

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

OCTOBER 2015

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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Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.:9:30-1:00

Church email:

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columbiacongregationalchurch.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

Before leaving on vacation I planted some lettuce seeds in the Soup Kitchen Garden where the summer squash had been. I watered and prayed over them and then left them in God's care. Upon our return, I was pleased to see two rows of small lettuce plants. Since, I have thinned, divided and watered. Each day on the way to the church I check on them, kind of cheered them on.

Now the temperatures are dropping and I feel a sense of urgency. Will there be enough warm days for them to continue growing and will I be able to harvest before the first frost? The last day of summer has come and gone and winter relentlessly approaches. Sure, we still have some beautiful fall days ahead but will there be enough so I can bring sweet, fresh lettuce to those who count on the Soup Kitchen for nourishment.

This pressure I feel, this worry (not quite dread) about what lies ahead has made me more aware than ever of those most severely effected by the cold. Already evenings are cool enough for us to enjoy a light quilt on the bed, and I wonder about the homeless. There were some 14,000 homeless in CT last winter. 1,300 were children. When it gets really cold, our heat will come on and we will be comfortable. Without assistance, without shelter, some will perish.

What about the flash flood of Syrians flowing into Hungary and Germany? Did they bring winter coats and boots to protect themselves as winter descends? We in the Windham area have trouble offering warm shelter to the couple hundred in need. How do those countries create shelter for 100s of thousands? It seems too large a task to handle.

Yet, Jesus tells us, no, commands us to love God first, and then love our neighbor as ourselves. When we reach out with love and compassion and generosity to the least of these, we are caring for Jesus.

Members of this church donate non-perishables food to be delivered to the food pantry, help distribute food at the mobile FoodShare Van, provide rides and /or meals for shut-ins or those going through a stressful time, donate warm clothes to the No Freeze Shelter, bring items for school bags to go to Church World Service, offer various things to WAIM, attend fundraisers for various charities, walk in the CROP walk, and the list goes on. Perhaps this church will decide to sponsor a refugee family as it did years ago for a family from Bosnia. There are always ways to participate in Jesus' ministry.

The lettuce in our garden will not change the world, but it is worth the effort to bring it to maturity. It will make a difference to those who benefit from the fresh greens, even if for one meal. We each do what we can to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Walking with you in the mission of this church,

Pastor Betsey

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

OCTOBER 2015

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

OCTOBER 4

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Charlotte Sabine

Lay Reader: Charlotte Sabine

Greeters: Charlotte Sabine, Kim Foss, Sally Ruef,
and Janice Knight.

**Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the
Parish Hall.**

OCTOBER 11

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Charlotte Sabine

Lay Reader: Charlotte Sabine

Greeter: Charlotte Sabine

**Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the
Parish Hall.**

OCTOBER 18

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Charlotte Sabine

Lay Reader: Charlotte Sabine

Greeter: Charlotte Sabine

**Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the
Parish Hall.**

OCTOBER 25

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Charlotte Sabine

Lay Reader: Charlotte Sabine

Greeters: Charlotte Sabine

**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.



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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH
CHURCH BREAKFAST
8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH
CROP WALK

2:00PM Walk begins at Gilead Church in Hebron & finishes at Camp Asto Wamah in Columbia, Followed by a Potluck!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
Church School Teachers Meeting
10:00AM – 12:00PM/Lounge

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
148TH UCC Conference Fall Meeting
9:00AM – 5:00PM Being held this year at Newington High School in Newington, CT.

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

OCTOBER 2015



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

OCTOBER – Charlotte Sabine

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER – Tim Anderson

GREETERS AND USHERS

OCTOBER 4 – **Deacons:** Charlotte Sabine, Kim Foss, Sally Ruef, and Janice Knight.

OCTOBER 11 – Charlotte Sabine

OCTOBER 18 – Charlotte Sabine

OCTOBER 25 – Charlotte Sabine

PARISH NOTICES

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 Dixie Silvestri 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.

