

J U N E 2 0 2 2



Dear Friends,

June is shaping up to be a landmark month in the life of our community. It will be filled with a sequence of events related to the questions of truth, justice, and healing that we have been pursuing together for two years now - and a long time before that as well. It's also a month in which we'll have opportunities to deepen our connections with one another, even as we explore the ways Old Lyme has been shaped by links to the Caribbean, West Africa, and the legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Below, you'll find a description of the events occurring around our town over the next several weeks.

Here's the first. Over the past several years, FCCOL has partnered with several other organizations on the Witness Stones project, uncovering the buried stories, and lives, of those who were enslaved for more than 150 years in Lyme and Old Lyme. Thanks to the dedi-

cated work of Carolyn Wakeman and a dedicated team of volunteers, the town is preparing to install 16 new stones along Lyme Street and McCurdy Lane. A ceremony to honor those 16 individuals will take place on **Friday, June 3, at 10 AM**, on the Lawn of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library.

Prior to that ceremony, another important event is taking place. On **Thursday June 2, at 3:00**, the Library will also be hosting a screening of the film "Traces of the Trade: A Story of the Deep North." It's a film by Katrina Browne, one that helped inspire our own "Stories of the Deep North" video series last year, exploring sites of enslavement and resistance throughout Connecticut and Southern New England. The film is about the deWolf family, who built the largest slaving empire in the United States from their base in Bristol, Rhode Island. But the deWolfs got

their start right here in Old Lyme. Two descendants of the deWolf family who appear in the film - Dain and Constance Perry - will be present at the screening to take part in a community discussion after the film. Thanks go to the Library, and to the Witness Stones team, for putting that event together.

The following week, FCCOL will be hosting another event that builds on the previous weekend. Tom DeWolf participated in the journey chronicled in "Traces of the Trade," and he went on to write a book about the experience, called *Inheriting the Trade*. He also helped to build an organization called "Coming to the Table" that works through issues of racial justice and reconciliation, a journey that Tom himself has been on for nearly twenty years after coming to terms with his own family legacy.

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HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

Welcome Back to Our Bookkeeper Julie

Many of you will remember Julie Scocozza, who was our bookkeeper from 2013 through 2017. We are very happy to report that she is now back with us, and she now goes by Julie Mardjekaj. For the past 5 years Julie did a great job heading the accounting department for the Town of Old Saybrook, and her personal situation now allows her to be back with our church family. We are grateful and VERY pleased. Welcome back Julie!



Huge thanks to Mary Tomassetti

Over the past year Mary graciously stepped into the key bookkeeper role when Teri Gedrys could no longer be with us. She learned the complex job instantly, and in carrying it out she brought wonderful new life and energy to the church office team. For those of you who know Mary, this will come as no surprise! Fret not, Mary will still be with us and engaged in many



current and future partnership and communications activities. THANK YOU, MARY!

Pottery Class

Pottery class off to great start this Spring with new potters making their first bowls. (Image to the right of Jurita Strazda with her first pottery off the wheel.)

Practice sessions will be available for the first three weeks in June after Sunday Service. (Sunday June 5th, 12th, 19th from 11:30 am to 2:30pm.) Stop by to see the pottery or practice on the potters wheels. Also, practice sessions available Tuesday mornings 10:00 to 12:00 through June.

If you're interested in taking classes in the fall, contact Wayne Kirk at Wayne.Kirk@Collins.com

Church World Service

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, \$2030 was collected for the Blanket Drive. People who suffered through hurricanes, floods, fires, cold spells and loss of income, as well as new immigrants really appreciate the blankets. They are grateful for your caring.

Ladies Who Stitch

We've had a busy, creative, and productive season and are winding down our activities to take a summer break as of June 13th. We'll reconvene on September 12th. Many of our creations will still be available in the Partnership Store on Sundays and during the White Elephant Sale. Thank you to everyone who worked with us, donated to us, and supported us in numerous ways. If you have a special request or shopping crisis ;-) during the summer, please contact Eunice via email: eunicetaylor@me.com



Memorial Service for Sally McCracken

There will be a memorial service to remember Sally McCracken in the Meetinghouse on Saturday, June 11th at 11 am. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Sally passed away on April 12th, 2020, and we are finally able to have an in-person service to remember her time among us.

Memorials

Prudence Allen
Towny Ludington

Diaper Bank

Where was your joy? A question asked routinely at the end of the day when a few moments of reflection take in the “fullness.” Friday was a full day. Creative play with my 4-year-old grandson. Peddling his toy car to the end of the driveway, Luca stopped to inform me he was in Boston. His destination was New York City.

