

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

MARCH 2016

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

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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

The other day I brought in some of the wood that I stored on the porch. Snow had blown onto the tarp-covered Deacon's Bench, but the firewood was dry. It was a cold and raw evening and the warmth of a fire seemed a good plan. We haven't had many, as the winter has given us more unseasonably warm days than usual. The expected snowstorms of February simply did not come about this year. It seems to be more evidence that our climate patterns are changing.

I have been following the Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast again this year. It is a project of the New England Regional Environmental Ministries and offers a daily contemplation on the environment and course of action toward reducing the damage being done. Often there has been a link to further information. From a NASA report I have learned that 97% of climate scientists believe human activity has had an adverse effect on the climate; that CO2 levels have jumped remarkably since 1950; there are at least 8 indicators of rapid climate change; and there is no question that increased levels of greenhouse gases must cause the Earth to warm. I have also learned what we eat effects climate change; and there are big and small things we can each do to help slow catastrophic change. I will be putting some of this information in the fellowship hall for your perusal.

We are in the season of Lent which calls us to a period of reflection on how we live our lives and how we live out the Great Commandment: Love God with all our hearts and soul, and mind, and to love neighbor as ourselves. I understand neighbor as all others living on this planet and even the planet itself (earth, sky, and waters). We are to repent our failure to do what is right in God's eyes. Repentance includes developing a system or rule of life that helps keep us from being repeat offenders.

It would be so easy to get overwhelmed and discouraged, and simply throw up our hands in futility, or worse, not care since we will probably be gone from this earth by the time it gets really bad. However, as Easter people, we can have hope. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus give us reason to have hope. For God so love the world...

On Palm Sunday we can celebrate as Jesus enters Jerusalem, for we know him to be the Messiah. On Maundy Thursday we will remember Jesus having a final meal with his disciples and then experience their betrayal and desertion. On Good Friday we recall Jesus' trial and crucifixion and we feel the grief of those who knew and loved him. These are dark services, but important if we are truly to feel the joy and hope of Easter morning. On Easter morning at the sunrise service we will worship as the light dispels the darkness.

With God all things are possible. Even a world heading toward destruction can be saved. With faith in God's grace, we can bring about changes in human behavior. Not everyone will want to hear what we have to say, follow where we lead. We should expect to irritate folks, just as Jesus did. God will give us wisdom, courage and strength for the work of peace, transformation and salvation.

Walking through the wilderness of this life with hope in the Risen Christ,

Pastor Betsey

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

MARCH 2016

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

MARCH 6/COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeters: Kim Foss, Sally Ruef, and Ellie Foss

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

MARCH 13

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeter: Kim Foss

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

MARCH 20/PALM SUNDAY

SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeters: Kim Foss, and Gabby Petrone

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

MARCH 27/EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Kim Foss

Lay Reader: Kim Foss

Greeters: Kim Foss

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

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.



FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH
CORNED BEEF DINNER
6:00PM – 7:30PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH
CHURCH BREAKFAST
8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!
SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH SPRING FORWARD.
Remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour Saturday night.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH
WAIM Workday/Willimantic
9:00AM – 12:00PM

Church School Teachers Meeting
10AM – 12PM/Lounge

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH
7:00PM Worship Service with communion,

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH
7:00PM Worship Service

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH
6:30AM – Sunrise Service at Camp Asto Wamah
7:15AM – Easter Breakfast – **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**
10:00AM – Easter Worship Service with Living Cross!

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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

MARCH – Sally Ruef

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

MARCH – Sally Ruef

GREETERS AND USHERS

MARCH 6– **Deacons:** Kim Foss, Sally Ruef, and Ellie Foss

MARCH 13 – Kim Foss

MARCH 20 – **PALM SUNDAY** - Kim Foss, and Gabby Petrone

MARCH 27 – **EASTER** - 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 craftsperson 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

MARCH 2016

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
March 6	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	<i>“Love and Forgiveness</i>	Communion Baptism
March 13	Isaiah 43:16-21 Philip. 3:4b-14	<i>“Becoming a New Thing”</i>	
March 20 PALM SUNDAY	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Luke 19:28-40	<i>“Making a Scene”</i>	Palms Procession
March 24	Multiple	MAUNDY THURSDAY <i>Office of Tenebrae</i>	7:00PM Communion
March 25	Multiple	GOOD FRIDAY	7:00PM
March 27 EASTER	John 20:1-18	Sunrise Service at Camp Asto Wamah	6:30AM
	Luke 24:1-12 Acts 10:34-43	<i>“Everyone Who Believes”</i>	10:00AM

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

The Church School is on a mission of Hope. Through Heifer International the gift of hope changes lives and communities for the better. The Church School has begun its annual fill the Ark program for Heifer International. They have selected animals they want to give to families living in poverty and hunger around the world. The core of Heifer's model is **Passing on the Gift**. This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities. **With your help and with God's love we can help bring new hope to many.**

In effort to raise awareness of this life changing mission, the children will be servers for the Church Breakfast and host their Annual Car Wash. In addition to saving money in their Ark Banks, the children will host a **BAKE SALE on March 13th during Coffee Hour**. If you would like to help, baked goods are always welcomed! **Jean**

HOPE TRANSFORMS LIVES: LET'S ALL BE A PART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 24TH

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

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 25TH

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

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 27TH

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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**CORNED BEEF AND
CABBAGE DINNER**

FRIDAY MARCH 4th

From 6:00 to 7:30 pm



\$12.00 per person

MENU: Corned Beef, Cabbage, Carrots,
Potatoes, Soda Bread, Salad, Dessert.



**To Benefit
the Bell Choir**



Columbia Congregational Church
325 Rte 87

RSVP: ccchurch@snet.net
or 860 228-9306

The Steeple Chimes
Columbia Congregational Church

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

Saturday, March 12, 2016
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

Accepting major credit cards!

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On Saturday, March 19 from 9AM - Noon we are scheduled as a church congregation to volunteer our time at the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM). We need at least 6 volunteers to help accept and sort donations and shelve the donated items.

WAIM is a charity that serves the needs of area people who struggle because they don't have adequate financial resources. WAIM redistributes, free of charge, donated clothing, household goods, furniture, appliances, computers, etc.

Please let me know if you would be able to help out on Sat., March 19. As always, thanks for your continuing support to our church missions.
Dixie Silvestri

SURPRISING GIFTS

Not long ago a security camera captured a little boy leaving a mysterious package at a police station reception window. It contained \$10.85 in coins. His grandfather had been a policeman killed long ago in the line of duty and the boy wanted to honor his memory. One of the officers at the station said, "It was so heartwarming. It made our day."

God surprises us with such amazing, transforming gifts! Sometimes we are the bearers of God's gifts.

Scripture assures us that first God gives to us: "God reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence." We can take heart; God knows our needs and hopes and wants only the best for us.

God's gifts enliven our capacity to respond with our gifts. In the next few weeks, remember how good God has been to you and give thanks for the wonder of your life. As you pray about making your pledge of support for the ministry of our church on **Stewardship Sunday, April 17**, with a confident and hope-filled heart let your response flow naturally. When we open our hearts to God, our response may surprise even us.

Terry and Jackie

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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The Church Fair Committee has an ongoing need for glass baby food jars with caps, half-pint jars (jelly, or other wide-mouth 4 ounce jars with lids), Starbucks frappuccino bottles with caps (If you have the case that 4 bottles come in, that would be wonderful.) Also, a couple of small cabinet doors, shutters, and ceiling fan blades. We are always collecting wine corks. We no longer are collecting plastic bread tags. Thanks for your attention.

“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.

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860.228.9306

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The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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