

*The First
Congregational Church
of Old Lyme
APRIL 2017*



Dear friends,

A question: do you ever have moments that function as signposts along the way, subtle hints in your life that point you this way and not that, prompting this or that decision, suggesting a possibility or direction that wasn't entirely clear previously? Sometimes those moments indicate that you're precisely where you need to be at any given moment. Sometimes those moments indicate that it's time to make a change. What are those life markers for you, and how did they occur? What prompted them, and then what did you do with them?

I ask because it pertains to a moment I had several years ago, while listening to a performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* (which our own choir will be performing on Maundy Thursday – April the 13th, at 6:30 in the Meetinghouse). Listening to that piece of music is part of what made me rethink my career path, opting for a life in ministry, rather than the academy. It's true, ministry is not something I grew up dreaming about doing. There were (and are) a lot of stereotypes about ministers (some well earned, as it turns out) that made me reluctant about the prospect. But two years spent at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church outside of Philadelphia among a group of committed and courageous ministers and with a congregation of active and creative individuals worked a kind of magic on me. Even so, I knew I wanted to return to graduate school to pursue a doctorate, and so I spent the next seven years reading and writing. And I almost forgot how much I loved the work of ministry and all that it entailed.

Until I found myself in Chicago, at a large downtown church, where the *Requiem* was a part of the worship service on the Sunday I attended. The architecture of that church, its outlook, its worship style, and its choir were similar enough to the congregation I had known in Bryn Mawr that at several moments I closed my eyes, and imagined myself back in that space. And I remembered what it had felt like to engage the ordinary work of ministry there – visiting people and listening to stories, coming up with sermons and paying attention to the world around me, reading theology and trying to connect it with whatever was happening at the moment. It filled me both with a sense of nostalgia, but also with an indication that perhaps there was something going on inside of me that was worth paying attention to. When the service was over, I just sat in the pews for a long time, wondering about the power of music, and wondering if I needed to heed whatever was tugging at my heart. To this day, I count Rutter's *Requiem*, and that morning in a Chicago church, as a signpost along the way leading me toward this work called ministry.

Hearing Rutter's *Requiem* this year will be an opportunity to reflect upon what it is, finally, that makes this work valuable to me. I hope it will be an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon the significance of what it is we've been given to do, and how good it is to have one another in times such as these. Because in our tradition, we're all called to be ministers, bearers of good news in troubling times.

I'll be thinking about the refugee work we've engaged in, and the dinner to celebrate Syrian culture and friendship that will by then have already taken place (On Saturday night, April 1st, at Christ the King Church). I'll be thinking about the upcoming visit from Julius Kyukawa, who visited us last year with the South African choir, and who will be returning on the weekend of April 21-23 to share a concert of African music with us (he'll offer a concert on Saturday, April 22 in Sheffield Auditorium at 7:00). I'll be thinking about a guest preacher who will be with us on Sunday April 23rd, a theologian named Shelly Rambo, who has written some beautiful works on the resurrection wounds of Jesus, and what that says about the wounds that each of us carries with us. And I'll be thinking about many of you, who continually help me to remember what it is that I value so much about this work, and about this community, with your willingness to share parts of yourselves with me and with one another, as we all strive to make Old Lyme an island of hospitality and embrace during an intolerant time. That piece of music is a signpost for me, and I hope it might become one for you as well as we gather during Holy Week, first to listen, then to eat a meal together, and then to celebrate communion. I hope it all serves as a signpost helping you to discern your way.

Even if you can't make it to that Maundy Thursday service, and even if that piece of music doesn't resonate in quite the same way for you, I hope you find some opportunity during this Lenten Season to be still, to listen to your heart, and to think about what it is that calls to you and makes you glad. I have a hunch that if the voice of God is anything at all, it arises in the little moments of awareness and clarity that come to us in silence and wonder, stirring us toward greater becoming.

As ever, in this turbulent time...

Stay human. And see you soon...

