

THE STEEPLE CHIMES

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

OCTOBER

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:

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

These last few days have been just perfect in my opinion. Sitting on the porch with the warming sun pouring in on me, I enjoy the sight and fragrance of the hanging pink petunias and the two pots of pink, blue and magenta petunias with the interruption of small yellow daisy like flowers – I don't know what they are- that continue to put on a lush display. While I enjoy these moments, the potted garden against the garage draws my attention more frequently because of the presence there.

Yesterday, its brown body lay, still as a stick about 5 inches long, across the geraniums by the garage door. The evening before I had not seen it at all, until I watered the red impatiens and its long legs pulled its body quickly out of the way of the torrent from the hose. Several days before, it had been on the coleus, its triangular head with the two eyes in opposite corners watching me. Only once have I seen two at a time. These two praying mantises (is that the plural of mantis?) which have been praying over my garden and I have had this hide-and-seek relationship since early summer when I saw my first one on the back porch post. Then it was all green and only about 2 inches long. Every summer since the day we moved into the parsonage, we have had these friendly insects visiting us. This is the first year they have been brown and I have seen more than one at a time.

While their common name comes from the way they draw their front legs up into a prayerful position, I do feel blessed by their presence. I worry about what happens to them when the frost comes, when winter snows fall. When I clean up after the killing frost, will I disturb their life cycle, destroy carefully laid eggs? I need to get more information about them.

I think of God when I discover these creatures. Sometimes God is right in front of us, but in our hurry we fail to see. We need to slow down and open ourselves for the mystery of God to be revealed. Sometimes God is concealed and we must have faith that God is there, somewhere in the clutter of flowers in our lives, or in life's winter chill that can come even in the midst of a hot summer. Trusting God's active presence in our lives requires faith and that faith is strengthened by knowledge of scripture and Christian fellowship, worship and service. In the midst of life we are called to pray, whether we draw up our arms in a prayer position or not. Without our active involvement, our faith grows weak or disappears and we arrogantly claim all good things of our own making.

My garden has been quite wonderful this year, and the harvest from my four tomato plants unusually bountiful. There are a number of factors for this outcome but I like to believe the presence of the praying mantis have brought a blessing that can only come from God. Perhaps most important is they remind me to be still, watch, listen, and be with God in prayer.

Come to church regularly. Participate in church activities. Find comfort and faith and strength in the Word and worship, and in the Christian fellowship. Let's find God together in the mystery of life, in the teachings of Jesus, the Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Meet you there.

Pastor Betsey

October 2013

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**OCTOBER 6**

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon:

Lay Reader:

Greeters: Tim Bassett, John Polglase, Millie Ramsey, and
Kathy Chapman.**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****OCTOBER 13**

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon:

Lay Reader:

Greeter:

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****OCTOBER 20**

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon:

Lay Reader:

Greeter:

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship
Service in the Parish Hall.****OCTOBER 27**

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon:

Lay Reader:

Greeter:

**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.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH CROP WALK**

1:30PM Walk begins at Gilead Church in Hebron & finishes at Camp Asto Wamah in Columbia, Followed by a Potluck!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH**CHURCH BREAKFAST**

8:00AM- 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19th**Church School Teachers' Meeting**

8:00AM – 12:00PM/Lounge

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH**146TH UCC Conference Fall Meeting**

9:00AM – 5:00PM

Being held this year at Asylum Hill
Congregational Church in Hartford.

October 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

OCTOBER – Kim Foss

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER – Tim Anderson

GREETERS AND USHERS

OCTOBER 6- **Deacons:** Kim Foss, Sally Ruef, Janice Knight, Jack and Charlotte Sabine.

October 13 – Volunteers needed

October 20 - Volunteers needed

October 27 - 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.

