

THE STEEPLE CHIMES

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

APRIL

2012

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.:9:30-12:30

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Church Office

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Mon. – Fri.:9:30–1:00

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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

As I write this, we are in the midst of summer weather with the arrival of spring. Lunches and reading on the porch have been delightful. I occasionally find myself wondering what this early warmth means for the coming of real summer. However, there isn't much we can do about the weather, except be diligent about finding ways to reduce "global warming" with the hope of shifting away from the erratic weather around the globe. If you have been part of the Lenten Carbon Fast e-mailings, you will have received all sorts of suggestions along with some links to more detailed information.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son...not to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3: 16-17). While the scripture seems to be referring to humans, we must not lose sight of God's creation as also being loved by God, and our responsibility to care for all of it, as good stewards of what God has given us.

With April 1st comes the beginning of Holy Week with our celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The service will reflect that joy but will conclude on a more somber note. It is a mistake to leap from the joy of Palm Sunday to the rejoicing of Easter. The in-between time is important. We move with Jesus from triumphal entry through his betrayal by Judas, his arrest by the authorities, the denial by Peter, and finally Jesus' trial and painful execution on the cross. Without entering this dark valley, Easter's significance is lost. I encourage you to come to the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7 pm and open yourselves to the most important story of our faith. Then on Easter morning, you will know Jesus' victory over death and the promise of salvation and eternal life, and together we can sing "Alleluia" once again.

It is hard to know all that will occur in our lives during the month of April, but there are some things for certain. The week of April 15 – 21, members of our faith community, along with a couple of friends outside our church, will be traveling down to work in Mississippi serving those still trying to recover from Hurricane Katrina, working with Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. Please remember to hold in prayer the missionaries and the people they will be serving. April 22nd, Patricia Bjorling, Associate Conference Minister for Generosity of the CT Conference of the UCC will be preaching. Also, on the 22nd will be the third part of the "Preparing for Life's Journeys" program following a soup and bread lunch after worship. And on April 29 we hope to hear from some of our missionaries about their experiences in Biloxi.

I don't know what nature has in store for us, but I know our faith can be made strong by coming together and by living into the Easter story and the good news Christ brings.

Blessings,

Pastor Betsey

April 2012

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**APRIL 1**

PALM SUNDAY

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeters: Millie Ramsey, Terry Tangarone, Jack Sabine, and Charlotte Sabine.

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**APRIL 8**

EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeter: Millie Ramsey

THERE WILL BE NO FELLOWSHIP HOUR AFTER EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE.**APRIL 15**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeter: Millie Ramsey

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**APRIL 22**

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeter: Millie Ramsey

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**APRIL 29**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Millie Ramsey

Lay Reader: Millie Ramsey

Greeter: Millie Ramsey

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

FAMILY SUNDAY will continue to be Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour. 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.



PALM SUNDAY, April 1st Worship Service, Giving of Palms, a Palm Parade by our Church School, and Special Music.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 5th - 7:00 PM Worship Service with Holy Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 6th - 7:00 PM Worship Service.

EASTER SUNDAY April 8th - 6:30 AM Sunrise Service at Camp Asto Wamah, Followed By **Easter breakfast at 7:15 AM in the Parish Hall- REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

10:00 AM Easter Worship Service, with Special Music by our Choirs and an array of Easter Flowers. Bring a flower or two to place in our cross to bring it alive!
NOTE: There will be **NO** Fellowship Hour after Easter Worship Service.

2nd SATURDAY ACTIVITY NIGHT - April 14th/Parish Hall. Bring a friend and join the fun!

SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd 12:00 PM, Part III "Preparing For *Life's Journeys*," Soup & Sandwich followed by Part III: "Planning A Funeral."

PLEASE VIEW THE APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE CALENDAR.

April 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

April – Millie Ramsey

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

April – Millie Ramsey

GREETERS AND USHERS

April 1 – **Deacons** – Millie Ramsey, Terry Tangarone, Jack Sabine, and Charlotte Sabine.

April 8 - Volunteers needed

April 15 – Volunteers needed

April 22 – Volunteers needed

April 29 – Volunteers needed

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.

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CONCERN – has an ongoing need for clean, empty food containers with lids for donation to the Covenant Soup Kitchen. A collection box for them is located in the coat closet near our Church Office. Thank you for helping to fill this need and recycle too. Items to be donated to WAIM should be taken directly there. Thank you for your assistance.

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: The Church is collecting food for the Soup Kitchen and the Columbia Food Pantry. **Items especially needed: baked beans, pork & beans, canned tuna, canned pasta meals (chef-boy-ar-dee), canned soups, cereal, and feminine products.** If you would like to contribute, please leave items in the basket found at the front of the church.

April 2012

Fun * Food * Fellowship *

Join us for

2nd Saturday Activity Nights

The fun is for all ages!

Games, crafts, cooking!

Bring a snack to share if you can and stop by 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
in the Parish Hall

Have a game, craft, or other activity you'd like to share? Let me know!

Following are the dates for upcoming
activity nights,

Hope to see you there!

Lynn Sharpe

lynns331@hotmail.com

April 14th

May 12th

April 2012

EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter breakfast will be served in the Parish Hall immediately following the Sunrise Service. We expect to start serving at approximately 7:15AM. In order that we may have enough food to feed everyone, it will be necessary for those attending to make **RESERVATIONS**. There will be a sign-up sheet by the elevator. You may also make reservations by calling the Church Office at 860-228-9306 or Polly Hinckley at 860-228-3757 by **PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2012**.

