



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme
2 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut
(860) 434-8686
Website: www.fccol.org

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE of LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister
Carleen R. Gerber, Senior Associate Minister
Joan W. Priest, Minister of Visitation
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music

December 24, 2017

8:00 & 10:00 PM

Prelude Music

Carols from Around the World and Music of the Season
played by Jill Maurer-Davis (flute) and Simon Holt (organ)

*Processional Hymn: #155 "Once In Royal David's City"

Verse 1 sung by the Sopranos of the Senior Choir
The congregation joins in verse 2.

Call to Worship

Invocation

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Welcome

Choir Carol: *Veiled In Darkness*

Glenn L. Rudolph

First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

*Hymn #114 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Choir Carol: *Adam Lay Ybounden*

Boris Ord

Third Lesson: Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Choir Carol: *The Lamb*

John Tavener

*Hymn #151 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Choir Carol: *A Maiden Most Gentle*

Andrew Carter

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

Choir Carol: *Love Came Down at Christmas*

John Rutter

Sixth Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-12

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Solo: *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam

Brian Cheney, tenor soloist

Offertory Prayer

*Hymn #132 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Choir Carol: *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*

John Rutter

Seventh Lesson: John 1: 1-14

Christmas Litany

*Hymn #142 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Christmas Eve Prayer

The Pealing of the Bells

*Recessional Hymn #134 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

Postlude Music: *In dulci jubilo*

J.S. Bach

We thank our scripture readers this evening:

Scott Mahon

Olwen Logan

Jacob Priest

Susie McCormack

and Mattie Renn.

*The Christmas prelude music is a time for quiet meditation. We ask that you visit with friends **after** the service this evening so that all may enjoy the special music.*

*We are grateful for the generous contribution of time and talent given
by the members of our Senior Choir.*

*We also thank our soloists, Lisa Feltes and Brian Cheney, Jill-Maurer Davis, flutist;
and our bell ringers, under the direction of Gary Jungkeit.*

Our special music this evening is given in loving memory of

**John and Anne Griswold and Everett and Catherine Fisher;
Haley Nicole Feltes; Virginia A. Gonci; Barbara S. Hill;
Helen and William Lipp; Dan and Sari Butt; Laura, Leland and Gary Reynolds;
Malcolm Speirs; Margaret and Bill Wright; Betsy, Victor and Ellie Morrison;
the parents of Bob and Sally McCracken;
Viola Gerber; Dr. Mark C. Stanberry;
Richard T. Blair, by his family;
Vincent J. Santangelo.**

The special flowers this evening are given in loving memory of

**My husband Ralph J. Bruno, by Susan Bruno; Barbara S. Hill;
Carl W. Johnson, with love and remembrance
from Nancy, Pam, Lilianna and Madalyn; Betsy, Victor and Ellie Morrison;
our parents, Elizabeth and Paul Bates and
Dorothy and David Sams, by Betsy & Dave Sams;
Malcolm Speirs; Margaret and Bill Wright;
Vincent J. Santangelo; Elizabeth Stanland from her loving family;
the parents of Bob and Sally McCracken; Christopher Winkler.**

“O Holy Night” is sung in honor of David Sargent.

*As a young soldier serving in WWII he came into a church in a small
village in France on Christmas Eve as “O Holy Night” was being sung.
For him this was a moment of peace in the midst of war,
and so the song held special meaning for him all his life.*

Our offering this evening will go to the Ministers' Discretionary Fund, used locally to assist those in need with housing, food, fuel and special medical assistance. We ask that you give generously.

Ministers' Discretionary Fund

The Ministers' Discretionary Fund, for which we will receive donations on Christmas Eve, is the fund within our church that is used to help individuals and families with personal needs throughout the year. In the winter months, the need for fuel assistance is often critical, but there are all kinds of special needs that are handled with discretion by the ministers in all seasons. These might include partial rent assistance, help with an electric bill, a medical need, or countless other possibilities. Approximately **\$40,000** was dispersed this year.

The Board of Missions gives money to the Ministers' Discretionary Fund each year out of their allocation from the operating budget. The Ladies Benevolent Society, using their profits from the annual White Elephant Sale, also contributes generously each year. Occasionally there are gifts from citizens within the wider community who hear about our work and want to be supportive, but **the largest single collection comes in the form of the Christmas Eve offering.**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 11 AM
and no Sunday School that day

The church office will be closed Monday, December 25th and January 1st.

We resume our regular 9 and 11 services on Sunday, January 7th.

***The Deacons on Duty are Scott Mahon and Lee Whitaker at the 8:00 pm service;
Julie Martel and Don Gonci at the 10:00 pm service.***

*The Rev. David W. Good serves as our Minister Emeritus.
The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby is our Minister for Haitian Outreach.
Thomas Burke (4th year Yale Divinity School student)
serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel.*

Annual reports from Boards and Committees are due Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

The Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 28, 2018, after the 11:00 AM service.

