

The First
Congregational Church
of Old Lyme
FEBRUARY 2017



One of the email lists I subscribe to arrives in my inbox direct from the West Bank of Palestine. The writer is Mazin Qumsiya, an advisory member of our Tree of Life Board. He runs a natural history museum in Beit Sahour, and he writes in a compassionate and incisive way about the many challenges our world is facing today. I look forward to his updates, but I also look forward to the way he signs off each of his posts: Stay human, he says. As much as the content of his messages, I find that I need that periodic reminder to stay human. It's something we all need these days.

For me, it's a reminder to search for heroes, for those who have successfully remained human in difficult times, and in ordinary times as well. I wonder who those exemplary individuals would be for you, and who you might name as those who have learned how to stay human.

I can think of a good many who have managed that feat, some of whom are a part of our community. But in this month of February, as we (continue to) think about issues of race, justice, and staying human, it's John Lewis that I'd place at the top of my list. Lewis was live on my mind as we traveled through the South this past autumn, visiting places like Selma, Nashville, Montgomery, and Atlanta, all places that Lewis enacted his bold, steadfast, nonviolent, and gentle form of moral leadership. He was live on my mind as our group of travelers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, where he stood at the front of the line of those marching, meaning that he was first in line to receive a beating from the police. And he's been live on my mind throughout these past weeks, leading once again in an effort to help us all to "stay human." When the immigration and refugee ban was swiftly put into place, Lewis immediately went to the Atlanta airport, to help lift the restrictive sanctions, at least temporarily, for those caught in the net of those restrictions.

I've never met Lewis, but I happened to be sitting near him on a May morning when he was awarded an honorary doctorate during a university commencement ceremony. There were a lot of very smart and accomplished people present, and I confess to feeling more than a little shabby in their presence. But then John Lewis, who I hadn't realized was present, was asked to stand. When he did, so did everyone else, offering an ovation that must have lasted for several minutes. From my vantage, he looked sort of bemused and maybe a little chagrined about all the fuss. If he had been asked, I suspect he would have shrugged and said that throughout the civil rights movement, and throughout his years as a Congressman from Atlanta, he had only been doing what his parents had taught him to do, enacting what his ministers and Sunday School teachers and grade school teachers had instructed him to enact when he was a child. I suspect he would have said something like, "We were all just trying to stay human, and to remind others to do the same." I can only guess. What I know for certain is that chills and goose bumps ran through me as I observed that exemplar of the human spirit. It was clear to me on that day that Lewis possessed a moral authority and center that few would be foolish enough to impugn.

Lewis recently published a three volume graphic novel about his early life, culminating with the march in Selma. It's entitled, fittingly enough, *March*, and it's designed to be read and appreciated by children and adults alike. I've been reading it with my daughter Sabina, and I highly recommend it. Why not do the same with one of your children, or one of your grandchildren or great grandchildren? It's a powerful story of one who managed to stay human throughout some of the worst moments of the 20th century. It's a powerful testimony from one who is still leading us, well into the 21st century. It's a story that we need to teach to our children.

And so John Lewis tops my list right about now. Who would be on your list of heroes, those who you look to as exemplars of the human spirit? Who is it that suggests the best of what we're capable as human beings, and as people of faith? Who would it be for you? Drop a line and let me know.

Whoever it might be, however you go about doing it, I hope that you find ways to remind yourself of the generosity and strength of spirit that we're all capable of exhibiting, that we're all called to enact. Above all, I hope you...

Stay human.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

FCCOL EXPANDING ITS ONLINE PRESENCE & MINISTRY

If you've visited our website recently, you've probably noticed that we've done a little remodeling. Our new website design – which debuted January 31 – is easier to read and navigate on smartphones, tablets and laptops; and features numerous pictures and videos of our congregation engaged in worship, ministries and other activities.

The newly remodeled website shows our church in action, following directly in the footsteps of Christ's life and His teachings. People can see how we open our arms and our hearts to people in need. They can see our congregation providing food for our neighbors who are hungry ... shelter for those who are homeless ... protection for women who've been battered ... relief for families and individuals coping with illness, grief, loss or disaster. They can see how we help care for – and join in fellowship with – people of diverse faiths across the country and around the globe.

The website also includes links to our always-active Facebook page, and our brand new accounts on Instagram and Twitter.

We are intentionally expanding our social media presence to engage with you meaningfully outside of church services and activities; and attract new people into our congregation who can help us carry on Christ's work.

When you have a chance this week, hop online, check out our new website and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Post your photos from church services, activities and ministries. Share uplifting thoughts, ideas and stories. Post a video of a church activity. Let us know of family members or friends in need of prayer. Comment on the latest sermon; share how its messages spoke to you.

