

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY 2015

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

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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 snow continues to fall during the "blizzard of 2015" and the wind thrusts the crystals through the screen and onto the porch. The plows on the road growl along as they work. White banks have drifted up against doors and windows. Juncos, sparrows, finches, cardinals, woodpeckers, bluebirds, and even a Carolina wren flutter around the feeders I made sure were full the night before. The junco and nuthatch seem willing to share the suet. A squirrel longingly glances up at the feeder then returns to scavenging the seed dropped by the birds

As I watch this dance of wildlife, I become aware of the interdependence of all creation and how each of us can participate. I make sure the birds are fed, even if it is inconvenient to wade through the snow with the wind blowing cold flakes into my face. And then I enjoy there feasting and observe their interaction.

When we serve one another, we all benefit. We do not help another so we can feel good but out of a desire to provide for another, to live faithfully. There is nothing wrong with feeling good about doing it. What matters is our intention.

Unlike the wild creatures, we humans live behind closed doors, for the most part. When we no longer had a dog to walk through the neighborhood, I found connections with our neighbors began to fade. Everyone drove up their drive and disappeared into their garage, and one assumed into their house. The next time we saw them they were in their car driving down the street, except for those first spring days when everyone seemed to slip from the confinement in their home to soak in the warming sun and fresh air and walk in the knowledge that winter was coming to an end.

The fact is we don't know the needs of our neighbors unless we talk with them. On the one hand, we might assume everything is fine or their family or other friends are helping them. And on the other hand, we may think others should know what we need, when in fact they don't. I would guess everyone is struggling with something. We are often quick to share our joys but more reticent to speak of our aching bodies, our worries about family, our doubts in faith, and other life challenges that all contribute to our isolation.

Like the finches that drop the seed for the juncos, or the nuthatch and the junco who share the same suet, we need to find ways to help one another, reach out even when not beckoned, show we care and share our gifts. We also need to communicate our own needs. That can be very difficult for us independent New Englanders. I am not saying we need to know or reveal all the intimate details of our lives. I am saying, we need to let people know we care whether we know those details or not.

When you come to church, look around and see who is missing, who haven't you seen in a while? Write an encouragement card to them. And / or write a reminder card to yourself to give them a call later in the week. Let them know they are missed and you are concerned about them. You are thinking of them and wanted to say "hello." You could, if the opportunity arises, ask if you can do anything to help. Do they need some groceries brought in or a ride somewhere? Could they use a visit? Visitation is not only the responsibility of the pastor, but also the entire congregation. It is what builds and sustains community. It is putting one's Christian faith into practice.

I am hoping that during this blizzard you have called neighbors, friends, folks you think might be challenged because of the weather, as well as your family, to check to see if they are OK and let them know that you are thinking of them. Together we reflect the light of Christ and show God's love.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

Wishing you peace in the smooth and rough places of life,

Pastor Betsev

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

FEBRUARY 1/COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeters: Sally Ruef, Charlotte and Jack Sabine,
and Janice Knight.

**Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the
Parish Hall.**

FEBRUARY 8

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

**Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the
Parish Hall.**

FEBRUARY 15

TRANSFIGURATION

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

**Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the
Parish Hall.**

FEBRUARY 22

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeters: Sally Ruef

**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.



MONDAY'S - BIBLE STUDY CLASS

7:00PM -8:30PM/Parish Hall

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

CHURCH BREAKFAST

8:00AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18TH

7:00PM Worship Service with
communion/Sanctuary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

WAIM SPAGHETTI DINNER

5:30PM – 7:00PM/Parish Hall

Proceeds Are To Benefit WAIM

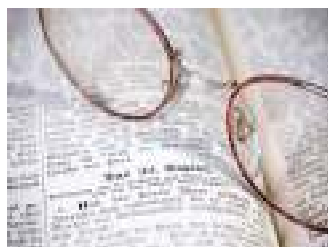
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

Church School Teachers Meeting

10AM – 12PM Lounge.

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

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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

FEBRUARY – Sally Ruef

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY – Ralph Tangarone

GREETERS AND USHERS

FEBRUARY 1 – **Deacons:** Sally Ruef, Charlotte and Jack Sabine, and Janice Knight.

FEBRUARY 8 – Sally Ruef

FEBRUARY 15 – Sally Ruef

FEBRUARY 22 – Sally Ruef

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 craftspeople 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday will be observed on **February 18th** with a worship service that includes communion by intinction and an opportunity to light a candle as an expression of a desire for healing.

