

The Steeple Chimes

DECEMBER 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.

***The hinge of history is
in a stable in Bethlehem***

My friends in Christ,

I don't know who came up with the little bit of wisdom printed above, but I've always liked the way it was stated. The true history of the world is not what we find in history books. That historical record of the past is of little importance when compared to the magnitude of the Son of God's birth. The historical record, with its fill of wars, disasters, diseases, as well as the building up of wondrous things, explorations and discoveries all pale in comparison to the gift we've each received by the birth of a baby boy, named Jesus, in Bethlehem. The world stopped and the restarted after that birth. The Holy One of the universe was revealed to the world and the love of God became known through Jesus. God in Christ came for each of us that day long ago.

This Advent and Christmas I invite you to once again partake in the wonder of the story and reclaim it as your own. Gather in worship and participate in the buildup to the joyful celebration of the Christmas miracle:

Sunday, December 1st

The Hanging of the Greens Service at 10:00 AM

Sunday, December 8th

Second Sunday In Advent 10:00 AM

Advent Workshop after morning worship

Sunday December 15th

Second Sunday In Advent 10:00 AM

Cookie Exchange after morning worship

Sunday December 22rd

Children's Pageant 10:00 AM

Bell Choir Concert 2:00 PM

December 24th Christmas Eve:

Traditional Candlelight Services at 5 PM 10:30 PM

Sunday, December 29th

Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:00 AM

This holiday season, step beyond the history of the everyday and walk with the One who came for you in that stable in Bethlehem.

Blessings of Christ,
Pastor Barry

Family and Friends Get Together Breakfast

Come and linger for a while!

Saturday, December 14th

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

\$10.00 per person

\$28.00 - 2 adults and 2 children



Holiday Greetings,

November 2019 marks the 44th year of the annual **Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**. Many families have benefited from your donations in the past, and your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

The idea behind the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to contribute to the fund instead of sending cards to your friends and family in town. Your name will then be listed in the Town of Columbia quarterly newsletter Columbia Views.

The purpose of the **Cardless Holiday Fund** is to help Columbia families in need. These situations present themselves more often than we would like to believe, and as government programs have been reduced, the need for the local community to respond has become greater. Join your neighbors in continuing or even increasing your support

This past year alone the fund has been used to help with holiday food baskets for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, back to school supplies, youth camp registration and help with electrical bills.

Thank you for your continued caring and God Bless You!

Sponsored by the Columbia Congregational Church

Mail to:
Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund
c/o Dixie Silvestri
70 Johnson Rd
Columbia, CT 06237

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to the “**Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**”

_____ Do not list my name in the Columbia Views **OR**

_____ I would like my listing in the Columbia View to appear as (names only please):

(Please print clearly)

Please make checks payable to the “**Columbia Cardless Holiday Fund**”
Donations are tax-deductible.

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED YEAR ROUND
Deadline for printed listing Dec. 20, 2019



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 (crockpot examples: 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, December 21st** We need **desserts, fruits, and water.** Please call Sue 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 5PM. **Your help in this ministry is greatly appreciated!**

ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 8th we will have our annual Advent workshop after Sunday worship. First there will be a soup and bread luncheon. **There will be a sign up sheet for how many are coming and donations of soup and bread.** After lunch there will be things for everyone to make including our traditional sprays, advent wreaths and bird feeders. **We would appreciate donations of fresh greens and berries to make the sprays.** We also need a few volunteers to do some of the projects we have found or you could do one of your own. **At this time there also will be the gift tag tree with gift requests which are due back on December 15th.** Once the tags are removed will be decorating the tree with donated mittens, scarfs and hats. If you have any questions please contact the Christian Education.

Christmas Baskets

[Please consider donating either turkeys/hams or grocery store gift cards for the Christmas baskets for folks in need in Columbia. As always, thanks in advance for your help.](#) Donations need to be received by December 15th. [Contact either Debby Smith or Dixie Silvestri with any questions.](#)

ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE – Sunday, December 15th
Who doesn't love our annual cookie exchange? Please consider baking your favorite holiday cookie and donating to our sale. **The money raised from the cookie sale is used to pay for our Cardless Holiday Fund mailing.** Any questions or concerns may be directed to any member of our Board of Christian Concern.

What Does Peace Look Like to You?

Connecticut's Pieces of Peace Exhibition is a traveling exhibition inspired by CITYarts Pieces project of New York City. It is sponsored by the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World.

Youth from across Connecticut have voiced their hopes for peace through their artwork, by answering the question:

“What does peace look like to you?”

By participating in the Connecticut Pieces for Peace project, students have used their creative and unique abilities. Their ideas have sparked this movement.

This exhibition is a collection of their creative process and expectant hope that bridges, cultural understanding between all young people and their peers, here in Connecticut, and throughout the world.

All students who participate in this project have their artwork displayed online at <https://dkgtweebly.com/pieces-for-peace-gallery>.

The Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World is a Connecticut based group of women educators, members of DKG Society Who have been promoting peace activities and curriculum for worldwide for more than 30 years?

If you are interested in learning more please contact Millie Ramsey.

Deacon of the Month

December- Tim Bassett

Trustee of the Month

December – Dave Pearce

300th Anniversary

As part of the 300th Anniversary celebration, the Church will publish a book commemorating the past years. Jan and Carmen have agreed to be responsible for this task. The book will be about 75% pictures and 25% narrative. We have access to historical pictures and renderings through the Historical Society and the Town Historian. What is needed are pictures from the last 25 years or so.

That is where you come in. Two things are needed from you:

1. think about any memorable/meaningful events at the church and jot them down

2. look for any pictures you might have related to these events, noting the year and names of the key people

Give your notes and any pictures to the secretary, Michelle, at Columbia

Congregational Church, 325 Rt 87 Columbia, CT 06237 or email to her at

ccchurch@snet.net Your recollections are important because even if you do not

have any pictures for some of the events, someone else might have some. If you

do not want to give up a picture it can be scanned or a picture taken of it. Just

let us know and we can be of assistance. Any specific questions can be directed

to Carmen at 860-336-8119 or Jan at 860-465-6321 or to Carmen at

carmenvance1@gmail.com

We want this to be a publication that is interesting and a celebration of our

history. Without your assistance this cannot happen.

Please respond as soon as possible so that the book can be published during

the final year of the 300th celebration 2020.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST

10:00AM Hanging of the Greens Service

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH

5:00PM- Advent Workshop-Set Up

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH

Advent Workshop- Following morning service

SATURDAY December 14TH

Church Breakfast

8:00AM -11:00AM in the Parish Hall

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH

Annual Cookie Exchange after Worship

SATURDAY December 21ST

5:00PM- No Freeze Meals

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND

10:00AM- Christmas Pageant

2:00PM- Christmas Concert Bell Choir

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH

5:00PM & 10:30PM- Traditional Candle Light Service

January Newsletter Deadline –December 13TH

If you do not submit your meeting schedule by the deadline, it will not appear in the Newsletter.

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 2, 2020
Spring 2020
June 7, 2020

Tea Fundraiser
Concert – TBD
Wrap Up Worship Service

