

The Steeple Chimes

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
Columbia Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Established in 1720



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.

Reunions and Homecomings

A couple of weeks ago, I attended my fiftieth high school reunion. The fifty years since I left Xavier High School has seemingly gone by in a wink of an eye. One day a 134 pound Catholic kid heading off to college with trepidation and the next day a 250 pound Protestant minister coming back. (That last part is a real rarity for a Catholic school!)

Prior to this year, I'd only been back to the school a couple of times, but for this reunion I thought, since I live nearby, it would be fun to get involved. So, I joined up with five other alums last winter to form a committee to plan the big event. We chose a date, location, food and then made personal phone invitations to classmates. We also came up with a chapel service to remember classmates and faculty who have passed into Eternal Care. All of this was in coordination with a "Homecoming Day" that included a football game (We won!).

During my calls to alums, they frequently said "I won't know anybody anymore." Or, they had some unresolved complaint about their school experience that would not allow them to return. I tried to change those negative views, but to be honest I didn't overcome many objections. That is too bad, because it was a great event for those who attended. I reconnected with many guys I hadn't seen in five decades. We all went in very different paths: Rich played Triple A ball before returning to the school to become the baseball coach and guidance counselor, Joe just retire as the XHS athletic director, Jim is a doctor, Ted is a lawyer (not the bad kind), Greg an engineer, Tom is a retired policeman, Al was a fireman; they and others, all had very different life experiences. However, once we were reunited there was camaraderie and good-natured fun grounded in a common history. They all look older (not me) but still knew each other. My classmates who chose to stay away missed out on a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Homecomings are a big part of the fall. However, for some, they can engender fear, trepidation and reminders of a hurtful past. Coming home, for a family dinner or even to attend church, is sometimes difficult. I certainly understand that some past experiences are open wounds that continue to remain painful, yet there are times when the pain we carry is left unhealed by our own stubborn desire to not let it go. Healing and forgiveness happen much more easily, if we open ourselves to the possibilities. In retrospect, I wish I'd been more persuasive to my recalcitrant classmates, for some it could have helped mend old hurts.

I pray that all of your homecomings bring renewal and joy to your life and the lives of those around you.

Blessings,
Pastor Barry

A decorative border on the left side of the page features a vertical stem with several autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, red, and brown. The stem is adorned with delicate, light-colored swirls and flourishes that extend towards the bottom right corner of the page.

Craft Fair

**Columbia Congregational Church
325 Route 87, Columbia**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019
10:00AM – 3:00PM**

Vendors Craft Booths

Baked Goods

Handmade Items

Silent Auction

Deacon's Diner Serving from
11AM to 2PM

Our famous Corn Chowder, Salad,
Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Pies, Cider,
Coffee and Tea

**SILENT AUCTION
ITEMS REQUESTED FOR**

**COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
BAZAAR AND CRAFT FAIR**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019
10:00AM – 3:00PM**

The Fair Committee would like to have a Silent Auction this year. Together we can make this a fun event.

Donated items suggested for Silent Auction

- Theme Basket of goodies – garden items, movie night, sport i.e. Golf, Holiday items, non-perishable foods. *Be creative have fun...*
- Handmade items – Quilts, blankets, etc. – good condition
- Art – framed art work, Pottery etc.
- Antiques – good condition
- Gift Certificates – restaurant, fast food, service
- Donated items should include suggested minimum bid - \$ amount

Please drop off above items to Church Hall: Mark item “*For Silent Auction*” contact Jackie Kittle or Audrey Tuttle.

Drop dates: Until November 1st

New crafters and ideas are always welcomed. ***See you at the Fair!***

Family and Friends Get Together Breakfast

Come and linger for a while!

Saturday, November 9th

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: \$10.00 per person

\$28.00 - 2 adults and 2 children



Holiday Greetings,

November 2019 marks the 44th year of the annual **Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**. Many families have benefited from your donations in the past, and your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

The idea behind the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to contribute to the fund instead of sending cards to your friends and family in town. Your name will then be listed in the Town of Columbia quarterly newsletter *Columbia Views*.

