

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

JUNE 2015

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

Phone 860.228.9306

Office Hours:

Mon. – Fri.:9:30-1:00

Church email:

ccchurch@snet.net

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columbiacongregationalchurch.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

The other day I was sitting on the porch reading, when a car pulled into the end of the driveway. Out spilled two couples, all dressed up, to have their pictures taken at the gazebo. I guessed they were headed to the prom. They all looked happy and were full of laughter and smiles. The photo would be a permanent record of a fun evening to be remembered.

Now it is June and I realize another class is graduating from high school. Those young people are full of thoughts, and perhaps some apprehensions, of what lies ahead: college, technical training, entering the military, or starting in the adult world of jobs. A week or so ago, there were college graduations. Some of these will be going on to graduate school, others will enter the work force, and some may be getting married. Even those who are not graduating are facing changes in routine, saying good-bye to teachers, looking ahead to a summer of fun, and wondering who will be in their class next year.

In churches, some children will have finished their education to prepare for confirmation. On Pentecost Sunday, they are confirmed into the church and welcomed as full members. While we don't think of confirmation as graduation, it is finishing structured and required studies in faith and bears similarities to graduation from school. From that day forward they will need to choose to continue learning about their faith.

June is a month that spells transition. It is a month of closing one chapter of a person's life and starting another. One file is being packed up and put in the folder labeled "education." Filled with transcripts and photos of events – both joy-filled and troubling - that file folder can be pulled out if and when it is needed.

In most cases education of one sort or another continues, not just until various degrees are earned. We continue to build on the knowledge we have today to become more informed tomorrow. Our interests and capabilities change over the years. Available time and conflicting demands shift throughout life. However, God's presence remains constant, even if we do not acknowledge it. Staying rooted in faith and the knowledge of Jesus our Savior sustains us no matter what comes. Attending worship services, even during the summer months, and being involved with the faith community strengthens our relationship with God and our neighbors.

The first Sunday of June includes a baptism. The second Sunday is the Creation Pageant led by our children as the final Sunday for Sunday school. We then move into the summer schedule of a more casual, and usually briefer worship service at 10. On the first Sunday of the summer months (July 5 and August 2) communion will be received by intinction (individuals come up to take a piece of bread and dip it in the fruit of the vine before returning to their seats).

I offer congratulations to all the graduates. I wish everyone a glorious and safe summer and encourage you to continue to worship God in the context of community. God never goes on vacation and is deserving of our praise and accepting of our prayers.

Peace in these times of transition,

Pastor Betsey

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JUNE 2015

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

JUNE 7

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeters: Sally Ruef, Tim Bassett, Millie Ramsey, Janice Knight.

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

JUNE 14/CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

JUNE 21/FATHER'S DAY

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Sally Ruef

Lay Reader: Sally Ruef

Greeter: Sally Ruef

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

JUNE 28

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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, MAY 13TH
CHURCH BREAKFAST
8:00AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH
CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY
Worship Service officiated by Church School Students. Followed by ALL CHURCH PICNIC!

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST
FATHER'S DAY!

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH
YOU'RE INVITED – 1PM – 3PM
AFTERNOON GARDEN TEA on the Church lawn!

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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

JUNE – Sally Ruef

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

JUNE – Tim Anderson

GREETERS AND USHERS

JUNE 7 – **Deacons:** Sally Ruef, Tim Bassett, Millie Ramsey, and Janice Knight.

JUNE 14 – Sally Ruef

JUNE 21 – Sally Ruef

JUNE 28 – 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 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.

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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

We are thankful for all the wonderful support for our Heifer carwash! It was a wonderful day with many hands at work. Our focus was to raise awareness of the decreasing bee population and we are proud to say that we are able to purchase 30 sets of bees and hives along with other animals through Heifer International. We send a world of gratitude to those who graciously donated towards our Heifer International Mission (\$2,320.00).

Our study of God's Creation and how we can make a difference has been an enlightening experience both for the children and the teachers. We have been called to be stewards of God's Creation and we have learned that even by doing little things we can make a difference. We recycle, turn off lights, don't litter our land and waters, we ride bikes and help others who are in need. Helping others sometimes doesn't cost any money, such as holding the door for someone, giving someone a smile or hug, being a friend or just by saying thank you for being you and for giving from your heart. Let us all be good stewards of God's Creation.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY: JUNE 14, 2015

Church School will present the Creation Pageant on June 14, 2015 as part of the Worship Service. If you would like to participate please see Jean Murphy and she will have you be Night or Day or help bring forth the animals and creatures from the sea.

Blessings to All,

Jean Murphy

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!
2015

- **Sage Armstrong**
Bolton High School

- **Adam Coley**
Eastern Connecticut State University
Bachelors Degree in English

- **Daniell Vanasse**
University of Connecticut
Bachelors of Science in Molecular
and Cell Biology

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JUNE 2015

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

Saturday, June 13, 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

**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
June 3, 17

Baptist Fellowship Church
195 Route 6, Columbia
1:15 – 1:45PM
June 11, 25

Hebron Interfaith Human Services
1 Main St., Hebron
11:00 – 11:30AM
June 2, 16, 30

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

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You're invited to an Afternoon Garden Tea on the church lawn. Saturday, July 25th from 1 - 3 p.m. Everyone is invited and there will be a children's table. We will need volunteers to help make tea sandwiches, scones and desserts. Please contact Dixie Silvestri or Sue Milici if you can help with food, set up, serve or clean up. It should be a great day. Thanks and God Bless.

Are you redecorating this spring?? Getting rid of towels, sheets, pots/pans or other household items? Please consider donating gently used items to WAIM. Furniture or kitchen appliances can be dropped off at WAIM or call them to schedule a pick up. Thanks and God Bless.

The Fair Committee thanks you for your support – We have enough bread tags- Now we are looking for glass baby food jars (any size) with covers, a large old mirror and or wooden windows (30” or smaller), small (interior) shutters in any condition, large wooden picture frames. Please contact Jackie Kittle 860-707-3155.

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The **WAIM Steeple Chase Bike Tour Fund Raiser** is scheduled for **August 15th. New this year is a 5 mile walk.** The bike routes are 20, 35, 50, 62.5, and 100 miles through scenic Northeastern Connecticut's Quiet Corner. Rest stops at area faith communities with wonderful homemade food. Free food, beverages, snacks pre and post ride. Sag wagons patrol all routes for rider safety. Please consider forming a team with your family, friends and/or co-workers. WAIM, Perception Programs and the Windham Region No Freeze Project all receive portions of the funds raised. The event is rain or shine at ECSU Athletic Complex, Mansfield City Road, Mansfield, CT. Routes will be posted soon at www.steeplechasebiketour.org

The **WAIM Back To School Program** assists low income families in the surrounding Windham area to purchase clothes and school supplies needed to get their children ready for the first day of school. Parents can choose to purchase two uniform shirts or receive a voucher to purchase necessary clothing and school supplies themselves at a local store, at an average cost of \$25.00 per student. **Please consider donating \$25.00 toward this worthwhile cause. Checks can be made out to WAIM/BTS and can be mailed to WAIM, PO Box 221, Willimantic, CT 06226. The deadline is early this year - July 24, 2015.**

A copy of the minutes to WAIM's Delegates Meeting, along with their operating budget and Human Needs Report will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office for anyone interested in learning more about the agency. Contact Dixie Silvestri with any questions.

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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