Let's continue the fellowship we enjoy inside the doors of our church on Sunday mornings every day of the week.

Our website is at www.fccol.org

Our Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalchurcholdlyme

Our Instagram page is at www.instagram.com/myfccol

Our Twitter page is at www.twitter.com/myfccol

If you have thoughts on ways to further strengthen our website or social media outreach, please share them with John Kiker, the head of our communications committee, at FCCofOldLyme@gmail.com.

14th Annual Soup Bowl Supper

Celebrating 29 Years Benefiting the Church Food Ministry

Friday, February 3rd

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.

Memorials

Jane Davison

Daniel Pease

Walter Seifert



Church News



Blanket Drive / Church World Service During February and March, the Ladies Benevolent Society collects the annual offering for the CWS blanket drive. In 2016, 3,064 heavyweight and lightweight blankets were distributed domestically to newly arrived refugees, people affected by flooding or fires, homeless shelters and migrant workers. Each blanket costs \$10. Please make checks payable to CWS, indicating in the memo space "Blanket Drive." Special envelopes will be available in the church pews and may be put on the collection plate or sent to the Church c/o LBS. Your donations will be sincerely appreciated.

Growing Through Grief Group, Friday, February 3, 2017, 10:00 a.m. in the Hoag Parlor

"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never, ever the same." (C.C. Scott) There are many different kinds of loss and sharing one's feelings about grief and loss is essential to one's mental and spiritual health. Come join our Growing Through Grief Group. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting will be Friday, February 3. And if this day or time does not work for you but you are still interested in the group or if you would like to meet one-on-one, contact the Rev. Joan Priest.

Care-giver's Support Group, Friday, February 10, 2017, 10:00 a.m. in the Hoag Parlor.

"To the world you may be one person. But to one person you may be the world." Come join our Care-giver's Support Group. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting is Friday, February 10. If you are interested in this group but this day or time does not work for you, or if you would like to meet one-on-one, please feel free to contact the Rev. Joan Priest.

Looking for Volunteer Drivers: On occasion, the ministers are asked if there are any volunteers who are willing to drive one of our church members to a doctor's appointment. This would not be a regular commitment. If you would be willing to be put on a list of volunteer drivers, please contact the church office or leave a message for Carleen Gerber or Joan Priest.

The LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY is gearing up for the White Elephant Sale in July.

Want to build new muscles? Make new friends? Work with folks older and younger than yourself? Learn about new kinds of artifacts: books, tools, furniture, decorative items, etc., etc.? Discover more about the migration of hidden treasures from one household to another across our broad community? It is ALL here at the White Elephant Sale!

The LBS has opportunities for YOU! We really need some young-at-heart, lively new energy to help with intake, set-up and clean-up. Flexible schedules. Great opportunities for promotion. Comprehensive training provided. Seasonal layoffs come in less than 10 days. Working with old friends and new, you can be part of raising more than \$80,000 to support the missions of this church that help our community. Call Bob Davis 860-884-7568 (cell) for more information about how to plug into the great project!

Film Screening Fundraiser, Connecticut College Committee on Refugee Relief and Education with Start Fresh of New London at Palmer Auditorium Evans Hall, Saturday, February 4 at 7:00 pm

Think globally and act locally, earn about refugee conditions, support local families, join the dialogue.

LBS Luncheons Resume in March (with new schedule). The first Luncheon of the 2017 season will be on Tuesday, Mar. 14. NOTE: LBS has shifted Luncheons to the **second** Tuesday of the month to better accommodate the church's Newsletter production schedule. The March program will be announced in the Sunday Bulletins and on the new website. As always, the price of admission to the Luncheon is \$5, accompanied by a donation of canned goods for the food pantry or a donation of disposable diapers. Again, as always, please call the Church office at 860-434-8686 by Friday, Mar. 10 to confirm your attendance so that we can be sure of food enough for all.



More Church News



American Red Cross CPR/First Aid Classes will be available on February 25 and March 28, from 1-5 p.m. in the teen room at FCCOL. The cost is \$27. This is a good course for anyone working with elderly persons, children or in any job where it is required. Please contact Cathy Mathis at 860-399-7714 to register.

Vehicle Needed "My name is Sean McCarty, and I work as a landscaper/handyman in the area. I've recently found myself without a vehicle, a vital tool in continuing to provide my services to those in need, many of which are members of this church. If anyone has a vehicle (namely but not necessarily a truck) in good condition they're willing to sell/part with, please give me a call at 860-215-1740, or email me at mccarty.sean3@gmail.com. Your time is greatly appreciated."

