

The Steeple Chimes

January 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

The deacons' bench on the porch is covered with the tarp protecting it from snow blowing in through the screens. Firewood is stacked near the front door. I am ready for the New Year that begins with the barren and cold of winter. However, as we start our New Year, we often bring hopes for what might be.

While on Facebook, I came across a little cartoon. On a little hillside sat a human and a creature that I took to be a girl and a cat. The girl says to the cat, "What will the New Year bring us?" and the cat answers, "365 opportunities." What a great way to approach the New Year! Let's forget the bunch of resolutions people like to try. We already know we often fail at accomplishing them within the first week or first month.

What are the opportunities of this year that wait to be discovered? Perhaps reconnecting with old friends or distant relatives; trying out a new interest such as painting, or wood working, or racket ball or playing the piano, or making puff pastry; repainting a room or entire home; taking up some form of study such as digging deeper into American history, or the great classical composers or artists, or the world of birds; practicing a new discipline such as yoga or meditation. Rather than see these as resolutions, we can look at them as opportunities to grow and be enriched. We may find we don't care for a particular endeavor, but that doesn't matter. If we don't like racket ball or ornithology, we can say at least we tried it, and that alone is an accomplishment. Then we move on to the next opportunity.

There are, of course, less time-consuming opportunities, less self-focused opportunities. How many times a day do we have the opportunity to smile at another human being, or speak a kind word, or offer a listening ear? How often can we try to reflect the love of God to another? Can we return to a pet the love it shows to us? How often do we take the opportunity to appreciate the beauty all around?

Just as the day blossoms over the horizon each morning, new opportunities can color our world. Let us choose the glow of hope, peace, joy and love as we explore all that this New Year offers, confident that God will support, guide, and strengthen us all along the way.

Joyfully,
Pastor Betsey

"I have always been delighted at the prospect of a new day, a fresh try, one more start, with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere behind the morning." _ J. B. Priestly

Worship Schedule – January 2019

(subject to change at pastor's discretion)

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Notes
January 6	Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12	“Epiphany of the Lord”	Communion
January 13	Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	“Water, Wind and Fire”	
January 20	Psalm 36:5-10 John 2:1-11	“The Wonders of God”	
January 27	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Luke 4:14-21	“Spirit of the Message”	

Looking Ahead:

February 3 will be the “soup”er bowl collection to benefit the Covenant Soup Kitchen

Family and Friends Get Together Breakfast

Come and linger for a while!

Saturday, January 12th

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, JANUARY 12TH

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

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE - JANUARY 15TH**

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

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, January 19th. 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!**



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** 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

January – Kate Mott and Tim Bassett

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

January – Tim Anderson

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: Kate Mott or Tim Bassett.

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: 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.

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 I. Peters

WINGATE on the Blackstone

353 Blackstone Blvd., Apt. #3214

Providence, RI 02906

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.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

~Olivia, (grand-daughter of Sue Milici's friend) who has had a multitude of health issues since early childhood, and is having another health crisis and in need of prayers.

~Janice Knight's husband Jim's cousin, Mark, is in the end stages of cancer.

~Reporters and journalists who are under attack.

~Clarence Sylvester (Polly and Arnold Hinckley's friend) who has health issues.

~Prayers for those affected by the fires, earthquakes, storms and tsunamis.

~Prayers for Olive Shea.

~Andrea Stannard's friend, Mark, who is dealing with treatments for a rare cancer.

~Linda Reynolds, a cook at the senior center, whose family's house burned down this past weekend.

~ Those serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait: Gerald, Michael, John Pires, and Tyler.



Happy
New
Year