

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 2014

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

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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

It was early evening and the clouds and sky, seen through the maple tree in front of the church, were emblazed by the setting sun. Closer to the porch, the hummingbirds were bickering over the feeder. As two or three “hummers” chased each other away, another moved in to grab a good drink. It was a pleasant time of reflection, and my thoughts turned from nature’s activity to my friend’s art show in Turner Falls, MA.

Her profession had been an elementary school teacher, but I have always known her as an artist and naturalist with vast knowledge and a hunger for more. Her first works in the show reminded me of our times together on vacation, when she and my sister did watercolors and I did cross stitch on the lawn overlooking the lake while our aunt played classical piano inside, her notes floating in and through and beyond us. The next group were small oils done in the style of great artists like Boudin and Monet. The last group were oils done on 2 foot by 6 foot canvases (hanging perpendicular rather than horizontal) all of natural scenes. They each offered a deep slice of landscape: a trickling stream under stormy clouds, a path through the sand dunes, and a stretch of Maine coastline, among others.

In this time of reflection on our lovely porch, I had three major thoughts. The first was about wishing I had such talent. The second, obviously moving out of the first thought, was how we all have different talents and that is a blessing. The third thought was the value of looking at things from a different angle, from a different perspective.

We all have unique talents – painting, photography, writing, speaking, compassionate listening, being the life of the party or the icebreaker, gardening, carpentry, cooking, parenting, organizing, being an advocate, singing, or playing an instrument. Most have multiple gifts. The thing is we need to recognize that such activities are more than just what we like to do and do well but are actually gifts from God and thus are worthy of being valued and shared.

As we begin a new fiscal year and a new school year, I encourage you to think in what ways you can use your gift/talent in service to our faith community. Besides the various boards and committees, which can always use some fresh energy and ideas, there are short-term opportunities, like managing the Soup Kitchen Garden, or producing a church directory, or adding to our music ministry on occasion. The Garden has maybe a month and a half to go before we clean it up for the winter. A visit a couple of times a week is sufficient. I have heard from many that we need a new directory. Children have grown and gotten married, and new folks have joined since the last directory, but no one wants to organize it. A directory in each pew would help folks remember who is who in worship. While I have contacts, and have learned there are ways to reduce the work involved, we need one or two to commit to get it done over just a couple of months. Music can add so to the worship experience. An offering of a vocal or instrumental song is always welcome.

To everyone I say, be the change you want to see happen. Let’s not be afraid to fail, but accept the risk of new things enriching what we already have. Maybe we do need to look at “doing church” from a new perspective to get a deeper view of our faith. We could all be so much richer if we all shared our gifts. Let’s step out of the comfort zone and follow where Jesus is leading us.

Looking forward to a new year being church with you,

Pastor Betsey

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

SEPTEMBER 7/COMMUNION

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeters: Tim Bassett, Kim Foss and Janice Knight.

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

SEPTEMBER 14/RALLY DAY

FOURTEENTH 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.

SEPTEMBER 21

FIFTEENTH 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.

SEPTEMBER 28

SIXTEENTH 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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH
Church School Teachers Workshop
8:30AM – 12:30PM/Parish Hall

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
CHURCH BREAKFAST
8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH – RALLY DAY! Register children for Sunday School and learn about church activities and enjoy good food and fellowship.

6TH ANNUAL SHRED-A-THON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
9:00AM – 1:00PM (In front of the Old Fire House)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST –
CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS! Dedication of Church School Teachers.

ANNUAL MEETING follows immediately after worship service.

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SEPTEMBER 2014



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

SEPTEMBER – Tim Bassett

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER – Ralph Tangarone

GREETERS AND USHERS

September 7 – **Deacons:** Tim Bassett, Kim Foss and Janice Knight.

September 14 – Volunteers needed

September 21 – Volunteers needed

September 28 – 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.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The members of the Columbia Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Columbia, Connecticut, are hereby notified that the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Church will be held immediately following morning worship on Sunday, **September 21, 2014** for the following purposes:

- 1) To receive the reports of all Officers, Boards, Committees, and Organizations of the Church, and take any action relative thereto;
- 2) To act upon the nominations presented by the Nominating Committee to fill Offices, Boards, and Committees.
- 3) To act upon the proposed budget for the 2014 fiscal year (September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015);
- 4) By-laws Report.
- 5) Other Business.