Mission Board Report

Throughout the year members of the Mission Board visit the agencies and groups that the Board supports, with most being seen on a two-year cycle. This summer I visited three very different Homeless Shelters

The first shelter I visited was Covenant Shelter in New London, which is very close to the Homeless Hospitality Center, from which the Covenant Shelter receives placements. One group the shelter houses are single parents with children as old as 17. The residents pay a fee/day, and for families the stay time is about three to four months. The building is an older house, but for families includes seven family rooms, a children's play room, a lounge, a kitchen where meals are prepared, and a laundry room. The length of stay is three to four months. There is also a large, single room upstairs with cots for 15 single men that provides more permanent housing. Finally, the shelter has a winter building that can house, on an emergency basis, 37-45 persons.

Thames River Family Program, my next visit, was a bright, light-filled building in Norwich that included a large outdoor play space for children as well as indoor family spaces. The transitional housing program includes 24 mothers of whom were formerly homeless (including a family this year), most victims of domestic violence. The goal is to help the women find employment, increase income level, maintain permanent housing for 2-3 years, and improve parenting. 75% leave within 12 months. Additionally, there is supportive housing program for nine families, who are usually placed in other housing in 30 days.

Martin House, my last visit, is in Norwich at a former CT State Mental Facility. There is living space for single men and women, most who have mental health problems or are in recovery from addiction, but were clean and sober for six months before entering. Some have been residents of Martin House for four to five years. There are up to 55 men and women at any time with three different levels of support: 1) Recovery for Life, similar to a group home; 2) Transitions, fewer services that help people to move on to another agency; and 3) Housing Support, minimal support for those needing shelter only. Martin House supports many innovative in-house work programs where residents can earn gift cards for purchases, including tasks to maintain the house as well as to run an in-house café. After training, some residents called Ambassadors visit outside groups to talk about the Martin House program. The overall staff number is high, with many services.

Mary Ann Kistner



More Church News



Honest Conversations **Saturday February 18th 3 PM at the Berlin Mosque** **Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors**

Who are our Muslim neighbors ? What do they believe ?
How do extremist actions worldwide affect them ?

**Hear greater-Hartford-area Muslims share their stories,
and respond to questions such as:**

Why don't we hear moderate Muslims speak out against extremism ?
Why do some girls & women wear Muslim dress, and others do not ?
What does the Qur'an really say about people of other religions ?

American Muslims don't have all the answers, but our friends will respond out of their own experiences, raising issues that concern them as well as us.

Together, in conversation, we can promote a more peaceful world for everyone. Carpool if you can! We will leave the church at 2 PM.

WELCOME

One of the many things that attracted me to the FCCOL community some 7 years ago was the welcome given to all at the start of each service. It pulled me in & made me feel like a part of the congregation while allowing me my anonymity. As a relative stranger in search of a spiritual community to call my own, I cherished the sincerity and warmth of those words and still do every week. I applauded the decision to post our bold declaration of welcome in front of the meetinghouse last November. In this spirit, I want to share a welcome I heard about recently from the Coventry Cathedral in England. At a time when kind words can be hard to come by, our own welcome and this one remind me of the healing power of kindness. Here it is:

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor.

We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas 10 years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organized religion.' (We're not that keen on it either!)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost in the city centre and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and **YOU!**

John McGannon

Grand Opening of The Education Center in Haiti

On January 22 at 2 pm over 350 people gathered for an inauguration, dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony to open The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education's new Education Center. The afternoon began with a 'fanfare' of 100 marching students following a brass band. The students represented the 64 schools attended by our students. The speaking program began with the national hymn followed by an opening prayer by Rev. Jean-Claude Julien, who served as the Master of Ceremonies. The program included ten speakers with words of welcome in French by Ted Crosby. Becky delivered her speech in Kreyol (for the first time). The speakers included staff and board members, community leaders, university graduates and parents of students. Musical interludes and hymn singing were interspersed throughout the program. After the speeches the crowd exited the building for the ribbon cutting and prayer of dedication. A reception followed with sandwiches and drinks for all while the troubadours played traditional Haitian music. We wish you could have witnessed it. Thank you for your support of our work in Haiti!

Becky Crosby



SENIOR CHOIR



Thank you all for such a great start to the new year!

Here is the list of rehearsals and Sunday morning commitments for the month of February.

Wednesday, February 1	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 5	Singing at the 9:00 am service with a rehearsal at 8:15am
Wednesday, February 8	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 12	Singing at the 11:00 am service with a rehearsal at 10:15 am
Wednesday, February 15	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 19	Singing at the 9:00 am service with a rehearsal at 8:15 am
Wednesday, February 22	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, February 26	Singing at the 11:00 am service with a rehearsal at 10:15 am

Tree of Life News

SAVE THE DATE!

