

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.: 9:30-12:30

Pastor's email:

pastorbetsey.cchurch@gmail.com

Church Office

Contact Information

Phone 860.228.9306

Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.: 9:30-1:00

Church email:

cchurch@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

What a beautiful spring we had! The dogwoods and daffodils were particularly lovely. And I love driving along seeing all the different shades of green. The down side was the unusually hard allergy season for some, and a thick coating of pollen on everything on our porch.

Now that it is June, bringing the heat of summer, colleges have finished, and high schools are wrapping up their programs (congratulations to those graduating). In a couple of weeks our Sunday school teachers will be starting their summer recess and choirs will participate intermittently.

However, worship continues as usual. The successful 2nd Saturday breakfast will be held on June 8th. Please plan to attend and also volunteer for a while at one of the stations. The tasks are light and the fellowship abundant. Committee and board meetings carry on, at least through June, as we plan for the end of one year and the start of another in September. There is excitement around our first vegetable garden effort which came out of our focus on creation and the Mission 4/1 Earth. The thought of providing the soup kitchen with fresh produce feels very good – tomatoes, lettuce, carrots and peppers, O my! However the gardens will require watering during dry spells.

Even as things change with the season, God continues to be the “ground of all being,” here for us whether we have time off or not, whether the heat feels good or oppressive, whether our lives become more relaxed or more hectic. Staying connected to the faith community, attending weekly worship, and maintaining a spiritual time each day, will keep the balance in our lives even as we shift into the summer schedules.

No matter what the season, faith, hope, and love continue to be at the root of being grounded and at peace.

Pastor Betsey

June 2013

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**JUNE 2**

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeters: Sally Ruef, John Polglase, Janice Knight, and Millie Ramsey.

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**JUNE 9 – CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY**

THIRD 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.**JUNE 16 – FATHER'S DAY**

FOURTH 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.**JUNE 23**

FIFTH 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.**JUNE 30**

SIXTH 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.**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, June 1st – OXEN FEST 11AM - 2PM at the Szegda Farm. The church will be having a food stand! Stop by!

SATURDAY, June 8th – CHURCH BREAKFAST
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM / Parish Hall

SATURDAY, June 8th – CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY REHEARSAL 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM / Sanctuary

SUNDAY, June 9th - CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY
Worship Service with Church School Students,
Followed by ALL CHURCH PICNIC!

SUNDAY, June 16th – FATHER'S DAY!
Worship Service with Baptism of Philip Dukette.

June 2013



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

JUNE – Sally Ruef

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

JUNE – Tim Anderson

GREETERS AND USHERS

JUNE 2 - **Deacons:** Sally Ruef, John Polglase, Janice Knight, and Millie Ramsey.

June 9 – Volunteers needed

June 16 - Volunteers needed

June 23 - Volunteers needed

June 30 - 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.

June 2013

Worship Schedule –June 2013

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

| Date | Scripture | Sermon Title | Worship notes |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| June 2 | Luke 7: 1-10 | "Faith of the Outsider" | communion |
| June 9 | Children's Sunday | | church picnic |
| June 16 | Psalm 5: 1-8 | "Parental Love" | Baptism Father's Day |
| June 23 | 1 Kings 19: 1-15a Galatians 3: 23-29 | "Turn Down the Noise" | |
| June 30 | 2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14 | "Pick up the Mantle" | |

June 2013

Summer Reading

2013

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis may be considered children's books (age 8 and up) but, read from a faith perspective by adults, they take on new meanings.

Clive Staples Lewis, known as C.S. Lewis and as Jack by friends, was a novelist, poet, academic, medievalist, literary critic, essayist, lay theologian, and Christian apologist from Belfast, Ireland. Baptized in the Church of Ireland (Anglican), he became an atheist in his teen years. At age 32 he joined the Church of England. His faith had a profound effect on his work, and his wartime radio broadcasts on the subject of Christianity brought him wide acclaim.

He is best known both for his fictional work, especially The Screwtape Letters, The Chronicles of Narnia, and The Space Trilogy, and for his non-fiction Christian apologetics, such as Mere Christianity, Miracles, and The Problem of Pain.

I invite you to read the first of the 7 volumes of ***The Chronicles of Narnia, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*** this summer. We will set a time for discussion sometime in September. Feel free to read the rest of the volumes, but our conversation will focus on this first volume. Those who read on can inform the others where the chronicles go.

June 2013

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

What do you love about our Church? I love the wonderful teachers who help nurture the faith journey our children are on. I genuinely love how they devote themselves above and beyond the classroom. I love seeing our youth stand before the Church and dedicate themselves to becoming members of our Church and declaring their love and devotion to the Lord. I love seeing our children participate in Church service and their service in helping others have a better life.

