

The Steeple Chimes

Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ

DECEMBER 2015

Pastor Betsey Polglase

Church: 860.228.9306

Pastor Betsey's

Office Hours:

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Church Office

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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

“We wait not for blessings from afar but for [God]
the very Soil of our soul.”

John Philip Newell*

As the last leaves drift to the ground, I begin to be filled with anticipation for the first snow. I delight when the first flakes swirl down to the trees, bushes and fields, covering them with a blanket of a million crystals. But I also know that we enter a time of anxiety about the diminishing sun light and the possibility of significant snow fall.

Advent is a mix of anticipation, anxiety and impatience as we wait for the coming reign of Christ.

Our church year does not begin with the resurrection, that joyous moment of assurance of our salvation, the bursting forth of new life accompanied by bird song in delight of the warming sun. Rather it begins with a time of waiting filled with anticipation-without knowing what exactly is coming-and increasing darkness. The liturgical year leads us to dig deeper than what lies on the surface of life.

Joan Chittister, a Benedictine sister, writes ‘Advent is about learning to wait ...[while staying] in the present, knowing that only the present well lived can possibly lead us to the fullness of life.’ ** We can get so wrapped up in the preparation for what/who is to come, that we overlook small wonders and joys of each day. We sprint to the finish line, exhausted, having missed the beauty of what lies on the sidelines; the heart beats of those running with us; and the feel of the earth beneath our feet. Advent, paced out, slows us down in the waiting time so we can consider what star we are following, where we are searching for the light in the soul, and what determines the reason for our existence.

This Advent we are trying something new. In the lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles, we are combining choir, bells, congregational singing, responsive reading, candle lighting and prayers. Each Sunday will bring us toward lives of hope, peace, love and joy until on Christmas Eve we rejoice in the flame of the Christ candle which opens our eyes to God's everlasting light and we come to adore Christ, the newborn King. All of this may slow our worship down a bit, but that just might be a good thing. My hope is you will enter into the moment and allow the Holy Spirit to feed your soul with sound, word and light in this waiting time.

Also new this year is the **Early Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00** and will include a children's time in the midst of lessons and carols, provided we have 2 or more children in attendance. **There will NOT be a 7:00 pm service.** The 10:30 service will be the traditional lessons and carols with choir.

As we enter Advent on November 29th, let us take a deep breath, exhale slowly and open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit.

May your Advent and Christmas experience be rich with blessings of hope, peace, love and joy.

*Merry Christmas,
Pastor Betsey*

The Steeple Chimes **Columbia Congregational Church**

DECEMBER 2015

Sunday 10:00 AM Worship

DECEMBER 6/COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Ellie Foss

Lay Reader: Ellie Foss

Greeters: Ellie Foss, Janice Knight and Kim Foss

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

DECEMBER 13

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Ellie Foss

Lay Reader: Ellie Foss

Greeter: Ellie Foss

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

DECEMBER 20/CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Ellie Foss

Lay Reader: Ellie Foss

Greeter: Ellie Foss

Coffee Hour follows Worship Service in the Parish Hall.

DECEMBER 27

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Worship Leader: Pastor Betsey Polglase

Deacon: Ellie Foss

Lay Reader: Ellie Foss

Greeters: Ellie Foss

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/MONDAY'S
7PM -8:30PM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

Advent Workshop, Soup & Bread Luncheon following worship service.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH **CHURCH BREAKFAST**

8AM – 11:00AM/Parish Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

HANDBELL CHOIR HOLIDAY CONCERT

2:00PM/Sanctuary - Followed by refreshments

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS

PAGEANT During worship Service.