Shorug's US Tour is sponsored by
the Middle East Children's Alliance

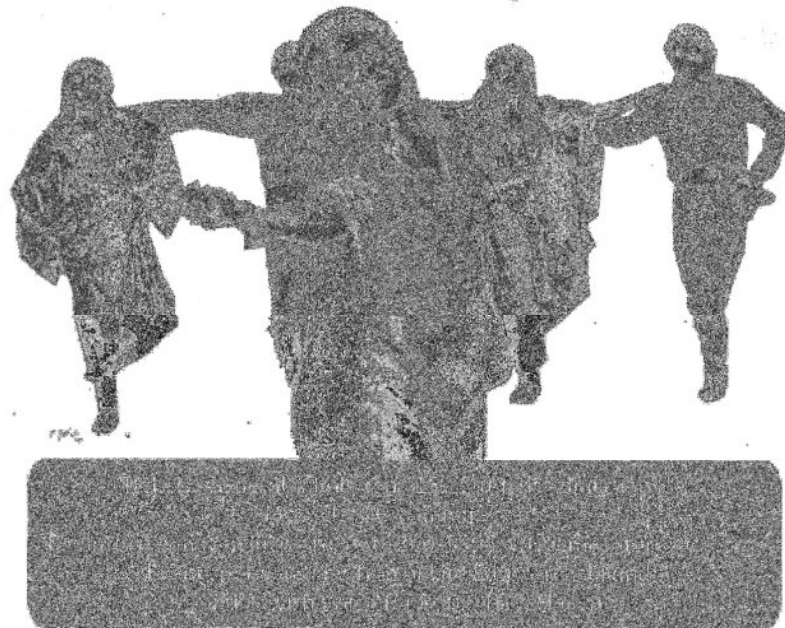
Direct from Palestine: **Shorug Children's Debka**

Friday, March 31, 2017 • 7 PM

**The Artists Collective
1200 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112**

"Debka is our heritage. I send my message to the world and resist through debka."

- Turner, 26



March Journey: The Wisdom of Jesus, Mohammed and The Prophets of Israel (Peace be upon them), with extension to Bosnia

Next month our group of 43 will set out on an experience that is sure to move each of us in powerful ways. We are joined by several young people and many seasoned travelers too. Journeyers from our congregation include Jeanne Clark, D Gonci, Pam Visel, David Good and Mary Tomassetti. We will visit Mazin Qumsiyah and the Palestine Museum of Natural History, Alrowwad Center for Culture and Arts in Aida Refugee Camp, our friend Ramzi's Al Kamandjati Music Center in Ramallah, and the Human Supporters Association in Nablus, mostly run by youth volunteers. All of these groups are providing much-needed services and support to the communities they serve, and they could all use our help. If you would like to provide honoraria for these fantastic organizations, please make your donations to Tree of Life Honoraria Trust. These donations are not tax deductible, but they *absolutely* impactful.

Church Business News

PROGRESS REPORT ON YOUR INVESTMENT IN OUR CHURCH'S LIFE-CHANGING MISSION

At the Annual Meeting on January 29, the Board of Stewardship reported on the status of the 2016 campaign and our progress to date in the 2017 campaign, which asks people to *invest in our church's life-changing mission, and repeats last year's successful theme, to Step up 'lf they can.*

Since it was the meeting at which all boards report on the previous year, we began with a brief summary of last year's campaign, in which we raised \$626,362 from 384 members and friends. The dollars our generous investors contributed set an all-time record for the church.

However, since our board spends about three-quarters of every year planning and executing the campaign for the next year, our annual report focused on the status of the 2017 campaign, which will provide the funding for over four-fifths of the budget for this year. As of January 26, we have received commitments of \$597,495 from 354 members and friends. The dollars currently equal 95 percent of our goal of \$630,000.

