

CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY - December 27
8:30 Worship, Rev. Barnes preaching
10:00 Worship, Rev. Barnes preaching

The Church Office will be closed all this week.

MONDAY - December 28
7:00 Boy Scouts (Stage/Jerusalem/Gym/Emmaus)
7:30 AA Meeting (Library)

TUESDAY - December 29
No Tai Chi (New session begins Jan 5)

WEDNESDAY- December 30
10:00 My Brother's Keeper (Jerusalem)
7:30 AA Step Meeting (Library)

THURSDAY - December 31
10:00 AA (Library)

FRIDAY - January 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY

SATURDAY - January 2
9:00 AA/Al-Anon (Stage/Jerusalem/Library)

SUNDAY - January 3
8:30 Worship and Communion,
Rev. Barnes preaching
10:00 Worship and Children's Christmas Pageant

OFFICE HOURS There will be no office hours this week. Any emails sent to colchesterfederate@sbcglobal.net will be responded to the following week. For pastoral emergencies, call Rev. Barnes on her cell phone at 860-334-6790. Rev. Linda Barnes' email is Lubarnes6@sbcglobal.net.

Christmas Pageant Rescheduled

The children's pageant originally scheduled on our snow day, has been rescheduled to Sunday, January 3rd at the 10am service. We hope you will be able to join us.

2010 Pledge Campaign Update

Many thanks to all who have returned their pledge forms and time and talent cards. Your support is very much appreciated! As of Dec. 21st, we have received **64 commitments, including 9 new pledging units.** These commitments total **\$103,429**. Last year at this time, we had received 60 pledging units for a total of \$99,970. Currently, the Ministry of Stewardship is working hard on the 2010 budget. They project a goal of **\$130,000** in pledges will be needed to support our staff and current level of programs and operations. That's only about **\$27,000 more!** **If you have not filled out your pledge form and time and talent card, please do so as soon as you are able.** Extra pledge packets are available in the back of the sanctuary and the church office. Your pledge is confidential, seen only by our church treasurers. If you have questions, you may contact Tom Evans (Treasurer), Steve Bradstreet (Asst. Treasurer), Jim Caronna (Stewardship) or Diane Capasso (Pledge Campaign Committee) Thank-you.

Celebration of the Gift and Dedication

Please join us on Sunday, January 17, 2010, as we dedicate our new parking lot and honor the gift bestowed upon us. We will gather outside at 9:50 am (weather permitting) for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and enter our Sanctuary together as a unified body for our special service in memory of Jennifer Neri-Lorette.

In honor of the gift to us, we ask if you are able, to give back to the community by bringing an item for the Colchester Food Bank or a donation for the Colchester Fuel Bank.

Following the 10 am service, we will host a Pot Luck brunch in the Stage Room. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ministry of Church Life

WORSHIP AT THE COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

www.ColchesterFederatedChurch.org Phone 537-5189

Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes, Pastor
Patricia Korenkiewicz, Director of Music

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2009

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Joan Frantzen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE The peace of Christ be with you

CALL TO WORSHIP Tracy Bausum, Deacon of the Month

Leader: Come let us celebrate together the season of Christmas.

All: O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

Leader: Let us celebrate the infant born in a stable,

All: In a manger, no crib for his bed,

Leader: who grew through childhood, who became a teacher and healer, the one who brought us back to God!

All: Joy to the world the Lord has come!

Leader: Let us celebrate in joy, and showing compassion, kindness, humility, and patience. Let us give thanks to God.

All: We join with all of nature and all God's creatures to sing praises to our generous God.

*OPENING HYMN **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #28**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: We have promised, O God, to live our lives as faithful followers of Jesus. We have promised to join with all creation in praising you and in bringing your kingdom on earth.

All: Yet we know we don't always keep our promise.

Sometimes, we ignore all that you offer. Sometimes, we hide from our potential and let life happen around us.

Leader: We stop growing and fail to become what you want us to be. Forgive us, God. Inspire us, during this season of joy.

All: Let the light of Christ show us your way that we may live as children of divine love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God will always welcome us with open arms when we are truly sorry. God forgives us and wants us to forgive ourselves. God gives us freedom to grow into all that we might be. That is the good news that brings us new life.

