

THE STEEPLE CHIMES

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

MARCH

2013

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:

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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

Snow, rain and sleet – we have had them all in February - from storm Charlotte on February 9 and on through the month. We had an easy winter last year, so I guess we shouldn't complain, but we do. At least, I do. We should really be grateful that we will have some snow melt, that our lake and the rivers might be full this year.

Water is essential to life. Water is at the beginning and the end of the Bible. In the first telling of the Creation, "the earth was formless" and "a wind from God swept over the face of the waters" (Gen. 1). In the second telling of Creation, "God made the earth and the heavens" and "a stream would rise up from the earth and water the whole face of the ground" (Gen. 2). The last chapter of Revelation begins, "Then an angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal...on either side of the river is the tree of life" (Rev. 22). Water flows through the stories within the Scriptures and some better known ones are the flood, Moses getting water from the rock, Jonah and the whale, Jesus walking on water, multiple stories of the fishermen, the woman at the well, and Jesus washing the disciples feet.

According to my Concordance there are 163 direct references to water and bodies of water and 21 times the words thirst, thirsts, and thirsty appear. Water used literally or figuratively speaks of birth, rebirth, spiritual life, sustained life, purification and physical cleanliness.

As we continue in Lent, we will put some focus on water in our afternoon program on March 10. I am calling the program "Our Water, Our Life" as we look at water in Columbia, with some extension into the wider world. I hope you will join us. Setting the stage are the lovely photos of water in our "This is God's World" art display in the Parish Hall.

Although we still have vivid pictures in our minds of the damage water can do when part of storms such as Irene, and Sandy, and Charlotte, we know that water – good, clean water- is essential to our lives. We also know that what we do affects the quality of the water we depend on. In our resurrection faith, we can work for change and the preservation of God's great gift.

Come and see what God is doing right here.

Pastor Betsey

March 2013

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeters: Kim Foss, Sally Ruef, Tim Bassett and Charlotte Sabine.

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**MARCH 10**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeter: Kim Foss

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeter: Kim Foss

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**MARCH 24****PALM SUNDAY**

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeter: Kim Foss

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**MARCH 31****EASTER**

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeter: Kim Foss

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, March 9th 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Irish Supper, Corned Beef & Cabbage!

\$10.00/person

Tickets must be purchased by March 6th.

Sunday, March 10th

Special Meeting on Legacy Fund immediately following worship service in the Sanctuary.

Saturday, March 16th

Church School Teachers Meeting
10:00AM – 12:00PM Lounge.

PALM SUNDAY, March 24th

Worship Service with Palm Parade

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28th

7PM Worship Service with communion

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29th

7PM Worship Service

EASTER, March 31st

Worship Service with Special Music by our Choirs and an array of Easter flowers. There will be NO Church School Classes, so that families might celebrate together the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

March 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

MARCH – Kim Foss

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

MARCH – Dave Pearce

GREETERS AND USHERS

MARCH 3 – **Deacons:** Kim Foss, Sally Ruef, Tim Bassett, Charlotte Sabine

MARCH 10 – Volunteers needed

MARCH 17 – Volunteers needed

MARCH 24 – Volunteers needed

MARCH 31 – 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.

March 2013

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A meeting of church members will be held on **Sunday, March 10th** immediately following worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on proposed changes to the Legacy Endowment Fund – Total Spending Return Policy. The proposed changes include adjusting how the effect of inflation is applied and fixing a calculation on the Average Quarterly Balance. Details will be shared, discussed, and voted on at the meeting.

Kimberly Foss (Clerk)

Columbia Congregation Church

March 2013

Worship Schedule – March 2013

(Subject to change at pastors discretion)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Worship notes</u>
March.3	Isaiah 55: 1-9		New Members
	Luke 13: 5-9	“Come and See”	Communion
March 10	Psalm 32		Church meeting
	Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32	“Embracing Love”	
March 17	Psalm 126	“A New Thing”	Baptism
	Isaiah 43: 16-21		
March 24	Psalm 91:1-2,9-16		
	Luke 19:28-49	“Into Jerusalem”	Palm Sunday
March 28	Matt 26:17-20		Communion
	Various	Maundy Thursday	Tenebrae
March 29	Various	Good Friday	
March 31	John 20: 1-18	Easter	6:30 Sunrise (Camp Asto Wamah) 10:00 sanctuary

March 2013

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Church School is on a Mission: Helping those who live in poverty and hunger. We are letting our light shine for the Lord.