To date, this has been a tough year for our board. We knew at the outset that we would be challenged by an unusual number of deaths (the number grew to 21 by the end of the year, and included some of our highest level donors.) Additionally, we found a large number of last year's donors had moved away, were seriously ill, or faced financial challenges. While these factors have led to our lagging behind last year, results have been buttressed by the fact that over a third of those who have responded increased their gifts. If you are among those who have made your commitments, *please accept our heartfelt thanks!*

Our board members are now focusing on reaching out to those who have not yet responded, so that our Treasurer and Trustees will know how much they have to work with this year. We humbly ask that you welcome their calls and mail or telephone in your intentions as soon as possible. Please remember, *all gifts count, and are greatly appreciated!*

All of us on the Board of Stewardship owe a special vote of thanks to our Senior Associate Minister, Carleen Gerber, and Treasurer, Bob McCracken, for their attendance at every meeting, and their knowledge, guidance, and support, and to Joanie May, the church's able and cheerful volunteer, who literally "comes to work" two days a week. Joanie develops, segments, and maintains our mailing lists, and carefully assembles the materials so that each of the 800 we send out is ready for our board members to write personal notes on, fold, stuff, and seal. We also depend heavily on Joan Kelley, our always welcoming and resourceful Office Manager, and Julie Scocozza, who enters gift data.

I would also like to thank my fellow board members, who have been amazing partners in their creativity, commitment, and investment of time and talent to this vital part of our church's success. We extend particular thanks to Mike Long, who designed, edited, and found photos for the campaign brochure, and to Sandy Long and Emily Fisher, who help Joanie in preparing the mailing material. As a result of their work, our church has almost no administrative costs on fund raising. Because of this strong volunteer support, nearly every cent you contribute goes directly to this noble cause.

With deep gratitude for your generosity - of time, talent, and resources,

The Board of Stewardship: Barbara Smith (Chair), Emily Fisher, Wendy Knight, Mike Long, Sandy Long, Chuck Lynch, Wayne Mountz, Paul Stigliano, Matt Winkler



More Church Business News



Endowing Your Church Pledge

While we consider our annual gifts to FCCOL, we also need to realize we need to look at the “big” or long-term picture of our stewardship.

Did you know you can endow your church pledge so that, in perpetuity, your giving to the congregation will continue? You have the chance to leave a legacy that will positively impact FCCOL long after your earthly life is over.

This is done by simply creating a permanent fund through the Endowment Committee of the Church. The fund will annually distribute an amount equal to your pledge. This is done by using a simple formula:

If you contribute \$x to the Church leave a bequest of:

\$500	\$10,000
\$750	15,000
\$1000	20,000
\$1500	30,000
\$2000	40,000
\$5000	100,000

This formula assumes a 5% payout and a growth of principal to keep pace with inflation.

While it takes just \$1,000 to qualify for the Spire Society, many people create planned gifts that name their permanent fund as the charitable beneficiary – thus enabling their permanent fund to reach a level that will allow them to endow their church pledge.

To learn more about how a “endowing your pledge” can help FCCOL, contact the Church office at 860-434-8686 or Tom Grant from the Board of Trustees at 860-598-9419.

WHEN MAKING A GIFT OF STOCK

Please notify the Church of your gift, including the designated use, at the time you request your broker to make the transfer. You may also use the Church’s broker, Morgan Stanley, to make the transfer if you wish. We occasionally receive gifts from a broker without knowing the donor, or whether the gift is intended for a 2016 or 2017 giving, or for another purpose.

If you have any questions, or need further instruction, please feel free to call me or Julie Scocozza at 434-8686. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Bob McCracken, Treasurer

WHEN SENDING A CHECK

Please be sure to note on the check where the offering is to be credited (i.e. pledge, food pantry, donation, Habitat, etc.). It is also important to note whether your contribution is for 2016 or 2017, especially vital this time of year. Thank you for your help.



More Church Business News



FEBRUARY REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

2016 Financial Results

At the annual meeting on January 29th, 2017 your Treasurer reported on the financial operating results for the church for the year 2016. Here is a summary overview: Total operating revenues were \$802,218, under budget of \$806,152 for a shortfall of \$3,934. A shortfall in pledge collections was mostly offset by higher building use income and a one-time carryover from prior year. Total expenses were \$793,063 underspending the budget of \$806,152 by \$13,089. Spending less than budget occurred in Christian Education, Music and Benevolences. These reductions do not indicate less emphasis in these areas but rather prudent spending less than the budget estimates of a year ago. The property budget was overspent due mainly to significant renovation expenses at the Pilgrim House. The result was a modest operating surplus of \$9,155 that will be applied to a negative entry on the balance sheet offsetting deficits in some prior years.

2017 Budget

Also at the annual meeting the Budget Committee of the Board of Trustees presented the proposed operating budget for the year 2017. In summary: Total revenues are projected to increase by \$11,243 to \$818,045. Income from Pledges and Offerings is projected to remain flat, with modest increases in Interest and Dividends, and Other Income. Total expenses are also projected to increase by \$11,243, resulting in a projected balanced budget. The major elements on the expense side are: (1) the assumption that a new full-time associate minister will be in place for the second half of the year (impact +\$28,032;); (2) a 2% cost-of-living adjustment for the clergy and lay staff; offset by (3) expenses savings in most other line items, and (4) a \$5,000 lower benevolence budget on recommendation of the Board of Missions. The 2017 budget was approved by vote of the congregation.