EASTER SEASON SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday	4/13	6:30 pm Concert : Senior Choir and Orchestra "Requiem" by John Rutter Soup Supper & Informal Communion follow.
Good Friday	4/14	Meetinghouse open for prayer and meditation. Walk for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries at 9:45 am. We will meet at St. Ann's Episcopal Church and walk past Christ the King Church to FCCOL and back again -- about 3 miles. Please join us and walk for world hunger. All ages are welcome.
Easter Sunrise Service	4/16	6:00 am at Griswold Point (if you need directions, call the church)
Easter Sunday	4/16	9:00 am & 11:00 am Worship Services Join us in Fellowship for a light breakfast/coffee hour between the 9&11 services. No Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Prayer Bundle making in the Ferry Road Garden 10am. No coffee hour following the 11:00 am service.

One Great Hour of Sharing

This year we will once again dedicate our Easter offering to the work of One Great Hour of Sharing, a fund collected through the United Church of Christ and dispersed through the National Council of Churches. This fund can be accessed for any emergencies world-wide, such as relief in times of natural disaster or critical health or social crises. Last year we received word from the UCC that, in terms of the OGHS collection, we were among the 100 most generous churches in the nation! That is a testimony to the generosity of our congregation, and a real honor. We have set our goal for the 2017 collection at \$10,000 once again. Please help as much as you are able.

Easter Memorial Music

As in years past, you can make a donation to our Easter Memorial Music by calling or stopping by the church office. Any amount would be appreciated, but it is important to call 860-434-8686, and to be specific about the names you wish to have listed. We will need all information by *Friday, March 31*, in order to print the Easter bulletins.

Easter Flowers

This year we will have a collection of Easter lilies and spring flowers as our altar arrangement (rather than all lilies). These flowers will be distributed to those who are homebound or in nursing homes following Easter morning. If you would like to make a contribution to this effort in honor of a loved one, please make a donation of \$10.00 and call us to let us know the name you would like in the memorial list. As with Memorial Music, we must finalize this list of names on *Friday, March 31*. Thank you.

Baptisms

March 19, 2017 Andrew Francis Edgar & Matthew Alexander Edgar, sons of Anabel Astudillo & Chad Edgar and grandsons of Dencie & Jerry Guindon.



Church News



LBS luncheon on April 11th! Join us to hear a Tattoo historian, an author (and several others).

On Tues., April 11th, listen to a yacht jockey, a commercial fisherman, dock worker, historian, college professor, and tattoo researcher—all in one package! Wick Griswold, from a family whose roots go back to the earliest days at Black Hall in Old Lyme and the founding of this church, speaks about his recent book on GRISWOLD POINT (2014), and the site of our traditional Easter Sunrise services (coming again on April 16). Griswold has also written books on A HISTORY OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER and TREASURE AND TREACHERY IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL STATE: CT PIRATES AND PRIVATEERS. He is currently writing a book on Connecticut River ferries and bridges (as we agonize about the future of the rail corridor under / over / through Old Lyme). Wick currently teaches the sociology of the CT River watershed at Univ. Hartford. He welcomes your questions and will be pleased to autograph copies of his books. Our Ladies' Benevolent Society has resumed its long tradition of monthly Spring and Autumn luncheons. (NOTE: The traditional luncheon is now being held on the **SECOND** Tuesday of the month in order to better coordinate with other community schedules.) **The Luncheon begins at noon in the Fellowship Hall of the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme; the program will start around 1 pm after dessert.** Programs last about 45 min., including a closing Q&A. The Sewing Group will also have recent work on display and for sale. The cost of the Luncheon is \$5 plus canned goods for the Shoreline Food Pantry, or a package of disposable diapers for the Diaper Bank. Please call the Church Office at 860-434-8686 by Friday, April 7, to reserve a place at the Luncheon. Bring a general history question about the people gathering at the mouth of Connecticut River that stumps our guest to enjoy a free lunch!

Church World Service Blanket Drive: 2016

USA Report: Heavyweight blankets were sent to various CWS partners who distributed them to the following states: California (175), Colorado (250), Florida (205), Indiana (100), Kansas (75), Louisiana (1,450), New Jersey (150), New York (50) North Carolina (125), Ohio (150), Pennsylvania (80), Virginia (44), Washington (50), Wyoming (75).

Indiana also received 85 lightweight blankets. Blankets were needed for flood victims (especially in Louisiana), for migrant workers, newly arrived refugees, for homeless shelters and tornado victims. In December 2015, a container with 100,00 blankets was shipped to refugee camps in Syria. CWS counts on donations to be able to help whenever disasters strike. Each blanket costs \$10. CWS envelopes are available in the pews. Please make checks payable to CWS, indicating in the memo space "Blanket Drive." The envelopes may be put on the collection plate or sent to the church c/o LBS.

