

THE STEEPLE CHIMES

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

MAY

2013

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.:9:30-12:30

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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

For the first time since the chill of winter set in, the warming sun transformed the porch to a comfortable space to sit, watch traffic, and consider life.

Three years ago the Columbia Congregational Church called me to serve as its settled minister. On that day you stepped out in faith by calling someone just entering the ministry, although with some years of life experience. I stepped out in faith that this lovely faith community in the “quiet corner” is where God wants me to serve. I still believe the covenant we made with one another is good and strong.

Together we have faced a number of challenges. Blizzards, hurricanes and near drought battered our lives. Long term power outages quickly grew old, and patience thinned. News of fires, floods, earthquakes, and tornadoes led to prayers for our neighbors around the world. Many hear/see Earth crying for help and we are overwhelmed with the knowledge of the changes that need to take place, certain that what we do is not enough but also certain that what we do added to the work of others can change the world. The shootings in Newtown and the bombing at the Boston Marathon left us stunned, grieving, and confused. Together we have sought God's presence, comfort, and guidance. Together we have asked, “What is our faith filled response?”

There are no easy answers. We may faithfully stand on opposite sides of issues. However, we are not divided but look to each other's gifts and talents and move forward with hope and joy and with faith in our still- speaking, Creator God who continues to lead us in the way.

Columbia is a wonderful place to live. Our faith community, faithfully facing its challenges, is loving and strong. Although May is a busy month as we participate in church, school and community activities, it is ever important to begin our days and nights in relationship with God. We are strengthened in this relationship by coming together each week to be fed by the Spirit, to be nurtured and refreshed, so we can go back into the worlds in which we live, persevering in faith and reflecting the light of Christ for all to see.

See you in church

Pastor Betsey

May 2013

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship**MAY 5**

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeters: Tim Bassett, Kathy Chapman, and Kim Foss

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship**Service in the Parish Hall.****MAY 12 – MOTHER'S DAY**

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship**Service in the Parish Hall.****MAY 19 – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

Loaves and Fishes Fellowship Hour follows Worship**Service in the Parish Hall.****MAY 26**

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Tim Bassett

Lay Reader: Tim Bassett

Greeter: Tim Bassett

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.



Friday, May 3rd - WAIM Spaghetti Dinner

5:00PM-7:00PM/Parish Hall

Saturday, May 4th - Heifer Project Car Wash

Fundraiser 9:00AM-12:00PM/In Front of the Old Fire House in Columbia.

Saturday, May 11th - Church School Teachers

Appreciation Breakfast 9:00AM – 12:00PM/Parish Hall

Sunday, May 12th – MOTHER'S DAY

Worship Service with Church School Teacher's Appreciation and **BLANKET SUNDAY!**

Saturday, May 18th – CHURCH BREAKFAST

8:00AM-12:00PM /Parish Hall

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, May 19th

8:30AM Breakfast for Confirmands, Mentors, and Family Members. Hosted by the Deacons.

10AM Worship Service with **CONFIRMATION!**

May 2013



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

MAY – Tim Bassett

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

MAY – Ralph Tangarone

GREETERS AND USHERS

MAY 5- **Deacons: Deacons:** Tim Bassett, Kathy Chapman, and Kim Foss.

May 12 – Volunteers needed

May 19 - Volunteers needed

May 26 - Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2013 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 2013 budget.

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 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.

May 2013

“Living the Questions”

Not a Bible Study with Answers but an

Adult faith inquiry

Applying faith to life’s questions

using videos of renowned theologians and questions for discussion

Offered Monday evenings 7-9

and

Tuesday afternoons 12-2

bring your own lunch

May 6th thru May 21st

(same discussion just different times)

Sign up required so Pastor can prepare materials.

Attendance each week not required but preferred.

May 2013

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Church School is a place where our children go to learn of God's love and grace.

