

THE STEEPLE CHIMES

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY

2013

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.: 9:30-12:30

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Church Office

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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.

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



FROM THE PASTOR'S PORCH

The other day, Jack Frost's art work covered the upstairs storm windows of the parsonage. As a child I used to spend a lot of time looking closely at Jack's crystal pictures, searching for a comprehensible design, much like searching for pictures in clouds in the summer. I find I am still intrigued with this art work. One window looked like large ferns rising up from a field at woodlands edge. Another looked like a tangle of seaweed, only white. Yet another had a flock of birds flying across it. I tried to take a photograph of these amazing pictures but found I either lack the correct kind of camera or the skill to use the one I have. Some of nature's beauty is difficult to capture.

I do hope many of you will participate in our "This is God's World" art show, described more fully elsewhere in the Newsletter. As I mentioned in church, you don't have to be a professional photographer or artist. You were moved to capture some aspect of nature and now you can share that perspective with others.

Just as nature is ever evolving, so does our personal faith understanding. If we consider the Holy Scriptures to be the "Living Word of God" we can make room for new insights, new visions of Jesus' work and the in-breaking of God's realm while holding fast to the core tenants of the faith. During these last weeks of Epiphany, we can be open to new revelations of the Holy.

We then enter Lent on February 13th. This is a period of self reflection and discovery as well as a time for community gathering to look back on who we are and whose we are. It is a time to begin anew our pursuit of life in Christ, refocus on the faithful path and the goal of the journey, through repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Attending church services, establishing a new or renewed personal time for scripture reading and prayer, and finding ways to both reflect and stretch ones faith understanding are especially useful at this time. I hope you will participate in the extra programs during this coming season of Lent designed to assist in the journey.

Always trusting in God's presence,

Pastor Betsey

February 2013

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**FEBRUARY 3**

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Jack Sabine

Lay Reader: Jack Sabine

Greeters: Charlotte Sabine, Sally Ruef, John Polglase and
Kathy Chapman**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****FEBRUARY 10**

LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Jack Sabine

Lay Reader: Jack Sabine

Greeter: Jack Sabine

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****FEBRUARY 17**

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****FEBRUARY 24**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Jack Sabine

Lay Reader: Jack Sabine

Greeter: Jack Sabine

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****COMING EVENTS****FAMILY SUNDAY** will
continue to be Loaves and
Fishes Fellowship Hour.Each family is asked to
bring in one
appetizer/finger food to
share on our buffet table
(cookies, cheese & crackers,veggies & dip, mini sandwiches...nothing that
needs to be warmed or eaten with a utensil).
Bring **ONLY** enough servings to feed 8-12
people.**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND****Activity Night/Parish Hall – 6:30PM – 9:00PM****SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION****After Worship Service Sunday, February 3rd.****ASH Wednesday, February 13th**

7:00PM Worship Service with Communion.

Saturday, February 16th

Church School Teachers Meeting

10:00AM – 12:00PM Lounge.

Saturday, February 23rd

Church Breakfast 7:00AM -11:00AM.

Saturday, February 23rd

This Is God's World Church Art Show 2013!

Artistic Expressions of Nature.

February 2013



LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by being a LAY READER and 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 – Jack Sabine

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY – Ralph Tangarone

GREETERS AND USHERS

FEBRUARY 3- Deacons: Jack Sabine, Charlotte Sabine, Sally Ruef, John Polglase and Kathy Chapman

FEBRUARY 10 – Volunteers needed

FEBRUARY 17 - Volunteers needed

FEBRUARY 24 - Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2013 is always welcome. Cards may be left in the Stewardship box, given to any member of the Stewardship Committee or handed into the Church Office. Extra pledge cards are available in the Stewardship box upon request. We invite your generosity in supporting the 2013 budget.

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 Anthony White, Sr. 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.