More Details

The account detail presentation of both the 2016 operating results and the 2017 budget are available in the 2016 Annual Report, both in the church office (for the taking) and online on the church website.

A New Look

Also in the budget section of the Annual Report is a 2-page presentation of how our financial resources translate from a pure accounting listing to how our resources are applied to the six major missions of our church: Worship, Christian Education, Pastoral Care, Music, Mission Outreach and Community support. We hope everyone will be able to review this new way to look at the church's finances!

Thanks!

The Board of Trustees, the Budget Committee, the Board of Stewardship and the Treasurer wish to thank all who so generously support the many wonderful missions and ministries of our church.

Bob McCracken, Treasurer



Christian Education News



GOD'S NEIGHBORHOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL

During February our Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE!

We will be collecting Books We Love to donate to those in need! Please help another child fall in love with the same books we love by donating a gently used copy to our collection boxes. Thank you!

February 5 - Our focus will be Mark 12:31. We will incorporate the question, "Who is our neighbor?" in our discussion this morning.

February 12 - We will find out about showing love to all...even a not-so-loveable Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). Storyteller and Musician, Kendall and Rodney, will visit us this weekend.

February 19 - Diversity Sunday

February 26 - Corinthians 13:13 is our guide today as we learn the ways we show Love.

Pilgrim Fellowship

SPF and JPF

Please email LisaDoggart@Gmail.com if you are not receiving emails about our activities. During this month the JPF will be working on a Homeless Hospitality Service Project.

February 5 - during the morning we will discuss ways we can show Agape Love every day. After church we will carpool those JPF and SPF who would like to go to First Church of Christ, Congregational in East Haddam to their Sunday Forum at 11:20 to hear an informative program. RSVP to LisaDoggart@gmail.com for more information and to carpool.

February 12 - during the morning we will do a service project, then save the afternoon for snow fun for JPF and SPF at Ski Sundown.

February 19 - Diversity Sunday - Haley Mahon and other youth who have been to Haiti will present a program.

February 26 - morning with our Berlin Mosque visitors for a conversation about Islam and growing up to be Muslim in America. Haiti Meeting for SPF at 12:15

2017 Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Trip to Haiti

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship 2017 Annual Trip to Haiti is scheduled for *Friday, April 7, to Friday, April 14, 2017*. This is the 4th annual trip led by Becky and Ted Crosby, founders of The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education. Priority is given to current SPF youth. After January 30th, the trip is open to youth from local churches and towns (youth must be in 9th to 12th grade). Any questions? Please email Becky at [<rtecross@ftcrosby.com>](mailto:rtecross@ftcrosby.com) or call 860-434-8054. The next Haiti meeting will be February 26th at 12:15 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.



Adult Enrichment Programs



BOOK GROUP

We'll gather on *Thursday, February 23, at 4:30* in the library to discuss *Jodi Piccoult's* book Small Great Things. Reading even just the afterword is interesting, because *Piccoult* has done some very good "work" on how racism can affect us even sub-consciously. The book is compelling. We are hopeful that this time of day allows those who work to join us for the discussion, and yet still allows those who don't like to come to evening programs to be with us. Call Carleen with questions 860-434-0058.

Just Mercy Book Discussion In our discussion groups we talked about ways to continue work on the issues raised about our prison population. There are a series of informational meetings in the greater New Haven area over the next month. There are too many to list individually, but if you'd like complete information, please go to this website for details: www.insidetheboxnhv.org or email Allie Perry at allie.perry@gamil.com or call 203-215-2613. Programs are scheduled from February 1 thru February 18 - mostly in the evenings, but some in the mornings.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Winter Bible Study (5 weeks): February 16, 23 and March 1, 9, 30, 1 John, 2 John and 3 John (2 weeks). Acts of John (3 weeks) (I will provide this text for everyone). **Spring Bible Study (2 weeks),** May 4 and May 11. Letter of James **Led by Becky Crosby.**

WRITING FROM THE SPIRIT

The writing group will meet on alternate *Wednesdays at 4:00 pm* (February 1 & 15) in the Hoag Parlor. All writers of prose or poetry are welcome. Bring something of your own to share and/or a poem or short prose piece by an author you admire. An appreciative and supportive group! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Vicky at (860) 662-5038. **4:00pm in the Hoag Room. Led by Vicky Murphy.**

POETRY READING

The poetry-reading group will meet on alternate *Wednesdays at 4:00 pm* (February 8 & 22) in the Hoag Parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in our readings. If you are interested in joining us, please contact **Alan Bradford** at (860) 434-0247 or atbra@conncoll.edu or just show up; texts will be provided. **Alternate Wednesdays at 4:00 in the Hoag Room.**

FEBRUARY ADULT FORUMS

February 5: Communion, no Forum

February 12: Karen Fischer, Prevention Coordinator for more than six years at Lyme's Youth Service Bureau, coordinates our community coalition, Community Action for Substance Free Youth (CASFY). She has spent most of her long career working as a Mental Health Counselor and will provide an update on substance use rates among teens and current preventative methods. Valuable information for all caring adults.

