

The Steeple Chimes

JULY 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
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Friends in Christ,

After a four-month hiatus, we will carefully re-gather in worship for the summer on the town green in front of the Gazebo. I want to emphasize “for the summer.” This is a limited, fair-weather opening and no one should make the mistake of believing that after the summer we will be back in our sanctuary. Think of this is a communal respite from our isolation and distancing, but it is neither the end of the pandemic nor the end of our vigilance in protecting family, neighbors and ourselves from Covid 19. I fear we will need to wait for the wide-spread implementation of a yet to arrive vaccine before we can return to the familiarity of our sanctuary.

In this in-between time, we will enjoy seeing each other from a distance and of course we are still God’s beloved people. Perhaps we can gain a greater appreciation for our biblical ancestors. The ancients who awaited hundreds of years for deliverance from the Babylonian exile, the Egyptian slavery, a forty-year wandering in the desert, a fifty day wait for the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Maybe if we see these past months as something more than a great inconvenience we can see how God has been working within our lives.

Have you noticed any positive changes in your lifestyle? Maybe a greater appreciation for family, friends or new hobbies. I encourage you to write them down, and ponder and pray over how your life going forward might be restructured to keep what is important at the forefront of your thoughts. And, don’t forget to share and discuss that list with a spouse or partner to get their help and understanding as you live into your new future.

In Ecclesiastes, the writer shares “*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven . . .*” Let us use this season of pandemic to pause and reflect on what’s important.

In faith,
Pastor Barry

HERE'S HOW we'll Church

**Effective July 5th our in-person Sunday Morning services will resume.
We will gather, socially distanced, outside on the lawn in front of the gazebo.
(Weather permitting. *)**

Safety guidelines we will follow:

- **Masks required.**
- **You'll need to bring your own lawn chair or blanket.**
- **A link will be provided to print out your own worship bulletins.**
- **Maintain at least a ten-foot distance between separate family units.**
- **There will be limited parking along the parsonage driveway for members with physical infirmities who will be able to listen via their car radios. Each car will be spaced at least ten foot away from adjacent cars. Please respect that this limited availability is reserved for those at highest risk.**
- **All others should use the regular parking lot and walk around the church building.**
- **THE CHURCH BUILDING ITSELF WILL REMAIN LOCKED AND UNAVAILABLE, INCLUDING THE REST ROOMS.**

***In the event of rain or very wet conditions, a cancellation email will be sent who receive the weekly email updates.**

Church School Updates

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

As we wrap up the most “interesting” school year ever, I want to thank everyone for their love and support. **Parents**, you are my new SUPER HEROES! Juggling homes, jobs, kids, homeschooling, entertainment, and making videos for church is quite a challenge! Our team of **teachers** has also been a great support system to our church school and to me personally. We met on Zoom EVERY Saturday, planned SEVEN HONKIN’ HELLOS, birthday drive-bys, virtual Church School Sunday, drove in ALL of the HONKIN’ HELLOS and held two Zoom classes with the children. And thanks to Pastor Barry, Debby Smith, Dave Parmenter, and Gayle Anderson for their support! And of course, the **kids!** We certainly miss their smiling faces! I hope they are following the 10 Commandments, especially *Honoring their Parents*, even if they dance with the family cat!

Speaking of dancing with cats, I hope you all enjoyed the **Virtual Church School Sunday Service**. If you haven’t seen it, it’s available on the church website:

The whole service can be found under Worship/Sunday Worship/Sermons:

http://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page_id=15725

The 10 Commandment Video is under Education/Church School At Home: (Password: WWJD)

http://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page_id=16269

We also had a HIGHLY successful **HEIFER fundraising** effort! With the help of the online fundraising website, we surpassed the donation amount from the past several years. As of right now, we are over \$3000!! The final total will be available soon! Thank you for your generosity!

Summer Curriculum is now available for Early Elementary Age children. Instead of sending weekly emails, all lessons will be posted on our website under Education/Church School At Home/ Summer Lessons (password WWJD):

http://columbiacongregationalchurch.org/?page_id=16656

Since the town parade was cancelled and the HONKIN' HELLO car parades were so popular, we will be sponsoring a **4th of July CAR PARADE!!** More details will be available soon! All are welcome!

The teachers and I are looking forward to seeing you all again, and hope and pray that we can get together soon!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I cannot say it enough!!

As always, if you have any Church School questions, concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wendy Tomlinson

The Columbia Congregational Board of Finance, is thrilled to present this year's **Russell & Hazel Spearman Award**.

The Spearman award is given each year to a graduating 8th grader, who is active in our church, their school and the community. 8th graders submit a letter to the board of finance outlining their accomplishments in order to be considered for the Spearman Award. This year's recipient of the Spearman Award is young lady who is very accomplished and has demonstrated, her abilities in all these areas. She is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, The Junior Arts Honor Society, has participated in Peer Mentoring, the Principals Advisory Group, Unified Sports, and has helped plan many events around her school to spread kindness and positivity. She is an accomplished athlete with cross country, Basketball and Softball. She has been involved in Girl Scouts for eight years. She has shown a significant dedication to activities in our church including helping out with the Pageant, watching the younger children and serving at our community breakfasts.

Her list of accomplishments is long and we'd like to recognize, **Riley DeForest** for being the 2020 winner of the Spearman Award.

The following Awards have been given through the Columbia Congregational Church and the Local School Systems. The recipients are chosen, By Horace Porter School and RHAM High School.

The Edith C Haver Memorial Award is given to a student based on generosity of spirit and self, academic achievement, high moral character, active school citizenship and constructive interest in sympathy for other people. The 2020 recipient is: **Mia Savino, Horace Porter School**

The Daena B Parmenter Memorial Scholarship Award is given to a student that has enriched the lives of children with special needs. This student is compassionate, caring & committed to helping others, regardless of what grade they are in. This student is a "Buddy" & "Friend" to others who have social, medical, learning or physical challenges, helping them to build and maintain connections with their school and peers. Like Daena, this person loves and finds great joy in helping and inspiring everyone around her.

The 2020 Recipients are:

Riley DeForest, Horace Porter School.

Molly Reibling, RHAM High School.

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

Just REMINDER Annual Report information is due by August 14th. Please email it to the church email address.

To contact Pastor Barry

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To contact Michelle LaBrec

Now working from home: Please Call or Text Directly: 860-734-3899