

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

OCTOBER 2014

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

It is raining and quite warm and muggy for this fall day, but I am sitting on the porch anyway. I take every opportunity to be out here because I know days warm enough to do so are limited now. Amazing how much more we appreciate something when we know we are going to lose it.

Soon the leaves that have begun to take on color will drift down to be raked up and put in a compost pile, or burned. Remember when everyone was burning their leaves. We lived in Westfield NJ then, and everyone raked their leaves to the edge of the street and then burned them, so as we drove by the distinctive aroma floated in the windows. I love that smell. I know now that it was just terrible for our lungs, especially those who had breathing problems to begin with, but I remember that time with affection - helping my dad rake and watching the plumes of smoke dance into the air...and then trying to get away from the smoke that suddenly blew in my direction. Many years later, John and I burned leaves with our daughter in back of our house in Ardmore, PA. It wasn't as much fun as I remembered it.

One of our past- times when we visited our grandparents in Cornwall in the fall was raking leaves. We would rake massive piles of maple leaves and then bury each other in the piles. The one buried would wait for the beckoned adults to come out to see the piles and then the "monster" would erupt from the pile, and everyone screamed with surprise. Of course, they knew what was going on and performed as required, but we children didn't know that.

Well, here I sit, the cars swishing by on wet Route 87. I look forward to the changing leaves that will soon rustle under my steps, to stacking fire wood, and to the smell of stews and pot roasts and soup filling the house. And I feel so blessed to be able to enjoy the changing season without the fear of how I will stay warm or where I will be able to find food. I can look forward to scrumptious winter meals because I have so much.

So as I sit on this Sabbath day soaking in the blessings of having a home, a job, friends and family, and great memories, I have become conscious of those who do not. Maybe that is what Sabbath is for: to hear Christ's call to share a portion of what we have with others so no one goes hungry, to soak in our blessings and become aware of those who cannot do the same, for whatever reason. Sabbath is more than a time for being conscious of and connecting with God, to pray, and to read and ponder scripture, to spend meaningful time with friends and family, to rest and recharge one's batteries for the week ahead. It is a time to be open to the voice of the Spirit and allow it to penetrate the self that gets too busy with selfish endeavors. For this we must quiet ourselves enough to receive the Spirit's message.

The rain, which was not in the prediction I heard this morning, continues to fall, trickles down the drain spout and splashes on the stones. The orange of the maple leaves across the street peak through the purple of the maple beyond the dogwood which flashes it's red berries close to the porch. I give thanks and recommit myself to doing the work Jesus began: caring for the least of these. I hope you will join me. Enjoy cutting pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns, baking pumpkin bread, dressing your children up in costumes, and sitting around the dinner table with family enjoying a warm meal (or remember when you did this before children grew up or various friends and family moved away), and make Sabbath an important time for you to reconnect with the Holy.

See you in church,

Pastor Betsey

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

OCTOBER 5/COMMUNION

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeters: Tim Bassett, Janice Knight, Sally Ruef,
and Millie Ramsey.

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

OCTOBER 12

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

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

OCTOBER 19

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

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

OCTOBER 26

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeters: Tim Bassett

**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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
CROP WALK

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
CHURCH BREAKFAST

8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
Church School Teachers Meeting
10:00AM – 12:00PM/Lounge

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
147TH UCC Conference Fall Meeting
9:00AM – 5:00PM Being held this year at Cheshire High School in Cheshire, CT.

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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 – Tim Bassett

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER – Tim Anderson

GREETERS AND USHERS

October 5 – **Deacons:** Tim Bassett, Janice Knight, Sally Ruef, and Millie Ramsey.

October 12 – Volunteers needed

October 19 – Volunteers needed

October 26 – Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2014 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 2014 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 craftspeople 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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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Creation: God was very pleased with His creation. Six times throughout the process of creating, God stopped, observed his handiwork and saw that it was good. On final inspection of all that he had made, God said it was "very good." This is a great time to remind ourselves that we are part of God's creation. Even when you don't feel worthy of his pleasure, remember that God made you and is pleased with you. You are of great worth to him. We are taking time to let the children know how important they are to God, that they are part of God's Creation and are responsible for helping take care of all His handiwork.

Rally Day we had the children paint their image of creation on paper and then we painted rocks to reflect how they feel being a part of God's Creation. We will continue to explore God's Creation and how we are called to make a difference.