February 19: Chris Pallato, Director of the Westbrook YMCA, will give an overview of current programs and the community involvement of his organization and its value.

February 26: Greg Stroud, "The High Speed Train Route Through Old Lyme"

Seeking Employment:

American Craftsmen need America's help. As a furniture maker of 33 years, I am offering my services to fellow church members at 25% off: \$65/ hour. My work includes restoration of antiques, work on cherished family pieces, and general furniture repair. As well, my passion is designing and building fine furniture: large and small pieces include dining and side tables, beds, benches, and chairs; religious pieces, pet coffins, etc. Please contact Dick Humphreville at 860-442-5003 or www.humphrevillefurniture.com.

Experienced master carpenter, licensed and insured, looking for work. Call Tom Kratzert at 860-271-9633.

Home Designer Design & drawing from concept to construction documents for new homes, additions, and renovations. Servicing home owners, builders, and architects. Other services include drawings to help sell a house, develop & present an idea. Computer aided using DATA CAD 12 - 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional. David S Nelson-Building Design Service 860 434-5526 DSNdesign@comcast.net.

Handyman Service Light Carpentry, Installation Help, Painting, Seasonal & Holiday Preparation and Light Hauling. I have an enclosed pick-up truck, tools and a shop. If you need something done just give me a call. Dave Nelson 860 434-5526.

The "Pet Nanny" Carol Giuliano, an Old Lyme resident, will provide loving care for your pets when you are not there. Over forty years experience with all types of animals. Call (203) 738-9932.

Paul Fitzpatrick-Nager Experienced master carpenter. Will design and build comfort zones for your home, indoors and out. Patios, pergolas and more. Call me anytime at 860-304-9916 or 860-434-4366.

Weaving Classes Always wanted to learn to weave? Start by weaving a rag rug on Stephanie Morton's ENORMOUS loom in her Lyme studio. Call her at 860-434-1188 or 917-3429.

Wendy Knight – Organizer, writer, researcher, editor, proofreader Happy to work on any project, big or small, update lists, prepare mailings. Also love to sort and organize closets, cabinets, libraries, photos, files and documents. Please contact Wendy Knight anytime at (860) 304 – 6665 or wendyknight@gmail.com.

Sue Mandeville Transportation and/or accompaniment to professional or medical appointments, outpatient surgeries and home stay following anesthesia. Airport, train or bus transport. Livery license, insured, references and medical training. Call Sue Mandeville 860-908-2310.

Lorelei Mitchell Mediator, Lorelei Mitchell, is available to assist with family dilemmas, landlord-tenant disputes or workplace conflict. Mediation is a better alternative to litigation and can often transform relationships, while giving you a say in the outcome. Call Lorelei Mitchell at (860) 536-0260 or email lmitchell18@comcast.net to schedule a consultation.

Guli Gvelesiani I lived in Old Lyme and worked for 7 years as a live-in caregiver for a church family. I am seeking a new full time, live-in position with a caring family. I can provide references. Please call Guli at 860-391-5691.

Alterations I'm a professional with over 20 years experience, from shortening jeans to restoring or redesigning a beloved wedding gown. Estimates and references freely given. Please call Hazella Pease at 860-434-5784 for an appointment.

We periodically receive requests to post notice of people who can be hired to help transport, help in light housekeeping or help by offering companionship to those who are housebound. We are not able to or make recommendations; but their names and number are listed below.