February 2013

Worship Schedule – February 2013

(Subject to change at pastors discretion)

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Worship notes
Feb. 3	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Luke 4: 21-30	“Outside the Box”	Souper Bowl Offering Communion
Feb. 10	Ex. 34:29-35 Luke 9:28-36,37-43	“Astounding Glory”	Transfiguration
Feb. 13	Joel 2 Mat. 6:1-6,16-21	Ash Wednesday service at 7:00	
Feb 17	Psalm 91:1-2,9-16 Luke 4: 1-13	“Strength in Our Weakness”	
Feb. 24	Psalm 27 Luke 13: 31-35	“Divine Shelter”	

February 2013

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Church School will be celebrating the love in our hearts for one another. January 27 we will be decorating and filling the Church World Service School Bags. We collected all the school items in the beginning of the school year and now we will decorate and fill the bags for shipping in April. Church World Service will send the bags where they are most needed giving children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. Here's a gift that really makes a difference. Letting our love shine makes a simple gift priceless.

VALENTINES FOR SHUT-INS:

The children will make valentines to show how much we care for those who cannot always be with us and to let them know they are thought of and loved.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL:

We are taking part in Heifer's Despair to Dream campaign that will help struggling families lift themselves out of hunger and poverty: one animal, one family at a time. Through Heifer animals and training families are able to increase their income 23 times over. The children take great pride in this life changing mission. This mission is part of our Lenten program, where each child receives an ark bank for saving towards their class animal. Each class chooses a farm animal or trees to purchase through Heifer's "Pass it on" program. Each recipient agrees to give the first born to another family who in returns does the same. This gift is one that keeps on giving.

Be on the lookout for coffee hour bake sales in February and March! They are a great way to support the Church School in their effort to raise money for their animals. Our work with Heifer encourages the children to be involved in the quest to end hunger so that our commitment to ending hunger will be passed on from generation to generation.

NICKELS FOR NETS: We surpassed our goal of 25 nets to 30 nets. Helping save lives is worth every nickel saved.

Remember: The Greatest Commandment: Matthew 22:37

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Happy Valentine's Day

Jean Murphy

February 2013

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday will be observed on February 13 with a worship service that includes communion and an opportunity to light a candle as an expression of a desire for healing.

Ash Wednesday begins the period of Lent. It comes 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) and makes an allusion to Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the desert after his baptism by John. We can also see reference to Moses' 40 days of fasting and prayer in response to the people made 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, according to the Bible, 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.

February 2013

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

In the coming weeks the Stewardship Committee will be soliciting input from members of the congregation about what this church means to them. It may be only a few lines and can take many different forms. We would like to print some of these in the newsletter and could be anonymous if you wish. Since this is our request of the congregation I'll lead off.

Why is the Columbia Congregational Church significant in my life?

Our church provides a welcoming and accepting environment where I can worship with others in a peaceful setting. Though we have many differences we are able to unite in support of each other and the world around us through our faith. In our faith community I find tranquility and friendship that is unusual and sustaining in a very hectic and competitive world.

David Coley
Chairman
Stewardship Committee

February 2013

Greetings!

Shake off the winter doldrums and join us **Saturday, Feb 2nd at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall!** **We'll be making Valentine's and decorations for the breakfast at the end of the month. We'll be baking also.** And if that isn't enough, we'll put together some comfort dolls. No experience needed, all ages welcome, just join us for the fellowship and fun!

February 3 our Youth will be standing at the exits after worship with pots and pans collecting for the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. Your generous donations will go to the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.



Sheets and Pillow Cases Needed!

Darien Parmenter, a senior at Bolton High School will be collecting gently used pillow cases and sheets. These will be used as part of her senior project to help support missions in Haiti, by supplying them with diapers, pillowcases, and sun dresses for the children in need. Donations can be left in the Parish Hall or given to Darien before or after service. Thank you!

“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 Dixie at 860-228-8480 or email dixiesilvestri@hotmail.com New volunteers are always welcome.

February 2013

Family and Friends Get Together Breakfast

Come and linger for a while.