When God created teachers, He gave us someone who would help guide us toward understanding His world and truly comprehend the beauty and wonder of everything we see, and become a better person with each discovery. It is so we can learn to make our world a better and wiser place.

When God created teachers, He gave us special guides to show us ways in which to grow so we can all decide how to live how to do what's right instead of wrong, to lead us so that we can lead and learn how to be strong.

Our Teachers are like candles burning bright to light the way for others. They are such an important part of our ministry. They give their time, resources, energy and love each week to the children. They teach the love of Jesus and help nurture their faith and help guide them to know the importance of letting their light shine for all to see.

Our Wonderful and Loving Teachers

Nursery: Darien Parmenter

Special thank you to Board of Christian Education for their help in the Nursery

Preschool-Kindergarten: Wendy Tomlinson
Andrea Stone
Rachel Coley (Assistant)

1st and 2nd Grade: Anne Robinson
Brianna Starkey

3rd and 4th Grade: Wendy McDonald
Rosalie Bissanti

5th and 6th Grade: Lynn Sharpe

7th and 8th Grade: Terry Tangarone
Anthony White, Sr.

Music Teachers: Nancy Douton
Emily Gregonis

May 2013

LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE!

HEIFER CARWASH: May 4, 2013

Place: Old Firehouse

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Cost: Suggested \$5.00 and up donation

Cause: Helping to fight Hunger and Poverty around the world!

The gift of HOPE... Priceless!

Helping dreams come true...Priceless!

Thank you to all for your loving donations and support.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY: JUNE 9, 2013

Church School will be presenting a special Morning Service on the importance of letting your Light shine.

Join us immediately after the Service for our Church Picnic! Bring a dish to share, a chair to sit in and good cheer!

One last thought to take with you: "One hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." ~Forest Witcraft

Thank you teachers for all that you do!

Blessings,

Jean

May 2013

RESTAVEC FREEDOM ALLIANCE

The mission of the Restavec Freedom Alliance is dedicated to providing relief for the Restavec children, children who are “given” to families and used as child slaves in another’s home. They provide safe, stable, family centered environment for these children. Homes of Refuge will be set up with loving parents.

RFA ensures that each child will receive:

Education
 Medical Support
 Adequate Nourishment and Shelter
 Sanitary facilities and Clean Water

Their dream is for the children to reclaim their childhood in a loving and compassionate environment. The goal is to hire and train the teachers and parents so that they can empower the children to reach new heights and become Haiti’s future leaders.

We can help these children in several ways:

Send clothing & hygiene items
 Sponsorship
 Volunteer for one week in Haiti
 Make comfort dolls

RFA offers an incredible trip for volunteers. The experience of being part of a group traveling to Haiti, to love and teach the children is a life changing event. If you are interested in sharing your expertise and your heart, please consider contacting the director Ellen Graber Donohue at ellen@rfahaiti.org

The Board of Christian Concern is sponsoring a clothing and hygiene kit drive from April 1 thru May 1. This a great project for when you are cleaning out your children’s spring/summer clothes. A bin will be set up near the coat closets to collect gently use summer clothing and essential hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and wash cloths. Especially needed are the small hotel size shampoos and soaps. Diapers are also needed

For more information on this great mission, please go to their website www.rfahaiti.org For more info on our clothing drive, please see Dixie Silvestri.

Thank you for caring.