Lunch time followed by nap time, with the anticipation of playing at a new playground in Essex. Of course, snack followed nap and a 12-minute cartoon.

The playground being new, was scouted out with wide eyes. Taking in the magnitude of shapes, colors and designs, Luca also carefully

gazed at the other children playing. An hour later and one more stop to make: the Diaper Bank. Thought to be of little interest to a 4-year-old, Luca reveled in delight at the sight of red carriages full of diapers. Gleeful, he helped Poppy load each carriage onto the elevator and pushed the button to “1.” Repeating this process 5xs, Luca would shout out for Nammy as the elevator door opened (Nammy was pushing the carriages to Fellowship Hall for Saturday’s distribution).

Where was my joy? In the delight and awe of a 4-year old’s simplicity; the pureness of fun, and curiosity. Luca made the connection of seeing the Diaper Bank and knowing he gave his no longer needed diapers to babies who needed them.

On Saturday, 54 babies and toddlers received diapers. A special gift of a new book was also given to each guest, in recognition of National Baby Month. Our guests were grateful, and many asked about the next diaper bank distribution (we had cancelled the first Saturday in May due to steady rain). June 4th is on our calendars to welcome our guests again.

Was it me, or did the guests appear happier, smiling, more talkative as they received diapers, baby food, and wipes? On Saturday my joy was in relationship with others; fellow volunteers, guests at the diaper Bank, Poppy and Luca. Where is your joy?

God’s Neighborhood

God’s Neighborhood will not be meeting this summer BUT that does not mean that we still don’t have fun! Mariame will be providing lots of fun through stories, games and summer activities for children on Sunday mornings during the church service—and our nursery will still be available with Kim.

SAVE THE DATE! God’s Neighborhood Sunday School will begin again on September 11, 2022.

We are planning for a wonderful year of Pilgrim Fellowship starting on the afternoon of September 11 from 4-6 p.m.

Details will be sent later this summer for both programs.



With Gratitude

Thanks to Cynthia and George Willauer, Sean McCarty and Nick Westbrook, our delegates to the UCC, for representing us at the Spring meeting of the Middlesex Association, held at the Clinton Congregational Church on May 16th.



DEAR FRIENDS, CONTINUED

Tom will lead a workshop at FCCOL based on his work with “Coming to the Table” on **Saturday June 11, from 5-7 in the evening**. It will take place in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. **Tom will also be the guest preacher in our worship service at 10 AM on Sunday, June 12.**

But that’s not all. On **Saturday, June 18, beginning at 5:00**, Ned Sublette (author of *The American Slave Coast*) will be screening his new documentary film “Tierra Sagrada,” about African diasporic religious practices in Cuba - which was the site of numerous deWolff plantations. It is, therefore, a link in the story that we are following throughout the month of June. Ned will be joined by a trio of Afro-Cuban bata drummers, led by Roman Diaz, who will also join in our worship service the following day (Juneteenth). Kevin Booker, Jr. will be our guest preacher that day (**June 19, 10 AM**).



Just prior to the Saturday event, again on **June 18 at 2PM**, the Witness Stones Partnership will host a poetry reading and jazz concert in the Florence Griswold Museum Gardens in honor of Juneteenth. Marilyn Nelson, Kate Rushin, Rhonda Ward, and Antoinette Brim-Bell will read from their cycle of poems, and the Nat Reeves Jazz Quartet will also play.