Growing Through Grief Group, Friday, April 7, 10:00 a.m. in the Hoag Parlor

Henri Nouwen once wrote, "When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, haven chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand." Come join our Growing Through Grief Group. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting will be Friday, April 7. And if this day or time does not work for you but you are still interested in the group or if would like to meet one-on-one, contact the Rev. Joan Priest.

Care-giver's Support Group, Friday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. in the Hoag Parlor

One of the most important ways to manage the stress and be a healthier caregiver is to take time for yourself and seek support of people who can relate to your situation. Come join our Care-giver's Support Group. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting is Friday, April 14. 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.

Journey to the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota

Explore the beauty of the Black Hills and invest in a mutually beneficial relationship with our Lakota friends in Green Grass, SD. Trip dates are June 20th – June 28th. Please contact Stephanie Kenny at [860-884-3875](tel:860-884-3875) or by email Stephanieckenny@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us. This year we will host a day camp for children 12 and under, families welcome!



More Church News



Stay in Touch

We have email addresses for many in our congregation, but we are moving toward building a bigger email database so that we can send out church announcements in the future. If you would like to receive personal reminders about special events and church services, please share your email address with us, so we can keep in touch. Send your email address to FCCOL at **FCCofOldLyme@gmail.com** and we'll add you to our email list. (The church does not share the email addresses of its congregation members with anyone.)

SAVE THE DATE — April 1 Syrian Family Benefit Dinner at Christ The King

Join us as we break bread with our neighbors the Hamou Family, enjoy a meal of delicious Syrian food prepared by Yaldiz Hamou. Learn about the experience of refugees entering the country, and help us raise funds to open our doors to a second family.

FCCOL's Saturday Congregation

You are, of course, aware of the Congregation meeting times every Sunday at our Meetinghouse, but are you aware of the “other” Congregation that gathers here every Saturday from 8 to 11am?

For the past 27 years, the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries have provided hot, nutritious meals and food for three meals for each member of families in need along the shoreline. Twelve interfaith Churches support their mission to provide food and fellowship to those in need, and educate the community on hunger and poverty. FCCOL's Meetinghouse is the largest host site for this endeavor, and the only site that both serves a hot meal and provides groceries, every single Saturday morning year-round. Last year our Meetinghouse was the distribution point for almost 300,000 pounds of food, coordinated by hundreds of volunteers and supported entirely by donations.

One Saturday morning I stopped by our Meetinghouse, since I had learned more about the Shoreline Soup Kitchen through my service on the Board of Missions but I had not ever seen the action “up close” so to speak. And wow, was I impressed! I met a young boy named Conner (age 9) from Essex, who together with his family often volunteers on Saturdays to sort and organize food donations. Conner knew exactly where every can, box and bottle of food went in the storage space beneath the Meetinghouse. He showed me how to properly stack each food item in its designated place, ensuring no food touched the floor and all items were placed on cardboard flats or in boxes to facilitate their later delivery. That day Conner and his father Patrick also brought over 128 pounds of food gathered by his sister Annie at her recent birthday party, at which she had requested donations for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen instead of birthday gifts! How inspiring is that?!? I was so impressed with Conner's empathy and maturity during the time I spent with him that morning, and I am so glad our Church helps to support this important mission whose direct and indirect effects are so impactful.

If you would like to learn more about the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries, you can visit their website at <http://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org> – or stop by some Saturday to speak with Marie Farrell, the head of the pantry, and visit with our “other” Congregation!

Jen Hall, Board of Missions



More Church News



On Wednesday, March 15th, we were able to fill a bus and take a group to New York City to see "Come From Away" in its premiere week on Broadway.

It was a wonderful day, and we are including a few reports below.

Several other people wrote wonderful reviews.

We will leave some copies on the table outside the office door.