The children and I talked about a goat that made one girl's dream come true. Beatrice Biira was featured in a children's book called Beatrice's Goat. Heifer International sent 6 goats to her village and her family received one of the goats. The story:

More than anything, Beatrice longs to be a schoolgirl. But in her small African village, only children who can afford uniforms and books can go to school. Beatrice knows that with six children to care for, her family is much too poor.

But then Beatrice receives a wonderful gift from some people far away -- a goat! Fat and sleek as a ripe mango, Mugisa (which means "luck") gives milk that Beatrice can sell. With Mugisa's help, Beatrice's at age 9 finally got to go to school. Her dream came true after all.

Beatrice went to college in the States. She graduated from Connecticut **College and then got her Master's Degree in public** work and now is back in Uganda helping her Country.

One goat can make a difference! Every Christmas I ask my family to make a gift of a goat to Heifer in my name so every child can have the opportunity like Beatrice.

Heifer International has helped more than 12 million families in more than 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through the gift of livestock and training. The impact of each initial gift is multiplied as recipients agree to Pass on the Gift by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another in need.

The ark is about hope and a new beginning. Help us to fill the ark and give a gift of hope to those in need.

March 2013

Heifer Scheduled Events**Bake Sales****Mar. 10:** 3rd thru 6th grade**Mar. 17:** 7th and 8th grade**Take-A-Chance Gift Baskets**Teas & Biscuits Basket- Preschool thru 2nd gradeGarden Basket- 3rd thru 6th gradeSnack Basket- 7th and 8th grade**Mar. 24:** Palm Sunday: Palm Parade and Ark Bank Collection**May 4:** Car Wash**April 28th:** Creation Pageant - The church school will be participating in the Creation pageant which will celebrate the beauty and wonder of the Earth.

The church school will be playing chimes February 24th and singing March 17th.

Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord...Psalm 100

Blessings to all,

Jean

March 2013

Why Is Columbia Congregational Church Important To Me!

- 1) It helps feed my spirit.
- 2) Provides a place for me to worship with others and enjoy fellowship; also it allows the opportunity to give back, realizing how blessed I am.
- 3) The church is family. We worship together, pray together, celebrate together, cry together, mourn together, and I know the church has my back.
- 4) Columbia Congregational Church is important to me because I feel it is my family; it is a support resource; it is a comfort zone; it is fellowship; it's a great place to talk to Jesus.
- 5) It is my home church- I feel the joys of the holiday of Easter. To serve the church in whichever capacity I can, through music or in other ways. The CCC is important because of who is here and God's wisdom of how the church is run....Thoughtfully,
Laura Combs
- 6) I love the warm, welcoming congregation and the wonderful sense of community. It is a great place to worship!

March 2013

IRISH SUPPER

Corned Beef & Cabbage

Irish Soda Bread and Dessert

Columbia Congregational Church

Saturday, March 9, 5-7 p.m.

\$10.00/person

See any member of the Board of Christian Concern
for Tickets

Tickets must be purchased by March 6th

March 2013

Easter Breakfast will be served in the Parish Hall immediately following service. We expect to start serving at approximately 7:15 am.

In order that we may have enough food to feed everyone, it will be necessary for those attending to make ***RESERVATIONS***.

There will be a sign-up sheet by the elevator.

You may also make reservations by calling the Church Office at 860-228-9306 or Polly Hinckley at 860-228-3757 by ***PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2013***.

March 2013

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.

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 10th! Set Your Clocks Ahead

March 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 began on February 23rd in the Fellowship Hall. 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**.

March 2013

MISSION 4/1 EARTH

During Lent we will begin our shift in focus to the world God has put in our care. When we truly see and then repent the damage to our planet, we can rise up in resurrection faith to restore right relationship with God, Earth (the air, the land, and the waters) and its diverse inhabitants. The pictures of this earth contributed by our various members starting in February will help us have eyes to see.

On March 10th, we will offer a program on the care and conservation of our water.

On April 1, we will join the United Church of Christ's **Mission 4/1 Earth** campaign of "greening up, powering down and shouting out for the environment!"

Mission 4/1 Earth links together four significant events — Easter (March 31), Earth Day (April 22), Arbor Day (April 26) and Pentecost (May 19) — for a sustained, aggressive and collective mission opportunity for the entire United Church of Christ. Together, we will inspire and aspire to what we can accomplish as ONE CHURCH.