I love how the Church reaches out to the community in time of need and in fellowship. At the breakfast I saw young adults who were once members of our Church School who have now begun families of their own and I felt joy in my heart. I love the Church School who dedicates one Saturday every year to do a car wash to help those living in hunger and poverty. Who knew a car wash could bring anxiety and joy at the same time and yet it always puts a smile on my face.

I loved the Creation Service when the Children, the Choirs and Congregation all had a part in praising the Lord for this great place we call earth. I loved when the Choir sang "Morning has Broken" and the children sang "The Butterfly Song" and we all made the sounds of rain and the children parade down the aisle as animals. Finally, I love that the Lord has blessed us with Pastor Betsey. I thank the Lord for these wonderful blessings of love.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY JUNE 9, 2013: "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE"

Join us as the Church School presents a very special morning Worship Service. The Church School will talk about how they let their Light shine on the world. Please bring a friend and help us celebrate the Light that shines in all of us.

Join us for our Church Picnic following Worship.

"This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!"

Jean Murphy

June 2013

SAVE THE DATE!

CHURCH AUCTION

September 27 7:00PM

C.C.C. Parish Hall

R. J. Weston, Auctioneer

DONATE!

GOODS – SERVICES – FOOD

Art, Antiques, Gift Cards, Desserts,

Furniture, Vacations, etc., etc.

Questions/Donations Call:

Church Office: 860.228.9306

Andrea Stannard: 860.228.9248

June 2013

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS! 2013

Hannah Bassett

Parents: Tim and Sue

Mentor: Jean Murphy

Simon Lambert

Parents: John and Irene

Mentor: Anthony White, Sr.

Julia Mendes

Parents: Rick Mendes and Beth Cheney

Mentor: Lynn Sharpe

Carly Weston

Parents: R. J., and Holly

Mentor: Susan Milici

“Let Your Light Shine...”

Matthew 5:16

June 2013

CONGRATULATIONS

GRADUATES!

2013

- **Rachel Coley**

Windham High School

- **Emily Niedzwiecki**

Bolton High School – Emily will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University in the fall. Her field of study is Special Education.

- **Darien Parmenter**

Bolton High School

June 2013

WELCOME HOME WILLIAM!



On behalf of our family, we would like to thank our church family for all their support and prayers for William and Jenn and our family while he was in Afghanistan. He is safely back in the US and should be in CT soon. Thank you for always being there.

Velvet and Ed Welch

June 2013

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

Saturday, June 8, 2013

8:00A.M to NOON

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: \$8.00 per person

\$24.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

June 2013

How YOU Can Help Oklahoma Tornado Victims:

1. Pray for the people and communities impacted by tornados and storms and all those who serve as first responder emergency personnel.

2. Make a gift payable to Columbia Congregational Church marked for Tornados/Storms, with the request they should be sent through your Conference Office on to the United Church of Christ, Financial Services, 700 Prospect Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44115.
OR

3. Send gifts, payable to the United Church of Christ and marked in the memo portion Tornado/Storms, to United Church of Christ, Financial Services, 700 Prospect Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44115.
OR

4. Make a secure on-line gift to Tornado/Storms Relief by donating to Emergency USA on the UCC website. Please note: Tornados/Storms in the comment section.

Check out this bulletin insert on the UCC page.

<http://www.ucc.org/disaster/Oklahoma-Bulletin-Insert.pdf>

June 2013

The Scarf Project

Thank you to all who participated in our Rainbow Scarf Project, especially Denise Parmenter who crafted many beautiful creations. We were able to send eleven scarves to the General Synod. It shows that we at the Columbia Congregational UCC take a stand to protect our children and others vulnerable to bullying.

Covenant Community Vegetable Garden

Thanks to all who helped to make our raised garden beds for our church vegetable garden. Eileen and Ted McManus of Coventry donated the soil and Brendan Boyle donated the services of his dump truck to pick it up and fill our gardens. We also give special thanks to the Coley family for the compost bin and the Parmenter and Doucette families for the new water barrels.

We are ready to plant. If you would like to donate either plants or money to this project, please see any member of the Board of Christian Concern (John Polglase, Anthony White, Denise Parmenter, Dixie Silvestri or Holly Weston). There is also a signup sheet in the Parish Hall for anyone willing to give some time weeding and watering the garden.

We also want to give a big thanks to all who worked to clean up the memorial garden and the garden on the side of the church near the parking lot.