Saturday, February 23, 2013

Columbia Congregational Church

Web site: www.colcch.org

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

Youngblood, Kingston Trio, J. Collins

Greetings _____

Join us for Breakfast: 7:00-11:00A.M. Sat.23rd

In the Church’s Parish Hall on ROUTE 87

Buffet Menu: waffles, omelets, eggs, toast

bacon, sausage, ham, potatoes

juice, milk, coffee, tea

Homemade muffins & coffee cakes

Suggested free will offering: \$8.00 per person \$24.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

To ensure food availability, please RSVP at

ccchurch@snet.net or 860 228-9306

An RSVP is appreciated but NOT REQUIRED

February 2013

This Is God's World



Church Art Show 2013

Artistic Expressions of Nature

Share your **nature photographs, watercolor or oil paintings, pen & ink or colored pencil drawings, or collages** or other visual art form.

Subject matter is the beauty or harshness of nature; care and creativity of God or humanity as seen in nature, or destructive results of human activity upon nature.

The purpose of the display is to **build awareness and appreciation** for **the gift of creation**, as well as offering an opportunity to share our personal perspectives and talents. Typed name of artist and short description of subject is requested with each submission.

Display will begin on February 23rd in Fellowship Hall (submission for this beginning display by February 21st). Additional art will be accepted on **March 7th** and **April 11th**. The display will remain through April 28th when we will have our **Creation Pageant**.

February 2013

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 \$435 and run Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning. If financial assistance is needed, please speak with Pastor Betsey.

February 2013

If rainbow-splashed scarves blowing in the California breeze on a hot summer day don't raise a few eyebrows and generate some dialogue, the Rev. Marja Coons-Torn doesn't know what will.

In a colorful, symbolic move to stem the tide of violence — most notably, the recent wave of bullying — Coons-Torn has created the UCC Scarf Project with a goal of crafting 3,000 scarves in time for the United Church of Christ's General Synod 29 next July in Long Beach, Calif.

"The project has spread like wildfire," said Coons-Torn. "It truly has taken on a life of its own. I know of men and women in at least a half-dozen conferences that are already hard at work."

One church off and running with the project is St. John's UCC in Mifflinburg, Pa., where the Rev. Susan Gabbard has a message for those who are bullied: You do not deserve it.

"There are some people who are just so full of hate and insecurities that they look for other people to pick on to make themselves feel better," said the Rev. Susan Gabbard, church pastor. "It's not even about you."

Volunteers have started to knit, crochet and weave their way to creations 4 to 6 inches wide and 60 inches long, says Coons-Torn.

"We learned about the use of scarves by other denominations who were raising awareness about other issues," she said. "The scarves are a bright and visible symbol of the commitment we're asking of people."

Here's the hook:

Scarves of varying patterns — each sporting rainbow colors — are being made to be given to Synod attendees who pledge to commit to acting against violence. "It could be talking with your school superintendent about bullying, volunteering at a women's shelter or writing to your senators," said Coons-Torn of the advocacy possibilities.

"So when someone walks up to you at General Synod and asks you about your scarf, you offer to give it to them if they will agree to take an action against violence," she said. "Then you can return to the display hall and pick out a new scarf."

Andy Lang, executive director of the UCC's Coalition for LGBT Concerns in Cleveland, expressed deep gratitude to Coons-Torn and scarf-makers nationwide "who've taken the initiative to conceive and launch this project."

"General Synod in Long Beach will be a seascape of rainbow colors, and an opportunity to renew our commitment to protect every youth whose life and health are endangered by bullying," said Lang.

While skeins of yarn transform into thousands of scarves, Coons-Torn is also optimistic that the act of compassion will turn into help for victims of violence — including vulnerable LGBT teenagers who increasingly experience teasing, taunting and harassment.

If you would like to be part of this project please see Denise Parmenter or Dixie Silvestri. More info on this project can be found on the UCC website at <http://www.ucc.org/news/join-the-rainbow-scarf.html> We would love to send scarves from our church. We would need them by mid May.

Thanks for caring.

February 2013



And lo, the angel of the Lord appeared unto Beatrice the organist and delivered unto her a new hymn from the Lord God and bade her play it on Sunday. But Beatrice sighed and explained that the congregation would rise up as one and smite her with pew cushions if she were to assault their ears with an unfamiliar sound. And the angel went sorrowing away.

(by Daniel E. Gawthrop)