



**The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**  
**2 Ferry Road**  
**Old Lyme, Connecticut**  
**(860) 434-8686**  
**Website: [www.fccol.org](http://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, 2023**

**8:00 & 10:00 PM**

Prelude

Music of the Season  
Played by Simon Holt (organ)  
and Frank Tamburro and Liam Shugrue (trumpets)

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

Call to Worship

Invocation

The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Welcome

Choir Carol: *Matin Responsory* G.P. da Palestrina  
soloists Sean McCarty, Pete Lang, Marcy Conway and Eve Todd

First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

\*Hymn: #119 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Choir Carol: *Creator of the Stars of Night* Malcolm Archer

Third Lesson: Luke 1: 26-35, 38

\*Hymn: #135 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Choir Carol: *There is No Rose* Gerald Near

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

Choir Carol: *Christmas Lullaby* John Rutter

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Solo: *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam  
Soloist Brian Cheney (tenor)

Offertory Prayer

Choir Carol: *He is Born!*

arr. Dan Forrest

Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Christmas Litany

Hymn: #142      “Silent Night, Holy Night”

Christmas Eve Prayer

The Pealing of the Bells

\*Recessional Hymn: #134      “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

Postlude Music: *In dulci jubilo*

J.S. Bach

\*Congregation Standing

**Our offering this evening will go the Ministers’ Discretionary Fund, used to assist those in need with housing, food, fuel and special medical assistance. The largest single collection is from the Christmas Eve offering. We ask that you give generously.**

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

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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.*

*We are grateful for the generous contribution of time and talent given by the members of our Senior Choir and our soloists: Lisa Feltes, Brian Cheney, Pete Lang, Sean McCarty, Marcy Conway, Eve Todd, Frank Tamburro and Liam Shugrue.*

*We also thank Gary Jungkeit for directing The Christmas Eve Peal which will be rung by the following people: Philip Brant, Julia Clark, Lisa Feltes, Don Gerber, Allison Hine, Leland Hine, Pat Jungkeit, Rachael Jungkeit, Sabina Jungkeit, Doug Kiem, Steve Mazeau, Annie McCarty, Sean McCarty, Kate Paterson, Rick Strickhart, and Eve Todd.*

*The singing of “O Holy Night” has been a long-standing tradition in this church. David Sargent often told the story of entering a small church in a village in France on Christmas Eve, just as this piece was being sung. He said it was a brief moment of blessed peace in a time of war. On this night, as “O Holy Night” is sung, we remember in prayer all those across this world who are suffering now from the ravages of war. The peace of this night is both sacred and fragile. But as the music fills the Meetinghouse this night, the blessing of peace is, indeed, holy.*

*Our special music and flowers this evening are given in loving memory of:*

Bruce Ferrier, Kathleen Lang Bray, David Bray & Lawrence Lang II

Alan Bayreuther & Ronald Swanson

Virginia Gonci

Alice Agnew Fisher, Catherine Gray Marshall

& Catherine Marshall Fisher

Pauline M. Johnson & Vincent J. Santangelo

Sue & Burnham Carter

Jeffrey Burnham Carter

Robert D. Webster

Paul & Elizabeth Bates and David & Dorothy Sams

Thomas Whitaker

Loved ones of the Gerber and Hine families

Loved ones of the Fitzpatrick family

And given in honor of Betsey Webster by her children

*The Deacons on Duty tonight are Allison Hine and Dave Roberts.*

**As 2023 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.**

## **Mission Outreach at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme in 2023**

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 \$39,000. 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 challenging. Many families have endured, and continue to endure, unprecedented hardships. And some of the organizations which our church community has traditionally supported have struggled financially as well. But the extraordinary generosity of this congregation has made it possible for our Board of Missions to give \$72,000 of critically needed support to agencies within our region and throughout some of the most needy parts of the world.

In the past year, our Ladies Benevolent Society donated an additional \$38,000 to agencies in this region. This money was raised mainly through their annual White Elephant Sale; a courageous undertaking that gathers in many volunteers (as well as donors) throughout our area.

Additionally, in 2023, special gifts totaling more than \$193,000 were made by our members and friends to our refugee resettlement work, our Saturday morning food pantry and its monthly diaper initiative, the One Great Hour of Sharing work of the United Church of Christ, the Witness Stones Project of Old Lyme, the Minister's Discretionary Fund, and more.

**Thus, in total for the year 2023, over \$231,000 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); the New London Soup Kitchen on Montauk Avenue (now called DINE); 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; Lyme-Old Lyme Food Share Garden; 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 (IRIS); Doctors Without Borders (targeted for Gaza); International Rescue Committee; the Refugee Resettlement House of FCCOL; Hospice and Palliative Care of Middletown, Cactus Jack Foundation; Charley's Closet of Guilford; Literacy Volunteers of Valley Shore; the Ct Hospice; Lymes Senior Center; Estuary Council of Seniors; A Sacred Place of the York Prison (the Barbara Fund); World Central Kitchen; Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA); and the AMOS project connecting faith communities in New London County.

**New Year's Eve Service** is on December 31st at 10:00 am. Join us as we celebrate the New Year!

**Epiphany Party:** There is an Epiphany Party during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, January 7th. Cultures all over the world celebrate Three Kings Day and Epiphany. Bring a treat to share and a picture of someone or something that inspires you on the cusp of this new year!

**God's Neighborhood:** The nursery will remain open every Sunday. The Sunday School is on winter break and will plan to return January 14th with the start of the new session of our curriculum.

**Interested in Confirmation?** Confirmation classes for 1st, 2nd or 3rd year high school students will begin on Sunday, January 28th from 4-6 pm. Classes will meet January-May and include field trips, films and a service project. Confirmation is offered every other year. For more information contact Laura at 860-304-9096 or [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com).

**Chili Cookoff:** Calling all chefs for the Ground Hog Day Chili Cookoff tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 2nd at 5:30-7:00 pm

**Save the Date:** Walking in their Footsteps: A Civil Rights Learning Trip for Teens during April vacation from April 6th—11th. This is a 5-day journey. We'll fly round trip to Atlanta, Georgia and visit sights there and drive to Birmingham, Alabama among other places. Please email Jolene Brant at [jmbrant2023@gmail.com](mailto:jmbrant2023@gmail.com) for more information or to reserve a spot.

**2024 Offering Envelopes.** For those of you who have desired offering envelopes for 2023, they're in the connector for you to pick up.

*The church office will be closed  
Monday, December 25th and January 1st.*