Mission Outreach
at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme in 2017

This evening's offering will be used to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund of the First Congregational Church. This fund dispersed about \$40,000 this past year to support families in need.

Also, in this past year, \$85,000 was dispersed by the Board of Missions to agencies within our community, New London County and the world. An additional \$75,000 was given by the Ladies Benevolent Society of our church – an extraordinary amount made possible by the hard work and success of the White Elephant Sale.

Special gifts made by families in our congregation enabled us to purchase a house designated for use in our Refugee Resettlement work. The dollar amount given was \$188,075; but additionally, there were a large number of volunteers who gave of their time and talent in making the house ready – updated, painted and furnished!

\$8,902 was raised by our Immigration Assistance Committee to help those facing a challenge in status of citizenship, and over \$300 was given to the work of Crop Walk, UNICEF and Heifer International.

\$7,711 was raised for the "One Great Hour of Sharing" mission work of the UCC, and an additional \$6,904 was given to support the operation of the food pantry which takes place here every Saturday. \$1,680 was given additionally for hurricane and flood relief in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Thus, in total, more than \$310,000.00 in aid and support was made possible through the generosity of the people of this church.

**All the agencies supported by this church
are listed below in random order:**

The United Church of Christ; The Storefront Academy of Harlem, NYC; One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC); Homeless Hospitality Center of New London; the Hospital Chaplaincy Programs of L&M and Middlesex Hospitals; Habitat for Humanity of SECT; Bethlehem University in Palestine; Safe Futures of New London (formerly the Women's Center of New London); New London Soup Kitchen; Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries; The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education; Thames River Family Program; the Martin House; the Alliance for Living of SECT; the Covenant Shelter of New London; the International Rescue Committee of New York; the Midnight Run of New York City; the Shepherd's Field School of Beit Sahour, Palestine; Old Lyme Children's Learning Center; Old Lyme Visiting Nurse; Center for Hospice Care of SECT; Connecticut Hospice of Branford; Hospice and Palliative Care of Middlesex Hospital; Lymes' Senior Center; Estuary Council of Seniors; Literacy Volunteers; Morningstar Camp; Veteran Assistance Program; Warm the Children Fund; Church World Service; New Life Prison Ministry; the Ministers' Discretionary Fund of FCCOL; FRESH New London; Riverfront Children's Center; Camp Claire in Lyme; The Major Edward A. Good Home for Veterans in New London (managed by the Homeless Hospitality Center); Barbara Fund of the York Prison; Lymewood Elderly Housing; Tree of Life Educational Fund; Ct. Coalition to End Homelessness; India micro-credit of Franciscan Brotherhood; Tribal Crafts; Every Dollar Feeds Kids; Middle East Children's Alliance; and Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, Inc. of New Haven, Ct.

We look forward to many opportunities for fellowship at The First Congregational Church as the New Year begins. All our programs are open to all!

Book Study We'll meet on *Sunday, January 7th*, following the 11 am worship service to discuss The Book of Joy: Conversations with the Dali Lama and Desmond Tutu, edited by Douglas Carlton. This is a delightful little book chronicling conversations between these two faith leaders – conversations about some of life's challenges and joys, and the ways in which their faith has guided their living. Martha Beaudoin and Carleen will lead the discussions. You are surely welcome even if you haven't read the book! 12 noon in the church library, January 7th. A Christmas book recommendation from the Environmental folks: The Water Will Come by Jeff Goodell. This recently released book sheds light on the effect rising seas will have on our coastlines, cities, and communities. A good read on an important subject!

Winter Pot-Luck Gatherings A few years ago we instituted a "Winter Potluck" night, which proved to be a lot of fun. Our objective is to find several host homes where folks would be willing to offer hospitality around their dining room table. Also we're looking for people who would enjoy attending these dinner events! We would gather in groups to fend off the winter blues and enjoy an easy night of fellowship. It's a chance to get to know one another better in small group gatherings. We will be choosing a Saturday night in early February. If you have any questions about participating as a host or guest, please call the office at 860-434-8686.

14th Annual Soup Bowl Supper *Stay tuned for date!*
Celebrating 29 Years Benefiting the Church Food Ministry
Soup Served 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
\$15 buys a handmade bowl and all the soup you can eat!
Homemade soups donated by local restaurants.
Soup bowls made by Walt's Pottery Studio.

NOTICE OF FCCOL ANNUAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME
WILL BE HELD ON THE 28th DAY OF JANUARY 2017
AT 12:15 PM IN THE MEETING HOUSE
AT 2 FERRY ROAD, OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT.

As 2017 draws to a close, we invite anyone who is able to make a donation of any amount to the annual stewardship campaign of our church. The work of this church is entirely funded by its members and friends. Additional gifts, at any time, are very much appreciated.