May 2013

Restavec Freedom Alliance Clothing Size Chart

First Name	Age	Sex	Clothing Size	Shoe Size
Sarafina	2	F	4	2C
Mildrede	6	F	6	11C
Wilmarthe	8	F	6	1
Mica	9	F	8	2
Guerlancie	10	F	6	13C
Jules	9	F	8	3
Judelande	10	F	10	3
Jose	12	F	14	8
Sondley	6	M	6	1C
Sonel	9	M	8	2C
Jean Evans	12	M	8	4
Peterson	10	M	10	5
Emmanuel	12	M	12	6.5
Djasly	16	M	10	5
Robinson	13	M	14	8
Jamison	16	M	14	8
Jean Michel	13	M	12	6
Peterson	18	M	16	8.5
Rose Guerlande	14	F	12	7
Norzilia	5	F	8	11C
Djoulie	6	F	6	10C
Widline	4	F	7	10C
Rose Bertine	6	F	6	11C
Rose Bertina	6	F	6	11C
Sainvalene	11	F	10	2
Sherlande	9	F	11	6
Stevenson	11	M	10	4
Djerry	6	M	6	11C
Louigens	14	M	14	8
Walterson	10	M	10	6.5
Sauvenel	9	M	8	3
Angelo	6	M	8	8C
Louinel	15	M	14	9
Adam	6 months	M	1	6I

May 2013

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

To Benefit WAIM

Green Salad

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Bread

Dessert

Columbia Congregational Church

Friday, May 3, 5-7 p.m.

\$8/Adult, \$5 kids 5-12 yrs old

Children under 5 free

May 2013

Fami l y and Fri ends
Get Together Breakfast
Come and linger for a while.

Saturday, May 18, 2013

8:00A.M to 12:00P.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: \$8.00 per person

\$24.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

May 2013

Blessing of the Gardens



As spring unfolds and our thoughts turn to garden planning, preparation, clean up and care, consider asking Pastor Betsey to bless your garden.

Whether you plant flowers or vegetables for your own pleasure or to share, you are participating in God's creation. Asking for the wisdom in the planting and care as well as for adequate rainfall and sunshine to sustain your garden, along with praising God for all the possibilities made available to us is appropriate.

Contact Pastor Betsey to set a date and time.

May 2013

**In Columbia: Art, Education, and Advocacy
April 2013 ConnTact
The CTUCC Newspaper**

In an effort toward environmental awareness, Columbia Congregational Church has been looking at God's world in a number of ways leading up to and including the UCC Mission 4/1 Earth campaign. Some are continuing, some completed others still in the planning stages.

We began, after Ash Wednesday, with the "This Is God's World" art display in our fellowship hall. Installing picture rails between windows on two walls made it possible to display pictures of nature as shown in various art forms by our congregation members. During the Youth Group Rock-A-Thon "all-nighter," our youth made a collage with pictures they found in various magazines. We also have a couple of oil paintings, some needlework, pen and ink, along with many photos, some framed, some not.

Of course most pictures are of beautiful rivers, fields, flora and fauna. Who takes pictures of garbage and polluted waters, the damage done to God's world? However, one photo shows a sea lion with several fish hooks caught in its flesh and there are several photos of some of Katrina damage in Biloxi, MS.

The first pictures went up the day before our first breakfast fundraiser, creating a homey atmosphere, but also, we hope, helping bring awareness to those who attended.

On March 10 we invited two local residents to speak to us about the water in Columbia for a program we called "Our Water. Our Life." Most of the Columbia, if not all, gets its water from wells, and we all enjoy our lovely lake. One speaker is very active in conservation and open space committees and the other serves on the Lake Management Committee. We learned a lot about the importance of our watersheds and our lake not only to us but to our neighboring towns down-stream.

On April 21st after church during our fellowship time, we will be encouraging members to sign Environmental Advocacy Letters. We have received some samples from CT Conference, but may develop some of our own.

On April 28th our children will lead our congregation with a Creation Pageant. Several years ago Lisa Crick of the Middlebury Congregational Church created the pageant based on the Genesis story. Lisa has kindly given us permission to use it.

Still in the planning stages is creating a vegetable garden, using our own composted waste, to raise fresh produce for the soup kitchen, as well as cleaning up the two flower gardens already on church grounds. We also hope to plant a sizeable tree on town open space land as well as raise money to plant trees through the links offered by the UCC.

Our Green Team has been actively encouraging us to recycle, reduce and reuse for several years. Our efforts, though small, continue to evolve as we look at God's World with concern and love and take measures to sustain it for future generations.

