

The Steeple Chimes

March 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 dark gray branches dusted in white reach up into the winter sky, a lighter shade of gray. Black-capped chickadees dart from limb to limb while dark gray juncos, fluffed into balls of feathers, sit like Christmas ornaments, each on its own branch. There is a hush all around, even at this mid-day. In this moment there is an invitation to consider God's majesty and creativity. And then a desire to reflect seeps into one's soul, if one pays attention. Perhaps a prayer, an insight, a fear rises up and we turn to God in trust. Peace...if just for a moment.

Ash Wednesday arrives the first Wednesday of March, ushering in the season of Lent. Lent is the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays, during which the faithful reflect, repent, fast, pray, and become more conscious of works of love. It is a time when we seek moments of quiet to draw closer to God and consider our relationship with the Holy, our neighbors and the world.

This year Lent is later than most years and there is a good chance we will experience not only cold and snow, but also warming sun and perhaps even some spring flowers by Easter in late April. On that Sunday morning the sanctuary will be filled with flowers and great joy.

My prayer is that we all find moments of grace in the Lenten weeks ahead.

Peace be to you all,

Pastor Betsey

Worship Schedule

March 2019

(subject to change at pastor's discretion)

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Notes
March 3 rd	<i>Luke 9:28-36</i>	<i>Astounding Glory</i>	<i>Communion Transfiguration</i>
March 6 th	<i>Joel 2 Psalm 51:1-17 Matt 6:1-6, 16-21</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Communion Prayer Candles Ashes</i>
March 10 th	<i>Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16</i>	<i>Our Refuge and Our Fortress</i>	<i>Speaker from WAIM</i>
March 17 th	<i>Psalm 27 Luke 13: 31-35</i>	<i>Longing for Relationship</i>	
March 24 th	<i>Isaiah 55:1-9 Luke 13:1-9</i>	<i>Repent</i>	
March 31 st	<i>Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 16-32</i>	<i>God Rejoices</i>	

"ECHOES FROM THE ARCHIVES"...

Archives...

archives...



(Researched and written
by our Church Historian)

"Schooldays In Lebanon Crank"

During the early history of Lebanon Crank, education in the parish was under the control of the Ecclesiastical Society of the church.

In 1739 it was voted "...to keep a school of two school masters for the three winter months, for writing and reading, and to be removed from place to place for the best advantage of the parish in general". School dames were also to be hired "...to teach children to read the rest of the year".

The first mention of a schoolhouse is found in a 1744 vote "...that the schoolhouse which Mr. Josiah Finney has set on the highway should stand in that place". (This is the corner where Gaulin, Cherry Valley, Chowanec and Old Williman-tic Roads now intersect - in later years referred to as Old Hop River.)

It was also voted at this time "...that the neighborhood adjacent to the meetinghouse might have liberty to build a schoolhouse on the commons..." there. Similar permission was granted to "...the neighborhood adjacent to Thomas Porters..." which, as indicated by a later vote, must have been on Whitney Road where the first North District schoolhouse stood.

In 1768 a committee was appointed to determine and set off the school districts of the parish. It was their recommendation that "Whereas, there hath been three districts, Middle, North and South - that they remain the same; although at present the Middle District being fewer in number and less able to maintain a school be reckoned with the North and South Districts; but they shall have the right at any time to build a schoolhouse and set up a school within their limits".

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will be observed on **March 6th** 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. We offer ashes to those who find it meaningful.

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.

Family and Friends Get Together Breakfast

Come and linger for a while!

Saturday, March 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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH
Ash Wednesday Service
7:00PM in the Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH
Church Breakfast
8:00AM – 11:00AM in the Parish Hall

*Don't forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour
for Daylight Savings on March 9th!*

APRIL NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE - MARCH 15TH
**If you are unable to meet this deadline, your
submission can be included in the following
Newsletter.**

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

May 5, 2019	Take Note Concert
June 2, 2019	George Peters preaching
September 20, 2019	Tea Fundraiser
Spring 2020	Concert – TBD
June 7, 2020	Wrap Up Worship Service

**If anyone has any other ideas or suggestions for events,
please speak with one of the 300th Committee Members;
Audrey Tuttle, Belle Robinson, Merton Wolff, Jack Sabine,
Andrea Stannard, Kathy Chapman**

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, March 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!**

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

March – Ross Koning & Kim Foss

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

March – 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: Ross Koning

March 2019 SHOUT OUTS!

Give thanks by
recognizing people in
the congregation who
have gone above and
beyond for our church
community.

Shout Out to _____ for _____ _____ _____	
From:	

I wish to send a **SHOUT OUT** to two marvelous ladies: Ellie Foss and Mary Blair. These two came in to share the church office administrator's position on a temporary basis when Denise found it necessary to move South in early December. By combining their complementary knowledge and gifts, they managed to figure out what needed to be done and how to do it so the church continued to run smoothly. They have also put together an office procedures list to help Michele LaBrec and any who might follow her. I don't know what I would have done without them and can't thank them enough. They were blessings in a time of trial. -- Pastor Betsey

Here is a **SHOUT OUT** to the Secretary Search Committee: Terry Tangarone, Melissa Petrone, and Anne Stewart. These are three very busy women who said "yes" when Arnold asked them to help us find a replacement for our secretary position, and this in the height of Advent Season. Because of their hard work and knowledge of 21st century hiring techniques, we met and hired Michele LaBrec, our new Office Administrator/Secretary. Thank you! -- Pastor Betsey

SHOUT OUT to Tim Basset for you strong leadership. Thanks!

A **SHOUT OUT** to Ms. Murphy for making us feel so loved and making valentines. -- Anna Jean and Adam

PARISH NOTICES

Welcome to Our New Secretary!

We are delighted to welcome Michele LaBrec to the church office and the position of Office Administrator/Secretary. Her first day with us was February 12th and we hope she will be with us for a long time.

Michele will be in the office Tuesday-Friday from 9:30-1:00. (Pastor Betsey will normally be in the church on Mondays). Please offer Michele a warm welcome when you meet her on the phone or in person.

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. 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
Pastor Betsey Polglase, Minister**