

# The Steeple Chimes

**February 2019 Newsletter**

**Columbia Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

Established in 1720



## ***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

Brrrr, it is too cold to go out on the porch, except to get some fire wood. So I check out what's going on outside looking through tightly closed windows.

There is a cat that leaves prints in the snow, and last night I saw a brown bunny moving across the white landscape in the light from the full moon. Even though they both have fur, I worried about them in this Arctic cold that turned the rain to ice, causing us to cancel church. January handed us milder and colder than usual days. This seems to be forecast for the last week of January as well. I wonder what February will give us.

There is not much out of the ordinary on our February church calendar. The secular center piece of the month is Valentine's Day. Red and pink cards with hearts, and other depictions of love, abound already in stores. Valentine candy is piled on shelves and is strategically placed at check-out counters, in case we missed it. However, the news reports that the popular sugar hearts with little sayings like "Be Mine" will not be available this year. What will we do? Through all the commercialism the focus on love can get lost. While cards and candy are nice, it is the demonstration of love that truly matters, not sentimental love but Godly love.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words seemed to shine brighter than usual for me this past week, even though I have probably heard or seen them many times since he spoke them. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." Fear, anger, hate seem to have blown over our homeland like a blizzard. Darkness collides with darkness, accomplishing nothing but darkness. But as I see it, there are pockets of light and love, in the midst of the darkness, that can and will cause the frost to melt in time. In the meantime, the warmth of the light of Christ and the love of God bears us up and carries us through. In addition, our response to God's love is to send that love outward, into the world. Even if all we do is melt one or two snowflakes, together we can melt a snow bank.

So, during the bitter cold or the unseasonably mild, with a cup of hot chocolate or enjoying some red roses, embrace the central message of God's love, demonstrated by and through Jesus, and seek ways to reflect that love into the world and melt a few hearts...and maybe our own while we are at it.

Finding comfort and peace in God's love,

*Pastor Betsey*

# Worship Schedule

## February 2019

*(subject to change at pastor's discretion)*

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Worship Notes
February 3	Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Luke 4: 21-30	<i>"Choosing Truth"</i>	"Soup"erbowl Communion
February 10	Psalm 138 Luke 5: 1-11	<i>"Contrary to Our Own Wisdom"</i>	Hand Bells
February 17	Psalm 1 Jeremiah 17:5-10	<i>"Setting Our Hearts on God"</i>	
February 24	TBA	Rev. Bernie Hinckley preaching	

### ***Looking Ahead:***

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.

# Family and Friends Get Together Breakfast

Come and linger for a while!

*Saturday, February 9th*

*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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**

**CHURCH BREAKFAST  
8:00AM – 11:00AM in the  
Parish Hall**

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**MARCH NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 15TH**

**If you are unable to meet this deadline, your  
submission can be included in the following  
Newsletter.**

5/1991

FROM  
OUR  
ARCHIVES



"ECHOES FROM THE ARCHIVES"...  
Archives...  
archives..

(Researched and written  
by our Church Historian)

### "Reverend Wheelock's Salary"

When Reverend Eleazar Wheelock was called to the parish in 1735, it was voted to give him the remaining portion of the Minister's Farm and "...200 pounds in bills of public credit for a settlement..." as well as "...140 pounds a year salary to be paid in bills of public credit or provisions".

The value of the provisions to be reckoned in terms of shillings per bushel for grains: oats @ 2, wheat @ 9, rye @ 4, Indian Corn @ 5, and meats at pence per pound: pork @ 6 and beef @ 4. These rates were "...to be determined by which his salary is to rise or fall proportionately as they in general rise or fall among us".

Problems soon arose as evidenced by a letter which Reverend Wheelock wrote to the Ecclesiastical Society in 1736:

"...I already have been much blamed by some that I did not take a hogg which was brought and offered when I was not at home and which I never saw and which I am informed was not worth much more than half the market price. I suppose you will readily see that the vote opens the door for much uneasiness. I do not know if this is the last or only instance that there will be of this nature. It is very uncertain that there will be enough brought in to supply me.

**The Board of Christian Concern is looking for people to volunteer to prepare a meal for the NO FREEZE SHELTER every third Saturday of the month from November through April.**



Meals Include: Soup, Main Dish (for example: homemade mac & cheese, stew, chili, chicken & rice), Salad, Finger Sandwiches, Fruit Desserts, and Bottled Water.

There should be enough in your dish to feed 12-15 people. **The next meal is for Saturday, February 16th. Please see a member of the BOCC to make a donation.** Please contact Susan Milici at (860)228-4427 to let her know you are bringing something and/or would like to help serve.

Food can be dropped off at the church on Saturday and left in the kitchen anytime between 9AM and 4PM. **Your help in this ministry is greatly appreciated!**

*thank you*

The Beckish Senior Center wants to express our appreciation for all your generosity in support of our emergency food pantry. Your assistance means so much to all who are less fortunate. There are so many families and seniors in Columbia who worry about having food. Your generous contributions truly make a difference in their lives every day. The Beckish Senior Center is very grateful and thankful for your contribution. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Margaret Verizzi

We are among angels everyday. Thank you to all the angels that helped make Christmas a little happier for many in our community by helping to pick up food, donate gifts & food. and helping deliver. It is a blessing to know our congregation is always reaching out to others. We are wishing you all blessings of the season!

*Debby Smith and Dixie*



*“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](mailto:smilici@earthlink.net)** New volunteers are always welcome!

**LAY READERS-** Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by reading the Scripture or bringing a children's sermon, please sign-up on the list in the Parish Hall and speak with Pastor Betsey Polglase.

**DEACON OF THE MONTH**

February – Debbie Francis

**TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH**

February – Dave Pearce

**GREETERS AND USHERS**

If you are interested in helping to greet or want to be an usher, please speak with the Deacon of the Month: Debbie Francis

## **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: cereal, pasta, canned fruit, salad dressing, mayonnaise, and quart size Ziploc bags** 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.

# 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](http://www.silverlakect.org). Most conferences cost \$470-\$575 (a couple less and a couple more) and run Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning. If financial assistance is needed, SLCC has discounts and scholarships, and the church has a small scholarship fund. Feel free to speak to Pastor Betsey and get more information.



**REMEMBER OUR  
SHUT-INS AND  
FRIENDS RESIDING  
IN CARE CENTERS...**

**Edie Klemark**

Creamery Brook  
36 Vino Lane, Apt. 411  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

**Dot Davis**

Mansfield Center for Nursing and  
Rehabilitation  
100 Warren Circle  
Storrs, CT 06268

**Jean Peters**

Hattie Ide Chaffee Home  
200 Wampanoag Trail, Room 15  
East Providence, RI 02915

# If You Go to the Hospital and Would Like a Visit by Our Pastor



Please **CALL** the church office as soon as you know you will be admitted. In your admitting process, you will be asked if you are part of a local faith community (church). If so, please answer **YES**, and give the name and town of your church. You will also be asked if you want your name released to representatives of your church. If so, please answer **YES**. If you say no, or if you do not give the name of your church, the hospital will not be able to release your name to us.

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Website: [columbiacongregationalchurch.org](http://columbiacongregationalchurch.org)  
Pastor Betsey Polglase, Minister**