Ash Wednesday begins the period of Lent, the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) when Christians engage in spiritual disciplines involving repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love. We see an allusion to Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the desert after his baptism by John as well as to Moses' 40 days of fasting and prayer in response to the people making the Golden Calf to worship.

After the 7th century this service was widely used and included, then, an imposition of ashes. Ashes were used in ancient times to express [mourning](#). Dusting oneself with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sin. This practice is continued by some churches.

The day in general, and our service more specifically, is a time for contemplating and repenting our transgressions, acknowledging life's transience, and recognizing God's gift of Jesus Christ through whom we are forgiven. Through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper we are brought back into communion with the Holy and those who have gone before.

Lenten Activity 2015

Our Western Wall

Lent is a time for reflection, confession and seeking redemption. It is a time of thinking about who we are, of our link to Christians around the world, or our small role in the great expanse of the universe and to remember to whom we belong and consider who we have been called to be.

Look for the Prayer Wall that will be going up on the Parish Hall Altar. In line with the Western Wall in Jerusalem, this will be a place where you can bring your prayers to God. You can write your prayer at home, during Joys and Concerns, or on the paper that will be provided at the wall, and then roll it up and place it in the wall.

The invitation is open to everyone: children and adults. This is an intergenerational activity.

While I cannot promise the prayers will not be read by others, the Parish Hall is a very public place, it is hoped that all will respect the privacy of these prayers.

At the end of Lent, the prayers will be burned, the smoke carrying the prayers into God's eternal care.

Worship Schedule

FEBRUARY 2015

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
February 1	Psalm 111 Mark 1:21-28	<i>"Trustworthy"</i>	Handbells Communion
February 8	Isaiah 40:21-31 Mark 1:29-39	<i>"Source of Strength"</i>	
February 15	Psalm 50:1-6 Mark 9:2-9	<i>"Be Transformed"</i>	Tansfiguration
February 18	Joel 2 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	ASH WEDNESDAY	Lighting Prayer Candles Communion by intinction
February 22	Psalm 25:1-10 Mark 1:9-15	<i>"Into the Wilderness"</i>	Throughout Lent Prayer of Confession

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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

The Church School has made their New Year resolutions. We talked about how we can resolve to make a difference in our World. Our list included recycling, saving water, riding bikes, using our own bags, turning off lights and helping keep animals safe. Then we asked the children to write down what they wanted to do better and we sealed it in an envelope. We will read them later in the year to see how they are doing with their resolutions. Let us all resolve to make our world a better place to live in.

February is a time to reach out and thank those who have made a difference in our lives and to let others know how much we appreciate all that they do for us. On Sunday February 8 the Church School will handout Valentines to the Congregation to show their appreciation and love for all their love and support to the Church School. Also we will begin to prepare for our outreach program Heifer International. Heifer International is a program that allows our children to help make a difference to those living in poverty and hunger, through the purchase of farm animals and livestock. Our plan is to purchase half an ark. Half an Ark is one animal of each totaling \$2500.00. It is a big goal but it is a challenge worth achieving. One animal can make a difference in the life of a family and with the promise of passing on the gift a whole community can become self-sufficient. Please join us in this life changing challenge and help make a difference in the lives of those living in hunger and poverty.

Remember do unto others as you would have them do unto you! It's the Golden Rule. **Love, Jean Murphy**

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

Saturday, February 14, 2015
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



SPAGHETTI DINNER

THURS Feb 19th 5:30 to 7:00PM

MENU: Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, Desserts, Coffee, tea, iced tea, and lemonade. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Tickets are available from John Polglase, Denise Parmenter, and Holly Weston.

Proceeds are to benefit WAIM



**WELCOME TO THE
MOBILE FOODSHARE AT**
www.foodshare.org

Andover Congregational Church

359 Route 6, Andover
(Corner of Rt 6 & Long Hill Rd.)

9:00 – 9:30AM

February 11, 25

March 11, 25

April 8, 22

May 6, 20

June 3, 17

Baptist Fellowship Church

195 Route 6, Columbia

1:15 – 1:45PM

February 5, 19

March 5, 19

April 2, 16, 30

May 14, 28

June 11, 25

Hebron Interfaith Human Services

1 Main St., Hebron

11:00 – 11:30AM

February 10, 24

March 10, 24

April 7, 21

May 5, 19

June 2, 16, 30

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

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.silverlakeect.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.

“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.

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.

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The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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