

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.: 9:30-12:30

Pastor's email:

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Church Office

Contact Information

Phone 860.228.9306

Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.: 9:30–1:00

Church email:

cchurch@snet.net

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colcch.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

While we have barely had “winter” I am still bringing in firewood, stored in small quantities, from the porch for the occasional fire on a wet and windy evening. However, we are already in the midst of Lent and the first day of “spring” will officially occur on March 20th. It is perhaps fitting that I should include in my introspection how the lack of snow and days of bitter cold will affect the remaining months before winter returns again in roughly nine months time. After last winter, this winter was a gift with lower fuel bills and practically no plowing expenses. Of course, for those who make a living delivering fuel or plowing people’s driveways or running ski areas, this has not been such a good winter. In all our deliberations of any sort, it is important to try to consider things from more than just our own point of view.

Lent is a time of prayer, self-examination, disciplined study, and repentance in preparation for the great celebration of Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. It is for this reason that our church plans special programs during Lent. Elsewhere in the Newsletter, you will find a list of the events for each Sunday and one Monday in Lent. We will be informed about the needs of the world around us and also face some issues we too often try to avoid. Monday’s event allows time for you to nurture your personal spirituality, your connection with God. Now is a time of preparation for the future.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 1st, when we remember Jesus’ triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. Our children have a Palm Parade as we sing the joyous Palms hymn. Actually, all Sundays in Lent, set in the midst of our sometimes-difficult self-reflection during the other six days of the week, are celebrations of the resurrection of Jesus. However, Palm Sunday is when we need to come together as families and with our church family to start the journey with shouts of “Hosanna!” alongside Jesus, with all the highs and lows of Passion Week.

Even though Palm Sunday is Communion Sunday (the first Sunday of the month), and therefore there will not be Sunday school, I am structuring the service with the children in mind. I encourage you to bring them to this worship service on the beginning of Passion Week. *We need* them for the parade and that joy that only children can bring. *They need* to be part of the story of Jesus’ journey: to feel the joy but also the apprehension of the week to come so we can truly rejoice together on Easter morning. The story is more than celebration. This is an important, even essential part of our faith.

Lent is when we examine our lives with the prayer, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me” (Psalm 139: 23-24). Let us open ourselves to facing the truth of the consequences of our sin and how it affects not only our lives but also the world, and then welcome the strength and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to set us back on the right path. On Easter we can rejoice in the light of our redemption through Jesus the Messiah. Walking with you in peace,

Pastor Betsey

March 2012

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**MARCH 4**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeters: Sally Ruef, Janice Knight, Jack Sabine,

Tim Anderson, and John Polglase

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**MARCH 11**

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**MARCH 18**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.**MARCH 25**

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

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

FELLOWSHIP HOUR will continue to be Loaves and Fishes. Each family is asked to bring in one appetizer/finger food (crackers, veggies & dip, mini sandwiches...) nothing that needs to be warmed or eaten with a utensil) **ONLY** bring enough servings to feed 8-12 people.



SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH 4:00pm "Bridge to Haiti – Helping Haiti's Slave Children" Speaker Ellen Graber-Donohue, Followed by Potluck at 5:00pm in the Parish Hall

FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH ACTIVITY NIGHT - 6:30 – 9:00pm
Bring a friend and join the fun! Please note the change in date is only for this month.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS! SPRING FORWARD! Remember to move your clocks forward 1 hour Saturday night.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH 12:00pm, Part I "Preparing for Life's Journeys – Advance Directives and Health Issues" Soup & Sandwich followed by presentation in the Parish Hall

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH, SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH, AND SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH BAKE SALE – HEIFER PROJECT FUNDRAISER immediately following worship service

MONDAY, MARCH 12TH 7:00pm Spiritual Practice Workshop in the Lounge

SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH 5:30 – 7:00pm, Corned Beef Dinner Fundraiser in the Parish Hall to support the Back Bay Mission Trip

SUNDAY, MARCH 25th - 12:00pm, Part II "Preparing for Life's Journeys – Wills and other Legal Issues" Soup & Sandwich followed by presentation in the Parish Hall

SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd – 12:00pm, Part III "Preparing for Life's Journeys – Planning a Funeral" Soup & Sandwich followed by presentation in the Parish Hall

PLEASE VIEW THE MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE CALENDAR

THE STEEPLE CHIMES -- COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

March 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

March – Sally Ruef

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

March – Dave Pearce

GREETERS AND USHERS

March 4 – Deacons –

Sally Ruef, Janice Knight, Jack Sabine and John Polglase

March 11 - Volunteers needed**March 18 – Volunteers needed****March 25 – 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 2011 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.

March 2012

PLEASE NOTE – NEWSLETTER GOING ELECTRONIC

Due to the rising cost of postage, recurring complications at the post office, and in keeping with the need to be a more “green” church, we’ll be converting to an electronic version of The Steeple Chimes Newsletter and posting it on our website, www.colcch.org.

