

## CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday - December 28**  
8:30 Worship, Cheryl Anderson Preaching  
10:00 Worship, Cheryl Anderson Preaching  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK**  
11:15 Un-hanging of the greens in sanctuary  
11:30 Finish up Gym Painting (remove tape and plastic)

**Monday - December 29**  
**NO Bible Study today**  
7:00 Boy Scouts (Stage)  
7:30 AA Meeting (Library)

**Tuesday - December 30**  
3:30 Tai Chi (Stage)  
6:30 Youth Group Reunion (Stage)

**Wednesday-December 31**  
7:00 Youth Group Sleepover  
7:30 AA Step Meeting (Library)

**Thursday - January 1 – NEW YEAR’S DAY**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**  
10:00 AA (Library)

**Friday - January 2**

**Saturday - January 3**  
9:00 AA/AI-Anon (Stage/Jerusalem/Library)

**Sunday - January 4**  
8:30 Worship & Communion, Rev. Linda Barnes preaching  
10:00 Worship & Communion, Rev. Linda Barnes preaching  
11:15 Junior Choir Rehearsal  
11:45 Hand Chimes Rehearsal  
12:30 Discipleship (Lounge)

**OFFICE HOURS** You may reach the church administrative assistant (Tom Evans) at the church office at 537-5189. Office hours this week are Monday through Wed. from 10:30 am–3:30 pm. Church office email [colchesterfederate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:colchesterfederate@sbcglobal.net). (note: no second “d”). Rev. Linda Barnes’ email is [Lubarnes6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Lubarnes6@sbcglobal.net). You can call Rev. Barnes for pastoral emergencies on her cell phone at 860-334-6790.

**Bulletin deadline is Tues. noon** each week.  
**FEBRUARY Crier deadline is THURSDAY, JANUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

## **PLEDGE CAMPAIGN STATUS:**

The following is a Pledge Campaign up-date as of Dec. 20th.

1. We're up to 62 commitments received so far (final 2008 number was 77)
2. Commitments received to date total \$104,630 (2008 final total commitments were \$132,130).
3. Average commitment is about \$1,688/year compared to \$1,716 last year

It's not too late to put in a pledge. We are in the process of putting together the budget for next year and we anticipate a sizable shortage, so all pledges, no matter the size, will help to decrease that shortage. Please remember that you can change your pledge should your financial situation change during the year. Also, keep in mind that your pledge is confidential, seen only by the church treasurers.

Thank you for your generous support of our church. If you have further questions, please contact Steve Bradstreet, assistant treasurer, or Diane Capasso. Thank-you!

## **NEW ORLEANS THANK YOU**

Merry Christmas everyone. Thank you all for your support through the last several years as we help our friends in Mississippi and New Orleans. I thought that you would all appreciate this letter from Rev. Coe. Especially the group that went this past October. Tim, Cheryl A, Missy, Ron, Rev. Linda and Cheryl L. see the overhead lights are working...bringing light to others who are continuing the work. Knowing that Ingrid is in her home for Christmas brings even more joy to this Christmas season. I recall the first UCC campaign to raise money for New Orleans recovery and it was called "Hope Shall Bloom" (most of us have the t-shirt) WOW for the first time I can see that happening. God is Good! May the light of Christ shine around and through all of us in the New Year.

Peace and Health,  
Donna

WORSHIP AT THE COLCHESTER FEDERATED CHURCH

[www.ColchesterFederatedChurch.org](http://www.ColchesterFederatedChurch.org) Phone 537-5189

Rev. Dr. Linda U. Barnes, Pastor

Patricia Korenkiewicz, Director of Music

Cheryl Anderson, Worship Leader and Preacher

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2008

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE I Saw Three Ships Keveren  
Sussex Carol Ham

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE The Peace of Christ be with you... And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come and celebrate the good news: our hope has been fulfilled!

All: **Christ the Savior is born! Thanks be to God!**

One: God's promise has come true, and salvation is here!

All: **Christ the Savior is born! Thanks be to God!**

One: Let us rejoice and sing praises to God!