Worship Schedule

OCTOBER 2015

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
October 4	Psalm 26 Job 1:1, 2:1-10	<i>"The Good and The Bad"</i>	World Communion Sunday
Oct. 11	Job 23:1-9 Hebrews 4:12-16	<i>"Conversations with God"</i>	CROP WALK at 2:00PM
Oct. 18	Psalm 104:1-9, 24-25 Mark 10:35-45	<i>"How Great Thou Art"</i>	
Oct. 25	Psalm 34:1-8 Mark 10:46-52	<i>"Change of Heart"</i>	

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

SEPTEMBER 2015

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Rally Day was about coming together as one and placing our hands on a heart that works for God. It takes many hands to do the work of the Lord and as disciples that is what we are called to do.

We wrote the word Joy on the board and talked about the joy of summer and how happy we were to be together again. We also told them a new meaning of the word joy and that every time they hear the word to think of it: J-Jesus first, O-others second and Y- yourself last. Putting others before yourself makes you a good disciple.

Church School is experiencing a new format this year. We are trying a one room curriculum. The decision came after having a just a few children in each classroom and the thought of bringing them together in one classroom was an ideal situation. We are learning how our youth handle change and how to be leaders in a changed environment.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL BAG KITS:

The School Bags give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. Our goal this year is to fill 35 bags. We have collected many items for the School Bags and with the abundance of crayons and scissors we have received make our goal possible. Simple things bring great Joy to others.

Happy autumn to all! Enjoy the color, the crispy fall days and pumpkin everything.

Jean Murphy

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Columbia Congregational Church

OCTOBER 2015

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

Saturday, October 10, 2015
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: \$10.00 per person
\$28.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

**WELCOME TO THE
MOBILE FOODSHARE AT**

www.foodshare.org

Andover Congregational Church

359 Route 6, Andover
(Corner of Rt 6 & Long Hill Rd.)

9:00 – 9:30AM

October 7, 21

November 4, 18

December 2, 16, 30

Baptist Fellowship Church

195 Route 6, Columbia

1:15 – 1:45PM

October 1, 15, 29

November 12

December 10, 24

Hebron Interfaith Human Services

1 Main St., Hebron

11:00 – 11:30AM

October 6, 20

November 3, 17

December 1, 15, 29

Bring your own bags; must be 18 years old to receive food.

Columbia/Gilead/Andover CROP Walk – October 11, 2015

Great news for CROP Walkers! Church World Service now has online registration and donation capabilities. Now folks can use paypal or credit cards instead of cash and it makes it easier to track donations. Walkers can register individually or as a team. Check out the CWS Columbia/Gilead/Andover Walk page at www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiact

Also check out the CROP walk video on youtube for more info and ideas. We have a link on our church website at www.columbiacongregationalchurch.org

We are also looking for volunteers to serve as spotters for the route intersections, cooks for the potluck and clean-up crew for potluck at Camp Asto Wamah. If you are interested in walking, donating or volunteering please see any member of the Board of Christian Concern. Thanks!

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Our **church fair** is coming soon. It will be held on the first Saturday in November which, this year, is November 7. We will be running on “V” power....**Volunteers.**

How you could participate:

Volunteer assistant deacons for the 'deacon's diner. (We are short of Deacons and they need help.)

Volunteers for Attic Treasures, for setup the night before, work during the day (9:30am-3pm), and for sorting and packing the treasures afterward.

Volunteers for poster and sign distribution. See Marj Ranger if you have a place for a poster or lawn sign. Small posters will be available for you to hand to your friends as reminders.

Volunteers for fair setup in the evening on Thursday, November 5.

Volunteers for the cookie mix and pie making workshops in the evening in Late October.

Volunteers to bake for the food sale.

Supplies: We are looking for an old wooden window, 2, 4, or 6 light would be good; Altoid tins; Old Christmas balls (the ones that have begun to show their age is best;) wood scraps 10” x 4” minimum, bigger is better and old is good; small shutters (18-24”indoor type); even an old cupboard door is useful.

