

The Steeple Chimes

JUNE 2020 EDITION

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.

Staff:

The Rev. Dr. Barry McCarthy, Interim Pastor

Cell: 774-314-0223 eMail: bjmccarthy@mac.com

Alexander Chiu, Organist and Choir Director

Michelle LaBrec, Administrative Assistant

Phone: 860-228-9306 eMail: ccchurch@snet.net

Now working from home:

Please Call or Text Directly: 860-734-3899

eMail: mlabrec2018@yahoo.com

My Friends in Christ,

It is a difficult time. We are faithful people.

None of us have experienced the type of disruption in our lives as experienced during this pandemic. We are learning new ways to work, educate children, avoid illness and deal with significant life-style changes. And still some things remain: the abiding love of God, the connections of friendship and prayer within our congregation, and our commitment to reach out in service to our neighbors.

Here at Columbia, we are learning new ways to still be the three-hundred year old congregation you treasure and something new and timely as well. Alex Chiu and I offer weekly virtual services. We now host weekly Zoom Coffee Hours. Our Deacons call members to make sure they are okay. Christian education continues with weekly lesson. Our “Honkin’ Hellos” echo around town as we strive to liven the spirits of neighbors and friends. We don’t need a building to be church, but we do need each other to be Columbia Congregational United Church of Christ.

We want to thank you for your financial commitment to our continued presence in the community. Your support is critical to our sustainability. As of this writing, we have received 50 pledges amounting to \$106,674. That compares with last year’s 64 pledges totaling \$137,000. Having lost the additional income of roughly \$10,000 derived from our monthly breakfasts, we are now facing a possible deficit in our next budget.

Our current stewardship drive is extraordinarily important to the future of the congregation. As the Pastoral Search Committee is about to actively begin advertising for your new pastor, it needs to know what monies will be available to fund the position so that it can negotiate in good faith. We know some in our community face personal economic challenges because of this pandemic. Hopefully, your circumstances will enable you to continue your support, if they have changed, please know we understand. Conversely, if you find you are able to make an additional gift beyond your normal amount, that would be wonderful and help us deal with any shortfalls. Please know that your donation, no matter its size, is deeply appreciated and empowers us to carry out our church’s ability to make a difference in people’s lives.

Together, we can support each other through this difficult time. Together, we can answer God’s call to mission and ministry. Together, we can be spiritually united even when physically apart.

Together we remain God’s faithful people.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Barry

Intentional Interim Minister



**Thanks for participating
in our “Honkin Hellos”
check our Facebook page
and Pastor Barry’s eMails
for future Hellos**



We are continuing doing **BIRTHDAY DRIVE-BYS** for our church school children. If you have a birthday you would like us to celebrate, please let us know!

Sunday June 14th is Church School Sunday

This year's theme is the **10 Commandments Bible Story**.

Each student will be creating a video based on one of the commandments which will be presented to the Congregation on June 14th.

We will also be looking for volunteers to read and record readings and prayers.

We would also like to have the families and students do a **Honkin' Hello** for the Sunday school teachers in the church parking lot.

Wendy Tomlinson will be providing more information on this as the date gets closer.

Shopping on-line?

Since everyone is staying home and shopping online, consider using Amazon Smile. The church gets a small percentage of all sales and does not cost the purchaser anything extra. For more information:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-6038335>

Pastoral Search Committee

Please pray for the committee as they seek to discern the next pastoral leader for our congregation.

***Dave Coley - Joyce Nasin
Denise Parmenter - Dave Pearce
Brian Pedersen - Lynn Sharpe - Audrey Tuttle***

**REMEMBER OUR
HOMEBOUND 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

Mary Jane Johnston

C/O Westview Health Care Center
150 Ware Road, Dayville, CT 06241