All: **Christ the Savior is born! Thanks be to God!**

\*OPENING HYMN Angels From the Realms of Glory # 22

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, we have been in a mood of celebration, unwrapping packages and tasting foods of the season. We have not given as much time to prayer as we have to party. Help us refocus our selves on Jesus as we continue our Christmas season.**

*(Personal prayers of confession offered to God in the silence)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

UNISON PSALM READING Psalm 111

\*GLORIA PATRI

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Silent Night/All Through the Night Sorenson

DOXOLOGY

*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;*

*What can I give him? Give my heart!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, we thank you that you sent Jesus as one of us, to be our friend and savior. We thank you for this Christmas season which is just beginning, and pray that you will walk with us through the days and weeks to come, helping us to spread the good news of Christ's birth with everyone. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (p 604)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Galatians 4:4-7 (p 947)

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:22-38 (p 833)

SERMON Cheryl Anderson

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

\*HYMN Go Tell It On The Mountain #29

\*BENEDICTION *(Please form a circle in the center aisle for the benediction.)*

POSTLUDE Irish Carol Keveren

*\*Indicates that all who are able please 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

## What the New Year offers

- A fresh start in the totality of our life.
- A chance to do good things for others, especially older members of our family.
- An opportunity to plan better for the future, including the use of our time, talent and possessions.
- A challenge to read helpful books about living according to God's plan.
- A chance to better control stress and anxiety in body and spirit.



60 Main Street, Colchester, CT 06415  
537-5189 colchesterfederate@sbcglobal.net  
ColchesterFederatedChurch.org

**8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Worship**  
**December 28, 2008**

Christmas

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST DISASTER RESPONSE  
South Central Conference—New Orleans



## Rebuilding Homes-Rebuilding Hope

Christmas is the most magical time of the year and one of the most special Holy Days of the Christian Church when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The miracle and magic of Christmas gives every Christian hope. Regardless of the earthly situation one is entangled in, Christmas transcends all situations to exude love and hope to everyone. Hope is one thing that is very much in demand in New Orleans. Nearly every day a person calls this office seeking assistance rebuilding their home. Tim Fonderlin, our construction manager and myself recently visited a home that seemed absent of hope. As we approached the house, remnants of the blue tarp from Katrina flapped in the breeze on the roof. Windows were boarded up from this season of hurricanes. Inside there was evidence of water coming in each time it rained in at least a half dozen places. The owner is living in the house with small children. Until a roof is put on, the extent of interior damage cannot be assessed. As Tim and I measured the roof and visited with the homeowner, she was brought to tears on several occasions. She didn't think she would ever receive assistance. She felt hopeless. Hope, that is the most important thing this ministry brings to every homeowner, the everlasting and eternal magic and mystery of our faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Blessings to you and your family this Christmas season. May you enjoy and savor the hope of the world. *Rev. Alan Coe, Minister for Disaster Recovery*



Taping and floating in the Fellowship Hall of Beecher Memorial

**847** Houses cleaned out  
**27** Rebuild projects completed  
**3920** Volunteers  
**343** Groups  
**1,862,000.** \$ value of labor added  
**Hope** to a family—*priceless*



**Beecher Memorial update**  
Reconstruction work has been in progress at Beecher. The rough in wiring, plumbing and HVAC work are being completed. A burglar and fire alarm system will be installed. Our hope is to have a working burglar alarm around Christmas time to help prevent further break ins. Then rough in inspections can take place so walls may be insulated and sheetrock installed on all the walls. Work progresses as the church has funds. For the church, this will be a long term rebuild effort.

South Central Conference Disaster Ministry  
135 Sauve Rd.  
River Ridge, LA 70123

Phone: 504.258.7306  
Fax: 504.739.7876  
E-mail: ucchurricanerecovery@ahoo.com

2008

## TAI CHI CLASSES IN JANUARY

Tai chi is a wonderful exercise system that helps increase flexibility, improve balance and manage stress. This is your chance take advantage of excellent teaching in a relaxed but focused small class setting. Each Tues. from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. George Hoffman from Silver Dragon Tai Chi teaches a class in our church stage room. The cost is \$72 for an 8-week cycle. (Scholarship help is available from our church Mission of Wellness.)

While you are welcome to join at any time, our new 8-week session begins Jan. 6, 2009. We need 3 more people in the class to continue the program.

So don't delay! Sign up today. You are welcome to try the first class without charge as an introduction to this exciting program. Note from Rev. Barnes: I've been doing tai chi for years, and love the opportunity of having a class right here in our church. For more information, call George at 742-5892 or Rev. Barnes at church or 334-6790.

### \*\*\* In Appreciation \*\*\*



**Today's greeters are Kerry and Chelsea Hathaway.** Kerry is a para-professional at the East Haddam School system. She is an active member of Friends of Ray FFA and the Moodus library. At Colchester Federated Church, she is a member of Fundraising and Secretary of Women's Fellowship. Chelsea is a sophomore at the University of Maine obtaining a double major in Education and Animal Science. She is also active in FFA.

**The Ushers** this week are Mitch & Lori Koziol at the 8:30 service and Frank Tomlinson and Jim Caronna at the 10:00 service.