Marilyn Taylor 860-373-1789

Marion Campo 860-389-1872

Driver 203-871-7840

Martha Durfee 860-575-6518

Sissy Stinson 860-308-4756

February 2017

February 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4
Communion 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Music & Arts (H) 11:00am Worship Svc	10:00am Sewing Group (S) 7:00pm AA (S)	9:30am Staff Mtg 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 5:30pm Walt's Pottery	4:00pm Writing Group (H) 5:00pm Running Club 5:30pm Walt's Pottery 7:00pm TOL New Haven 7:30pm Sr. Choir (S)	Soup Bowl Supper Set Up (F&L)	Soup Bowl Supper (F&L) 10:00am Grief Group (H)	FP/SK 1:00pm Marge Green Mem Svc 7:00pm Film Screening Fundraiser CT College 7:00pm Piano Recital
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Adult Forum 12:30pm MM practice 1:30pm Pine Wood 2:00pm MM concert	10:00am Sewing Group (S) 7:00pm AA (S)	9:30am Staff Mtg 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 7:30pm Board of Trustees (L)	4:00pm Poetry Group 5:00pm Running Club 5:30pm Walt's Pottery 7:30pm Sr. Choir (S)	10:00am Essex Meadows Course 10:45am Bible Study (L) 6:00pm Pac 27 Mtg (F) 7:30pm Brd of Stewardship (L)	10:00am Care Group (H)	FP/SK 1:00pm Pam Birmingham Mem&Recept (M&F) 2:00pm MM practice 4:00pm MM concert
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 & 11 Worship Services 10:00am Adult Forum (S) 12:30pm MM practice 1:30pm Pine Wood 2:00pm MM concert	10:00am Sewing Group (S) 7:00pm AA (S)	11:30am Staff Mtg 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 7:30pm Board of Trustees (L)	4:00pm Writing Group (H) 5:00pm Running Club 7:30pm Sr. Choir (S)	10:00am Essex Meadows Course 10:45am Bible Study (L) 6:00pm Pac 27 Mtg (F) 7:30pm Brd of Stewardship (L)	MARCH NL DEADLINE 8:00am Mary Tomassetti Birthday	FP/SK
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Adult Forum (S) 11:00am Worship Svc	MLK JHOLIDAY/Office Closed 10:00am Sewing Group (S) 7:00pm AA (S)	9:30am Staff Mtg 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S)	4:00pm Poetry Group 5:00pm Running Club 7:30pm Sr. Choir (S)	10:00am Essex Meadows Course (Terrace Rm) 10:45am Bible Study (L) 4:30pm Book Group (L)	9:30am NL Fold (S)	FP/SK 12:00pm Blue & Gold Dinner (K&F) 1:00pm CPR/First Aid Classes (SS)
26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4
9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Adult Forum (S) 11:00am Worship Svc 12:15pm SPF Haiti Mtg (S)	10:00am Sewing Group (S) 7:00pm AA (S)	10:00am LBS Mtg (L) 11:30am Staff Mtg 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 7:00pm Brd Deacons (L)				

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**Our email address has changed.
The new email address is fccol@fccol.org**

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister (860-434-8686)
The Rev. Carleen R. Gerber, Senior Associate Minister (860-434-0058)
The Rev. Joan W. Priest, Minister of Visitation
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music (860-705-3037)
The Rev. David W. Good, Minister Emeritus
The Rev. Christine Caton, South Lyme Union Chapel
The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby, Minister for Haitian Outreach
The Rev. Cynthia C. Willauer, In Ministry for The Care of Creation
Lisa Doggart and Betsey Webster, Church School Coordinators
Mary Tomassetti, Assistant to Youth and Family Ministries(860-391-5384)
Lisa Doggart, Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Leader
Lisa Feltes, Director of Children's Music (860-691-2226)
Robert McCracken, Church Administrator
Joan Kelley, Church Office Manager
Julie Scocozza, Bookkeeper
Mark Testori, Sexton

Church Office Tel: 860-434-8686

Fax: 860-434-1135

e-mail: fccol@fccol.org

Website: www.fccol.org

Sunday Worship - 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

South Lyme Union Chapel Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Pastoral Counseling Center Tel: 860-767-0221

Candace E. Wilson-Stanberry, MSN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME,
Member U.C.C.

The reproduction of our Meetinghouse on the cover is from a sketch by William Steeves.

*The First Congregational Church
2 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371*

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Non-Profit Organization

*The next FCCOL Newsletter will be in March;
the deadline will be February 17.
If possible, please send articles by e-mail as a Word document, fccol@fccol.org.*

THE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS HELP FROM ALL OF US

Whenever you come to church....worship, church events, meetings, or just to visit....
PLEASE bring some non-perishable food items each time to restock the food pantry.
Please let us know if you have some time to volunteer at the food pantry and/or with food drives.
THANKS!

Please e-mail the church office at <fccol@fccol.org> if you want to be removed from the newsletter mailing list and read it on the website. Each household that can read the newsletter on (and print from) the website rather than receive it by mail will save the church \$5.17 each and every year. We will ask for your e-mail address so we can alert you when the new issue is available on our website. Thanks for your help!