

## **2023 Annual Congregational Meeting**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the 10am worship service on Sunday, January 29th, 2023. This is an important opportunity for all of us to hear the reports of the ministers, the board and committee chairs and the treasurer covering all of the important activities of 2022. It is also an opportunity for everyone to be actively engaged with questions and discussions. Please put this meeting on your calendars.

The host for Fellowship Hour today is Barbara Macgregor.

**Our PF Youth Group** for middle and high schoolers will meet TODAY in Fellowship Hall from 4-6 pm. We'll enjoy a film, plan our upcoming Box Night and other projects and eat tacos! Feel free to bring a friend, too. Email Laura at [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com).

**Ladies Who Stitch:** We resumed our Monday sessions on January 9th - working from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Sheffield Auditorium. The Partnership Store is open during this time, as well as after Sunday services. Our Christmas and winter items are on sale for 20% - 50% off thru the end of January.

**AED Session:** Cathy Mathis will be holding a training session on the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AEDs) at FCCOL on Saturday, January 28th. Please contact her at 860-399-7714 if you are interested.

**2023 Offering Envelopes.** Offering envelopes for 2023 can be found in the connector.

**Save the Date:** Chili Cookoff, Friday night, February 10th, 6-8 pm. We'll vote for the best chili, enjoy some music and celebrate the Valentines in our midst! If you would like to be a Chili Chef (vegetarian, too!), please contact the office at [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org).

**Church World Service: Blanket Drive:** The annual LBS CWS Blanket Drive will be held during February and March. Blankets are distributed to the homeless, people who have suffered from fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other disasters around the world and here in the Unites States. CWS envelopes will be available in the pews starting in February. Each blanket costs \$10. Checks will need to be made payable to LBS, indicating in the memo line "Blanket Drive." They may be put in the collection plate or sent to the church c/o. LBS.

**Spirit Visions of New Orleans: March 17-22.** Long before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus, Homer Plessy did the same on a train in New Orleans. That occurred in 1892, and it was arguably the first action (or first flame) following the collapse of Reconstruction, in what we now understand to be the modern Civil Rights Movement. Sadly, it took another 60 years for the fire to catch, but the match was struck in New Orleans. They've been lighting flames of the spirit ever since in that town, in music, public art, street ritual and theater, and in movements toward human rights and justice.

From March 17-22, members and friends of FCCOL are invited to visit the city of New Orleans, to learn about its unique culture, and to witness the many ways that the city has nurtured a vision of human life that is creative, celebratory, and just. We'll take to the streets with Black Masking Indians on St. Joseph's Night, one of the ritual focal points of both African descended peoples and Italians living in the city. We'll join a Second Line, visit artists in their homes, visit jazz clubs, experience house concerts with local musicians, and attend a gospel church service on Sunday. We'll hear from writers and justice advocates. We'll sample some of the best food and drink on the planet. And we'll learn about the history of New Orleans, of its historic connections to Haiti and other parts of the Caribbean, and with Africa itself. These are all a part of the unique spirit, and spirituality, that surrounds the city of New Orleans.

And so why not think about coming on this pilgrimage like no other? If you're interested in joining this journey, email Steve Jungkeit ([steven@jungkeit.net](mailto:steven@jungkeit.net)) for further details.

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#### **Calendar of Events and Meetings**

**LWS Monday, January 23 at 10:00 am** in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Old Lyme Ringers Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30 pm** in Sheffield Auditorium.

**Senior Choir Wednesday, January 25 at 7:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

**Bible Study Thursday, January 26 at 11:00 am** in the Library.

**Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29 at 11:00 am** in the Meetinghouse.