



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**

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

December 24, 2016

5:00 PM

- *Processional Hymn: #132 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
- *Call to Worship
- *Invocation
- *The Lord's Prayer
- Welcome

The Christmas Story:

The Holy Family: Chris, Maria, Michael, Robert and Sophia DeFiore

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

Maria DeFiore

The Arch Angel:

Mattie Renn

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-14

*Hymn #137 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

The Shepherds:

Sean McCarty, Steven Evankow, Jean Fouth,
Finn McGannon, Eli Doggart, Conrad French and Jacob Tuck

*We especially thank Steven Evankow for sharing with us his alpaca
"Pumpkin" (weather permitting).*

Scripture: Luke 2: 15-20

Sean McCarty

Special Music: *La loo, La low*

Sandra Howard

Children's Choir and Bettina Irakiza, violin

The Kings:

Scripture: Matthew: 2: 1-11

Anthem: "We Three Kings" Evan Griswold, Alan Macgregor & Scott Mahon

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Selection: *Born This Christmas Day* arr. Mary Donnelly

Children's Choir

*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.*

Offertory Prayer

Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting

Arch Angel: Mattie Renn

Angels: Cora Engdall, Bella Hine, Caroline French,
Liliana and Maddy Johnson

Christmas Readings

*Hymn #142 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Christmas Prayer

*Recessional Hymn: #134 "Joy to the World"

Postlude

*Congregation standing

The Deacon on Duty is Lina Tuck.

~~~~~

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.

***Thank you to all who have  
helped make Christmas Eve so special.***

Members of the Children's Choir

Director

*Lisa Feltes*

*Julia Clark*

*Gabi Clark*

*Bettina Irakiza*

*Sabina Jungkeit*

*Elsa Jungkeit*

*Ella Kiem*

*Josephine Kiem*

*Taylor Quintin*

*The Rev. David W. Good serves as our Minister Emeritus.*

*The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby is our Minister for Haitian Outreach.*

*The Rev. Christine Caton serves this church as minister of the South Lyme Union Chapel.*

## ‘God’s Neighborhood’ Christian Education Program

Welcome to ‘God’s Neighborhood’, the Christian Education program for Toddlers through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. Our program runs from the second Sunday in September through the first Sunday in June, and we meet from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Each week we focus on a scriptural based lesson plan that is explored through discussion and an activity (arts and crafts, music, dancing, drama, writing, and games). Our aim is to help the children apply the scriptural lessons and concepts to their lives, and to see our Christian faith as relevant and necessary for our lives today. We emphasize both the inward development of a spiritual life and the outward practice of mission work, which are naturally intertwined and grow from each other. Our church has a strong sense of mission, and we believe that our children enjoy participating in many mission based projects.

**Toddlers through Fifth Grade Children** attend the 9 am worship service with their parents and after the children’s sermon, the children proceed to their classes for a one hour program 9:30 to 10:30 am. Parents are encouraged to join the fellowship hour after the 9:00 am service.

**Junior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 6-8):** In addition to the Sunday morning program from 9:30 to 10:30 am, the JPF gathers for extra-curricular activities aimed at nurturing fellowship and building faith. Activities range from faith based field trips and activities to pizza parties.

**Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (grades 9-12)** encourages all students to attend church on a regular basis, and therefore, do not meet formally on Sunday mornings, but periodically each month. SPF young people are always welcome to assist in our youth programs and/or join us in the JPF room on Sunday mornings. We offer a wide variety of programs including mission trips, field trips, camping, participation in church and community services, volunteer work in the soup kitchen/food pantry ministries, and the annual Midnight Run, where clothes are gathered and brought to a shelter for the homeless in New York City. SPF also periodically assists in the pulpit reading scripture and serving as ushers.

**Confirmation Class** is offered in the spring to all youth in 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade who want to confirm their baptism, learn more about the workings and history of our church and become a member of the church. Volunteer work is included in the program.

**Mission Outreach at The First Congregational Church of  
Old Lyme in 2016**

This evening's offering will be used to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund of the First Congregational Church. This fund, which dispersed about \$42,000 this past year, is used to support local families in need. It is supported by this church's annual budget, by the Ladies Benevolent Society of this church, and, most importantly, by the annual Christmas Eve collection. We ask that you give as generously as you can.

In this past year, \$90,000 was dispersed by the Board of Missions to agencies within our community, New London County and the world. An additional \$70,250 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.

\$12,925 was raised for the "One Great Hour of Sharing" mission work of the UCC, and an additional \$9,135 was given to support the operation of the food pantry which takes place here every Saturday.

An additional \$3,782 was raised to continue our Syrian Refugee program in which we hope to work with others in our community to settle refugee families here in the Old Lyme region in the New Year.

An anonymous gift of \$5,000 was given to directly supplement the work of the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Over \$500 was raised for the Crop Walk, UNICEF and Heifer International.

Thus, a total of over \$233,592 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); The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education; 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; Homeless Hospitality Center of New London; Shoreline Soup Kitchens; 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; 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; Wheels of Justice Fall journey; 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 York Prison; Lymewood Elderly Housing; Tree of Life; Ct. Coalition to End Homelessness; India micro-credit of Franciscan Brotherhood; Tribal Crafts; Every Dollar Feeds Kids; Middle East Children's Alliance; Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, Inc. of New Haven, Ct.; Community Cloud Forest Conservation, Guatemala; Educational Center of the Crosby Fund for Haitian Education, Veteran's Assistance Program, Wheels of Justice Journey.

**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 \$42,000 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 town 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 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 11 AM**  
**with the South Lyme Union Chapel**  
and there will be no Sunday School that day

*The church office will be closed Monday, December 26th.*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st**  
**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 11 AM**

And there will be no Sunday School that day

*The Church office will be closed Monday, January 2nd.*

*We resume our regular 9 and 11 services on Sunday, January 8th.*

***The Deacon on Duty is Susan Lang and Julie Martel at the 8:00 pm service and Elizabeth Nocera 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.*

*The Rev. Christine Caton serves this church as minister of the South Lyme Union Chapel.*