

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

MARCH

2014

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

As I drove home from the gym, the fog brushed the tree tops and slid down the blackened trunks to billow on top of the snow still layered deep on the ground. Ethereal wisps danced across the white expanse of fields before they gathered and thickened to nearly obscure the woodland edge. Now, I remember years ago driving an unfamiliar snow covered road with fog so dense I could barely discern the route. I counted on the rear lights of the car ahead of me, fearful that if I got too far behind, I would lose my way and yet also fearful that driver might lead me into a ditch. Once I was safely home, I found I had enjoyed the challenge.

On my recent encounter with the mysterious yet beautiful fog, I found myself thinking about our upcoming journey in the wilderness of Lent: how our wandering is like moving in and through the fog. Do we see ourselves clearly? Can we see the world through eyes of faith even when our vision is not clear? Dare we venture into the uncertainty of deep self-reflection, or does the lack of clarity push us to remain where we are?

In writing about the fog-shrouded trip all those years ago, I am reminded how the light of Christ will always lead us through. We may indeed be cautious, even fearful of going astray, of getting stuck along the way. We may wonder if the light we are following is really the light of Christ. And then I remembered our daughter, Rebecca, was with me – we were going to an art museum-and her extra pair of eyes and her companionship had changed what might have been frightening into an adventure.

All of this is to say, as we go through these 40 days of Lent, if we truly enter this journey in the wilderness of self-reflection, we can count on Christ to be slightly ahead to lead us. Traveling with companions, with one or two or the whole congregation of faith seekers, the apprehension is eased. In the companionship of others and with Christ leading, we will not get lost and will surely come through the fog into the sun-filled (Son-filled) clearing.

Do plan to join us for worship and church activities during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday and moving through the month of March and into April. Immerse yourself in the experience as we travel through the mystery of Lent that leads to rejoicing on Easter morning.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Betsey

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

MARCH 2

LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: John Polglase

Lay Reader: John Polglase

Greeters: John Polglase, Kim Foss, Jack & Charlotte

Sabine, and Janice Knight.

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

MARCH 9/DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: John Polglase

Lay Reader: John Polglase

Greeter: John Polglase

MARCH 16

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: John Polglase

Lay Reader: John Polglase

Greeter: John Polglase

MARCH 23

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: John Polglase

Lay Reader: John Polglase

Greeters: John Polglase

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

MARCH 30

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: John Polglase

Lay Reader: John Polglase

Greeters: John Polglase

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.



EVERY MONDAY BIBLE STUDY CLASS
7PM -8:30PM/Parish Hall

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH
7PM Worship Service with Communion.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH
CHURCH BREAKFAST
8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!

Saturday, MARCH 15TH
Church School Teachers Meeting 10AM – 12PM
Lounge

CORNED BEEF DINNER – 5:30PM-7:00PM
Parish Hall

SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND
TEA AND FELLOWSHIP
4PM – 6PM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD Following Worship Service

Please join us for a Luncheon with special speaker on Identity Theft and Scams.



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

MARCH – John Polglase

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

MARCH – David Pearce

GREETERS AND USHERS

MARCH 2 - **Deacons:** John Polglase, Kim Foss, Jack & Charlotte Sabine, and Janice Knight.

March 9 – Volunteers needed

March 16 - Volunteers needed

March 23 - Volunteers needed

March 30 - Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2014 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 2014 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday will be observed on **March 5th** 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.

Worship Schedule MARCH 2014

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Worship notes
Mar. 2	Mat. 17: 1-9 2 Peter 1: 16-21	"In the Spotlight"	Communion Transfiguration
Mar. 5	Joel 2 Mat. 6:1-6, 16-21	Ash Wednesday	7 pm
Mar. 9 1st Lent	Gen. 2: 15-17; 3:1-7	"Sneaky Snake, Daring Devil"	Heifer begins
Mar. 16 2nd Lent	John 3: 1-17	"Above and Beyond"	
Mar. 23 3rd Lent	John 4: 5-30, 31-42	"Quench Our Thirst"	Baptisms
Mar. 30 4th Lent	John 9: 1-41	"Sight to the Blind"	

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Valentine's show someone how much they are loved and cared for and appreciated. The valentine's the Children made and handed out to the Congregation were in appreciation for all the love and care you show others. Remember God Loves us with a great big Love.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Creating Change

For nearly 70 years Heifer's cornerstones have empowered people to change their lives. Heifer helps families enjoy improved diets and finances. Families reap rewards from their gift animal through the consumption and/or sale of products such as milk, eggs, meat, cheese, honey and wool.

Ending Hunger And Poverty

Nearly **870 Million** people around the world don't have enough food to eat. Heifer believes in equipping people with the tools, education and livestock to bring about positive transformation. Together, through every small step forward, Heifer is transforming the world for the better ... Over **20.7Million** families have been lift out of hunger and poverty That's a real impact.

Build an Ark

Church School will begin its annual Heifer Outreach Program on March 9, where they will receive **ark banks** and save to help purchase animals. They will host two **bake sales(Mar. 16 + 30)** and possibly **a car wash** to help buy their animals. The children have grown to understand the importance of helping others and this program provides them the opportunity to make a difference in the world's fight against hunger. Remember it begins with the gift of an animal. Families who receive your gift become donors as they pass on the gift to other families in their community. This allows them to help others as you have helped them. One animal can change not only a family's life for the better but a whole village.

We Believe We Can Help Change The World!

FYI: Church School is planning a field trip to the Heifer Farm in Rutland Mass. If you are interested in attending please see Jean Murphy with more details.

