



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

November 19, 2017

11:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #526 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 118):

O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Out of my distress I called upon the Lord;

The Lord answered me and put me in a broad place.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Open to us the gates of righteousness,

That we may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let us open our hearts to the worship of God.

*Invocation

*The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and News of the Church

Moment for Stewardship

Rick Strickland

*Unison Reading:

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars.

How do your creatures say awe? How do your creatures say praise?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave.

How do your creatures say grace? How do your creatures say thanks?

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart.

How do your children say joy? How do your children say Home?

*Gloria Patri: (#36 in hymnal)

Scripture: Psalm 150 (OT, pg. 558)

Luke 17: 11-19 (NT, pg. 76)

*Hymn: #529 “Let All Things Now Living”

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Eat This Bread*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear cadence at the end of the third system.

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Selection

*Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

*Offertory Prayer

Communion Meditation: COMMUNION MEDITATION: HOW TO RENDER PRAISE?
The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

*Hymn: #311 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Sacrament of Communion (back page)

*Hymn: #323 "Lo, I Am with You" (Verses 1-3)

Benediction

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

Large print versions of the bulletin are available from the ushers.

We thank you for worshipping with us. Following the life and teachings of Jesus, we are a church that strives to be a place of grace, welcoming all regardless of theological expression, age, race, gender, sexual identity, national origin or financial means. In our Church Constitution we recognize that “each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.” The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, established in 1665, cherishes this proud Pilgrim tradition. We are honored by your presence among us, and we invite you to help us become what we endeavor to be.

The flowers this morning are given by Bill Phillips and Barbara Smith in loving memory of his parents, William Eugene and Alice Notter Phillips, and her parents, J. Stanford and Elaine Showalter Smith.

*The host for Fellowship hour is Barbara Smith.
The deacon on duty is Elizabeth Nocera.
Childcare is available every Sunday morning in the nursery downstairs at the 9 AM service.
If you need help finding it, please ask the ushers to assist you.*

*If you are visiting us for worship this morning, we welcome you, and invite you to join us in Fellowship Hall for fellowship and refreshments.
We invite you to pick up a “Welcome” packet, which can be found in the vestibule.
We hope this information will be helpful in acquainting you with our church and its activities and programs.
Quiet Activity Bags for young children are in the vestibule.
They are colorful bags with quiet projects for our youngest members.
Please feel free to offer these bags to your children.*

*The Rev. David W. Good serves as our Minister Emeritus.
The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby is our Minister for Haitian Outreach.*

**A Service in Celebration of Harvest and Thanksgiving
at Christ the King Church
Tuesday, November 21st, at 7:00 pm
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
in Partnership with the Lyme/Old Lyme Churches
Combined Choirs**

Adult Forums TODAY: No forum, Communion Sunday. **November 26:** Paul Colburn, CT DEEP, black bears in CT.

New Members It is our custom to receive new members twice a year. If you have been attending, or visiting, and would like to talk about membership (ask any question you might have), Steve, Carleen or Joan would love the opportunity to sit down over a cup of coffee and chat! Please call any one of us and let's set up a time and place. ***We will be receiving new members on December 3rd.*** The New Members orientation meeting will be *Thursday, November 30th, at 7:00 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium. There will be a New Members luncheon on *December 3rd at 12:00 pm*.

NEW LBS COOKBOOK PRESERVES THE WISDOM OF THE AGES LBS has collected more than 300 tested and cherished recipes from members and friends. Some come from Grandma's table; some are almost as new as yesterday. One of the great treasures of our church family is a very deep reservoir of remarkable cooking wisdom accumulated over decades, centuries even. The new cookbook is \$10. Cookbooks are available from the church office.

Ladies Who Stitch are knitting and sewing up a storm - we're adding new ideas and creations weekly for sale and donation. You can shop with us most Mondays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Sheffield Auditorium. LWS will NOT meet on Monday the 20th. We'll meet once more on November 27th and then after the December sales, we'll take a break until January. All proceeds go to the church's outreach programs.

Do You Enjoy a Good Cup of Coffee? The Coffee Committee is in need of another person to make coffee on Sunday morning. This involves getting to church about 45 minutes before the 9am service to start the coffee and would only be one Sunday a month or once every 5 weeks! Please let Lee Whitaker know if you are interested. Whitakerlee@comcast.net or 860-514-4697.

Tree of Life Journey January 2018 January 2-14 with optional extension to Jordan through January 18. "The Right of Return: 70 Years of Refugees in Palestine, Israel, and Beyond." The cost for this journey is \$2100 for double occupancy and \$450 additional for a single room. Cost of the extension is \$700 for double occupancy and \$200 additional for single. Contact Mary Tomassetti, Tree of Life Executive Director, for more details at mary@tolef.org.

Fuller Center for Housing Puerto Rico Build Fuller Center has announced plans to build in Puerto Rico in the next few months. There is the possibility of a group heading down there right after Christmas. Please email Allison Hine, allisonghine@gmail.com, and we'll put together a group to talk about potential details in a few weeks.

**“Never doubt that small groups of thoughtful citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”.** -Margaret Mead

We depend upon one another – and there are those who depend upon us. During our 2018 Stewardship Campaign, please faithfully consider how your investment can sustain and grow the extraordinary ministries and missions of this church – and strengthen the blessings of interdependence that we receive from our Mission partnerships.