COOKIE EXCHANGE follows worship service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

SERVICES - 5:00PM and 10:30PM

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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

DECEMBER – Ellie Foss

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER – Tim Anderson

GREETERS AND USHERS

DECEMBER 6– **Deacons:** Ellie Foss, Janice Knight, Kim Foss, and Confirmand Gabby Petrone

DECEMBER 13 – Ellie Foss, and Keira Francis

DECEMBER 20 – Ellie Foss

DECEMBER 27 – Ellie Foss

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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Columbia Congregational Church

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Worship Schedule

DECEMBER 2015

(Subject to change at pastor's discretion)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>WORSHIP NOTES</u>
December 6	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6	<i>"Holy Refining"</i>	Communion 2 nd Sunday In Advent
December 13	Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	<i>"Baptized with the Holy Spirit "</i>	3 rd Sunday In Advent Handbell Concert at 2PM
December 20	<u>CHRISTMAS</u>	<u>PAGEANT</u>	4 th Sunday In Advent
December 24	<u>Lessons and Carols</u>	<u>Candlelight</u>	5PM – Family Service 10:30PM - Special Music Service
December 27	Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	<i>"Holy and Cherished"</i>	

Advent Readers Needed

Every Sunday in Advent includes readings and lighting candles on the Advent Wreath. This year we are including music sung by the choir and joined by the congregation and accompanied by hand bells. As in past years we are looking for families, or friends to participate in this part of the service. This is an important step to ushering in Christ's birth.

Please sign up to help us worship during Advent. Contact the church office or Pastor Betsey.

We need readers for Dec. 6, Dec. 13, Dec. 20 and Dec. 24 (5:00 and 10:30pm)

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~CHRISTIAN EDUCATION~

I was in search of a quote that exemplified what we learn in church school and I found this quote by Ruth Carter Stapleton, “*Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most*”. We hope the **joy** of brightening other’s lives, helping to bear each other’s burdens and helping to fill empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes the magic of Christmas for us all.

CHURCH SCHOOL WILL PRESENT “*THE FIRST CHRISTMAS*” December 20, during the Worship service. We are looking for adults to participate as townspeople, shepherds, Wiseman and angles. If you are interested please see Jean Murphy for details.

Remember JOY stands for Jesus first, Others second and Yourself third. I hope there is JOY in your Holidays!

**Blessings to all,
Jean**

ADVENT WORKSHOP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th
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

The Steeple Chimes
Columbia Congregational Church

DECEMBER 2015

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

Saturday, December 12, 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: \$10.00 per person
\$28.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

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As the Holidays approach you can help support the mission of our church, while doing your holiday shopping. Anyone who shops at *smile.amazon.com* can direct a portion of the purchase, to be donated to The Columbia Congregational Church.



1. Go to smile.amazon.com or use the link on our church website. www.colcch.org
2. Sign into your amazon shopping account.
3. Search for Columbia Congregational Church and select us as your charity.
4. You should see the following thank you screen, and if using a chrome browser the option to install an amazon smile button on your tool bar will be available.

Thank You.

Now when you shop at smile.amazon.com, your purchases will support **Columbia Congregational Church**.

[Change your charity](#)



Next, make it easy to return to smile.amazon.com.

Install the Amazon 1Button App to ensure your purchases will support your favorite charity. We will always take you to smile.amazon.com when you click on any link in the app.

[Install now for Google Chrome](#)

Share your support: [f](#) [t](#)

[Dismiss](#)

5. Whenever you shop just go to smile.amazon.com and a small portion of your purchase will always be donated to our church.

CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS
SERVICES



Thursday, December 24
Five o'clock PM
And
Ten Thirty PM

Columbia Congregational Church
Sanctuary

WAIM'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2015

- Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program donor registration has begun. For more information about the program and donor application, visit www.waimct.org
- Gifts for Teens is the only holiday program in our community for teens between the ages of 13 and 17. Deadline for donations is December 11th. With your help, WAIM provides gift certificates (usually between \$25-30) to teens for the holiday.
- For Kids Only Program is for children between the ages of 5 and 12. They pick out a gift to give to their parents for the holiday season. By donating your new or very gently used treasures, you help us to instill “The Gift of Giving” in our children. Men’s items are particularly needed. Deadline for donations December 18th.

