

SEPTEMBER

# *THE STEEPLE CHIMES*

*Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ*

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**

During the summer months, our cat Pepper seems to have gotten more use of the porch, sleeping under the deacon's bench offering shade while the soft cushions soaked in the sun. But now that the sun is lower in the sky and falls behind the big maple in front of the church a bit earlier, I have had some pleasant times watching the humming birds at the feeder, listening to the little wind chimes, feeling the little breeze and watching the world buzz by. My thoughts have been on how to build up the church, our church. I have been influenced by my reading Paul's letter to the Ephesians and various workshops I have attended this year.

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, the theme of our worship was shaping community. You can find the sermon posted on the website. While many bemoan the reduced attendance in the summer, I have chosen to look at it as an opportunity to do something which would be more difficult with a full sanctuary. One summer Sunday last year we talked together about the meaning of one of Jesus' parables. It was wonderful to be in dialogue with the congregation.

This Sunday I passed around baskets of *Duplos*, those oversized Legos for very young children who still put everything in their mouths. I asked everyone to consider what makes us a community, what they are doing or have done to be part of that community, what is essential for us to be a faith community, as they added a piece to the growing creation. The first person started with two pieces and everyone else added one until they got to the last person in the back rows of pews. Then Arnold, our President, took the two created "communities" and joined them together as our faith community. Then we took a moment for some to share what they had thought as they added their piece. Here is what was mentioned: a strong foundation, reaching out, trust with vulnerability, prayer/reaching up, support, and each person's piece is important. Most of the over 60 pieces passed around were used in our "community" building, so there were surely other thoughts.

If you weren't with us what would you say was an important part of our being a faith community? Stop for a minute and think about it. What is essential to being a community of faith, the body of Christ? If you were with us, I hope you continue to think about this question. Having thought about this for over a week, I had a long list of thoughts of my own. You can find them at the end of the Newsletter, but think what you would add to the list before peeking at mine.

With September being the beginning of our calendar year (fiscal and program), let's plan to work together at building up our community of faith. Join in the fun on Rally Day, September 9<sup>th</sup>, for joyous worship, sacrament of baptism, signing up children for Sunday school, and wonderful fellowship over a pot luck lunch (see information elsewhere in the Newsletter).

Looking forward to a spectacular year in this faith community,

***Pastor Betsey***

September 2012

**Sunday 10:00 AM Worship****SEPTEMBER 2**

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Rev. Bob Woodward

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeters: Tim Bassett, John Polglase, Millie Ramsey, and Charlotte Sabine.

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****SEPTEMBER 9 / RALLY DAY**

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****SEPTEMBER 16**

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****SEPTEMBER 23**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****SEPTEMBER 30**

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

**Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.****COMING EVENTS**

**FAMILY SUNDAY** will continue to be loaves and fishes 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, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>** 8:30AM – 12:30PM,  
Church School Teacher's Workshop.

**SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> – RALLY DAY POTLUCK PICNIC!** Bring a dish to share and your place setting outside on the lawn. Register children for Sunday School, learn about church activities and enjoy good food and fellowship.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>** Church School Begins!  
Dedication of Church School Teachers.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> – ANNUAL MEETING**  
immediately following worship service.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHRED-A-THON!** 9:00AM – 1:00PM (In front of the Old Fire House)

September 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**  
SEPTEMBER – Tim Bassett

**TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH**  
SEPTEMBER – Doug Erickson

**GREETERS AND USHERS**  
September 2 – **Deacons:** Tim Bassett, John Polglase,  
Millie Ramsey, & Charlotte Sabine.  
**September 9 – Volunteers needed**  
**September 16 – Volunteers needed**  
**September 23 – Volunteers needed**  
**September 30 – Volunteers needed**

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## PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2011 – 2012 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 2012 budget.

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**The State Health Department has notified the Soup Kitchen that they can NO LONGER ACCEPT THE PLASTIC CONTAINERS for leftovers any longer. Thank you to all the folks that have been so good about always donating them. Unfortunately we do not have any other use for them at this time and can no longer accept them. The Board of Christian Concern**

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**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.