WAIM Spaghetti Supper

The Board of Christian Concern is happy to announce that our Annual WAIM Spaghetti Supper raised \$500! Thanks to all who helped make this mission a success.

Restavec Freedom Alliance

Ellen Graber Donohue, Executive Director of RFA, was thrilled with our donations of clothing and hygiene kits. She is also very thrilled to have so many people interested in a mission trip to Haiti. If you are interested in taking a mission trip with Ellen please let the Board of Christian Concern know.

Another huge thank you to Darien Parmenter for her donation of sun dresses for the mission in Haiti. Darien worked on these dresses as her Senior Project at Bolton High School. Thanks to all who donated sheets and pillow cases for this project.

FoodShare Van

The mobile FoodShare Van now has a stop at the Baptist Fellowship Church on Route 6 in Columbia. **The van will be stopping every other Thursday from 1:1:30 pm in the lower church parking lot.** Upcoming distribution dates: **May 16 & 30, June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22.** Please be sure to circulate the word to people you know. The program needs a minimum of 50 people participating.

The FoodShare Van will continue to stop at the Andover Congregational Church on Route 6 every other Wednesday. Upcoming distribution dates: May 8 & 22, June 5 & 19, July 3, 17 & 31. Please bring your own grocery bags.

June 2013

Hi Everyone,

I am pleased to let you know that WAIM's Spring Fling was a huge success! The music and food were fantastic, and the room was filled with folks who came out to have a good time. The gift baskets, silent and live auction items were exceptional... I can't imagine how they keep getting better and better each year! As of this morning, we have raised \$6,500 and we expect to add to that before the day is over.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making the Spring Fling so successful! Like everything else at WAIM, we couldn't do it without the support of our volunteers, delegates, board members and friends.

I would like to convey a special thank you to....

- Bruce John for donating his time and talent publicizing the event and the Partners in Independence Program on his cable show and on WILI with Wayne Norman, and for providing such wonderful music for all of us to enjoy.
- John Hinckley and the Outriggers for their lively musical performance.
- Karen Gilbransen for designing the Spring Fling poster
- The Spring Fling Planning Committee: Shirley Shepard and Mary Weinland for all their decorations, logistical planning, publicity and enthusiasm for the event; Jason Altieri for preparing the delicious OOBAN'S soups and wraps, and for all the front-end work with publicity and ticket sales; Jodi Walencewicz for taking care of all the gift baskets and auction set-up, signage - including lawn signs, and donating the week in Aruba!; and Mary Falotico for her help with planning and promotions, and donating delicious desserts.
- The Board of Directors who worked hard to spread the news about the event, donated baskets, and sold tickets.
- All of you who sold or purchased tickets and came out to dance and have fun in support of WAIM's Partners in Independence Program.

Have a wonderful Memorial Day Weekend and kickoff to the summer! See you at the Steeple Chase 😊

Victoria Nimirowski
Director, Windham Area Interfaith Ministry
860 456-7270 ext.11

June 2013

Follow Up on April Apple Tree Planting at Szegda Farm**Excerpt from e-mail to Pastor Betsey**

"...Since our orchard planting we have been very busy getting the garden area prepped. Thanks to you and the other volunteers from the church the vision of an orchard became a reality. In time I hope the trees will enhance the natural beauty of the land and be a reminder of our community spirit." Bob Ulkus

Bob will be putting together a watering plan for summer care of the trees. If you can help, please let the church know.

The Advent Workshop is looking for a nice 5-6" log or two. Enough to make several dozen 3" thick slices to use for advent wreaths next December. We would like white birch logs, if possible. **Please contact Jackie Kittle if you have some logs.**

The Church Fair Committee holds a workshop on Wednesday mornings, from 10 to noon. All are welcome. You don't have to commit to every week. We would be glad to see you any time you can make it. We have fun, we paint stuff and glue things together. Come join us.

The Committee is looking for Altoids tins and the little white plastic tags used to hold bread or roll bags shut. There will be some at-home projects for those who are unable to make it in the mornings. **In the fall, there will be food projects to do and some evening workshops may be scheduled if there is enough interest.**

June 2013

Blessing of the Gardens



As spring unfolds and our thoughts turn to garden planning, preparation, clean up and care, consider asking Pastor Betsey to bless your garden. Whether you plant flowers or vegetables for your own pleasure or to share, you are participating in God's creation. Asking for the wisdom in the planting and care as well as for adequate rainfall and sunshine to sustain your garden, along with praising God for all the possibilities made available to us is appropriate. Contact Pastor Betsey to set a date and time.

June 2013

OUR CARE TEAM

“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.

June 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.

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.

June 2013

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.**