

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

APRIL 2015

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:

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

As I write this, there are still piles of snow on the ground and the wind today makes the chilly temperatures feel even worse, but that does not deter me from feeling the hope that comes with Easter and spring. That these two go hand in hand seems totally logical.

In terms of the seasons, we have gone through 6 weeks of two snow storms every week giving us bleak winter weather. This left us practically hip deep in frigid white, and drifts and plowed snow over our heads. It has been hard to imagine new growth pushing through the rock hard earth, and hard to remember that hibernating creatures have been sleeping through it all. While I have watched the birds at the feeders, the little mouse footprints in the snow took me by surprise. Of course, they are not hibernators but I didn't expect them scurrying across the glistening landscape.

In moments of despair, I have thought what good can come from all this winter, and yet, I know. As buds swell, flowers burst into colorful display, I remember again.

And so it is with Holy Week. We have watched along with the first followers of Jesus as he was arrested, tried, ridiculed, and crucified. All but a few of the women were overwhelmed with fear and hid their association with the man they had just called the Messiah. What kind of Messiah gets executed? Where was his mighty power? Together they hid from the authorities. What good could come from their being arrested?

What good could come of Jesus' death? Jesus was dead. Hope was dead. And yet, we know. Those early disciples did too, but had forgotten Jesus teachings, or could not comprehend his words at the time he spoke them....not until they encountered him again, heard him speak again, shared breakfast on the beach once again.

Our joy at seeing the first snowdrops or crocus is a mere shadow of the remarkable joy the disciples felt when they saw Jesus once again. While we react to the renewed life we see, they responded to the new life they were promised. We say, "aha, it is spring again." They said, "aha this is what Jesus meant." We want to get outside and walk or run with a new freedom. They became aware of the new life Jesus had promised and gladly spread the Good News.

We, too, hear the Good News and are filled with the hope it brings. We are drawn to acts of kindness and compassion. We are empowered to work for justice so all can live rich and full lives. We recognize our blessings and responsibilities as Christians.

Finally, the tough winter is coming to a close, having delivered one of the coldest and snowiest Februaries on record. Last summer delivered record breaking heat. If we listen, we hear how the way we live is affecting life on this planet.

What good can come of reminding us of these things? We have the opportunity to rejoice in the beauty all around and then resolve to preserve it, for us, our children and grandchildren, and all creation and to spread the Good News.

In line with this thinking of the seasons, I encourage everyone to bring in photographs, paintings, or poems about the seasons. We'll hang them in the Parish Hall so we can celebrate God's creation together and be moved to care for the planet.

Rejoicing in God's promise,

Pastor Betsey

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

APRIL 2015

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

APRIL 5/EASTER SUNDAY

EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeters: Kim Foss, Sally Ruef, Jack Sabine, and Millie Ramsey.

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

APRIL 12

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeter: Kim Foss

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

APRIL 19

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeter: Kim Foss

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

APRIL 26

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeters: Kim Foss

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.



MONDAY'S - BIBLE STUDY CLASS

7:00PM -8:30PM/Parish Hall

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND

7:00PM Worship Service with communion,

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

7:00PM Worship Service

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

6:30AM – Sunrise Service at Camp Asto Wamah

7:15AM – Easter Breakfast – **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**

10:00AM – Easter Worship Service with Living Cross!

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH

CHURCH BREAKFAST

8:00AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH

Church School Teachers Meeting

10AM – 12PM/Lounge

SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH

POTLUCK LUNCHEON Sponsored by the Bd. Of Christian Concern Immediately Following Worship Service!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH

Ice Cream Social immediately following worship service!

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APRIL 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

APRIL – Kim Foss

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

APRIL – Doug Erickson

GREETERS AND USHERS

APRIL 5 – **EASTER** - **Deacons:** Kim Foss, Sally Ruef, Jack Sabine, and Millie Ramsey.

APRIL 12 – Kim Foss

APRIL 19 – Kim Foss

APRIL 26 – Kim Foss

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 craftspeople 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

APRIL 2015

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
April 5 th	Mark 16:1-8 Acts 10:34-43	<i>EASTER</i>	Handbells
April 12 th	Psalm 133 1 John 1:1, 2:2	<i>"Easter Tide"</i>	Baptism
April 19 th	Psalm 4 Luke 24:36b-48	<i>"Beach Barbecue"</i>	
April 26 th	Psalm 23 John 10:11-18	<i>"Sheep and Shepherd"</i>	

EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2ND

7:00PM Worship Service with Holy Communion, and Tenebrae (gathering darkness), a most meaningful experience.

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3RD

7:00PM Worship Service that will focus on Christ, Who died for each of us.