A busload of FCCOL members went to see the new Broadway musical set in Newfoundland, "Come from Away" just days after it opened. Sue Frost, one of the play's producers and a parishioner, inspired our trip, and we are so grateful she did. Among other accolades, this work has been deemed an unparalleled tribute to Canada and the unique character of its province, Newfoundland. As we left the theatre that afternoon, we learned that Justin Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister, together with his wife and a delegation from Newfoundland, were going to be in attendance that evening. We felt privileged to have seen this extraordinary encapsulation of the human spirit. The Newfoundland ice and snow in New York fit right in. The subject is a now somewhat legendary story, and is a bi-product of 9/11. All the flights that were in the air bound for New York at the time of the 9/11 event were re-routed to Gander, Newfoundland (population 9,000), which has a large airstrip previously used for re-fueling transatlantic flights. On the eve of 9/11 the town's population nearly doubled – 38 planes, carrying nearly 7000 passengers arrived. In the timeless tradition of rescuing survivors, on the spur of the moment from shipwrecks on the Newfoundland rocks, the town rallied and accommodated all the travelers for the next few days. Just the logistics of bedding and feeding that many people with no warning is astounding. But it was done with such good will and down-home compassion, that to this day, relationships have been cemented forever and immortalized in this play. The 9/11 event was rife with heroes, villains and victims, but authenticity was so carefully adhered to in portraying each character that the story remained very real. This entire account of these unscheduled days and nights in Newfoundland was dedicated to celebrating kindness and generosity. The final set was a Broadway version of what is known in Newfoundland as a Kitchen Party, a gathering of musicians and neighbors to sing a mix of country, Irish and Newfoundland songs and socialize. People who "come from away" (the passengers) were invited to be initiated - "screeched in" - as honorary Newfoundlanders, complete with a shot of Screech rum and the kissing of a dead codfish. The audience was ecstatically on its feet, as the Kitchen Party spread through the theatre. Don't miss this superbly crafted celebration of our humanity.

Fred Osborne

A whole bus load of us went to see the play "Come From Away" and came out of there exhilarated. All of us agreed it was the best play we had ever seen. It was emotional however in reliving the horror of 9/11, but done in such a wonderful way. I choked back a lump in my throat many times. Sue Frost and Company are to be complimented on producing a thought provoking and wonderful play. Each actor played many parts and you hardly saw the transition of each. It was 1 hour and 45 minutes of the best music ever. I came home and needed to call some friends to tell them about it. Go if you can, it is well worth the ticket and trip down to NYC.

It just shows how people from all over the earth can pull together to help each other and accept each others differences even in the small villages of Newfoundland.

Nathalie Fogg

More Church News



SENIOR CHOIR



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

Sunday, April 2	Singing at the 9:00 am service with a rehearsal at 8:15am
Wednesday, April 5	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 9	Palm Sunday: Singing at the 11:00 am service with a rehearsal at 10:15 am
Wednesday, April 12	Rehearsal in the Meeting House at 6:30 pm. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME.
Thursday, April 13	6:30 pm Rutter Requiem. Please arrive by 6:00 pm
Sunday, April 16	Easter Sunday: Singing at both the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services with a rehearsal at 8:00 am
Wednesday, April 19	NO REHEARSAL
Sunday, April 23	NO CHOIR!! Please enjoy your quiet Sunday!
Wednesday, April 26	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 30	Singing at the 11:00 am service with a rehearsal at 10:15 am

More Church News

81st White Elephant Sale – 2017

This is our **81st** WES which began back in the 1930's. It has been a great success over the years thanks to the support of all the volunteers and ones that donated. Last year we set record sales and are looking forward to making this year even better.

Start gathering those unwanted toys, clothes, books and one of a kind items so you'll be ready when drop-off begins Thursday 6/29 through 7/8. Due to July 4th falling on a Tuesday and out tight setup schedule, the sale will be a week later and we will only have 7 days of intake. Don't miss out on your opportunity to donate those treasures but remember - Quality Items Please. We cannot accept old style TVs or old bulky computer monitors. More to follow on the type of items needed, drop off times and any pick-up service. For a list of the items that we will accept, a calendar and pictures of past years' fairs including the YouTube video, please look for more info coming on the church website www.fccol.org

This year's sale dates are

Friday	<u>July 14th</u>	9:00 to 2:00
Saturday	<u>July 15th</u>	8:00 to 12:00

As usual the WES board met last August to review the sale and respond to comments - a number were incorporated in an attempt to make for a safer and better shopping experience this year.