For more information contact WAIM 456-7270 or www.waimct.org

WINDHAM AREA INTERFAITH MINISTRY
PARTNERS IN INDEPENDENCE
MENTOR/LEARNING PARTNER PROJECT

WAIM will be conducting the next series of Mentor training sessions for the Partners in Independence Project (PIP) soon. PIP is designed as a community solution to assist individuals and their families in reaching economic security.

Who can be PIP Mentor? Many different types of people make good mentors. WAIM is seeking mature adults who are hoping to share the benefits of their “life experience” and are willing to devote at least one year to working with a Learning Partner.

What does a PIP Mentor do? The volunteer Mentor creates a supportive relationship with an adult Learning Partner who benefits from the Mentor’s guidance and experience. They work together to improve the Learning Partner’s ability to identify strengths and barriers while increasing his or her capacity to progress toward financial, housing, education and employment goals. Mentors, after having been matched with a Learning Partner, develop a more profound appreciation of the challenges many individuals face and the focus needed to bring about change.

What impact can I expect to have on someone as a PIP Mentor? After meeting with their Mentors for several months, comments by Learning Partners include: “The best thing is having someone to talk to,” “I’m more open- used to keep things bottled up but now my relationships are more positive.” “I feel more empowered, more positive about my ability to help myself, more able to meet challenges and more engaged.

What’s the training like? The potential Mentor, wishing to share her/his experience and insight will participate in five two-hour discussion modules usually completed in approximately ten weeks. Although there are many programs and professions already assisting individuals and families facing difficult challenges, the role of Mentor, as coach, guiding a Learning Partner through a thoughtful and directed process, encourages the Learning Partner to make more positive and informed choices that will lead to economic independence and stability.

Become a PIP Mentor and help someone change his or her life.

Please contact Adrienne Marks, Project Coordinator, for
More information about WAIM’s Partners in Independence Project.

**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
December 2, 16, 30

Baptist Fellowship Church
195 Route 6, Columbia
1:15 – 1:45PM
December 10, 24

Hebron Interfaith Human Services
1 Main St., Hebron
11:00 – 11:30AM
December 1, 15, 29

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

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WINTER CONCERT – Music to warm the heart.

To benefit WAIM Sunday, December 6, 3:00PM at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 27 Plains Road, Windham Center, CT. A Capella Ensemble, Take Note!

Donations to WAIM gratefully accepted at the door.

Church Quips and Quotes

~Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

~The good Lord didn’t create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

~Be ye fishers of men. You catch ‘em – He’ll clean ‘em.

~Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

~God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Church Quips and Quotes taken from News & Views, Brownback’s United Church of Christ, Spring City, Pennsylvania

“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.

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Co-Sponsorship of Syrian Refugees

North-Eastern Region of CT

Churches and Meeting Houses are partnering to sponsor 1 or more refugee families in the *Quiet Corner*. The Mansfield Center Congregational Church has agreed to coordinate the group. WAIM Area Interfaith Ministry clergy group and WAIM executive director are also enthusiastically on board.

The group has been in conversation with Chris George, executive director of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS). Information has been posted on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall.

It could be spring before we receive a family, but there is much work to do in preparation. Consider what you/we are able to do. Working together with 6 or 7 other faith groups reduces the work load on any one community, but requires coordination. Put your name on the list of those willing to work on this important and faithful mission.

Collect furniture for a family

Find an apartment (often churches own property or have a vacant parish house.) Willimantic was mentioned as a possible settlement town since it has a hospital, grocery, drug stores and schools in walking distance.

Pay the first 2 to 3 months of rent (this comes to about \$3,000)

Collect clothing and food for a family

Set up the apartment (a few days before the family arrives)

Meet the refugee family at the airport, or at the Limo station, when they arrive; and drive the family to their new home

Cook a “culturally appropriate” hot meal to serve the family when they arrive

Drive the family to appointments: DSS, Social Security, IRIS office, DMV

Arrange for health care appointments and drive the family to and from

Register the children in schools

Teach the family English and help the children with homework

Show the family how to take public transportation, where to launder clothing, where and how to shop

Help the adults find jobs

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The Rev. Betsey Polglase, PASTOR

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