*Work by other area churches can be found at ctucc.org and type in ConnTact April 2013 in search box.
(Since this article we planted 29 apple trees at the Szegda Farm Open Space)*

May 2013

May 19, 2013 - Confirmation/Pentecost Sunday.

Rejoice as our 9th Graders Confirm their Baptism.

THANK YOU!

A large thank you to all who attended and to those who worked at the Easter Breakfast. After expenses were paid a total of \$56 was turned over to the church.

Sheets and Pillow Cases Needed!

Darien Parmenter, a senior at Bolton High School will be collecting gently used pillow cases and sheets. These will be used as part of her senior project to help support missions in Haiti, by supplying them with diapers, pillowcases, and sun dresses for the children in need. Donations can be left in the Parish Hall or given to Darien before or after service. Thank you!

OUR 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 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.

May 2013



The Columbia Congregational
United Church of Christ is on a mission!

MISSION 4/1 EARTH

What is Mission 4/1 Earth?

ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared resurrection witness for Planet Earth during 50 great days of greening up, powering down, and shouting out for the environment! That's **Mission 4/1 Earth!**

"**Mission 4/1 Earth: 50 Great Days**" is about boldly living Jesus' let-your-light-shine proclamation in the Sermon on the Mount: "That they may see your good works!" It is an opportunity to live out our faith — in unity, as one church — for the sake of our fragile planet Earth.

Launching on Easter Monday, April 1, 2013, and continuing through the great 50 days of Eastertide, United Church of Christ congregations, colleges, seminaries, camps and outdoor ministries, and health and human service agencies will join together in a shared mission campaign to:

- Collectively offer more than **ONE MILLION HOURS** of engaged earth care, including clean up, advocacy, education, and behavioral changes that will impact the environment.
- Collectively plant more than **100,000 TREES** locally and globally in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation and the UCC's denominational partners around the world.
- Collectively write and send more than **100,000 ADVOCACY LETTERS** on environmental concerns to elected officials and local and national newspapers.

Mission 4/1 Earth links together four significant events — Easter (March 31), Earth Day (April 22), Arbor Day (April 26) and Pentecost (May 19) — for a sustained, aggressive and collective mission opportunity for the entire United Church of Christ. Together, we will inspire and aspire to what we can accomplish as ONE CHURCH.

We are encouraged to engage in creative local mission projects, service opportunities, educational programs, worship services, and media events. Your innovation will spark momentum for the initiative and stir the imaginations of other UCC people, agencies, schools, and congregations.

Check out the UCC website at <http://www.ucc.org/earth/about.html> for information on this event. The **Columbia Congregational Church** started environmental awareness during Lent and will be participating in local events to help reach the three goals above by May 19th.

May 2013

MISSION 4/1 EARTH TIMECARD

DATE _____

NAME _____

GOAL #1 1 MILLION HOURS of engaged earth care	MY HOURS <input type="text"/>
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GOAL #2 100,000 TREES planted locally & globally	# OF TREES <input type="text"/>
--	---

GOAL #3 100,000 LETTERS on environmental concerns	# OF LETTERS <input type="text"/>
---	---



Have a unique way that you engaged in earth care this week? With your church? Your neighborhood? Your family? Your friends? Tell us about it!
 Email earth@ucc.org with your stories and pictures.



