

THE STEEPLE CHIMES

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

NOVEMBER

2012

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.:9:30-12:30

Pastor's email:

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Church Office

Contact Information

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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.



FROM THE PASTOR'S PORCH

Recently, I have had two close encounters with the neighborhood skunk. The first, I was coming home from a meeting. Our cat Pepper had been waiting for me and was leading the way home on the path when he stopped and would not continue. His sharp eyes had seen the black and white creature on the back step to the parsonage. Pepper received extra treats when the skunk had left and we got inside safely. The second event was last night as I was coming over for a meeting. In the dark, I saw a furry something under the dogwood and I, at first, thought it was our cat Elliot. That he did not run to greet me made me think again. Realizing it was the skunk, I walked around to the other side to enter the church. You can see why I might still be thinking of close encounters.

While I do not equate God with the skunk (it is, however, one of God's creation and is doing a good job of digging out the grubs in the lawn), I have started to think how we encounter God, in the sense of how and when we experience the presence of God. These are times we meet God unexpectedly in the course of our daily lives. Does Jesus stand in our way when we have gone headstrong in one direction, causing us to stop long enough to realize we needed to change paths? Has the Holy Spirit made us stop a moment to appreciate those people and things around us, touched our heart with a love for all creation?

This month of November offers us lots of opportunities to encounter God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as they are active in our lives. The Church Fair on Nov. 3rd gives us a chance to enjoy good food and holiday excitement with friends, strangers, and neighbors. Perhaps we will sense Christ walking among us. The Apostle Paul warns us to show hospitality, for "by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13: 2).

November 18th as our children and church members "bring in the harvest" during the prelude, perhaps we will encounter Christ as the fruits and vegetables are placed on the altar. The produce will be taken to the Covenant Soup Kitchen. Jesus said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40). Also on that Sunday, the Holy Spirit will surely be with us as we baptize three children.

As we gather with the Andover Congregation in their sanctuary for the Community Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 20th, we will offer to God thanks and praise for all our blessings. Even though God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit is with us all the time, there are times when there is a more palpable presence. While we can't orchestrate our lives to make God appear, we can live our lives centered on the Triune God and on occasion catch a glimpse of the Holy at work.

**Always thankful for the blessings of this faith community,
In Faith,
Pastor Betsey**

November 2012

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**NOVEMBER 4**

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Charlotte Sabine

Lay Reader: Charlotte Sabine

Greeters: Charlotte Sabine, Jack Sabine, Sally Ruef,
Janice Knight, and Tim Bassett.**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****NOVEMBER 11**

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Charlotte Sabine

Lay Reader: Charlotte Sabine

Greeter: Charlotte Sabine

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****NOVEMBER 18**

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Charlotte Sabine

Lay Reader: Charlotte Sabine

Greeter: Charlotte Sabine

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****NOVEMBER 25**

REIGN OF CHRIST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Charlotte Sabine

Lay Reader: Charlotte Sabine

Greeter: Charlotte 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 EVERY Sunday
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.**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Church Fair/Parish Hall!

REMINDER: Set your clocks back 1 hour Saturday
night November 3rd!**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th Daylight Saving time Ends!****SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH** - Church School Teachers
Meeting 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM/Lounge..**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH – Thanksgiving Sunday!**3:00 PM – Salvation Army Thanksgiving Baskets Set-Up
In the foyer. Delivery of baskets on Monday.**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH – 7:00 PM Combined
Thanksgiving Service with Andover Congregational
Church! Being held this year at Andover
Congregational Church.****NOTE: CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETS SUNDAY
EVENINGS 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM.**

November 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

NOVEMBER – Charlotte Sabine

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER – Dave Pearce

GREETERS AND USHERS

November 4 – **Deacons:** Charlotte Sabine, Jack Sabine, Sally Ruef, Janice Knight, and Tim Bassett

November 11 – Volunteers needed

November 18 – Volunteers needed

November 25 – Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

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

November 2012

Worship Schedule - November 2012

(Subject to change at Pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
November 4	Psalm 146 Ruth 1: 1-18	"Past, Present & Future"	
November 11	Psalm 127 Mark 12: 38-44	"Risk and Restoration"	
November 18	Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25	"Blessings"	Baptisms
November 20	Joel 2: 21-27 Psalm 126 Matt. 6: 25-33	"What Will You Wear"	Community Thanksgiving 7:00 p.m.
November 25	Psalm 132:1-5, 13-18 John 18:33-37	"The Alpha and the Omega"	Reign of Christ

November 2012

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS~

This year the children are learning that Jesus is the True Light and they are to be a reflection of Him. When we share something we make a conscience decision to give part of what we have to another. We learn the light within us is to be shared. I think of how fortunate we are to watch the children grow in God's love and to see how sharing their light by helping others makes a difference in their lives. For this I am thankful.

