

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

DECEMBER 2014

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

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Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.: 9:30-1:00

Church email:

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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

I find myself walking out onto the porch to get firewood and glancing at the gazebo to see if the lights – the Christmas lights - are on, knowing full well I have to wait for Dec. 7th. There is a sense of expectation that pushes me to look.

Anne Weems wrote:

The whole world waits in December darkness
for a glimpse of the Light of God....

In the December darkness

we peer from our windows
watching for an angel with rainbow wings
to announce the Hope of the World.¹

This expectation that stirs in our hearts and souls at this time of Advent is the result of our looking for something or someone who will conquer the darkness, and bring peace on earth and good will between human beings and all of God's creation. We are reminded that this One has come in Jesus and He will come again.

Through out our lives from when we are very young and little to the days after our retirement, we have times of expectation. On the one hand, sometimes we are disappointed: we don't get the promotion, we made a major mistake on an exam, we didn't get the toy that the TV told us we could not live without. Often times, if we take time to reflect, we discover we are better off for not experiencing our expectation. On the other hand, sometimes we are amazed, overjoyed, or surprised that things turned out as they did. Our expectations were surpassed.

The Advent season is full of church activities: the Advent Workshop, the cookie exchange, the Hand bell Christmas Concert, and, of course, the pageant and the Christmas Eve services. Hopefully you can participate in these things. They bring us toward the amazing birth of the long expected Jesus, the Messiah.

As Advent moves toward Christmas, let us accept and what comes our way. Expectation is part of the season, but let us be open to and stand in awe of the surprises in God's grace. For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that we might be saved. Jesus is the Light and Hope of the World.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow – not the ones we picked out for ourselves, but the ones that God chooses to give us so we can reflect God's love into all the dark corners of the world.

O come let us adore him together.

Merry Christmas, Peace on Earth, and Goodwill to All,

Pastor Betsey

¹ Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*. "In December Darkness," (Phildelphia, The Westminster Press, 1980), p 15.

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

DECEMBER 7/COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Janice Knight

Lay Reader: Janice Knight

Greeters: Janice Knight, Millie Ramsey, Jack and Charlotte Sabine.

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

DECEMBER 14

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Janice Knight

Lay Reader: Janice Knight

Greeter: Janice Knight

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

DECEMBER 21/CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Janice Knight

Lay Reader: Janice Knight

Greeter: Janice Knight

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

DECEMBER 28

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Janice Knight

Lay Reader: Janice Knight

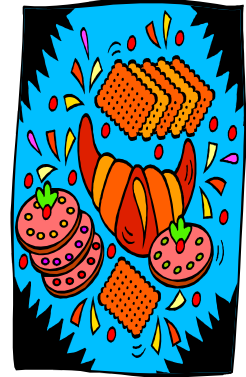
Greeters: Janice Knight

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

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.



BIBLE STUDY CLASS RESUMES IN JANUARY.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Advent Workshop, Soup & Bread Luncheon following worship service.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH **CHURCH BREAKFAST**

8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

3PM Salvation Army Christmas Baskets Set-Up/Foyer. Delivery of Baskets on Monday.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST **CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS**

PAGEANT During worship Service.

COOKIE EXCHANGE follows worship service.

HANDBELL CHOIR HOLIDAY CONCERT

2:00PM/Sanctuary - Followed by refreshments

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT**

SERVICES - 7:00PM and 10:30PM

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DECEMBER 2014



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

DECEMBER – Janice Knight

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER – Dave Pearce

GREETERS AND USHERS

DECEMBER 7 – **Deacons:** Janice Knight, Millie Ramsey, Charlotte & Jack Sabine

DECEMBER 14 – Volunteers needed

DECEMBER 21 – Volunteers needed

DECEMBER 28 – Volunteers needed

PARISH NOTICES

The return of Pledge Cards to support the budget for 2014 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 2015 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.

Worship Schedule

DECEMBER 2014

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
December 7	Mark 1:1-8 2 Peter 3:8-15	<i>"The Lord's Time"</i>	2nd ADVENT PEACE Communion
December 14	Psalm 126 1 Thess. 5:16-24	<i>"Still Speaking Spirit"</i>	3rd ADVENT JOY
December 21	TBA	<i>Christmas Pageant</i>	4th ADVENT LOVE
December 24	Various	<i>Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols</i>	Candlelight Services 7PM & 10:30PM Special Music
December 28	Psalm 148 Luke 2:22-40	<i>Carol Sing</i>	

~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

Jean Murphy

ADVENT WORKSHOP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th
AFTER WORSHIP
FUN FOR ALL AGES
SOUP AND BREAD
LUNCHEON
ADVENT CRAFTS

Bring a soup or bread to share
Bring some greens to share for
making sprays

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

Saturday, December 13, 2014
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: \$8.00 per person
\$24.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS
SERVICES



Wednesday, December 24
Seven o'clock PM
And
Ten Thirty PM

Columbia Congregational Church
Sanctuary

WAIM EVENTS

ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Donor applications are now being accepted.