CHURCH SCHOOL CHANGE:

Church School will now be meeting every Sunday. We will meet as a whole on the First and Third Sundays to do a group activity. Children who want to participate in Communion Sunday may do so. We always wish we had more time and this format gives us this opportunity.

MISSION WORK

Church World Service School Kits: If you did not have an opportunity to shop for items to donate but would like to contribute please see Jean Murphy and she will be happy to shop for you! Last year we filled 38 bags and our goal this year is to fill 40 bags. We are always grateful for your donations to this wonderful mission.

JOY

We are blessed to have all of our teachers back with us. We are excited for the continued help of our youth helpers Chloe Weston and Hannah Bassett. We always welcome anyone who would like to be a part of our wonderful team of teachers. **We are in need of adults who would like to help in our Nursery. Please see Jean Murphy if you are interested.**

Blessings Always

Jean Murphy

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

Saturday, October 11, 2014
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

**WELCOME TO THE
MOBILE FOODSHARE AT**

Baptist Fellowship Church
Located at 195 Route 6 (Willimantic Road),
Columbia, CT in the upper parking lot

Every other Thursday from 1:15 to 1:45 pm

NEW TIME

This mobile pantry program provides primarily
fresh fruits and vegetables to individuals & families in need.

For more information, call FOODSHARE at 860-286-9999

Up coming distribution dates:

October 2, 16, 30

November 13

NO delivery on Nov. 27

December 11

NO delivery on Dec. 25

January 8, 22, **2015**

February 5, 19

March 5, 19

April 2, 16, 30

May 14, 28

***Check WFSB Channel 3 for snow cancellations:
Look for "Baptist Fellowship Closed"

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

Columbia/Gilead/Andover CROP Walk – October 5, 2014

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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The Church Fair Committee Could Use Some Help:

Publicity help: newspapers, newsletters, web site, distribute signs and/or posters—someone to do year-round publicity would be wonderful. The good part is that you don't have to do crafts to help out.

Do some **Food Crafts**: Make up mixes, snowman soup ideas, tea gifts, come up with interesting ways to wrap candy or popcorn that would make cute, inexpensive gifts. Brainstorm some ideas or run even just one workshop just before the fair.

Attic Treasures: Ask for treasures and set up a time and place for people to bring them, set up the rooms on the Thursday before the fair, check Friday night for additional donations and Saturday morning for additional donations and you can open way before the fair... usually 9 am or whenever you see someone pop in. We don't usually put prices on everything. If something special comes in, it is ok to do that. Most of the time is it dickering. And you can schedule people to work the room. We have suggestions. Also we know where to donate which items that don't sell. This only takes up a few days around fair time and makes close to 20% of the fair's profits.

Run an **evening workshop**. You don't have to meet every week. You can meet once a month or just often enough to finish one project or to start a project and send it home with group members (and making sure you get everything back.) If you can look at an item, read the directions, and work from a kit, we can make up kits for you. You could help make up the kits, if that's your style.

We are looking for **different ideas to add to the fair to make it more fun**. In the past, we have had a Scarves and Jewelry Room; a pie-making workshop for the bake sale (this year we would like to have two pie workshops;) a Country Store with cheese, candy, and home canned goods. Perhaps you have been to a fair or bazaar somewhere and have seen something different that you could share with us. And... we have **day workshops** on Wednesday mornings from 10 to noon. Stop in and visit.

“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.

Church Fair needs:

We are still collecting those white plastic tags that hold bread or roll wrappers together. We didn't get quite enough last year.

Crayons...old and/or broken, anyhow....unwanted crayons.

Altoid tins.

Those little rounded Y shaped clips that keep pump bottles from squirting lotion or hand soap all over your grocery sacks on the way home. You remove them to use the lotion and never know what to do with them afterward.

We will be happy to sell these things back to you at next year's fair when we are done with them.

Photos of Church Events Wanted. We are looking for photos of our church activities to be posted on the Bulletin Board outside the Parish Hall and to be used on promotional flyers and ads. Please send photos electronically to Denise at ccchurch@snet.net, or send/bring in prints to the church office.

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.

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 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm in the upper church parking lot.** Please be sure to circulate the word to people you know. **The FoodShare Van will continue to stop at the Andover Congregational Church on Route 6 every other Wednesday.** Please bring your own grocery bags.

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SEPTMEBER 2014

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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