

THE STEEPLE CHIMES

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

JUNE

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

On Memorial Day I finished most of my planting. Everything is in a pot or a planter of some sort. Now, I am not at all sure I can be a successful container gardener, not having much success last year. It's not the same as planting in deep rich earth. It is more demanding of my attention – watering deeply and more often and feeding with organic plant food at the right times. The soil actually came from bags purchased at the store.

My gardens of years ago were deeply dug with compost worked in at the beginning and worked into the soil each year. In the spring or early summer I covered the soil with mulch between plants and then all I needed to do, other than enjoy, was water during the dry spells and snatching out an occasional weed or pinching off dead flowers or harvesting the vegetables. Although the early work was labor intensive, once established I felt I could let go and let God, through nature, take care of the gardens, something far more in line with my style of being.

While Memorial Day, around here, is the start of the summer for plants, summer for many begins in the middle of June. June is the month of pearls, and roses, graduations and weddings, the end of school days and the beginning of summer days. (Congratulations to our children who are graduating from High School.) In the church, the choirs and Sunday school teachers begin their recess, and I offer many thanks to both groups for their dedication throughout the program year. I look forward to their return in September. June is a month for change.

However, some things remain the same. There are still 24 hours in the day and 7 days in the week. Sunday is the first day of the week on our calendars, which should remind us enriching our faith should be first in our lives. Worship, while often shorter than the rest of the year, continues every week at 10 in the morning and is a great way to keep a bit of routine. We still need to feed and water our souls, nurture our faith, be reminded that for all our doing or not doing we belong to God. We do better when our roots are sung deep in the soil of God's love. After that, we can let go and let God, through the Holy Spirit, guide our days.

See you in church,

Pastor Betsey

June 2012

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**JUNE 3**

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Bruce Bradford

Lay Reader: Bruce Bradford

Greeters: Bruce Bradford, Janice Knight, John Polglase, Kathy Chapman, and Sally Ruef.

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**JUNE 10**

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Bruce Bradford

Lay Reader: Bruce Bradford

Greeter: Bruce Bradford

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**JUNE 17**

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / FATHER'S DAY

Worship Leader: Rev. Art Dunham

Deacon: Bruce Bradford

Lay Reader: Bruce Bradford

Greeter: Bruce Bradford

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**JUNE 24**

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Bruce Bradford

Lay Reader: Bruce Bradford

Greeter: Bruce Bradford

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.



SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH 10AM – 12PM Church School Rehearsal/Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

The Church School team will be presenting the Worship Service today. Following Worship Service we'll be having our Annual All church Picnic! **Please bring a dish to share**, chairs or blankets to sit on and outdoor games.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17TH/FATHER'S DAY We Welcome the Rev. Art Dunham who will be officiating the worship service. Please be sure to join us for Worship Service as we celebrate Father's Day!

SUMMER WORSHIP – Starting Sunday, July 1st through August 26th, All are welcome to join us at 10:00A.M. for Morning Worship.

June 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

JUNE – Bruce Bradford

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

JUNE – Ralph Tangarone

GREETERS AND USHERS

June 3– **Deacons** – Bruce Bradford, Janice Knight, John Polglase, Kathy Chapman, and Sally Ruef.

June 10 - Volunteers needed

June 17 – Volunteers needed

June 24 – 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.

June 2012

The Memorial Day Observance

at the Town of Columbia

On a sunny warm morning, 1st Selectman Carmen Vance began our observance with a welcome at 9:00 a.m.

The Star Spangled Banner was sung by Maya Keleher, followed by Columbia Boy Scout Troop Flag Detail lowering the flag to half mast.

An invocation was offered by Pastor Betsey, followed by a moment of silence for deceased veterans.

Matthew Gorman played Taps.

Ingrid Wood, President of the Columbia Historical Society offered a Dedication of the Rochambeau Plaque.

We then proceed on foot to the Revolutionary War Cemetery (“Old Yard”) where Maya Keleher read *Memorial Day* by Joyce Kilmer, and Matthew

Gorman played taps in honor of the deceased veterans.

Again on foot, we moved on to Center Cemetery where the BSA Flag Detail lowered the flag to half mast. Ingrid Wood read *The Sentinel at the Gates* by John Puzo, followed by Matthew Gorman playing taps for those veterans buried there.

A motorcade processed to West Street Cemetery where 1st Selectman Carmen Vance read *The Bivouac of the Dead* by Theodore O’Hare. Those gathered listened to taps played by Matthew Gorman.

All headstones at veterans burial sites were decorated with field flowers and flags placed by Columbia Boy Scout Troop #162.

June 2012

Invocation – Memorial Day Ceremony

Columbia, CT

May 28, 2012

Holy One, we gather today to remember and give respect and honor to the brave women and men of the United States armed forces who gave their lives for justice and freedom. We join together not to celebrate war or the power of might, but to remember the lives given for us and others who called upon their help.

Our ability to remember is a distinguishing mark you have given to humanity. We are able to remember not just events and experiences of our lives but we are able to share in the collective memory of family, community, state and nation (adapted from Rev. Douglas L. Meyer). We therefore remember not only those individuals and names we hold in a private section of our hearts but, as part of community, we remember those we may never have known personally but whose sacrifice powerfully affects how we live today.

We ask your presence here this morning, God of all that is, to comfort us and stir in us the memory of those who stood strong to preserve justice and truth. Hear our quiet honor and gratitude expressed here today. Let us never forget our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, grandfathers and grandmothers and all those before them who paid the ultimate price for us. We pray that some day the peace and justice they fought for will finally be realized. **Amen**

June 2012

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS~

It's been another year of learning, giving and loving. It seems that time goes by so fast and we always wish we had more of it. Did you know that in a Church School year the time spent teaching is roughly 19 hours? It's true! How precious is our time with the children as we help develop their faith journey!