ATTIC TREASURES

Gently used household goods that are still in good repair will be accepted from the Sunday before the fair until the morning of the fair itself. It would be very helpful if your items were brought to the first classroom on the left, using the first doorway.

Please do not leave any items in the Parish Hall hallway until the Thursday before the fair, as AA uses the building on Wednesday night and that would create a hazard.

Unfortunately, there is a list of items we can no longer accept for sale: Personal hygiene items, infant and children's car seats, cribs and playpens with wooden sides, large appliances or large furniture.

If a small appliance no longer works well, please save us some money and dispose of it properly. The church no longer has a dumpster and someone has to tote that to the transfer station after the fair. Books, unless they are children's books or cookbooks, need to be donated to the library book sale.

If you bring a large item that doesn't sell, please take it back at the end of the day. We have no real storage space.

Even though something is no longer useful or decorative to you, enough people thought well of the items last year to buy several hundred dollars worth of them. Knickknacks sell well. So hunt some good stuff up, please.

See you at the Fair!

If anyone is willing to make one trip to Savers or the Salvation Army at the end of the fair that would be extremely helpful. **If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Kittle at 860 707-3155.**

WAIM'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2015

- Walk for Warmth & Interfaith Thanksgiving Service November 22nd, at St. Mary's Church, Willimantic at 1:30PM and the walk immediately after the service. Registration for the walk begins at 1:00PM.
- Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program donor registration begins October 1st. For more information about the program and donor application, visit www.waimct.org
- Gifts for Teens is the only holiday program in our community for teens between the ages of 13 and 17. Deadline for donations is December 11th. With your help, WAIM provides gift certificates (usually between \$25-30) to teens for the holiday.
- For Kids Only Program is for children between the ages of 5 and 12. They pick out a gift to give to their parents for the holiday season. By donating your new or very gently used treasures, you help us to instill "The Gift of Giving" in our children. Men's items are particularly needed. Deadline for donations December 18th.

For more information contact WAIM 456-7270 or www.waimct.org

WINDHAM AREA INTERFAITH MINISTRY
PARTNERS IN INDEPENDENCE
MENTOR/LEARNING PARTNER PROJECT

WAIM will be conducting the next series of Mentor training sessions for the Partners in Independence Project (PIP) soon. PIP is designed as a community solution to assist individuals and their families in reaching economic security.

Who can be PIP Mentor? Many different types of people make good mentors. WAIM is seeking mature adults who are hoping to share the benefits of their “life experience” and are willing to devote at least one year to working with a Learning Partner.

What does a PIP Mentor do? The volunteer Mentor creates a supportive relationship with an adult Learning Partner who benefits from the Mentor’s guidance and experience. They work together to improve the Learning Partner’s ability to identify strengths and barriers while increasing his or her capacity to progress toward financial, housing, education and employment goals. Mentors, after having been matched with a Learning Partner, develop a more profound appreciation of the challenges many individuals face and the focus needed to bring about change.

What impact can I expect to have on someone as a PIP Mentor? After meeting with their Mentors for several months, comments by Learning Partners include: “The best thing is having someone to talk to,” “I’m more open- used to keep things bottled up but now my relationships are more positive.” “I feel more empowered, more positive about my ability to help myself, more able to meet challenges and more engaged.

What’s the training like? The potential Mentor, wishing to share her/his experience and insight will participate in five two-hour discussion modules usually completed in approximately ten weeks. Although there are many programs and professions already assisting individuals and families facing difficult challenges, the role of Mentor, as coach, guiding a Learning Partner through a thoughtful and directed process, encourages the Learning Partner to make more positive and informed choices that will lead to economic independence and stability.

Become a PIP Mentor and help someone change his or her life.

Please contact Adrienne Marks, Project Coordinator, for
More information about WAIM’s Partners in Independence Project.

“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 Sue Milici at 860-228-4427 or email smilici@earthlink.net** New volunteers are always welcome.

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