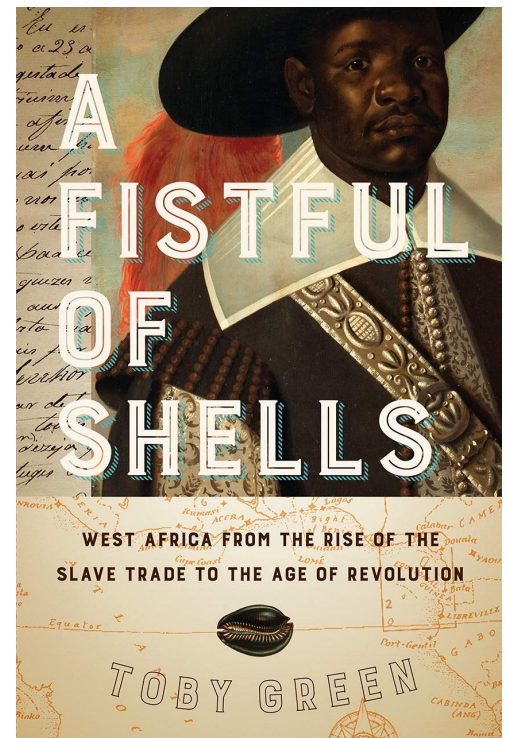
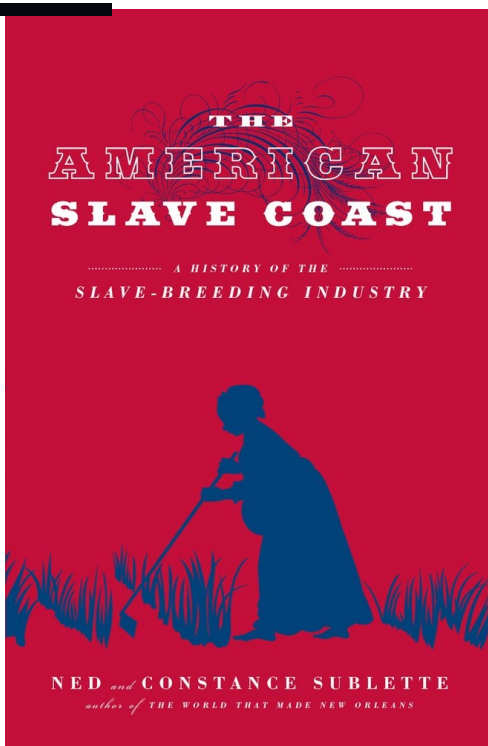
Finally, the month will be capped off with a celebratory excursion on **Saturday June 25**, to the Louis Armstrong House and Museum in Queens, followed by a visit to the Queens Night Market. Armstrong needs no introduction or explanation. The Night Market does. Every Saturday night during the summer months, Flushing Meadows Park hosts a massive open air market with dozens of food vendors representing the array of cultures that gather in Queens and NYC. There are musical and cultural performances at the Night Market as well. It’s an opportunity to revel in the rich array of people, music, food and artistic craftsmanship that make up our world, and to sense the invitation and modes of healing embedded within those cultures. More details on this day trip will soon follow.

In the midst of it all, there will be services and visits and fellowship hours and yes, preparation for the White Elephant Sale. There will even be another visit from Paul

Verryn toward the end of the month. It will all be a time to know ourselves more fully, to think carefully about who we have been and who we would like to be, and to continue working toward the truth, justice, and healing that we’re called to engage in with one another.

Stay human...

Summer Reading Plans: *A Fistful of Shells*, by Toby Green; *Dilla Time* by Dan Charnas; *Climate: A New Story* by Charles Eisenstein; fiction by Wole Soyinka, Gayl Jones, and Chinua Achebe.



ON THE ENVIRONMENT



The Sleeping Giant is Waking Up

The Weather Channel recently did a piece on 'The Fear of Climate Change.' Many feel dispirited about the plight of polar animals, rising sea levels, fires, drought, involuntary movement of masses of people, etc. It is deflating but at the same time also motivating.

Now, wealthier nations, those who use the most fossil fuels, are uniting in response to the challenge of climate change. Our country, like a

sleeping giant, is waking up much like it did at the beginning of WWII. Making progress on the battle to fight climate change is beginning to provide diverse sources of optimism, the best anecdote to fear.

Connecticut's legislature has just taken a number of substantive steps towards climate justice. For example, strict emission standards will be phased in for small and large trucks. Another significant piece of legislation is the commitment to achieve zero carbon electrical generation by 2040.

Changes are coming in smaller and larger increments. On the higher level, venture capital is pouring into carbon sequestration projects. Tesla is beginning to make its extensive supercharging network available to other EV makers. Airlines are moving toward increased use of sustainable bio fuel blends. Notably, United Airlines has pledged to begin the first trans-Atlantic flights using such fuels, thus reducing fossil fuel emissions by 80%.

As for individual efforts, what can we do? With the upcoming mid-

term elections, we can give top consideration to those with the best climate record. We can use batteries to power backyard tools or, if you contract out yard work, support those that are transitioning to battery power. In the market for a new vehicle? Choices for both cars and pickup trucks are increasing quickly.

Admittedly, transitioning away from fossil fuels comes with a cost. However, ignoring the challenge is costlier such as higher insurance costs, higher infrastructure costs, and huge social disruptions. Addressing climate change is like a campaign with all hands on deck.

On another note, the Environmental Committee open house at the Gerber's in May was a success. And if there are other folk interested in learning about this "green" building process, please just give Carleen a call and we'll find a time to schedule another tour for you!

Donald Gonci, for the Environment Committee

MEETINGHOUSE ROOF REPLACEMENT

A major expense is about to happen regarding the replacement of our roof on the Church. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$200,000. We have received a most generous anonymous gift of \$100,000 to help defray this cost. We are asking for donations to cover the \$100,000 balance.

The existing slate roof of our historic church, built in 1908, has deteriorated and now needs replacement.