With such a large organization, there is turnover each year with folks 'retiring or moving' after years of service. We always need volunteers for set-up, in-take, sorting, selling and cleanup. For the White Elephant Sale to continue like the past, NEW leaders are needed to help manage these departments. Co-chairs and Tri-chairs are welcomed, as developing new leadership is essential, so please step up.

We could use additional help in Small Furniture, Electrical, Kitchen, Knick Knacks and Toy departments as well as cleanup. We are also looking for young and old alike to help with intake during the week to unload and sort, as the parking lot gets quite busy with cars dropping off items. If you can spare a few hours or more, come on down and join us. It's a great time and you meet some real nice folks. Last year we had 200+ volunteers and could have used more. If interested, please call the church 434-8686 or any one of the following area coordinators:

Bob Davis	884-7568
Jane Marolda	859-2497
Nathalie Fogg	451-8460
Roxie Gallagher	227-4649

Tree of Life News

Reflections from our March Tree of Life Journey

From Mary Tomassetti:

As we prepared to board the plane, I took the last position in line. The flight attendant scanned my boarding pass, and as I walked toward the plane, I heard a man in plain clothes asking our Muslim travelers how much money they were carrying. I saw a Muslim sister sitting on the floor as another plain clothes man interrogated her. It was all so confusing, disturbing. 10 agents in all held four travelers along with 5 minors. I sat with them, sure we would miss our plane. I saw their luggage being removed from the flight. Never would I have imagined such trouble leaving Newark. A very rocky start to our journey indeed.

From Yasmin Mansoor:

My favorite part of my first visit to the Holy Land was seeing the churches and mosques and praying with friends. It is interesting how the friends I came with have different religions, different beliefs and different faiths, and yet how similar we are. I really hope there will be peace soon. In the Holy Land.

From Chrissy Stonebraker-Martinez. Cleveland, Ohio. Co-Executive Director: InterReligious Task Force (IRTF)

Words from the voices of conscience we heard:

"Peace to the land that was created for peace that hasn't seen a peaceful day."

"If the olive trees knew the hands that planted them the trees would produce tears."

These days have given me much to think about and work toward. From time immortal, faith has been rooted in resistance. Palestinians are aware of this. We cannot operate in silos. We must understand the difference between charity and solidarity.

We must understand that being pro-liberation and actively anti-oppressive means being equally supportive of nonviolence, economic justice, environmental justice, racial justice for Afro descendant AND indigenous people, gender and sexual justice. That means being anti-militaristic, anti-racist, and anti-classist.

You've seen this struggle before. I don't think we (humans) have always been committed to each other and taken the time to get to know each other and to listen to each other. We cannot fix this problem. We can only contribute to understanding our responsibility. We don't get to come just to collect experiences. We must commit to atonement, reconciliation, restoration, and dialogue to the best of our ability.

"The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof. What I want is so simple I almost can't say it: elementary kindness. Enough to eat, enough to go around."

The possibility that kids might one day grow up to be neither the destroyers nor the destroyed. That's about it. Right now I'm living in that hope, running down its hallway and touching the walls on both sides." -Barbara Kingsolver, *Animal Dreams*

My Colombian friends tell me that hope is a duty. The voices of conscience here tell me that hope is not lost and forgotten. Some of us feel hopeless, but if we live in that hopelessness we fail our chance to be in solidarity with the occupied, the oppressed, the segregated, the marginalized...

Get your tickets today from Mary!!!!

Shoruq Debka and Hip Hop Performance

Join us Friday March 31st, 7PM at the Artists Collective in Hartford.

Purchase tickets now from Joan in the church office, or online through the link on TOLEF.org - \$15 for adults, \$5 for students. **If you want to carpool, be at the church by 5:15 - we will leave at 5:30.** If you're willing to volunteer in some way, please email mary@tolef.org or call 860-391-5384. Hope to see you there!!

More Tree of Life News

TREE OF LIFE NEEDS YOUR HELP WHEN YOU DRIVE

Tree of Life had an extraordinary year in 2016, selling more than one ton of organic olive oil to support Palestinian farmers and Palestinian students seeking a university education in Palestine. We sold that olive oil in nearly two dozen venues from Vermont to Ohio to Cape Cod to New York City—and in multiple locations here in CT. Now our proverbial ship has come in, and we have a fresh **ton** of oil from last fall's harvest that is seeking homes across the Northeast.