All: Praise and thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:00) The Greatest Christmas Song Ever

LITANY OF GROWING AND BECOMING

Leader: Let us join together in a litany of Growing and Becoming

All: We are growing. We are becoming the people of God!

Leader: Jesus was born in Bethlehem away from his home and all that was prepared for his arrival. We are aware that new babies are being born every day, some in refugee camps, some in remote villages, and some in clean, well-staffed hospitals.

Life is happening all around us!

All: We are growing. We are becoming the people of God!

Leader: Christmas has come. We celebrate the blessings of Christmas with family and friends. There are parties and partings, questions and answers, longings and loneliness, hopes for the new year. Life is happening all around us!

All: We are growing. We are becoming the people of God!

Leader: Sometimes in families and communities we have moments of miscommunication. It is important to talk about hurts and misunderstandings, and show love to each other. Life is happening all around us!

All: We are growing. We are becoming the people of God!

Leader: Christ is here! We remember Jesus as a baby, as a boy, as a teacher and healer, and as the one who died and rose again. We know that God calls us too at every stage of our lives to receive the gift of life, and to live in faith, hope, and love. Life is happening all around us!

All: We are growing. We are becoming the people of God!

Leader: As a congregation, sometimes we are larger and sometimes fewer in number, but together we celebrate and seek to grow in God's way. Life is happening all around us!

All: We are growing. We are becoming the people of God!

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20, 25-38 Tracy Bausum

*HYMN **The First Nowell** #56

CHRISTMAS STORIES AND CAROLS Rev. Linda Barnes

CHRISTMAS CAROLS
(We will sing a verse or two of Christmas Carols you request.)

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE LORD'S PRAYER (trespass)

CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY *(tune of #591)*
**What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.**

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Thank you, God of love,
for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the
generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world.
May these gifts represent a spirit of joyous sharing among
us, for the sake of your children everywhere. Amen.**

*HYMN **Go Tell It On the Mountain** #29

BENEDICTION *(Please gather in a circle around the sanctuary
at 10:00 and in the center aisle at 8:30.)* Go now in peace,
growing in the wisdom and strength of Christ. Go now in
expectation, listening for the Good News of Emmanuel, God-with
us. And may the joy of God's blessing be upon us all. Amen.

POSTLUDE Joan Frantzen

**Indicates that all who are able may stand.*

Colchester Federated Church

Affiliated with the
United Church of Christ and American Baptist Churches
Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes, Pastor
Patricia Korenkiewicz, Director of Music



60 Main Street, Colchester, CT 06415
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www.ColchesterFederatedChurch.org

**8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Worship
First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2009**

Annual Financial Meeting Jan. 24

Our January annual meeting provides the opportunity to review financial information from the preceding year, and to vote on the budget for the current year. This year our annual meeting will be held Sunday January 24th after the 10:00 a.m. worship. It will be accompanied by a pot-luck lunch. An official warning will be in next week's announcements.

Socks, Hats & Mittens

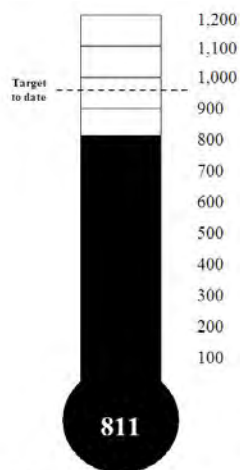
The hat, mitten, and sock tree is in the sanctuary . If you see any good deals for your family please pick up an extra hat, pair of mittens or pair of socks for the Colchester Federated Church's Christmas tree. You can hang them on our tree or put them in the basket under the tree. The proceeds will be offered first to Colchester programs for the holidays and Colchester Social Services, whatever Colchester does not need will be distributed to local shelters. Thank you.

Food Bank Challenge

We're still behind with only 1 week to go! Our total is 811 items. We have a ways to go to meet our goal of providing 1,200 items to the Colchester Food Bank by the end of the year. If you have items at home that you just can't seem to remember to bring in, let Tom St. Louis know and he'll drive to your house and pick them up!

Anything you can provide is always welcome, but the items

most needed are protein sources (like dry or canned beans, tuna, soups/stews, peanut butter, rice), 100% juice products, and paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels). Thanks to everyone for your continued support. Let's keep up the good work toward our goal of providing this precious gift to those in need in our community!



Help us meet our goal of 1,200 items by the end of the year!

