



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

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister
Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music

December 24, 2022

5:00 PM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #132 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

*Call to Worship

*Invocation

*The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome

Angels’ Duet *Silent Night*

Julia Clark and Sabina Jungkeit

The Christmas Story:

The Holy Family:

Mark, Kacie, Cassidy and Audrey Hand

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

Mark Hand

The Arch Angel:

Drysile Kazadi

Scripture: Luke 2: 8-14

*Hymn: #137 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The Shepherds: Allison and Bella Hine, Joe Kazadi, Finn Barrett and friends

Scripture: Luke 2: 15-20

Bella Hine

The Kings: Jeremy Jungkeit, Gary Jungkeit and Evan Griswold
Scripture: Matthew: 2:1-11 Jeremy Jungkeit
Anthem: “We Three Kings” Jeremy Jungkeit, Gary Jungkeit and Evan Griswold
Offertory Invitation
*Hymn: #151 “O Little Town of Bethlehem ”
Offertory Prayer

Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting

Arch Angel: Delaney Donovan
Angels: Julia and Gabi Clark, Elsa and Sabina Jungkeit,
Drysile Kazadi, Nora and Delaney Donovan
Christmas Readings
*Hymn: #142 “Silent Night, Holy Night”
Christmas Prayer
*Recessional Hymn: #134 “Joy to the World”
Postlude
*Congregation standing

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*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.*

## **Mission Outreach at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme in 2022**

This evening's offering will be used to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund of the First Congregational Church. This fund is used to support individuals and families in need. Over the course of the past year this fund has dispersed a little over \$30,000. It is supported by this church's annual budget, by occasional special donations in memory of a loved one, and, **most importantly**, by the annual Christmas Eve collection. We ask that you give as generously as you can.

The past several years have been very challenging in many ways. Many families have endured unprecedented hardships. And some of the organizations which our community has traditionally supported have endured through financial struggles as well. But the extraordinary generosity of this congregation has made it possible for our Board of Missions to continue to offer courageous support within our region and throughout some of the most critically needy parts of the world. As of tonight, the Board of Missions has released \$72,000 already this year. And they anticipate further gifts in the next few weeks.

Our Ladies Benevolent Society donated an additional \$51,000 to agencies in this region. This money is raised mainly through their annual White Elephant Sale; a courageous undertaking that gathers in many volunteers (as well as donors) throughout our community.

Additionally, in 2022, special gifts totaling more than \$143,000 were made by our members and friends to our refugee work, our immigration assistance program, the Witness Stones Project in the town of Old Lyme, our monthly diaper bank initiative, and the Ministers' Discretionary Fund. Included in that total was a remarkable gift of over \$29,000 to the people of Ukraine, administered through the International Rescue Committee in New York.

**Thus, in total for the year 2022, over \$290,000 in aid and support was made possible through the generosity of the people of this church.**

**All the agencies supported by this church are listed below in random order:**

The United Church of Christ; One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC); Homeless Hospitality Center of New London; the Hospital Chaplaincy Programs of L&M and Middlesex Hospitals; Habitat for Humanity of SECT; Bethlehem University in Palestine; Safe Futures of New London (formerly the Women's Center of New London); New London Soup Kitchen on Montauk Avenue; Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries; The Diaper Bank Project of FCCOL; The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education; the Martin House; the Alliance for Living of SECT; the Covenant Shelter of New London; the Shepherd's Field School of Beit Sahour; Lymewood Senior Housing; Church World Service; the Ministers' Discretionary Fund of FCCOL; FRESH New London; Tree of Life Educational Fund Inc.; Tribal Crafts; Humanitarian outreach on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota; Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, Inc. of New Haven, CT (IRIS); PARJE (public art for racial justice education); Doctors Without Borders (targeted for HAITI relief); International Rescue Committee; the Refugee Resettlement House of FCCOL; UCC Pakistan relief following the climate crisis and flooding there; Hospice and Palliative Care of Middletown, Literacy Volunteers of Valley Shore; the CT Hospice; Old Lyme Historical Society; Estuary Council of Seniors; Lymes Senior Center; A Sacred Place of the York Prison (the Barbara Fund); World Central Kitchen; and the League of Women Voters.

**Our offering this evening will go to the Ministers' Discretionary Fund, used locally to assist those in need with housing, food, fuel and special medical assistance. We ask that you give generously.**

### **Ministers' Discretionary Fund**

The Ministers' Discretionary Fund, for which we will receive donations on Christmas Eve, is the fund within our church that is used to help individuals and families with personal needs throughout the year. In the winter months, the need for fuel assistance is often critical, but there are all kinds of special needs that are handled with discretion by the ministers in all seasons. These might include partial rent assistance, help with an electric bill, a medical need, or countless other possibilities. Approximately \$30,000 was dispersed this year.

The Board of Missions gives money to the Ministers' Discretionary Fund each year out of their allocation from the operating budget. The Ladies Benevolent Society, using their profits from the annual White Elephant Sale, also contributes generously each year. Occasionally there are gifts from citizens within the wider community who hear about our work and want to be supportive, but **the largest single collection comes in the form of the Christmas Eve offering.**

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

**As 2022 draws to a close, we invite anyone who is able to make a donation of any amount to the annual stewardship campaign of our church. The work of this church is entirely funded by its members and friends. Additional gifts, at any time, are very much appreciated.**

We are grateful for tonight's musicians; Simon Holt (organ), Lisa Feltes, Jeremy and Gary Jungkeit, Evan Griswold, and our Deacons, Beth Hamilton and Martha Gibson. Thank you to Steven Evankow for bringing his alpaca, Pumpkin, this evening and to the Hine family for inviting their goats.

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Christmas Day Service is on December 25th at 10:00 am. All are invited to come in your pajamas! Our service will feature the Elm City Winds Quintet. Elm City Winds is an active woodwind quintet that performs frequently throughout the New Haven area.

New Year's Day Service is on January 1st at 10:00 am. Join us as we celebrate the New Year!

Epiphany Service & Potluck: Join us on Friday, January 6 at 6:00 PM in celebration of Three Kings Day, otherwise known as the 12th Day of Christmas.

God's Neighborhood Sunday School meets weekly during the school year during the 10:00 am church service. In the second half of our Sunday school year, we'll continue with our theme of *The Deep Blue Sea: Sacred Stories of Care for One Another and the Earth* and explore the sacred gift of water and its importance to our world. We'll be reading gospel stories of Jesus with his friends and learning about how different countries and communities use and depend on water for life. As our Lakota friends have taught us, "Mni Wiconi," "*Water is Life!*" All children Pre-K-grade 8 are welcome to join us. We offer a nursery for those younger children as well starting at 9:55 am. We will resume God's Neighborhood on January 8th, 2023.

Our Youth Group, Pilgrim Fellowship, of Middle and High School students meets 1-2 times a month for social and service projects. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 22nd, from 4-6pm for a taco dinner and movie. Bring a friend!

2023 Offering Envelopes. For those of you who have desired offering envelopes for 2023, they're in the connector for you to pick up.

Save the Date: Chili Cookoff, Friday night, February 3rd, 6-8 pm

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26th and January 2nd.