Bible Study Becky Crosby is leading a study on the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul through his letters and the Book of Acts to discover how he shaped Christianity. To accompany our study, we will read A.N. Wilson's book, "Paul: The Mind of the Apostle." The book can easily be purchased on-line. **Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 10:45** in the church's Library, and we will meet every Thursday until December 21st, when we will break for Christmas. Please bring your own Bible (all translations are welcome). If you don't own a Bible, we have plenty to share.

In God's Neighborhood Today in God's Neighborhood the children will be celebrating the birth of Isaac as a celebration of Thanksgiving for Isaac and Sarah. Everyone is invited to come join the fun! Our JPF students will be hearing Story Corps stories and learning how they can participate in The Great Thanksgiving Lesson. They will bring home questions to ask and are encouraged to interview family and record the interviews to share later.

SAVE the DATES for December:

Gifts made with Love 10:30 am -2:30 pm on *December 10.*

Christmas Pageant 2:30 practice and show at 5:00 pm on *December 17.*

Upcoming Events for SPF and JPF:

November 26: SPF Serving Chili at the New London Soup Kitchen. Meet at church at 3:30 to carpool. RSVP: lisadoggart@gmail.com.

December 10: SPF Help with Gifts Made With Love. RSVP *December 17:* Pageant help needed (JPF and SPF) RSVP.

Help Wanted to Count Sunday Offering Volunteers are needed to join teams of offering counters. To volunteer your time to support this important function of the Church, please contact Allan Kiem, the Financial Secretary, by e-mail at kiem36@live.com; or phone at **860-434-5216**.

Haiti Trip 2018 for Senior Pilgrim Fellowship is scheduled for April 13 to 20, 2018. Our first meeting will be *Sunday, January 21 at 12 noon.* Please contact Becky Crosby <rtcros@ftcrosby.com> if you or your child is interested in joining us this year. More details are in the December newsletter.

Testimonial

The relationship between the churches in general and the LGBTQ community is, with rare exception, downright hostile. Imagine, if you can, either Steve, Carleen or Joan coming to your home and after exchanging quick pleasantries, he/she told you that you were not welcome at FCCOL and to please stop attending services. But that is exactly what happened to my late partner Bill and I when, in the early 90's, we tried to establish ties with a Methodist church in our community on Long Island. After a few weeks of attendance, and getting little more than a tepid reception from the congregation, the minister came to our home and requested that we stop attending services – the congregation felt uneasy and did not want us there.

Life for those of us in the LGBTQ community has never been easy, especially during 70's through the 90's. We had to be cautious, never knowing just whom to trust since opening yourself up to the wrong person could have dire consequences. Things have gotten extremely better for the LGBTQ community, and it's about time, but the church is one place where few if any gains have been made. It was for this reason, reinforced by that minister's action back in the 90's, that I never attended church services for years save for an occasional wedding or funeral. But I missed the church services of my youth, missed the feeling of being a part of church family that looked after each other. Could I find it given the history and current social climate?

When I bought a home here in CT, a good friend of mine, Eve Todd, suggested I try FCCOL. I decided, why not – what was one Sunday morning out of my life? So, on a beautiful spring morning I entered the church with a great deal of trepidation and, I will admit, with a chip on my shoulder. I was immediately taken with the simple, plain but beautiful interior of the sanctuary. Then I read the church's credo in the bulletin and saw read something I never thought I would see in a church. It said anyone was welcome “regardless of theological expression, age, race, gender, sexual identity, national origin or financial means.” Then the choir sang – the best choir I've heard sing since my young days in church in NJ. And then pastor spoke, and I realized that I may have finally found a church home. And after a time, instead of being asked to leave, I was asked to join which I did in November of 2015. Work, and the fact that I wasn't living full time in CT, didn't allow me to get involved in the church as much as I would have liked. But now that I am retired and living full time in CT, I hope to get more involved with church happenings and getting to know my church family better. It's good to have found a church home. For most LGBTQ individuals, unless things drastically change, there most likely never will be one.

Rick Strickland

COMMUNION SERVICE

INVITATION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Merciful God, we have often wandered far from your intention for us. We have lived for our own momentary pleasure, forgetting our kinship with your hurting children and with all of creation. You call us to be a justice-seeking people, bringing light to the world. Instead, Your light is too often extinguished in our hearts because we fear what it might reveal. We become prisoners of our own shortsighted desires. Redeem us, O God, and redirect us in your new and living way. Shine a light in our hearts, and enable us to be a light for others in a fractured and broken world. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

GIVING OF THE BREAD

GIVING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, O God, for the sustenance we have been offered in this bread and wine. We give thanks for the ongoing presence in the world of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith in you, O God, and help us to keep finding new ways to love one another. We pray these things in the name of our Redeemer. Amen.

*It is the practice of this church to serve grape juice in our communion service.
Bread is gluten-free.*

The church office will be closed November 23 and 24th. Happy Thanksgiving!
Calendar of Events and Meetings for This Week

Sunday School *TODAY at 9:00 am.*

Tree of Life Meeting *TODAY at 2:30 pm in Library.*

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service *Tuesday, November 21st at 7:00 pm at Christ the King.*

Poetry Group *Wednesday, November 22nd at 4:00 pm in the Hoag Parlor.*