

The Steeple Chimes

JUNE 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

Pastor's Porch Article

On this lovely late afternoon I take time to sit on the screened porch, listen to the birds - and the motorcycles and trucks-and watch the humming birds come and go to the feeder. All the trees are in leaf, even the big maple next to the church. It was the last to produce leaves and I worried about its health. As I sit here, I think of earlier spring days when the fragrance from the magnolia by the church and the apple trees behind the parsonage at the school drifted through the screens. The breeze still carries the scent of the lilacs and the honeysuckle near by. This is indeed a lovely place to sit and ponder our Creator's magnificence and wisdom and acknowledge the blessings of these past 9 years.

I consider all that has transpired over the years here on the porch, in the parsonage, in this warm and caring faith community, and in this town. People have gone and others have come. Projects have been taken on and some have lasted, establishing "tradition" and some were smaller successes. The passage from Ecclesiastes plays in my mind. "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." It seems Gods' purpose for us to be together has drawn to a close and we move onward in faith in God's steadfast love, presence and wisdom.

Change would be so very hard without knowing that God is in charge and will make all things work for the good. Although I can't see to far ahead, I know in my heart that God is nudging me toward this change of purpose. I also know that this congregation will find refreshment and energy as new leadership enters into your ministry together. I pray that we all remain open to the revelation of God's purpose and stay steadfast in our work for Christ.

This church was here before this town was called Columbia. It was a meeting place as well as a place of worship for the farmers and business people on this side of Lebanon.

From The Pastor's Porch

Continued

For 300 years the building known as the church (there have been three) was the spiritual house and historical gathering place of the people. As I plan to depart from this town, I wonder what role the church (building and faith community) will continue to play in the leadership and cohesiveness of this town. What will it be like in the next 300 years? I believe what we have done together has moved us along that continuum. I also believe what you do in the next years will have its affect on its role in the community. I know you are all up to the challenge. So I leave you with the following:

Jesus' words to the disciples:

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew28:20)

“...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. (John14:26-27)

And finally:

May God bless you and keep each and everyone of you individually and as a community of faith. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you all peace. Amen

In Christian love, I wish you well,
Betsey

Worship Schedule

June 2019

(subject to change at pastor's discretion)

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Notes
June 2 nd	<i>2 Timothy 1:3-14</i>	<i>"The Gift that Lives Within Each of Us"</i>	<i>Part of 300th Anniversary- Rev. George Peters</i>
June 9 th	<i>TBA</i>	<i>" Super Heroes"</i>	<i>Children's Sunday Pentecost</i>
June 16 th	<i>Psalm 8 John 15:26-26 John 16;1,12-15</i>	<i>"The Advocate"</i>	<i>Trinity Sunday Father's Day</i>
June 23 rd	<i>1 Kings 19: 1-15a Gal.3;:23-28</i>	<i>"Hope is in the Lord"</i>	
June 30 th	<i>Psalm 7: 1-2,11-20</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>Pastor's Last Sunday</i>

ECHOES FROM THE ARCHIVES”...

“The 150th Anniversary”

The Church’s 150th Anniversary was celebrated on October 24, 1866- that year marking a century and a half since the organization of the Ecclesiastical Society. The choice of October was of no significance other than the fact that definite plans for the observance had not formally begun until late June.

The year 1720, when the first minister, Reverend Samuel Smith was called to the parish and ordained here, is now recognized as the actual establishment of the church. Other significant anniversaries of this were observed in 1920 and 1970.

By a vote of the church, “Exercises of the Celebration” were published in a 96-page book which, in addition to the complete account of the programs, contains excellent summaries of many aspects of church history which had been unresearched and written for the occasion.

Both the morning and afternoon programs consisted of poems, “remarks” and “addresses”, and reading of the historical papers as well as prayers and music.

At noontime, a repast which today would be called a pot-luck dinner but was dignified by the term “collation” in the published report, was “...dispensed at the Town Hall owing to the lateness of the season...” (That town hall was the original one which was built in 1855 just north of the Old Yard Cemetery.)

It is interesting that the Collation Committee consisted originally of six men who “...at one of their meetings appointed a sub-committee of two more men and twelve women to assist them”.

The report of the “Collation” continues: “...the good things flowed in until all the space appointed to that purpose was filled to over flowing so that the committee was enabled to make a ‘Bill of Fare’ consisting of the following:

Cold Tongue, Baked Lamb (stuffed), Sandwiches, Wheat Bread, Fruit Cake, Silver Cake, Cookies, Apple Pie, Cream Pie, Apples, Sliced Beef, Ham, Cold Chicken, Biscuit, Loaf Cake, Gold Cake, Cup Cakes, Fried Cakes, Mince Pie, Corn Starch Pie, Baked Apples, Coffee...”

“The fragments remaining were distributed among the needy; thereby filling their hearts with thankfulness that it was put into the minds of the people to celebrate the formation of the Church in Columbia.”



Darien E. Parmenter

Fairfield University
Master's Degree in
Industrial Organizational Psychology

Keira Francis

Bolton High School

Justin Foss

E.O Smith High School

Family and Friends Get Together Breakfast

Come and linger for a while!

Saturday, June 8th

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

**SAVE THE BEES
(POLLINATORS)**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH
2PM – 5PM
COLUMBIA TOWN GREEN**

Bee info, honey products, local vendors, crafts for kids, giveaways, and much more!

For more info (or to volunteer)

Contact: Carol Coley

860-228-4434

or

Email: dscscoley@aol.com

JULY 4 PARADE FLOAT

This year's float will offer a twist on our 300th Anniversary and look to our future over the next

300 years. The goal is to show that we remain current and forward looking with an emphasis on technology and some humor. Creative suggestions would be very welcome from anyone. Help from 4 -5 volunteers for design and construction would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Henry Beck 860-228-3141 or beck@halloransage.com.

The 300th Anniversary Committee would like to thank all that came to our Take Note fundraising concert. With your participation we raised \$1,250. A special thank you to Justin Foss who helped advertise our event and direct traffic.

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

!

Shout Out to _____
for _____

From: _____



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND

Reverend George Peters Preaching

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

Church Breakfast

8:00AM – 11:00AM in the Parish Hall

THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH

10:30AM- 300TH Anniversary Committee Meeting

JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE –JUNE17TH

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

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

June 2, 2019

September 20, 2019

Spring 2020

June 7, 2020

George Peters preaching

Tea Fundraiser

Concert – TBD

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

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.

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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

June – Ross Koning

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

June – Carmen Vance

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



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...**

Eddie 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.

