



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

January 1, 2017 **Unity Service with South Lyme Union Chapel** **11:00 AM**

Prelude

Introit

*Hymn: #168 "As with Gladness Man of Old"

*Call to Worship: (from Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
Praise him in the heights.
Praise him, sun and moon;
Praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise the Lord from the earth,
Fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted.
Let us worship God.

*Invocation

*The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and News of the Church

*Unison Reading:

Here we gather as God's people with our friends from far and near;
let our voices sound with praises knowing Christ has called us here.
Now we seek and greet each other, now in joy approach our friends.
Here we mingle, bound together as to all our love extends.

*Gloria Patri: (#36 in hymnal)

Scripture: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (OT, pg. 656)

Luke 2:21-40 (NT, pg. 55)

*Hymn: # 160 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Reading: *Spirit of Christmas*

Jeanette Winterson

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Selection

*Doxology (#44 in the hymnal)

*Offertory Prayer

*Hymn: #143 “Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good”

Reading: *Spirit of Christmas, Part II*

Jeanette Winterson

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: *Spirit of the Living God*

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God". Each system consists of a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

Reading: *Spirit of Christmas, Part III*

Jeanette Winterson

An Ever So Brief Reflection on *Spirit of Christmas* The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit

*Hymn: # 158 “Good Christians All, Rejoice”

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

*Congregation Standing

*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.*

*We welcome The Rev. Paul Verryn to our worship this morning.
Our church has been in partnership with Paul and the Methodist churches he serves in
South Africa for nearly thirty years. As always, it is wonderful to have Paul visiting with us.*

*The flowers this morning are given by Elizabeth Whitley
in loving memory of Elizabeth and Roger Griswold.*

The deacon on duty is Deborah Butler.

*If you are visiting us for worship this morning, we welcome you, and 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.

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

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

Forum January 8: **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.

January 15: **Alden Murphy, President of Musical Masterworks**, will speak on "Musical Masterworks and its Impact on Our Community and Beyond."

The Hat, Sock and Mitten Tree This year under our Meeting House Tree, we have collected packages of socks, underwear, hats, scarves and mittens/gloves to be distributed at the New London Homeless Hospitality Center. Thank you for providing the blessings of basic essentials to women and men who need our care and support. We will be taking your gifts to the Homeless Hospitality Center this coming week.

Refugee Resettlement Project Update Hani Hamou, the energetic father in our Syrian refugee family, is eager to move from his present work as dishwasher into full-time employment that would better help him support his family. Hani has outstanding past experience as a distributor/deliveryman in Turkey and as assistant head waiter in a high-end restaurant in Syria, though he is open to other forms of work. We are currently helping Hani launch his job search and would appreciate hearing from anyone in our three co-sponsoring churches with ties to a business, or who might be able to make a referral to one, that could lead to a job interview for this highly motivated, hard-working man. Contact Arthur Pope at 860-227-6369 or <apope721@gmail.com>.

Book Study of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* We'll meet following the 11 am worship on *Sunday, January 8th*. Come to the library and bring your own sandwich if you want! We'll have a cold drink available. Martha Beaudoin is leading this study group, but we are pleased that some of the folks who made the bus trip to see the **Equal Justice Initiative** last October will be joining us to tell their stories of that visit. If warranted, we'll convene again on *Sunday, January 15th*, for further discussion of this very thought-provoking book. All are welcome.

American Red Cross CPR/First Aid Classes will be available on *January 28, 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.

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 - homes where folks would be willing to offer hospitality around their dining room table - and we could gather in groups to fend off the winter blues and enjoy an easy night of fellowship. We’d like to find host homes in several geographic regions. The host would simply offer the site - the guests would bring the food! It’s a chance to get to know one another better in small group gatherings. We’d like to plan for *Saturday night, January 28th*. (We will, of course, have a weather cancellation plan in case a storm is slated!) Now we need some folks to call in to the office and offer a host site. And we need lots of others to call in to the office to let us know you’d like to attend a gathering and bring along your offering of food to share. If you have any questions about participating as a host, please call Carleen at 860-434-0058.

New Look for Our Website in January As we ring in the New Year at FCCOL, we’ll also be ringing in a new look and feel for our website. The new design will feature a lot more pictures and videos of our parishioners engaged in church services and programs – enabling people to see our congregation following in the footsteps of Christ’s life and His teachings. It will also feature larger type and be easier to read and navigate on smartphones, tablets and laptops. (All the elements of the site that you know and love – our sermons, calendars, bulletins and newsletters – will still be there.) The new look is part of our ongoing effort to engage with you more meaningfully online and to attract new members into our fold.

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship 2017 Annual Trip to Haiti is scheduled for Friday, April 7, to Friday, April 14, 2017. For more information about the trip, please join us on January 8, 2017 at 12:15 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium of the FCCOL. 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 <rtcros@ftcrosby.com> or call 860-434-8054.