Easter Food Baskets

We are seeking donations for the Easter Food Baskets for area families. We are looking for hams, turkeys or roasting chickens, potatoes, stuffing and canned veggies would all be appreciated. Please see either Debby Smith or Dixie Silvestri if you have any questions. Donated food can be placed in the green plastic bin outside of the coat closets, with the exception being the meat/poultry which should be left in the refrigerator with clear labeling that they are for the food baskets. **Deadline for donations is Palm Sunday, April 1st. Thanks and God Bless you.**

April 2012

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS~

What Would Jesus Do?

Church School has been busy showing their love for others and learning that God is with us always. We show our love by letting the light shine for others to see and by singing His praise for all to hear. They are designing special T-shirts for Church School to wear when they go out into the community to do outreach programs and working together to help raise funds to help Heifer International help change lives for the better. We praise God through our music programs. The Church School does an awesome job singing and playing chimes during the Worship Services. Jesus Lives! He shines in all of us! Halleluiah!

~LIVING CROSS~

We encourage you to bring flowers on Easter Sunday to help bring our Living Cross Alive. The Cross is displayed in front of the Church so that all who pass by know that Jesus Lives!

~HEIFER INTERNATIONAL~

Thank you to all who have contributed to helping make a difference in the lives of those living in hunger and poverty. Your donations and Bake Sale contributions have been a blessing in helping us towards reaching our goal of filling half an ark (\$2,500.00). The Church School classes show great enthusiasm in raising money for their class animals. The ark banks are filled not just with coins, but with love the children have for helping others.

~CAR WASH MAY, 5, 2012~

Old Firehouse 9:00AM to 2:00PM cost \$5.00:

Church School is planning a Heifer Car Wash for the first weekend in May. Plan ahead and purchase a car wash ticket in advance sold by the Church School teachers and class members.

Five Dollars for a car washed with love...Priceless!

Remember: John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

Happy Easter!

Jean Murphy

April 2012

BACK BAY MISSION TRIP: APRIL 15-21, 2012

Our second trip to Biloxi, Mississippi is coming soon!

Web site: www.backbaymission.com

Work needed: Disaster recovery work helping families rebuild their homes and lives following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

Minimum Age: 14 years

Cost: \$75.00 per person registration fee, airfare, and one week of your time.

Educational Components: Back Bay Mission staff provides education regarding issues of poverty, justice issues in disaster and the church's role in enacting social change.

If you or anyone you know may be interested in going, please contact me. You do not have to be a member of our congregation to go with us. (860-228-1324 or Lmess72@yahoo.com)

April 2012

We will be collecting the following list of Essential Items for Restavec Freedom Alliance Mission in Haiti:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Soap – dove or Irish Spring
- Deodorant
- Hand and body lotion
- Lip gloss
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hand sanitizer
- Combs
- Hair ribbons
- Barrettes – small
- Sunglasses
- Caps
- Bandanas
- Baby powder
- Children’s Tylenol or aspirin
- Children’s liquid cold and cough medication
- Books – French, creole or easy English
- Soccer balls and pumps
- Crayons and coloring books
- Beads and threading material

PLEASE LEAVE ITEMS IN THE HAITI MISSION BOX IN THE PARISH HALL NEAR THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CONCERN BULLETIN BOARD. DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 1ST.

CLOTHING WISH LIST FOR MISSION IN HAITI

Are you getting ready to clean out your children’s closet and get rid of summer clothing that won’t fit this year - please consider donating new or gently used clothing to the children of the Restavec Freedom Alliance Mission in Haiti. Please see the chart below showing sizes for the children. Ellen Graber-Donahue gave a wonderful presentation regarding the Mission as part of our Lenten Potluck Series. Ellen and her sister Elise are both part of this important mission and both of them come from Columbia. For more info please see the mission’s Facebook page at Facebook/Restavec Freedom Alliance or website www.restavecfreedomalliance.org We will be collecting donations through May 1st. Anyone wishing to go visit the Mission for a week in May can contact Ellen directly at ellen@restavecfreedomalliance.org Please leave clothing clearly marked for HAITI MISSION in the box near the Board of Christian Concern bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Any questions may be directed to Dixie Silvestri.

Thank you and God Bless!

April 2012

	Sex	Age	Clothing (children's sizes)	Shoe
Wilmarthe	F	6	6	13
Mica	F	8	6	2
*Guerlancie	F	9	6	13
Jules	F	9	8	3
Judelande	F	9	10	3
Jose	F	11	10	7
Sondley	M	4	6	1
Sonel	M	7	8	2
Jean Evans	M	11	8	3
Phaelson	M	10	8	2.5
Peterson	M	9	8	4
*Emmanuel	M	12	10	6.5
Djasly	M	15	12	4
Robinson	M	12	12	7.5
Louinel	M	15	12	8.5
Jean Wilfride	M	12	12	7.5
Jean Michael	M	12	12	5
Peterson	M	17	16	8.5

Care Team

“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.

April 2012

EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

April 1st

10:00 AM - Worship Service, Giving of Palms,
A Palm Parade by our Church School and Special Music.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 5th

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

GOOD FRIDAY

April 6th

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

EASTER SUNDAY

April 8th

Join us to Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM led by our Confirmation Class at Camp Asto Wamah off Route 87 on the shores of Columbia Lake

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

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. There will be a sign-up sheet by the elevator.

Or call the Church Office or Polly Hinckley at (860-228-3757).

Free-will donations accepted to cover costs.

Easter Worship Service – 10:00 AM in our Sanctuary with Special Music by our Choirs. Bring a flower or two to place in our cross to bring it alive! 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.

April 2012

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

Church office email: ccchurch@snet.net [website: colcch.org](http://website.colcch.org)

Pastor's email: pastorbetsey.ccchurch@gmail.com

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL, United Church of Christ

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