Now the challenge is to find cost effective ways to move smaller orders of oil (a case or 2 or 3) from Old Lyme to other destinations. USPS and UPS are not cost-effective: their fees essentially eat up the funds that would otherwise support a Palestinian university student.

So we seek drivers headed to any of the destinations mentioned above (especially NYC and Washington, DC) who are willing to carry a case or 2 or 3 and make a delivery for TOLEF to one of our local partners. Please give Nick Westbrook a call at 860-514-9069 or email him at westbrooknicholas@gmail.com if you are a willing deliverer.



Church Business News



OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY INVESTS OVER \$604,000 IN OUR CHURCH'S LIFE-CHANGING MISSION!

The Board of Stewardship closed its 2017 campaign, "*An Invitation to Step Up*," on March 31. As of March 13, the campaign stood at \$604,885, from 368 members and friends or 96% of our \$630,000 goal.

Although we fell slightly below our goal, we should all celebrate this wonderful *investment* in our church's life-changing mission during these turbulent times. This investment was supported by the 121 individuals and couples (33 percent of total responders) who accepted our invitation and "stepped up." Our investment was additionally supported by 31 new investors as well as the 164 participants who repeated their commitments from last year. For those of you who participated – whether you stepped up or not - please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of our church's vital programs and services.

Over the next two months, our Board will be working with Steve, Carleen, Joan and our other Boards and committees to develop a new theme for our 2018 campaign. We expect to continue the approach of asking each person to consider, prayerfully and privately, what they can contribute.

With our deep appreciation,

The Board of Stewardship: Mike Long (Chair), Steve & Diane Hart, Wendy Knight, Sandy Long,
Chuck Lynch, Wayne Mountz, Jeanne Thomas and Matt Winkler



More Church Business News



Higher Interest Rates are coming!! Higher Interest Rates are coming!!

As Paul Revere rode from Boston to Concord and Lexington to warn fellow Patriots of the British soldiers coming, we need to be aware of what rising interest rates do for charitable deductions of gifts to the church. If a 74 year old donor were to gift \$100,000 to a Charitable Gift Annuity, the current deduction is \$41,793. If interest rates increase by 0.60% the deduction is increased to \$44,243. If the same donor were to donate his/her home valued at \$500,000 with a "life interest" or you retain the right to live in your home until you die, then the current deduction is \$359,223. If interest rates increase by 0.60%, then the deduction decreases to \$338,328.

So depending on the type of charitable gift you make, it determines the tax deduction you receive. This deduction is affected by interest rates as it is used in calculating the amount of deduction available at the time of the gift.

As we learn about giving to the newly established Preservation Fund to help mitigate the ongoing expenses and infrastructure costs to maintain our church properties, please be aware of how a rise in interest rates can affect your gift.

As always, if you have any questions about giving to our Church, please feel free to call the church office or Tom Grant 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 Teri Gedrys 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.



Christian Education News



GOD'S NEIGHBORHOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our April Fruit of the Spirit is Faithfulness

April 2 — The Faithfulness of the Disciples

April 9 — Palm Sunday and the Entry into Jerusalem, Last Supper

April 16 — No Sunday School, Happy Easter

April 23 — Resurrection

April 30 — Be faithful to your environment

May 7 — Environmental Day Celebration

JPF and SPF help is needed to set up for the Syrian Dinner on *April 1* at Christ the King starting at 3:00 pm. Please email LisaDoggart@gmail.com if you are available to help.

SPF youth will be headed to Haiti on April 6 and returning on April 14.

On *Wednesday, April 12* we will be headed to New York City to see the matinee performance of "Come From Away". This is for all families. We will take the train out of New Haven to get to the city and may add an extra day on Tuesday to see Ellis Island. Please RSVP to LisaDoggart@gmail.com for details.

On *Saturday, April 15*, 3:00 pm Griswold Point - Sunrise service preparation. JPF and SPF join together as we get ready for Easter morning. Meet at the church and we will be back by 4:30 for a snack.

