

The Steeple Chimes

MAY 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

April showers bring May flowers, as the saying goes. April certainly brought plenty of rain and flowers were in bloom by Easter. In the past I have talked about “the greening” that occurs seemingly overnight in the spring. When you read this that day has come and gone and I expect leaves have burst forth on branches everywhere. It is this consistency and certainty of God’s creation that seems to ground me as each new day brings its joys and troubles. Certainly, nature can bring devastation, but even so we can count on rebirth. After the fires, flood, mudslide, tornados and blizzards comes the new life emerging from the devastation.

Easter morning reminded us of God’s promise of rebirth. And spring reminds us that we can count on new beginnings. It is these sureties that give us the strength and will to keep moving forward with hope. And it is the desire for these things to continue that we put some effort into our faith and into preserving the natural balance in the world, both of which we are free to turn our backs on, but to our detriment.

Interestingly Mother’s Day falls in May, the season for birthing of new life. Sure, some creatures come earlier and human birthing happens all year round, but the 2nd Sunday of May seems a good marker for the nurture of new life. Perhaps it is helpful to remember during troubling times that new life always comes. Jesus demonstrated his participation in bringing people into new life and calls us into participation with that ever evolving new life.

So, rejoice with me in the new life that nature brings and Jesus promises.

Pastor Betsey

ECHOES FROM THE ARCHIVES”...

Archives...

Archives...

(Researched and written
By our Church Historian)

The Ladie’s Missionary Society

Except for those Sunday School, which began in 1720- (see Newsletter-May 1990), the Ladies Missionary Society was the oldest of the Church organizations which were formed in, the 1800’s.

The original record book consists of eleven sheets of ruled paper sewed together in a simple cover of heavier material. Each year’s record uses a single page, giving only the date of the annual meeting, the officers, and the names of the collectors with the amounts obtained in their (then) six school districts of the town.

The amount of \$21.75 was the total for the first year-a very impressive sum for that era when farming was the principle means of livelihood and a dollar was far more significant amount than it is today.

The annual “Missionary Teas” were social events of the summers during the early decades of the 1900’s. The programs featured a talk by the missionary (usually one recently returned from foreign service) and an offering which was combined with the ladies’ mite boxes which had replaced the district collections as a means of fund raising. Following the programs, which were held in the chapel, refreshments of iced tea (a tradition for the occasions) and sandwiches and cookies were served.

The Columbia society had in 1885 become an auxiliary of the Hartford Branch of the Women’s Board of Missions. However, within a few decades it was becoming apparent that other means of financing the church’s missionary support were more efficient; and in 1935 the Ladies Missionary Society voted to disband and merge with Ladies Aid.

Family and Friends Get Together Breakfast

Come and linger for a while!

Saturday, May 11th

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 fee offering: \$10.00 per person

\$28.00 - 2 adults and 2 children

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH
Take Note Concert
3:00PM in the Sanctuary

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

JUNE NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE – MAY 17TH

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

June 2, 2019

September 20, 2019

Spring 2020

June 7, 2020

Take Note Concert

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

MISSING GLUE GUN: The hot glue gun and its holder which the fair committee uses has disappeared. If you borrowed it or know where it is, please return it or let us know. Thank you.

MAY 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: _____



A SHOUT OUT to Kim Foss not only for being a great mom and grandma, but setting a great example by working so hard this Easter season. Love, Ellie & Kyrrah

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.

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

May- Debbie Francis

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

May - 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.silverlakeect.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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Pastor Betsey Polglase, Minister**