Blessings to all,

The Church School Teachers

Easter Flowers



Easter – April 20, 2014

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

The Flower Committee requests that you **place your order by March 23**. Checks may be made out to Columbia Congregational Church (memo: Easter plant) or money may be given to Debbie Francis or Kristina Dukette 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>
White Lily single stem ave. 6 blooms	\$9.50	_____
6" Yellow Daffodils	\$8.25	_____
6" Red Tulip all tulips 3 bulbs	\$8.25	_____
6" Pink Tulip	\$8.25	_____
6" Yellow Tulip	\$8.25	_____
6" Hyacinths	\$8.25	_____
	Total	_____

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#:

The Church Fair Committee Could Use Some Help:

Publicity help: newspapers, newsletters, web site, distribute signs and/or posters—someone to do year-round publicity would be wonderful. The good part is that you don't have to do crafts to help out.

Do some **Food Crafts**: Make up mixes, snowman soup ideas, tea gifts, come up with interesting ways to wrap candy or popcorn that would make cute, inexpensive gifts. Brainstorm some ideas or run even just one workshop just before the fair.

Attic Treasures: Ask for treasures and set up a time and place for people to bring them, set up the rooms on the Thursday before the fair, check Friday night for additional donations and Saturday morning for additional donations and you can open way before the fair...usually 9 am or whenever you see someone pop in. We don't usually put prices on everything. If something special comes in, it is ok to do that. Most of the time is it dickering. And you can schedule people to work the room. We have suggestions. Also we know where to donate which items that don't sell. This only takes up a few days around fair time and makes close to 20% of the fair's profits.

Run an **evening workshop**. You don't have to meet every week. You can meet once a month or just often enough to finish one project or to start a project and send it home with group members (and making sure you get everything back.)

If you can look at an item, read the directions, and work from a kit, we can make up kits for you. You could help make up the kits, if that's your style.

We are looking for **different ideas to add to the fair to make it more fun**. In the past, we have had a Scarves and Jewelry Room; a pie-making workshop for the bake sale (this year we would like to have two pie workshops;) a Country Store with cheese, candy, and home canned goods. Perhaps you have been to a fair or bazaar somewhere and have seen something different that you could share with us.

And... we have **day workshops** on Wednesday mornings from 10 to noon. Stop in and visit.

Church Fair needs:

We are still collecting those white plastic tags that hold bread or roll wrappers together. We didn't get quite enough last year.

Crayons...old and/or broken, anyhow....unwanted crayons.

Altoid tins.

Those little rounded Y shaped clips that keep pump bottles from squirting lotion or hand soap all over your grocery sacks on the way home. You remove them to use the lotion and never know what to do with them afterward.

We will be happy to sell these things back to you at next year's fair when we are done with them.

THE ELEVATOR FUND - We have raised over \$19,062 of the \$19,000 needed. **Thanks to many individuals committed to making our church safely handicapped accessible.**

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

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

Saturday, March 8, 2014

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: \$8.00 per person

\$24.00 - 2 adults and 2 children



CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER



SATURDAY MARCH 15th

From 5:30 to 7:00 pm

MENU:

Corned Beef & Cabbage
Rolls
Salad
Dessert.



\$10.00 per person

Columbia Congregational Church
325 Rte 87

RSVP: ccchurch@snet.net
or 860 228-9306



Sue Milici and Dixie Silvestri invite ladies to Come to Tea and Fellowship on Saturday, March 22 from 4:00-6:00 pm in our church Parish Hall to celebrate spring. There will be tea, sandwiches, scones and a variety of sweets. Please bring a friend. This is a free event and **we ask that you RSVP to either Sue or Dixie.**

Photos of Church Events Wanted. We are looking for photos of our church activities to be posted on the Bulletin Board outside the Parish Hall and to be used on promotional flyers and ads. Please send photos electronically to Denise at ccchurch@snet.net, or send/bring in prints to the church office.

GREEN TEAM – We are looking for members to serve on our Green Team. The focus of our Green Team is to empower and motivate people to make a difference environmentally. If you are passionate about our environment and are willing to share your efforts with our congregation, please see John Polglase to volunteer.

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 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm in the lower church parking lot.** Upcoming distribution dates: 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.** Please bring your own grocery bags.



Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast 2014 will be the fourth year we have provided a day-by-day opportunity to fast from carbon as a Lenten discipline. Initiated by the UCC and endorsed by other denominations and faith groups, people of every Christian perspective – and people who are not Christians – have benefited from this opportunity to become more conscious and conscientious in their daily lives.

Sign up to participate in the Lenten Carbon Fast.

Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2014) invites us into the season of Lent – a time within the church year to acknowledge that we are mortal, limited. Lent awakens us to hope in God whose "steadfast love endures forever" and to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. The Lenten disciplines of repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love are guides for returning to the steadfast love of God. During Lent we confess our mortality, our limits and our vulnerability so that we might be transformed and become the new life God calls us to be.

We invite you to join us as we commit to fasting from carbon during Lent. Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. Many will also suggest ways to engage others. Each daily email will also provide material that can be the basis for a weekly congregational conversation.

Congregations that participate are encouraged to gather weekly to share their experiences, support one another, compare notes, share resources and pray.

This invitation is being emailed to pastors all over the country by UCC Conference Ministers and by our "bishop" counterparts in numerous denominations. Our experience is that Christians the world over – from every denomination – will participate in this carbon fast.

[Join the event on Facebook!](#)

God is calling us to be the change we long to see. Let us engage this spiritual discipline, grateful for all God has entrusted to us, and trusting that with God all things are possible.

AN INITIATIVE OF:
N.E.R.E.M. – New England Regional Environmental Ministries

When: March 5, 2014 **Where:** Everywhere **MoreInformation:** www.macucc.org/carbonfast

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Columbia Congregational Church

march 2014

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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