October 2013

Worship Schedule October 2013

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Worship notes
Oct. 6	Psalm 137		
	Luke 17:5-10	Consequence of Faith	Communion
Oct. 13	Psalm 66: 1-12		
	2 Tim. 2: 8-15	Workers for the Lord	
Oct. 20	Psalm 119:97-104		
	2 Tim 3:14-4:5	Staying Equipped	
Oct. 27	Psalm 65		Reformation
	Luke 18: 9-14	Mercy and Humility	

October 2013

BIBLE STUDY

Interested in learning more about the Bible?

Are you curious about the various stories in the
Book of Genesis?

Currently planned for Monday Evenings.

(If another time or day is better, let Pastor know)

Sign up with Pastor Betsey

ASAP

October 2013

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Rally Day was an awesome day. It was great to see all the familiar and new faces to celebrate the beginning of Church School. We are celebrating the Fruit of the Spirit this year. We had a Bible verse treasure hunt (Galatians 5:22-23) and then talked about how the verse reflects our Christian Faith. We had fun making necklaces out of fruit loops and fruit kabobs which was our contribution to the Rally Day picnic.

Each week of Church School we will emphasize one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Each student will make a label with that fruit and hopefully be asked how that fruit can be shared. The first fruit given was love. Love one another and love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. We will follow with the fruit of joy. How does joy affect your life as a Christian?

We have finished collecting school items for our Church World Service School Bags and if you have contributed to this wonderful mission then you will bring joy to the children who receive the school bags. Thank you for the love and joy you bring to children around the world.

As we begin to enjoy the Fall season let's remember to embrace the love and joy of apple picking and apple cider, and the splendor of the leaves changing and painting a masterpiece for us to enjoy. And when the time comes to pick just the right pumpkin for your jack-o-lantern I hope you will remember this prayer as you carve your pumpkin.

As I carve my pumpkin help me say this prayer:
 Open my mind so I can learn about You;
 (Cut the top of the pumpkin)
 Take away all my sin and forgive me for the wrong things I do.
 (Clean out the inside)
 Open my eyes so Your love I will see;
 (Cut the eyes out in heart shapes)
 I'm so sorry for turning up my nose to all you've given me.
 (Cut a nose in the shape of a cross)
 Open my ears so your word I will hear.
 (Cut the ears shaped like the Bible)-we did rectangles
 Open my mouth so I can tell others You're near
 (cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)
 Let Your light shine in all I say and do! Amen.
 (Place a candle inside and light it)
 Amen,

Jean Murphy

October 2013

Columbia/Gilead/Andover CROP Walk – October 6, 2013

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.colcch.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!

October 2013

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

Saturday, October 12, 2013

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

October 2013

CARE TEAM – Looking for a rewarding, caring volunteer activity? How about serving as the coordinator for our church Care Team? Please see John Polglase for details.

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.

The Board of Christian Concern is running a program called FLOWER POWER. We are offering a wide variety of bulbs for sale and 50% of the profits come back to the church. You can review all of the bulbs on our website or contact Dixie, Holly, Denise, Tony or John Polglase to place your orders. The funds raised will go to help support our mission work with “Simply Smiles” Wounded Warriors, Restavec and others. Thank you for participation in this effort.

John Polglase
Chair BOCC

October 2013

SIMPLY SMILES COFFEE IS BACK!

Simply Smiles Coffee is available in the Parish Hall. Purchase of the coffee helps support Simply Smiles missions in Oaxaca, Mexico and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota. For more details on the mission, see their website <http://www.simplysmiles.org>

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. Also, thanks to all who have planted, watered, and tended the garden.

Check out the gardens on the side of the church. We have already given over ten heads of lettuce, and some collard, and parsley to the Soup Kitchen.

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.

October 2013

The Advent Workshop is looking for a nice 5-6" diameter log or two. Enough to make several dozen 3" thick slices to use for advent wreaths in 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.**

October 2013

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

Church office email: ccchurch@snet.net [website: colcch.org](http://website:colcch.org)

Pastor's email: pastorbetsey.ccchurch@gmail.com

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL, United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 177

Columbia, CT 06237

860.228.9306

Email: ccchurch@snet.net [website: colcch.org](http://website:colcch.org)

Pastor's email: pastorbetsey.ccchurch@gmail.com