Dated this date, August 27, 2014

Kathy Chapman, Council President

Worship Schedule

SEPTEMBER 2014

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
September 7	Psalm 149 Matthew 18:15-20	<i>"Making It Right"</i>	Communion
September 14	Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Exodus 14:19-31	<i>"What Kind of Victor"</i>	RALLY SUNDAY
September 21	Exodus 16:2-15	<i>"Whiners in the Wilderness"</i>	Teacher Dedication Annual Meeting
September 28	Exodus 17:1-7 Philippians 2:1-13	<i>"People Pleasers"</i>	Leader Dedication

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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Rally Day is a time to welcome back the children to Church School and celebrate the year ahead. We will be celebrating “God’s Loving Creation” this year. Creation is a wonderful thing to think about as we think about the Creator God. Creation is all around us every day. From new grass or flowers that just seem to pop up in the spring to the constant baby births that many seem to take for granted. God is a Creator God and that alone should give us reason to give Him thanks.

RALLY DAY/CHURCH SCHOOL: SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

Children: we meet downstairs in the Parish Hall during Worship Service.

Meet the teachers

Crafts/Games

Registration: Parents meet with teachers after Service to register.

Tell a friend or better bring a friend to join us as we celebrate God’s Love in our lives.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL BAG KITS:

Church School will be collecting school supplies to fill the bags for the month of **August** and **September**. There will be a **collection basket in the front foyer to place the collected items in**. The items needed to fill one bag are:

- 1 pair blunt scissors**
- 3 spiral notebooks**
- 1 eraser**
- 1 sharpener**
- 1 24 pack of crayons**
- 6 pencils**
- 1 ruler**

Church World Service School Bag Kits are one of the most needed kits. **Last year we sent out 38 bags. Church school appreciates your donations and helping make a difference in the life of a child.** Looking forward to seeing all of you soon!

God Bless,

Jean Murphy

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

Saturday, September 13, 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

Rally Day/ Casual Sunday
September 14th

Mark your calendars and plan to be here on September 14th for our **Rally Day/ Casual Sunday** kick off to our church year. **Bring a friend.** The more the merrier!

Worship will be festive and, immediately following, we will have a **Pot Luck lunch and fun activities** for children of **all** ages.

“O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.”
Psalm 118

Let us start the program year with rejoicing and being glad in our faith community.

SHRED- A- THON

**Saturday, September 20th
9AM – 1PM**

(In Front Of the Old Fire House on Route 66)

Watch your old papers get shredded.
Suggested donation \$5.00/per bag.

30TH ANNIVERSARY
WINDHAM AREA INTERFAITH MINISTRY

Join us in celebration of all we have accomplished together.

You join our annual Walk for Warmth.

You mentor those in need of stability in their lives.

You arrange clothing and household items for families to bring home.

You partner with us in our fight against poverty.

You support our services with your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure.

In recognition of your support, we invite you, your family and friends to celebrate with us at our community barbecue.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST
1:00PM – 4:00PM

Franco-American Club Outdoor Pavilion
116 Club Road
Windham, CT

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:

September 4, 18

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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SEPTEMBER 2014

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.

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We are looking for donations of general school supplies for Columbia students. Refer any questions to Deb Smith or Dixie Silvestri. Kindergarten – 1 boy, 1st Grade – 1 girl, 3rd Grade – 1 girl, 4th Grade – 1 girl, 5th Grade – 1 boy, 7th Grade – 1 boy, 1 girl, 8th Grade – 1 girl, 10th Grade – 1 girl.

“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.

Covenant Community Vegetable Garden The vegetable garden is now planted. If all of you gardeners would take a moment to stop by and weed and water as necessary it would be of great help. The water barrels are full and the hose is operating. Remember, all the produce we raise go to the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic which can use anything we can provide. Thanks for your help. John

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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The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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