**We would like to know what activities you did to count toward our goal.
 (Examples are listed on the back of this timecard)**

May 2013

1. Ride a bike, carpool or use public transportation instead of driving alone in a car.
2. Read a book or watch a documentary about the environment.
3. Plant and tend an organic garden – all that weeding and watering time adds up quickly!
4. Help tend to a community garden.
5. Attend an earth-care-focused worship service.
6. Write advocacy letters (which counts in time AND in letters sent!).
7. Install energy-efficient light bulbs or appliances.
8. Attend an Earth Day rally.
9. Recycle coffee grounds by putting them on acid loving plants.
10. Donate items to thrifts shops and shop there, too.
11. Create a compost bin at church and/or your home.
12. Turn out lights in rooms you are not in.
13. Donate plastic grocery bags to Goodwill, Salvation Army or second hand shops.
14. RECYCLE. Time spent collecting, sorting, and submitting recycled materials.
15. Check all your faucets to make sure they don't drip.
16. Wash clothes in cold water. Count 1 hour per load for the 50 days.
17. Read the labels — use detergents that don't harm the environment.
18. Recycle your old cell phone.
19. Ask church members to donate one or more mugs to the church for coffee hour, rather than use paper. Return/recycle empty toner and ink cartridges.
20. Vinegar can be used for cleaning.
21. Have litter collection days where church members work in teams to pick up trash along roadsides and in parks.
22. Learn ways to live green via online eco-blogs.
23. Arrange a video discussion night and watch a video addressing issues about our planet.
24. Plant a tree in your back yard or give one as a gift.
25. Use only organic fertilizer on your lawn this spring.
26. Use a manual lawnmower (you'll be cutting down on noise pollution, too)
27. Walk to the store, church, school, the park, post office, library – any short trips you normally use the car for.

May 2013

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 \$435 and run Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning. If financial assistance is needed, please speak with Pastor Betsey.

May 2013

If rainbow-splashed scarves blowing in the California breeze on a hot summer day don't raise a few eyebrows and generate some dialogue, the Rev. Marja Coons-Torn doesn't know what will.

In a colorful, symbolic move to stem the tide of violence — most notably, the recent wave of bullying — Coons-Torn has created the UCC Scarf Project with a goal of crafting 3,000 scarves in time for the United Church of Christ's General Synod 29 next July in Long Beach, Calif.

"The project has spread like wildfire," said Coons-Torn. "It truly has taken on a life of its own. I know of men and women in at least a half-dozen conferences that are already hard at work."

One church off and running with the project is St. John's UCC in Mifflinburg, Pa., where the Rev. Susan Gabbard has a message for those who are bullied: You do not deserve it.

"There are some people who are just so full of hate and insecurities that they look for other people to pick on to make themselves feel better," said the Rev. Susan Gabbard, church pastor. "It's not even about you."

Volunteers have started to knit, crochet and weave their way to creations 4 to 6 inches wide and 60 inches long, says Coons-Torn.

"We learned about the use of scarves by other denominations who were raising awareness about other issues," she said. "The scarves are a bright and visible symbol of the commitment we're asking of people."

Here's the hook:

Scarves of varying patterns — each sporting rainbow colors — are being made to be given to Synod attendees who pledge to commit to acting against violence. "It could be talking with your school superintendent about bullying, volunteering at a women's shelter or writing to your senators," said Coons-Torn of the advocacy possibilities.

"So when someone walks up to you at General Synod and asks you about your scarf, you offer to give it to them if they will agree to take an action against violence," she said. "Then you can return to the display hall and pick out a new scarf."

Andy Lang, executive director of the UCC's Coalition for LGBT Concerns in Cleveland, expressed deep gratitude to Coons-Torn and scarf-makers nationwide "who've taken the initiative to conceive and launch this project."

"General Synod in Long Beach will be a seascape of rainbow colors, and an opportunity to renew our commitment to protect every youth whose life and health are endangered by bullying," said Lang.

While skeins of yarn transform into thousands of scarves, Coons-Torn is also optimistic that the act of compassion will turn into help for victims of violence — including vulnerable LGBT teenagers who increasingly experience teasing, taunting and harassment.

If you would like to be part of this project please see Denise Parmenter or Dixie Silvestri. More info on this project can be found on the UCC website at <http://www.ucc.org/news/join-the-rainbow-scarf.html> We would love to send scarves from our church. We would need them by mid May. **Thanks for caring.**

May 2013

The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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

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