective – and people who are not Christians – have benefitted from this opportunity to become more conscious and conscientious in their daily lives.

Several of our congregation have entered into this Lenten spiritual discipline in the past years and found the messages thought provoking and helpful in finding ways to work for a better environment.

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FEBRUARY 2016

Worship Schedule

FEBRUARY 2016

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
February 7	Rev. Jamie Harrison at the pulpit.		COMMUNION
February 10	ASH WEDNESDAY	SERVICE	7:00PM
February 14	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Luke 4:1-13	<i>"Packing for the Journey"</i>	
February 21	Psalm 27 Phil. 3:17-21	<i>"Imitators"</i>	
February 28	Psalm 63:1-8 1Corinthians 10:1-13		LAITY SUNDAY

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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

The Church School has been learning the importance of loving like Jesus. We are filling school bags, making valentines for our shut-ins and will begin to collect funds for Heifer. It is amazing that one animal can make a difference to a family living in poverty and through Heifer International we can help make a difference.

Giving is a part of what we are called to do. You must be willing and able to give, give time, give attention, give money, give nice words, and touch others with your actions. We have set up a corner of giving in our classroom. Each child can decide where they would like to give and help make a difference. As a group we will begin our annual Heifer program where we reach out and try to make a difference in those living in Hunger and Poverty.

Fill the Ark is a four week program where the students fill their ark banks. We choose animals they would like to purchase and send to families in need. Also, to help raise funds we will host bake sales and a car wash. Our church school has done a wonderful job with this outreach program and asks that if you want to donate to please see any of the children or teachers. Your gift is one that will keep on giving. Recipients of the animals pass on the gift of the newborns to other families. With these promise communities lives are changed for the better.

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 7** Handout Ark Banks
 - Feb. 10** Ash Wednesday
 - Feb. 13** Bake Sale: during community breakfast
in the foyer
 - Mar. 12** Children help with Church Breakfast
 - Mar. 13** Church Bake Sale
 - Mar. 20** Palm Sunday/Hand in arks/Parade
 - Mar. 27** EASTER: Living Cross/Bring in flowers
- Car Wash TBA

Be Kind to One Another and Always to Give Your Love to Others.

In Love, Jean

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

Saturday, February 13, 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



SPAGHETTI DINNER



FRIDAY Feb 19th
6:00 to 7:30PM

**MENU: Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread,
Desserts, Coffee, tea, iced tea, and
lemonade. Tickets: \$10 per person, Seniors
\$9. We now take credit cards!**

Columbia Congregational Church 325 Rte 87

RSVP: ccchurch@snet.net or 860.228.9306

Proceeds are to benefit WAIM

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THANK YOU - I read in this months Newsletter the following and feel it expresses how I and my family feel about our church family. Loving, caring and supporting in times of need. I and my family were in a time of extreme need and everyone came forward with prayers, cards, hugs and helping wherever they could to help me and the family to deal with Ed's passing. Thank you so much. It will take time to heal but you have made it a little easier with your support. **Thank you from Velvet, Denna & Mark, William, Emily and Gabby. God Bless**

“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.



**CORNER BEEF DINNER
AND CABBAGE DINNER**

FRIDAY MARCH 4th

From 6:00 to 7:30PM



MENU:

CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

\$12.00 per person

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Easter Flowers



Easter – March 27, 2016

The Flower Committee will begin accepting flower orders used to adorn the church for Easter services. This year there are four selections, listed below. Flower dedications will be printed within the Easter Service bulletin.

The Flower Committee requests that you **place your order by Sunday, March 13.** Checks may be made out to Columbia Congregational Church (memo: Easter plant) or money may be given to Debbie Francis or Nelisa Reagan after church service. You may also leave your order in the Flower Committee mailbox. If you prefer to mail an order, please send your completed form and payment to:

Debbie Francis
23 Heritage Road, Columbia, CT 06237

<u>Type of Flower</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
6" White Lily	\$9.50	_____
6" Pink Lily	\$9.50	_____
6" Tulip	\$8.00	_____
4" Pansy	\$4.00	_____

Please **PRINT** your dedication message **NEATLY** in the space below. Also include phone number in case we have any questions.

Dedication From:

Dedication Message:

Contact Name/Phone#: _____



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Pastor's email: pastorbetsey.ccchurch@gmail.com

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

Church office email: ccchurch@snet.net website: columbiacongregationalchurch.org

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