

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:

colcch.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

Elliot, our orange cat, and I have been enjoying the porch this comfortable Sunday evening. There is a gentle breeze sifting through the screen stirring his long hair and caressing my cheek. Looking up from my book, I have noticed the hummingbird dipping its beak and long tongue into the feeder, and Elliot eyeing the squirrel high in the dogwood, apparently feasting on the berries. But the long daylight hours have come to an end and the crickets have taken up the song after the birds have quieted, and the fireflies spark between the grass and the tree branches. It's summertime.

The pace has slowed a bit, at least on some days. I have gotten out in my kayak and my container gardens are doing pretty well. I have finished one novel and am half way through another.

Yet, even now there is work to be done at the church. As our fiscal year draws to a close, Annual Reports are due for the Annual Meeting in September. Stewardship is tallying and following up on pledges so necessary for planning the financial status for the coming year. The Board of Finance is wrestling with the budget. Trustees are overseeing the painting of the exterior of the church and the replacement of the parsonages upstairs windows. The various boards and committees are settling up their own budget needs. Nominating is looking for volunteers to fill the 2012-2013 slate. I am looking ahead to another confirmation class, beginning a Bible study, and planning fall worship services as well as an overall plan for the year ahead. Yet in the midst of the work are vacations and family times which draw folks away from church involvement. Time will fly by and September upon us before we know it.

My hope is that you all get some down-time, time to sit back and just breathe and look around to assess the blessings you have everyday but are often too busy to notice. I hope you take time to recognize God's active presence in your life, to discern what God calls you to do to nourish your soul, to support the church, and to respond with care for others. Jesus regularly went off to be by himself and to be with God, but he always came back to be in relationship with others – both disciples and strangers – even after his death at which time he promised to be with us always. Ours is a faith of action and relationship. Have a good summer and remember to stay connected to God and the church.

See you in church,

Pastor Betsey

July/August 2012

Sunday 10:00 am Worship**JULY 1**

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Terry Tangarone

Lay Reader: Terry Tangarone

Greeters: Terry Tangarone, John Polglase, Jack Sabine, Sally Ruef, and Charlotte Sabine.

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**JULY 8**

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Terry Tangarone

Lay Reader: Terry Tangarone

Greeter: Terry Tangarone

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**JULY 15**

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Terry Tangarone

Lay Reader: Terry Tangarone

Greeter: Terry Tangarone

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**JULY 22**

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Terry Tangarone

Lay Reader: Terry Tangarone

Greeter: Terry Tangarone

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**JULY 29**

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Terry Tangarone

Lay Reader: Terry Tangarone

Greeter: Terry Tangarone

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 for the remainder of the year. 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.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

Columbia Congregational Church will have a float again this year in the parade. The Town of Columbia Summer Concert starting 5PM – 8PM. Being held on the town green.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE DEADLINE – Monday, August 20th!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH 8:30AM – 12:30PM, Church School Teacher's Workshop.

SEPTEMBER 9TH – RALLY DAY! Register and meet your Church School Teachers.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH Church School Begins! Dedication of Church School Teachers.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH – ANNUAL MEETING immediately following worship service.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND - 4TH ANNUAL SHRED-A-THON! 9:00AM – 1:00PM (In front of the Old Fire House)

July/August 2012

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

AUGUST 5

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeters: Sally Ruef, and Millie Ramsey.

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

AUGUST 12

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

AUGUST 19

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

AUGUST 26

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Rev. Art Dunham

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

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

July/August 2012



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

JULY – Terry Tangarone

AUGUST – Sally Ruef

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

JULY – Doug Erickson

AUGUST – Ralph Tangarone

GREETERS AND USHERS

July 1– **Deacons** – Terry Tangarone, John Polglase, Jack Sabine, Sally Ruef, and Charlotte Sabine.

July 8 – Anthony White, Sr.

July 15 – Volunteers needed

July 22 – Volunteers needed

July 29 – Volunteers needed

GREETERS AND USHERS

August 5- Deacons: Sally Ruef & Millie Ramsey

August 12 - Volunteers needed

August 19 - Volunteers needed

August 26 – Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2011 – 2012 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 2012 budget.

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CONCERN – has an ongoing need for clean, empty food containers with lids for donation to the Covenant Soup Kitchen. A collection box for them is located in the coat closet near our Church Office. Thank you for helping to fill this need and recycle too. Items to be donated to WAIM should be taken directly there. Thank you for your assistance.

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 craftspeople resource guide for WAIM please see Anthony White, Sr. for survey form.

July/August 2012

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. **NOTE:** Our next visit to the Soup Kitchen is Friday, July 27th. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board leading into the Parish Hall.

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS~

Summer is here and we are all celebrating the warm weather, leaves on the trees and flowers blooming. I am celebrating the joy of all the wonderful people who helped make our Church School a wonderful place to be. We were blooming long before the summer winds blew in and the fruits of our teaching are everlasting.

I celebrate the joy of our children and the wonderful job they did presenting the Service in June. They filled the Church with beautiful music, a message filled with “What Would Jesus Do” and a message filled with love. A good celebration begins with preparation for the event. Lynn Sharpe our event coordinator, Nancy Douton our music ministry coordinator, the teachers who helped prepare the children for their parts and the parents who made sure the children were at practices and helped them with their parts were responsible for the glorious outcome to our celebration. I found myself singing and smiling for days and I thank the Lord for these wonderful gifts.

They say it is better to give than to receive and getting children to understand this concept is a little challenge but we see them working hard to save their coins, sharing their time and saying prayers to help those in need. I believe that is worth celebrating.

- C.W.S. SCHOOL BAGS: 52 BAGS
- NICKLES FOR NETS: 28 NETS
- VALENTINES FOR OUR SHUT-INS
- HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: \$3,038.00
- PRAYER WALL: JOYS AND CONCERNS

I celebrate Brianna Starkey, Shane Ryan and Zack Weston for being confirmed and the joy that Brianna Starkey will be helping us in Church School. It is amazing to see the transformation of a child as they grow in their faith may their journey forward always be guided by God.

Remember: The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, let me sow pardon. Where there is doubt, let me sow faith. Where there is despair, let me sow hope. Where there is darkness, let me sow light. Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.

July/August 2012

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Joy In all your Celebrations, **Jean**

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

2012

▪ **Branden Bassett**, Windham High School

Branden will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall.

▪ **Hannah Bassett**, Windham Middle School

Hannah will be attending Windham High School in the fall.

▪ **Maureen Chapman**, Lyman Memorial High School

Maureen will be attending the University of Connecticut Avery Point, in the fall.

▪ **Amy Cobb**, Eastern Connecticut State University

Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. She is currently working at Eastern.

▪ **Keith Combs**, Windham Technical High School

▪ **Lee Combs**, Windham Technical High School

Keith and Lee will be attending Three Rivers Community College in the fall.

▪ **Emelie Vanasse**, Bolton High School

Emelie will be attending George Washington University in the fall.

July/August 2012

Congratulations to **Bill Niedzwiecki** on his wedding nuptials held Friday, May 25th! Bill is the son of Denna and Ken Niedzwiecki.

Congratulations to **Denna Niedzwiecki and Mark Chenette**, who will be united in marriage on Saturday, July 21st, here at Columbia Congregational Church. Denna is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ed Welch.

The Bell Choir and Women's Guild, thank all who helped with and supported the PLANT SALE. After the bills were paid, the profit was \$909.81 which was divided between the two groups.

"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 of 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.

July/August 2012

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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

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

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 177

Columbia, CT 06237

860.228.9306

Email: ccchurch@snet.net website: colch.org

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