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5TH

Join us to Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sunrise Service - 6:30AM at Camp Asto Wamah off Route 87 on the shores of Columbia Lake.

Easter Breakfast – 7:15AM In our Parish Hall follows the Sunrise Service.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

Easter Worship Service – 10:00AM in our Sanctuary with Special Music by our Choirs and an array of Easter flowers. There will be NO Church School Classes, so that families might celebrate together the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

NOTE: There will be NO Fellowship Hour after Easter Worship Service.

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Sights and Sounds of the Seasons **Artistic Look at the Seasons** **Intergenerational Perspectives**

Hard as it may be to picture spring and summer while we are still buried in the accumulation of weeks of snow, the first day of spring is just twenty days away. What a February we have had! But that's **New England, full of the highs and lows of all four seasons.** While photographs are an easy way to capture those moments that leave you in awe and wonder, there are many ways that we can be moved to express what we see and hear.

So give your creative-self free reign. Look through all those photos you took during the year, or take some now; find that poem you jotted down about the sunrise, or the feel of cool water on a hot day, or your child's laughter; or finish up that painting, and then bring them in to display in our Fellowship Hall after Easter.

It is time to reveal **our creative reflection of what we observed**, be it in photographs, watercolors, collages, woodcarving, stitchery, poetry or short story. Your creative work can be brought in beginning March 30 and throughout April. It would be great if we can begin hanging things before our April 11th breakfast.

Our children will be presenting the Creation Pageant on Children's Sunday and a full display of God's creative gifts would be a great compliment. We'll keep the display up until after Children's Sunday.

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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

We anticipate the joys of spring when living things begin to appear and gives us hope for a new beginning. The Church School has been working hard on giving the gift of hope and a new beginning for families living in hunger and poverty through Heifer International. Our goal is to raise \$1,500.00. This amount would allow us to purchase 22 sets of bees, a Llama, a goat, a sheep, a pig, 2 trio of rabbits, chicks and 2 sets of tree saplings. These animals with training give an impoverished family a chance to change their lives for the better. With their promise to pass on the first born to another family a whole community is transformed. If you would like to donate to help make a difference the Church School will be hosting a carwash May 9th from 9-2 at the Columbia Old Firehouse and the cost is \$5.00 per car. What a great way to help make a difference for those in need.

The Joy of Easter Poem for our children:

~Time for joy and time for giving
Time for remembering
Love while living.
~Take this message Easter Day
Show kindness, care
At home and play.
~It's in our very acts of giving
Easter's joy
Makes life worth living.
~Children round the globe now hear
Keep Easter
In your heart all year.
~May joy and love spread land to land
Linked heart to heart
And hand to hand!
~Amen

Remember to bring flowers Easter Sunday for our Living Cross!

Remember to spread the word \$5 Carwash May 9, 2015 held at the Old Firehouse.

Happy Easter,

Jean Murphy

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APRIL 2015

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

Saturday, April 11, 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: \$8.00 per person
\$24.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

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Celebrate



SPRING



Potluck
Lunch

Sunday, April 19th
After the service

It has been a long winter. Let's celebrate the
Easter Season with a spring potluck.

**BAKERS...DON'T FORGET
DESSERT.**



HOT DOGS for the kids.

**Drinks, cups, plates, and silverware
will be provided.**



All are welcome on Potluck Sunday

The Board of Christian Concern

ICE CREAM
Social

Hosted by the
Stewardship Committee

Sunday April 26

After the service

All are welcome!

A non-dairy alternative
will be available



**The Fair Committee thanks you
for your support –**

We have enough bread tags- Now we are looking for glass baby food jars (any size) with covers, a large old mirror and or wooden windows (30” or smaller), small (interior) shutters in any condition, large wooden picture frames.

Please contact Jackie Kittle
860-707-3155.

**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

April 8, 22

May 6, 20

June 3, 17

Baptist Fellowship Church
195 Route 6, Columbia

1:15 – 1:45PM

April 2, 16, 30

May 14, 28

June 11, 25

Hebron Interfaith Human Services

1 Main St., Hebron

11:00 – 11:30AM

April 7, 21

May 5, 19

June 2, 16, 30

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

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Summer Outdoor Fun

Silver Lake Conference Center, located in Sharon CT, is the Outdoor Ministry of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC, **Children ages 8-18** can experience a week-long “camp community with ‘unplugged’ friendship-making, outdoor fun, participation in creating the all-camp worship, serving one another, and creating sustainable connections with the environment, each other, and God. Colorful brochures are available at the church. More information, including downloadable registration forms can be accessed at www.silverlakect.org. Most conferences cost \$550 and run Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning. If financial assistance is needed, SLCC has discounts and scholarships, or you can speak with Pastor Betsey.

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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 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.

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.

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The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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