For the month of November the church school will be collecting Nickels for Nets. *Nickels for Nets* is a program offered through Sweet Sleep Organization. The nickels will go towards purchasing mosquito nets (\$8 per net) for orphaned and abandoned children in Africa and Haiti. Every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria. Some forms of malaria only take 72 hours to take a child's life. Anyone wanting to shine their light on this life-saving mission can contact Jean Murphy or during coffee hour look for a donation box to leave your nickels or whatever donation you would like to give.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER 18: The children will bring fruit and vegetables to be placed on the altar.

Church school will begin preparing for the **Christmas program to be presented on December 23 during the morning worship service.** This year they will present "The Twelve Days of Christmas" a pageant that tells the true meaning behind the song.

Church school sends a warm thank you to all who contributed to our Church World Service School Bag Kits. I was told that of all the kits Church World Service supplies this kit is the most needed. We are happy to shine for the children who start their school year with needed supplies.

Happy Thanksgiving! Bless all who shine and make a difference in the lives of others.

Jean Murphy

November 2012



HOLIDAY FAIR and CRAFT SHOW

Columbia Congregational Church
Route 87 Columbia

10 AM to 3 PM

Professional
Crafter's Booths

Church Bazaar
and Bake Sale

Attic Treasures



World famous
Deacon's Diner



November 2012

Our Church Fair is Saturday, November 3rd this year. People are needed to help with set-up on Thursday night, sales on Saturday, and a bit of cleanup on Saturday afternoon. Also, Attic Treasures help is needed on Thursday, and Saturday. Please contact Jackie Kittle (860 - 707-3155) if you have questions or wish to volunteer.

Attic Treasures should not be left until Thursday morning, November 1. We will have a large group on Wednesday evening in the Parish Hall and leaving things blocking the hallway is dangerous. The donation should instead be put downstairs in the first part of the large room on the left.

Do not donate furniture, clothing, cribs, playpens, car seats (many of which now have a limited life span), **personal care items, other than hair dryers and the like, and books, other than children's.** These are things that *do not sell* and it costs the church money to get rid of them. If you are leaving small appliances or electronics, please make sure they actually work. ***If they do not work well, please dispose of them responsibly.***

November 2012



BRING IN THE HARVEST

Thanksgiving Sunday

November 18, 2012

Please bring in fruits and vegetables to decorate our sanctuary.

Produce will be taken to the Soup Kitchen.

During the Prelude,

Children will process with the harvest and put it around the table.

Adults may follow.

Apples, oranges, potatoes, winter squash, etc.

November 2012

THANK YOU! *Thank all of you who extended your sympathy for my Mom through cards, kind words, and condolences.*

Donna Doucette

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 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.

November 2012

Dear John Polglase and Columbia Congregational Church Cooking Crew –

On behalf of the Andover Church Food Pantry, I would like to express my sincere thank you for your very generous donation of time and expert cooking of the salads and pork loins for our 1st Annual Pig Roast Food Pantry fundraiser held on Sept. 22, 2012.

We were able to raise \$6,250 at the event which will help us feed many needy families in our community.

This truly was a gift of Christian love, and we look forward to working hand in hand with our dear Columbia neighbors again next year.

Sincerely,

Joan Soucy

Andover Food Pantry Director

November 2012

WAIM EVENTS

WALK FOR WARMTH

This year's Walk for Warmth will take place at 2:15 pm, Sunday, November 18, following the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at the 1st Congregational Church of Willimantic, 199 Valley Street. Registration starts at 1:00 and the Interfaith Service starts at 1:30pm. The Walk is a short two-mile track that starts and ends at the Church. WAIM is looking for volunteers to help out. Please see Tony White, Sr. for more details.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Donor applications are now being accepted. Application forms can be found on the credenza in the Parish Hall.

WAIM GIFTS FOR TEENS PROGRAM

Gift Certificate Program, Donate funds so that WAIM can purchase the certificates. All sizes of donations are very welcome. An average certificate of \$25-30 will buy a gift for one teen.

FOR KIDS ONLY PROGRAM

WAIM is looking for gently used or new items for children to choose for their parents. Men's items are particularly needed. **Deadline for donations is December 7th. Please see Anthony White, Sr. with any questions concerning WAIM.**

WAIM WORKDAY

Saturday December 15th 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

November 2012

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL, United Church of Christ

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