Growing Through Grief Group, Friday, January 6, 2017, 10:00 a.m. in the Hoag Parlor
The holidays are past, a new year is upon us. All of us have experienced loss this past year, and know one of the best ways to cope and heal is to be with and share with others who have also experienced such loss. Come join our Growing Through Grief Group. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting will be *Friday, January 6*. 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.

Wheels of Justice We are working on a date for a Wheels of Justice meeting, probably mid January. We will **not** be meeting January 8th as originally planned. Thank you for your patience as we juggle schedules!

Trip to see “Come From Away” in NYC We have a bus reserved, and we have wonderful theatre tickets reserved, for the production of “Come From Away” on Broadway – March 15, 2017. This is the story of the hospitality offered by the people of Newfoundland on the day planes landed there in the emergency of 9/11. The musical has been getting great reviews. And Sue Frost, our “own Sue Frost,” is one of the producers. So way back in October we reserved 55 seats in the theatre for a matinee on *Wednesday, March 15* – and we reserved a bus for the day. The total cost for transport and theatre ticket is \$150 per person. The seats are excellent, and as we priced all options, we discovered there is no more affordable way to get there and have such good seats. **However final payment for the tickets is now slated for Wednesday, January 9th.** We can release some of our theatre tickets without penalty at that time. **But those who want this great price and great seating, must let us know their intention by January 9th.** We can hold onto our bus reservation till early February, and we will do so. But as of January 9th anyone wanting to go with us will need to purchase their own theatre ticket. The cost will be higher, and the tickets are selling fast. Please call the office as soon as you possibly can if you want to sign up!

Care-giver’s Support Group, Friday, January 13, 2017, 10:00 a.m. in the Hoag Parlor. Come join our Care-giver’s Support Group. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting is *Friday, January 13*. 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.

Save the Date! Wednesday February 1st at 7pm, Yale University “No Child Behind Bars: Living Resistance From US to Palestine.” This tour focuses on Israeli abuse of children, which includes night raids, capture and imprisonment of children, and restrictions to education, play, and childhood. Palestinian activist Ahed Tamimi, a 15-year-old from Nabi Saleh, the daughter of well-known activists Bassem and Neriman Tamimi and a vocal community activist against the Israeli Occupation was denied her visa to join the tour, so we will hear from her via video. Joining us live will be Amanda Weatherspoon, Unitarian Universalist minister and Black liberation activist.

Syria: We Want Action, Saturday, January 7th at 2 PM Sheffield Auditorium A group of Syrian-American women in CT are spearheading efforts for Syria. They are not giving up despite horrendous casualties and war crimes. They met with Senator Blumenthal’s staff in an effort to get airdrops to the million under siege. In mid-December some 60 Syrians and Egyptians and others marched from CT’s Capitol building to the Federal building demanding justice for Syria. The main speakers are Yasser Munif, a Syrian professor of sociology who teaches at Emerson college in Boston, and Dr. Ammar Trablousi, a Syrian-American CT psychiatrist who is working on projects to help Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The church office will be closed Monday, January 2nd.

Calendar of Events & Meetings for This Week

ARC Blood Drive *Wednesday, January 4th, 1:00 to 4:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.
Writing Group *Wednesday, January 4th at 4:00 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.
Senior Choir *Wednesday, January 4th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.
Board of Stewardship *Thursday, January 5th at 7:30 pm* in the Library.
Grief Group *Friday, January 6th at 10:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor.
Tree of Life Journey Meeting *Saturday, January 7th at 12:00 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.
Syria: We Want Action *Saturday, January 7th at 2:00 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.
Bob Chapman Memorial & Reception *Saturday, January 7th at 3:00 pm.*
Book Study "Just Mercy" *Sunday, January 8th at 11:00 am* in the Library.
Haiti Trip Meeting *Sunday, January 8th at 12:15 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

A TIME FOR JOY, GRATITUDE, AND RESOLUTIONS

The beginning of a new year is a time to give thanks for the joys in our lives, to reflect on the things that are truly important, and to determine where we want to focus our efforts moving forward. This year we are particularly challenged because of the highly-charged political divides in our country and around the world. In this climate, our church offers a sanctuary from conflict, a place of welcome for all, intellectual and spiritual growth, uplifting music, education for our young, and solace in times of difficulty. It provides opportunities to help meet basic human needs and to strive for social justice. Through active service our members change lives - theirs and those they touch.

The Stewardship Campaign is essential to our church because it annually accounts for over four-fifths of the funds to support these endeavors. As of December 27, the 2017 campaign stands at \$565,249, or 90% of our goal of \$630,000, with 308 generous members and friends participating. If you are among those who have made your commitments, we are extremely grateful.

If you have not yet returned your commitment card, we invite you to make a resolution to do so as soon as possible. Your participation *will make a difference!*

*It's not just about being able to write a check,
it's about being able to touch someone's life."*

--Oprah Winfrey

Thank you for your generosity, and have a joyous New Year!

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