Our Preservation fund was set up to provide income to the Church for ongoing maintenance projects, not a major capital expenditure.

We hope you will consider donating to our new roof at this time to help us deal with this major expenditure. In the coming weeks, there will be more information for our church members and friends.

Thank you for your consideration of our current need.

Preservation Fund, Tom Grant, Chair, Henry May and Barbara Smith

2022 WHITE ELEPHANT SALE – DONATIONS

Intake – Again we are keeping intake to only 6 days 9-2 and NO nights. Please bring your items to the church beginning Thursday **June 23rd - 25th**, and from **July 28th -> 30th**. See calendar in the newsletter. The side driveway will be closed except for intake hours.

Quality of Donations – We are being more selective each year. We have to be able to sell the item in two days [9 hrs total], give to one of our many recycle groups or discard. By insisting on clean salable items we can reduce the sorting, handling and disposal of damaged or broken items. As always we are grateful for your donations and sorting them in advance really helps.

Donating Large Furniture for the White Elephant Sale [July 12th and 13th]

We are LIMITING the amount of large furniture that we will accept this year. We are **NOT** planning any pickup service due to manpower scheduling and conflicts, but may do some if truck available. If you do have a piece to donate and are wondering whether we will accept, please call the office 434-8686 anytime; night or day and hit the WES call back line— option 5 — leave a message with all the particulars. We will contact you to discuss your large furniture donation.

The emphasis is on clean, QUALITY items.-- NO sofa beds, stuffed couches/chairs, dining room sets or particle board furniture.

We CAN NOT accept:

Dirty or Broken Items or Junk
Appliances (Large):
 Air Conditioners
 Refrigerators, freezers & Stoves
 Washers & Dryers
Bike helmets [used - safety concerns]
Books: Technical or Textbooks, Encyclopedias
Car Seats - safety liability
Cribs used - safety liability
Chemicals
Computers, monitors & software
Furniture - stuffed sofa/chairs or sofa beds
Furniture - particle board
Furniture - Dining Room sets
Lamps [floor or table]

Luggage [old hard sided]
Gas cans with Gas or kerosene
Guns, Knives, Weapons
Magazines, Newspapers
Mattresses or Box Springs
Paint
Phones
Rugs [used]
Scanners
Stereo equipment, Speakers
Skis -old style downhill
Stuffed animals [used]
Tires
Treadmills
TVs [all styles]



We GLADLY Accept [Quality Please !!!!]


Antiques, Fine China, Silver Appliances, Small (Working)
Art, Sculpture, Posters, Frames
Baskets
Bedding, Linens
Boats, Canoes, Kayaks
Bicycles, Tricycles
Books: Children's', Non-Fiction, Fiction
Christmas & Holiday decorations
Clothes: Children's, Men's, Women's
Clothes: Fine, Fashion
Clothes: Vintage, Costume, and Accessories
Collections
Curtains, Drapes
DVD's (Family Content)

Furniture [Not on the 'will not accept' list]
 [call church office if a question 434-8686]
Gifts, Sundries, Knickknacks
Jewelry: Costume & Fine
Kitchen Items (Appliances, Dishes, Cookware)
Luggage [soft sided or Steamer trunks only]
Musical Instruments
Plants, Containers
Shoes
Skis [downhill ones must be “shape” style]
Sporting Goods [good condition]
Tools (House & Garden)
Toys and New Stuffed Animals

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12	13	14	15	16	17 <u>Pre SET-UP INSIDE</u> [hang signs move tables, etc]	18 SET-UP <u>INSIDE</u> [9:00 am – 12:00]
19	20	21	22	23 INTAKE 9 - 2	24 INTAKE 9 - 2 <u>Workers Lunch</u>	25 INTAKE 9 - 2
26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED Sort & Price	28 INTAKE 9 - 2	29 INTAKE 9 - 2	30 INTAKE 9 - 2 <u>Workers Lunch</u>	1 CLOSED Sort & Price	2 CLOSED Sort & Price

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 CLOSED	4 HOLIDAY 	5 8 am -2 pm Big Tents, Sport Goods & Plant Tent Finalize inside setup Art, halls 6-8 pm Lawn tables, Baked Goods Coffee Tents	6 CLOSED Sort & Price Finalize any rem'g outside Set-up	7 SET-UP OUTSIDE 8 AM ->> <u>Workers Lunch</u>	8 SALE 9 - 2	9 SALE 8- noon <u>CLEANUP & Snacks</u> noon ->>

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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U.S. Postage Paid
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The next Newsletter will be for September; deadline is August 19.

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. Please let us know if you would like an e-mail alert when the new issues are available on our website. Thanks for your help!