Below is the information we need to make a smooth transition, with a complete switch in effect with the April issue. Please return this form to the church office by putting it in the offering plate, the secretary’s mail box, to Denise Howie during office hours, or by US mail.

____ I would like to continue to get the Newsletter by US mail.

____ I am pleased to assist the church transition to electronic delivery of the Newsletter, saving postage, paper, and the planet.

(Please Print Your Name)

(Your e-mail address for notification of posting of Newsletter)

This information will not be distributed without your permission.

March 2012

PARTICIPATE IN THE 2012 ECUMENICAL LENTEN CARBON FAST NOW

For hundreds of years, Ash Wednesday (February 22, 2012) marks the beginning of a time when Christians engage in spiritual disciplines involving repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love. Living as we are at a time when our actions - along with the actions of only a few generations - have threatened creation as we know it by the excessive burning of fossil fuel, it is fitting to engage in a spiritual discipline of fasting from carbon.

Here's how it works:

Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. When possible, this will include a quantitative measure of the carbon reduction resulting from the activity.

Sign up by going to the church website www.colcch.org

March 2012

March 2012 Worship Schedule

(subject to change at Pastor's discretion)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>
March 4	Romans 4: 13-25	"Awestruck"
March 11	Psalm 19 John 2: 13-22	"Hindsight Can Be 20/20"
March 18	Numbers 21: 4-9 John 3: 14-21	"Jesus the Serpent?"
March 25	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 John 12: 20-33	"Deep in our Hearts"
April 1 Palm Sunday	Mark 11: 1-11 Philippians 2: 5-11	"Into Jerusalem"

March 2012

“Preparing For Life’s Journeys” - 3-Part Program

OPEN TO EVERYONE – NO CHARGE

Columbia Congregational Church Lenten Lunch and Learn Series

Soup/Sandwich 11:15 am followed by Presentation at 12:00pm then Question/Answer Time

1) March 11, 2012 – Health Issues**Advanced Directives (Rev. Mary Horan, Chaplain and Dawn Noel, Social Worker, from Windham Hospital)**

- a. What are they? (“Living Will,” “Power of Attorney,” “Health Care Proxy”)
- b. Why are they needed?
- c. Hospice, palliative care: how are they related/different?
- d. Finding a rehabilitation, nursing care/long-term care facility
- e. Organ donor/anatomical gift

2) March 25, 2012 – Wills, Power of Attorney, and Estate planning (Vincent Liberte)

- a. Why is a will necessary? If I don’t have much property, do I need a will? Won’t my spouse and kids get everything?
- b. Is a lawyer required or can you do one from on-line?
- c. What is a Power of Attorney and how is it helpful to grant one?
- d. What is, and, how and why do you establish a trust?
- e. How to manage finances to deal with potential nursing home expenses
- f. Who will care for children?
- g. What happens to pension or retirement plan?
- h. What role does my life insurance play?
- i. What does the government take?

3) April 22, 2012 – Conversations around final arrangements (Potter Funeral Home - and Pastor Betsey)

- a. The how, what and why of funeral prearrangements
- b. Preparing/planning one’s own funeral
 - i. Casket (opened or closed) or cremation
 - ii. Wakes, burials, transportation
 - iii. Receptions
 - iv. Handling obituaries
 - v. Cemetery monument
- c. What to include in the service
 - i. Grave side
 - ii. Church service
 1. special readings, favorite scripture
 2. music
 3. speakers
 4. how do you want to be remembered

Registration requested to facilitate planning. Call church office (860-228-9306). Specify which program(s) you will be attending. Walk-ins will be welcomed, but may not get hand outs.

March 2012

A NOTE FROM THE HISTORIAN

If you have a copy of the 250th Anniversary booklet that you no longer want, would you please donate it to the Church Library.

Thank You.

BOTTLE RETURN

When you bring cans and bottles for the Bell Choir, please be sure that the cans and bottles are empty of liquids, and in their original shape.

Thank You!

Spiritual Workshop

March 12, 2012

7:00 – 8:30pm

A time for drawing closer to God using creative meditation.

- 1) Coloring/creating your own Mandala - Parish Hall
- 2) Creating Japanese dish garden – Parish Hall
- 3) Knitting/crocheting in prayer – Prayer Shawls – Parish Hall or Lounge
- 4) Listening to NPR “This I Believe” program on CD – Lounge

Around the Parish Hall will be quotes on which to meditate.

Coffee and deserts will be provided.