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**Pastor Betsey's Thoughts on Shaping Community**

Scripture to follow	service projects/outreach
People-Multigenerational	hospitality
Focus	educational opportunities
Money	meetings to coordinate efforts
Worship	calendar/schedule
Rituals	values – core values
Place to gather	willing participants
Goals	mission statement
Bylaws	spiritual practices
Committees/volunteers-	to spread the work
Hope	joy
Courage	wisdom
Kindness	agape love
Passion	celebrations
Compassion	sharing

September 2012

## Congregation's Duplo Faith Community



September 2012

## ~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS~

**Rally Day** is an exciting time when we come together and prepare ourselves to open our eyes, ears and hearts to the Lord. This year we will stand up and let our light shine for all to see how great is our God. We begin the new church school year with a new curriculum, Grow proclaim/serve. It still proclaims that God loves us with a great big love and that He is always with us. We always strive to let our light shine for those who are less fortunate, for those who serve and protect our country, for those whose health may be failing and for those who simply need a kind ear and a simple smile. Let us all stand up and let our light shine!

### **RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**

Church school will meet in the Parish Hall with their teachers and celebrate letting their light shine! All are welcomed and we encourage the children to bring a friend to join in our celebration!

**\*Church school registration in the Parish Hall following morning worship!**

### **LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE:**

#### **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL BAGS: COLLECTIONS SEPTEMBER 9 – OCTOBER 7**

Items needed to fill each bag are:

- 3 - 70 page notebooks**
- 1- ruler**
- 1 - pencil sharpener**
- 1 - pair of blunt scissors**
- 1 - box 24 count crayons**
- 1- eraser**

*We have enough pencils* but always need extra scissors, pencil sharpeners and crayons.

These items seem simple but they make a difference to a child who has none. Church World Services sends the bags to children worldwide where they need to have an opportunity to have a fresh start to learning. Our goal is to fill 50 bags. Thank you for the many who have supported this outreach program and helping to let our light shine.

**We are excited to welcome Anne Robinson and Brianna Starkey to our team of teachers!**

Remember: "This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!"

**God is Great!**

**Jean**

September 2012

**RALLY DAY POTLUCK PICNIC – SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>!** Let’s start the new program year off with a faith community potluck picnic after morning worship. Register children for Sunday School and learn about church activities and enjoy good food and fellowship. Bring a dish to share and your own plates and utensils. **Family style:** Help with the set up. Help with the clean up. Let’s keep it simple and have a good time together!

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**The Women’s Guild will hold its first meeting of the 2012-13 year on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM in the Lounge. We invite the women of the church to join us as we plan our programs for the coming year.**

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**“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.

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# **CALLING ALL 7<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> GRADERS !**

We are forming a Youth Group!

Let's join together and have fun doing team building activities, going on missions, adopting our own primary charity, develop our purpose and oh yeah...have FUN!!

I would love to kick this off with a retreat so everyone can create the program year together!

LOOK FOR FURTHER INFO SOON!

Need more information? Want to help out? Have any questions...

Contact Rene Lambert 860-966-1374

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## **ANDOVER FOOD PANTRY**

**359 ROUTE 6, P.O.BOX 55 ANDOVER, CT 06232**

### **SERVING ANDOVER & COLUMBIA**

Hi, we are writing to ask for your help. We are planning a large fundraiser on September 22 at the Andover Ball Field on Long Hill Road in Andover CT. The first event will be a Celebrity softball game with the channel 3 folks playing against locals and politicians. This event is free, but entrance to the field will be a non-perishable item to fill the Police cruiser. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be for sale all day with an old fashioned Pig Roast at 4pm. Food will be priced reasonably so all can enjoy. We are in a very desperate situation and need help, or our friends in need will not have this service. There will be loads of activities all day, with examples being: Antique Car Show, Music, Bouncy Houses, Face Painting, Balloon Animals, 4-H Petting Zoo, Bake Sale, Raffles and perhaps a talent show. We need help with Raffle items, Auction items, Food and Drink supplies, and anything and everything else. Please donate for this worthwhile cause. No one should go hungry. For all donations and questions please respond to:

**Debbie Beebe**

**110 Lake Road**

**Andover CT 06232**

**860-498-1116 or 860 490- 1009**

**Checks should be made out to:**

**Andover Food Pantry, P.O. Box 55,**

**Andover, CT 06232**

**Our tax exempt number is: E3379**

September 2012

**The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR**

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