The purpose of the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to help Columbia families in need. These situations present themselves more often than we would like to believe, and as government programs have been reduced, the need for the local community to respond has become greater. Join your neighbors in continuing or even increasing your support

This past year alone the fund has been used to help with holiday food baskets for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, back to school supplies, youth camp registration and help with electrical bills.

Thank you for your continued caring and God Bless You!

Sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church

Mail to:
Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund
c/o Dixie Silvestri
70 Johnson Rd
Columbia, CT 06237

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to the **“Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund”**

_____ Do not list my name in the *Columbia Views* **OR**

_____ I would like my listing in the *Columbia View* to appear as (names only please):

(Please print clearly)

Please make checks payable to the **“Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund”**
Donations are tax-deductible.

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND
Deadline for printed listing Dec. 20, 2019

Christmas Poinsettias



The Flower Committee will begin accepting orders for Christmas poinsettias that will be used to adorn the church for Christmas services. There are five selections listed below this year. The flowers can be dedicated and the list will be printed within the Christmas Service bulletin.

The Flower Committee requests that you **place your order by Sunday, November 17th**. Checks may be made out to Columbia Congregational Church (memo: poinsettia), or money may be given to Marj Ranger after services. You may also leave your order form in the Flower Committee mailbox. If you prefer to mail your order, please send your completed form and payment to:

Marj Ranger
18 Chesbro Bridge Road
Columbia, CT 06237

Type	Red	Pink	Marble P&W	White	Cost	Quantity	Total
6 1/2" pot					9.50 each		\$

Please **PRINT** dedication message **NEATLY** in the space below. Also include your phone number in case we need to contact you. Thank you very much for participating in our annual Poinsettia Sale.

Dedication From:

Dedication Message:

Contact Name/Phone # _____



The Board of Christian Concern is looking for people to volunteer to prepare a meal for The NO FREEZE Shelter every third Saturday of the month from

November through April. Meals include: Soup, Main Dish (crockpot examples: homemade mac & cheese, stew, chili, chicken & rice), salad, Finger Sandwiches, Fruit, Desserts, and Bottled Water.

There should be enough in your dish to feed 12-15 people. **The next meal is for Saturday, November 16th. We need desserts, fruits, and water.** Please call Sue Milici at 860-228-4427 to let her know you are bringing something and/or would like to help serve.

Food can be dropped off at the church on Saturday and left in the kitchen anytime between 9AM and 5PM. **Your help in this ministry is greatly appreciated!**

Thanksgiving Baskets

Please consider donating either turkeys/chickens or grocery store gift cards for the Thanksgiving baskets for folks in need in Columbia. As always, thanks in advance for your help. Contact either Debby Smith or Dixie Silvestri with any questions.

The Search Committee is looking for names for the Pastor position if you have the name of someone please put it in the offering plate or give it to the church secretary.

WAIM will be having their annual **Walk for Warmth** on Sunday **November 24th**. Below are links to the on-line registration and fundraising pages for the Walk for Warmth.

<https://www.runreg.com/Confirmed/9037>

<https://www.pledgereg.com/waim-walk-for-warmth>

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2nd

10:00AM-3:00PM- Annual Craft Fair

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3rd

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember To Set Clock 1 Hour Back on
Saturday November 2ND!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9th

Church Breakfast

8:00AM -11:00AM in the Parish Hall

December Newsletter Deadline –November 12th

If you do not submit your meeting schedule by the deadline, it will not appear in the Newsletter.

If you are unable to meet this deadline, your submission can be included in the following Newsletter.

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

May 2, 2020

Tea Fundraiser

Spring 2020

Concert – TBD

June 7, 2020

Wrap Up Worship Service

If anyone has any other ideas or suggestions for events, please speak with one of the 300th Committee Members; Audrey Tuttle, Belle Robinson, Merton Wolff, Jack Sabine, Andrea Stannard