March 2012

LENTEN PROGRAMS

Sunday, March 4th

“Bridge to Haiti – Helping Haiti’s Slave Children”

Speaker – Ellen-Donohue, followed by Potluck at 5:00pm

Sunday, March 11th

11:30am Luncheon – Bring soup and/or sandwiches

Followed by Part I of 3 Part series of: *“Preparing for Life’s Journeys”*

Part I: Advance Directives and Health Issues

Monday, March 12th

7:00pm - Spiritual Practice Workshop/Lounge

Sunday, March 18th

5:30pm – Corned Beef Dinner Fundraiser for Biloxi Mission Trip in the Parish Hall

Sunday, March 25th

11:30am Luncheon – Bring soup and/or sandwiches

Followed by Party II: Wills and Other Legal Issues

Sunday, April 22nd

11:30am Luncheon - Bring soup and/or sandwiches

Followed by Part III: Planning a Funeral

March 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

Friday, March 9th
(Please note change of day)

April 14th

May 12th

THE STEEPLE CHIMES -- COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

March 2012

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS~

We anxiously await the first true signs of Spring. Buds on the trees, flowers popping their heads from the ground and the sunshine stays with us a little longer. We open our hearts to the Lord and give thanks to the beauty of His everlasting love.

I think of my favorite hymn and right away "Jesus Loves Me" comes to mind. My four-year-old great niece stood in front of her church, microphone in hand, and sang it without any hesitation and with such innocence that only a child could do and I was filled with joy! Jesus does love us, it is so simple that even a small child knows it! Let us all rejoice in His unending love!

Church School Calendar

Feb. 26: Church School Sings

Introduction Heifer International

Lenten outreach program: "Pass on the Gift" –

Learn how one animal can make a difference to the life of a family living in poverty and hunger.

Heifer International is a nonprofit organization that helps alleviate hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation through gifts of food and income producing farm animals and training. These animals provide a source of protein towards the health of a child and generate income for families through the sale of animal products. Since 1944 Heifer has helped over 4 million families in 125 Countries become self-reliant. **Each family "passes on the gift" by giving one or more of its animal's offspring to another family in need.**

- Receive ark banks and calendars for saving the money to help purchase the animal of choice and help give the gift of Hope.
- Class will choose the animal they want to purchase.
- Prepare for other fundraising events. (Bake Sales, Carwash, etc.)

BAKE SALES BEGIN**March 11:** PRESCHOOL-1ST GRADE**March 18:** 2ND AND 3RD GRADE**March 25:** 5TH-8TH GRADE

April 1: **Palm Sunday - Palm Parade:** Children will parade in with Palms and distribute palms to the congregation.

April 8: **EASTER****April 22:** **Ark Dedication**

It was a true delight having those who joined us decorating and filling our School Bag Kits! The children always put a lot of thought into decorating their bags and I know the children who receive them feel this love.

From my desk to yours:

Blue skies with white clouds on summer days. A myriad of stars on clear moonlit nights...
Bluebirds and laughter and sunshine and Easter. See how He loves us! *By Alice Chaplin*

Blessings Always,
Jean

March 2012

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINEMarch 15TH

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

Irish Dinner Fundraiser

The Back Bay Mission Trip is having a Corned Beef Dinner fundraiser

Sunday March 18, 5:30PM**\$10 per person**

The meal will include:

corned beef, cabbage, potatoes & carrots, Irish soda bread, beverage
and dessert

Tickets will be sold in advance, by members of the Mission Trip Team. You can also RESERVE tickets at Lmess72@yahoo.com or 860-228-1324, and pay at the door, but **we MUST have a head count no later than March 11th.**

March 2012

On Sunday, March 18th we will accept donations to the One Great Hour of sharing special mission.

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. You can learn more by going to <http://www.ucc.org/oghs/>

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.**

March 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. Donations can be left 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.

March 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 (Lydia Messerschmidt). You do not have to be a member of our congregation to go with us. (228-1324 or Lmess72@yahoo.com)

March 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.

THE STEEPLE CHIMES -- COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

March 2012

Easter Flowers**Easter - April 08, 2012**

The Flower Committee will begin accepting flower orders used to adorn the church for Easter services. This year there are four selections, listed below. Flower dedications will be printed within the Easter Service bulletin.

The Flower Committee requests that you **place your order by Sunday, March 25.** Checks may be made payable to Columbia Congregational Church (memo: Easter plant) or money may be given to Velvet Welch, Debbie Francis or Nelisa Reagan after a church service. You may also leave your order in the Flower Committee mailbox. If you prefer to mail an order, please send your completed form and payment to:

**Velvet Welch
337 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237**

<u>Type of Flower</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
6" White Lily	\$9.50	_____
6" Pink Lily	\$9.50	_____
6" Tulip	\$8.00	_____
4" Pansy	\$4.00	_____
	Total:	_____

Please **PRINT** your dedication message **NEATLY** in the space below. Also include phone number in case we have any questions.

Dedication From:

Dedication Message:

**Contact Name/Phone#:** _____

March 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. It will be necessary for those attending to make **RESERVATIONS**. There will be a sign-up sheet by the elevator. Or call the Church Office or Polly Hinckley at (228-3757). Free-will donations accepted to cover costs.

Easter Worship Service – 10:00 am 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. Bring a flower to awaken the Living Cross!

March 2012

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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