Application forms can be found on the credenza in the Parish Hall.

WAIM GIFTS FOR TEENS PROGRAM

Gift Certificate Program, Donate funds so that WAIM can purchase the certificates. All sizes of donations are very welcome. An average certificate of \$25-30 will buy a gift for one teen. **Deadline for donations is December 14th.**

FOR KIDS ONLY PROGRAM

WAIM is looking for gently used or new items for children to choose for their parents. Men's items are particularly needed. **Deadline for donations is December 14th.**

WELCOME TO THE MOBILE FOODSHARE AT

Baptist Fellowship Church
Located at 195 Route 6 (Willimantic Road),
Columbia, CT in the upper parking lot

Every other Thursday from 1:15 to 1:45 pm

NEW TIME

This mobile pantry program provides primarily fresh fruits and vegetables to individuals & families in need.

For more information, call FOODSHARE at 860-286-9999

Up coming distribution dates:

December 11

NO delivery on Dec. 25

January 8, 22, **2015**

February 5, 19

March 5, 19

April 2, 16, 30

May 14, 28

***Check WFSB Channel 3 for snow cancellations:
Look for "Baptist Fellowship Closed"

Bring your own bags; must be 18 years old to receive food.

The Church Fair Committee Could Use Some Help:

Publicity help: newspapers, newsletters, web site, distribute signs and/or posters—someone to do year-round publicity would be wonderful. The good part is that you don't have to do crafts to help out.

Do some **Food Crafts**: Make up mixes, snowman soup ideas, tea gifts, come up with interesting ways to wrap candy or popcorn that would make cute, inexpensive gifts. Brainstorm some ideas or run even just one workshop just before the fair.

Attic Treasures: Ask for treasures and set up a time and place for people to bring them, set up the rooms on the Thursday before the fair, check Friday night for additional donations and Saturday morning for additional donations and you can open way before the fair...usually 9 am or whenever you see someone pop in. We don't usually put prices on everything. If something special comes in, it is ok to do that. Most of the time is it dickering. And you can schedule people to work the room. We have suggestions. Also we know where to donate which items that don't sell. This only takes up a few days around fair time and makes close to 20% of the fair's profits.

Run an **evening workshop**. You don't have to meet every week. You can meet once a month or just often enough to finish one project or to start a project and send it home with group members (and making sure you get everything back.) If you can look at an item, read the directions, and work from a kit, we can make up kits for you. You could help make up the kits, if that's your style.

We are looking for **different ideas to add to the fair to make it more fun**. In the past, we have had a Scarves and Jewelry Room; a pie-making workshop for the bake sale (this year we would like to have two pie workshops;) a Country Store with cheese, candy, and home canned goods. Perhaps you have been to a fair or bazaar somewhere and have seen something different that you could share with us. And... we have **day workshops** on Wednesday mornings from 10 to noon. Stop in and visit.

“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.

Church Fair needs:

We are still collecting those white plastic tags that hold bread or roll wrappers together. We didn't get quite enough last year.

Crayons...old and/or broken,
anyhow....unwanted crayons.

Altoid tins.

Those little rounded Y shaped clips that keep pump bottles from squirting lotion or hand soap all over your grocery sacks on the way home. You remove them to use the lotion and never know what to do with them afterward.

We will be happy to sell these things back to you at next year's fair when we are done with them.

Photos of Church Events Wanted. We are looking for photos of our church activities to be posted on the Bulletin Board outside the Parish Hall and to be used on promotional flyers and ads. Please send photos electronically to Denise at ccchurch@snet.net, or send/bring in prints to the church office.

GREEN TEAM – We are looking for members to serve on our Green Team. The focus of our Green Team is to empower and motivate people to make a difference environmentally. If you are passionate about our environment and are willing to share your efforts with our congregation, please see John Polglase to volunteer.

FOODSHARE VAN

The mobile FoodShare Van now has a stop at the Baptist Fellowship Church on Route 6 in Columbia. **The van will be stopping every other Thursday from 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm in the upper church parking lot.** Please be sure to circulate the word to people you know. **The FoodShare Van will continue to stop at the Andover Congregational Church on Route 6 every other Wednesday.** Please bring your own grocery bags.

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Columbia Congregational Church

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The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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