United Church of Christ congregations, colleges, seminaries, camps and outdoor ministries, and health and human service agencies will join together in a shared mission campaign to:

- Collectively offer more than **ONE MILLION HOURS** of engaged earth care, including clean up, advocacy, education, and behavioral changes that will impact the environment. The hours putting together the "**This Is God's World**" display starting in February, and the March program on conservation will count towards these hours.
- Collectively plant more than **100,000 TREES** locally and globally in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation and the UCC's denominational partners around the world. **We hope to plant one or two trees as a community** and hope some of you will plant some on your own.
- Collectively write and send more than **100,000 ADVOCACY LETTERS** on environmental concerns to elected officials and local and national newspapers. We will have a **letter signing campaign on April 21st**.

On Sunday April 28 our worship will be a **Creation Pageant** put on by our Sunday school, teachers, and youth. Come and see.

Your creative ideas to further this mission to live out our faith for the sake of our fragile planet Earth are welcome.

Check out the UCC website at <http://www.ucc.org/earth/about.html> for more information on this event.



March 2013

MISSION 4/1 EARTH TIMECARD

DATE _____

NAME _____

GOAL #1
1 MILLION HOURS
of engaged earth care

MY HOURS

GOAL #2
100,000 TREES
planted locally & globally

OF TREES

GOAL #3
100,000 LETTERS
on environmental concerns

OF LETTERS



Have a unique way that you engaged in earth care this week? With your church? Your neighborhood? Your family? Your friends? Tell us about it!

Email earth@ucc.org with your stories and pictures.



**We would like to know what activities you did to count toward our goal.
(Examples are listed on the next page)**

March 2013

1. Ride a bike, carpool or use public transportation instead of driving alone in a car.
2. Read a book or watch a documentary about the environment.
3. Plant and tend an organic garden – all that weeding and watering time adds up quickly!
4. Help tend to a community garden.
5. Attend an earth-care-focused worship service.
6. Write advocacy letters (which counts in time AND in letters sent!).
7. Install energy-efficient light bulbs or appliances.
8. Attend an Earth Day rally.
9. Recycle coffee grounds by putting them on acid loving plants.
10. Donate items to thrifts shops and shop there, too.
11. Create a compost bin at church and/or your home.
12. Turn out lights in rooms you are not in.
13. Donate plastic grocery bags to Goodwill, Salvation Army or second hand shops.
14. RECYCLE. Time spent collecting, sorting, and submitting recycled materials.
15. Check all your faucets to make sure they don't drip.
16. Wash clothes in cold water. Count 1 hour per load for the 50 days.
17. Read the labels — use detergents that don't harm the environment.
18. Recycle your old cell phone.
19. Ask church members to donate one or more mugs to the church for coffee hour, rather than use paper. Return/recycle empty toner and ink cartridges.
20. Vinegar can be used for cleaning.
21. Have litter collection days where church members work in teams to pick up trash along roadsides and in parks.
22. Learn ways to live green via online eco-blogs.
23. Arrange a video discussion night and watch a video addressing issues about our planet.
24. Plant a tree in your back yard or give one as a gift.
25. Use only organic fertilizer on your lawn this spring.
26. Use a manual lawnmower (you'll be cutting down on noise pollution, too)
27. Walk to the store, church, school, the park, post office, library – any short trips you normally use the car for.

March 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.

March 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.

March 2013

EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

March 24th

10:00AM - Worship Service, Giving of Palms, a Palm Parade by our Church School, and Special Music.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28th

7:00PM Worship Service with Holy Communion, and Tenebrae (gathering darkness), a most meaningful experience.

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29th

7:00PM Worship Service that will focus on Christ Who died for each of us.

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31st

Join us to Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sunrise Service - 6:30 am led by our Confirmation Class at Camp Asto Wamah off Route 87 on the shores of Columbia Lake.

Easter Breakfast – 7:15AM In our Parish Hall follows the Sunrise Service.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

Easter Worship Service – 10:00AM in our Sanctuary with Special Music by our Choirs and an array of Easter flowers. There will be NO Church School Classes, so that families might celebrate together the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Please note: There will be NO Fellowship Hour after Easter Worship Service

March 2013

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTORChurch office email: ccchurch@snet.net website: colcch.orgPastor's email: pastorbetsey.ccchurch@gmail.com**COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL, United Church of Christ**

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