Youth in Grades 4 through 12 are headed up to the Heifer Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts on *May 13*. RSVP's to LisaDoggart@gmail.com are needed early for this (*April 16*) and the cost is \$15 per person. We will be leaving Old Lyme at 8:00 a.m. and attending the Seeds program. In this program we will visit the Global Village and then eat a cultural meal there. We will also visit the barns and meet the animals and find out about their importance and then visit the organic gardens. We will return to Old Lyme about 4 p.m.

Ellis Island, anyone? Some of our Sunday School families are visiting Ellis Island on *April 11th*. Carleen would like to know if there are others that would like to travel to Ellis Island that same day as a group. Call Carleen at 860-434-8686 ASAP for details!



Adult Enrichment Programs



BOOK GROUP

Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance. In this compelling book, a Yale law school graduate looks at the struggles of the white working class through the story of his own childhood in the "Rust Belt of America." This book has received a great deal of attention, following the presidential election, as a way of understanding the disempowerment and frustrations of America's impoverished working families. It is a "good read." Join us for a discussion *following the 11:00 worship on April 23*. Bring a sandwich if you'd like and we'll have some cold drinks. We'll meet in the library. Martha Beaudoin and Carleen will lead the discussion.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Bible Study Thursdays at 10:45 am in the Library In March, as part of our studies of early Christian heresies, we will study the Acts of John (apocryphal text) written in the early 3rd century A.D. Class meets Thursdays from 10:45 to 11:45 am on **March 30**. We will take a break and meet again on **May 4 and May 11** to study the Letter of James. Bible study is led by Becky Crosby.

WRITING FROM THE SPIRIT

The writing group will meet on alternate *Wednesdays at 4:00 pm* (April 12 & 26) 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* (April 5 & 19) 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.**

APRIL ADULT FORUMS

April 2: Becky Crosby, "The Passion of Christ in the Visual Arts"

April 9: Palm Sunday, no Forum

April 16: Easter, no Forum

April 23: Tom Ortoleva, Hope Ministries, "Housing in Old Saybrook"

April 30: Carolyn Wakeman, one of our church historians, will talk about "Progressives in the Pulpit" and share her discoveries about early efforts to promote social justice at FCCOL.

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

April 2017

April 2017							May 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
30							29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Adult Forum 10:00am BOS 11:00am Worship Svc	10:00am Sewing Group (S) 6:00pm Communication 7:00pm AA (S)	10:00am Pottery Classes & 6:00 pm 11:30am Staff Mtg 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S)	4:00pm Poetry Group 5:00pm Running Club 5:00pm Children's Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir (S)	Haiti Trip thru 4/14 6:00pm Pottery Classes	10:00am Grief Group (H) 3:00pm MM Brd Mtg (L)	FP/SK Syrian Dinner (Christ the King Church)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00am Worship Service Palm Sunday 11:00am Worship Svc Palm Sunday	LBS Set Up (F) 10:00am Sewing Group (S) 7:00pm AA (S)	9:30am Staff Mtg 10:00am Pottery Classes 12:00pm LBS Luncheon 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S)	4:00pm Writing Group 5:00pm Running Club 5:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Sr. Choir (S)	6:00pm Pottery Classes 6:30pm Maundy Thursday (Service/Bread&Soup)	9:45am Walk for SSK (St. Anne's) 10:00am Care Group (H)	FP/SK 1:00pm Peace Memorial Service (M&F) 7:00pm Dan Stevens
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
6:00am Easter Sunrise Service 9:00am Easter Worship 11:00am Easter	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	6:00pm Pac 27 Mtg (F)	6:00pm Salt Marsh Opera Masterclass by Brian Cheney	FP/SK
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship Svc 11:00am Book Group (L)	10:00am Sewing Group (S) 7:00pm AA (S)	9:30am Staff Mtg 10:00am LBS Mtg (L) 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 7:00pm Brd Deacons (L)	David's Birthday 4:00pm Writing Group 5:00pm Running Club 7:30pm Sr. Choir (S)			FP/SK
30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6
9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship Svc 2:00pm Hold Lina						

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

Teri Gedrys, 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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Old Saybrook, CT
Non-Profit Organization

*The next FCCOL Newsletter will be in May;
the deadline will be April 14.
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>](mailto: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!