Teachers I applaud you for all your dedication and for the wonderful job you do with our children. I see and feel the change that occurs in our children as time marches on. I enter classrooms and everyone is engaged and I am greeted with smiles and sometimes laughter, I hear sweet music from the chimes and voices that sing Jesus loves me, and the fellowship we share working on an outreach program (carwash, bake sales). I always wish we had more time but God finds a way to give us the time we need to share and teach His love.

REACHING OUT: The teachers and the children did an awesome job with the Heifer carwash. We raised \$600.00 and with our "Got God?" t-shirts let the community know that we are making the difference we would like to see in the world! Giving the gift of hope to a family and a community is worth the time!

Thank you to the parents who shared their time by helping with the carwash. Heifer International count to date is \$3,000.00! Each classroom exceeded their goal amount for the animals of their choice.

COME JOIN OUR TEAM OF TEACHERS: We are looking for someone who enjoys spreading the good news and loves teaching one of life's most valuable resources our children. They will make a difference in our world!

Church School Sunday is June 10th. We invite you to join us and hear how Jesus makes a difference in our lives. The sermon will be based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Time for me to thank Nancy Douton, Emily Gregonis (Music), Andrea Stannard (all who gave wonderful gifts), and Rene Lambert (T-shirts) for all the wonderful things they do for the Church School.

Best Mother's Day gift ever...Spending time with my son at the carwash...Priceless! Hope everyone has a safe and happy summer! **Blessings always, Jean Murphy**

June 2012

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
2012 CONFIRMATION CLASS!**

Shane Ryan

Parents: Tom and Janice

Mentor: Jean Murphy

Brianna Starkey

Parents: Bob and Kate

Mentor: Lynn Sharpe

Zach Weston

Parents: R. J. and Holly

Mentor: Kathy Chapman

“Let Your Light Shine...”

Matthew 5:16

June 2012

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

2012

- **Branden Bassett**, Windham High School

Branden will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall.

- **Hannah Bassett**, Windham Middle School

Hannah will be attending Windham High School in the fall.

- **Maureen Chapman**, Lyman Memorial High School

Maureen will be attending the University of Connecticut Avery Point, in the fall.

- **Keith Combs**, Windham Technical High School

- **Lee Combs**, Windham Technical High School

Keith and Lee will be attending Three Rivers Community college in the fall.

June 2012

The Board of Christian Concern would like to send a big thank you out to Gayle Anderson. Gayle has been a driving force behind our Green Team and is stepping down as of April 30. We appreciate all of Gayle's enthusiasm and efforts on behalf of our congregation and the environment.

We welcome Rachel Coley as the newest member of the Green Team. Anyone from the congregation that would like to volunteer on the team can contact any member of the Board of Christian Concern. The Green Team is working to empower the congregation to help the environment through waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and conserving energy and/or resources.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. [Genesis 2:15](#)

YOUTH SERVICES SURVEY – The Town of Columbia needs your help in taking a Youth Services Survey. Please go to the following website to take youth survey at your earliest convenience. Thank You. <http://74.206.99.254/response/default.asp?>

[sid=AG567WET387853636T6437UI890YDH](http://74.206.99.254/response/default.asp?sid=AG567WET387853636T6437UI890YDH)

June 2012

The children of the Restavec Freedom Alliance in Haiti will be so happy to receive the clothing, comfort dolls, hygiene items, craft projects and your prayers! Ellen will be delivering all of the donated items when she travels to the Mission in two weeks. The Board of Christian Concern sends a thank you to all who helped and a special thanks to Lynn Sharpe for all her help making the comfort dolls. We are such a caring congregation and it shows.

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
Acts 20:35

Green Tips – Please check out the magazine rack in the lounge for great handouts and tips. Look for more information in the weeks to come. If you would like to join the Green Team, please contact anyone on the Board of Christian Concern.

June 2012

Calling all knitters and crocheters!

We have a simple fun project that is a great way to use up all those miscellaneous balls of yarn hanging around!

Ellen Donahue came to speak at a lenten pot luck supper at our church about her mission work in Haiti. One of the things they like to bring to distribute to the children are these easily made dolls. It's very simple, either knit a rectangle or crochet a tube. There are instructions for size of needle, type of yarn, and recommended colors with the number of rows of each spelled out. Then these rectangles or tubes are stuffed and sewn to make cute dolls.

Some pictures and instructions can be found at this link:

<http://comfortdolls-ct.blogspot.com/>

I will have yarn and instructions at coffee hour for the next few weeks. And I hope to have samples available. I also thought it would be fun if we get together to construct the dolls from the knitted/crocheted base. Let me know if you'd be interested! I hope you'll join us! Thanks to those who have started already! Lynn Sharpe - lynns331@hotmail.com

June 2012

HOW TO DONATE TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY RECENT STORM

People have asked about donating to people that have been affected by the recent storm damage across the country. Here's how you can help.

Funds contributed to the UCC 2012 Severe Storms appeal will be utilized to respond to severe storms which have already occurred and those anticipated in spring and summer of 2012.

1. Pray for the people and communities impacted by severe storms and those serving as first responder emergency personnel.
2. Make a gift payable to the Columbia Congregational Church marked for 2012 severe storms, with the request they be sent through your Conference Office on to United Church of Christ, Financial Services, 700 Prospect Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44115
OR
3. Send gifts, payable to United Church of Christ and marked in the memo portion 2012 Severe Storms, then mail to United Church of Christ, Financial Services, 700 Prospect Avenue E, Cleveland, OH 44115.

June 2012

“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.

June 2012

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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