

A P R I L 2 0 2 3



Dear Friends,

Easter shall soon be upon us, as will our epic reading of Dante's *Inferno* on Maundy Thursday. We'll begin with a traditional Maundy Thursday service on April 6th, at 6:00, a service of Scripture, sacred song, and communion. Then, beginning at 7, we'll make our descent into hell. Readings have been assigned, and plans are being made for a celebration following our emergence out of hell later that night. Indeed, we are on a highway to hell, and beyond, on Holy Week of 2023. I'm incredibly excited to experience that with all of you this year.

In truth, however, I want us to look a little beyond Holy Week in this month's newsletter, in order to envision an opportunity that has grown out of our shared work over the past several years. Let me set the stage by referencing something that Tom DeWolf shared when he visited Old Lyme this past summer.

While exploring his own family's roots in the New England slave trade, Tom described visiting the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana. There, he and several other family members stood in a dark dungeon where captive people were held just prior to boarding boats across the Atlantic. One of the things that crept into his awareness in that moment was that immediately above that dungeon was a Christian chapel, where slave traders worshiped and where new converts could be received. He was, and is, haunted by the knowledge of the mutual imbrication of captivity on one hand, and Christian faith on the other. Those moments in the dark became a catalyst for Tom, as he came to a powerful awareness of his own responsibility to grapple with the painful legacy of his extended family and their unfortunate use of religion, and to overcome it by working toward healing, reconciliation, and justice.

It happens that Tom visited Old Lyme because our town was the first place in which the DeWolf family settled in the New World. Prior to relocating first to Guadalupe and then to Bristol, Rhode Island, where the DeWolfs built the largest slaving empire in the United States, they resided here. The DeWolfs were some of the earliest leaders of our own faith community. In other words, Tom's history is one that we all somehow share.

After Tom's visit, I began to imagine what it would mean for members of our community to visit West Africa, and to visit some of the places that Tom described. After all, we know that some of those who wound up living in Southern New England came from what is now Ghana - Venture Smith is the most famous example, but there are others. Though now shrouded in the fog of history, Southern New England and

CONTINUE ON P. 5

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

Senior Choir

To all members of the Senior Choir - Thank you for your wonderful singing in March! It is very much appreciated!

Here is the April schedule:

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, April 5: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 6: Rehearsal at 6:00 pm followed by Maundy Thursday service

Sunday, April 9: Easter singing at the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services with a rehearsal at 8:15 am

Wednesday, April 12: NO REHEARSAL

Sunday, April 16: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, April 19: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 23: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am.

Wednesday, April 26: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 30: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am.

Many thanks and best wishes to all, Simon



Ladies Who Stitch

We continue to sew, knit, crochet, craft, plan and organize - creating things to donate and sell - every Monday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium. We welcome visitors, shoppers and new members while we work. The **Partnership Store** - displaying goods from Haiti, Palestine, the Tribal Crafts, and *Ladies Who Stitch* - is open during our Monday working hours, on Sundays after the church service, Wednesdays after choir practice (8:30 pm - 9:00 pm), and during the Spring LBS luncheons. All purchases directly benefit the native artisans and the missions and programs of FCCOL.

Questions: Contact Eunice via email at eunicetaylor@me.com.

Eunice Taylor, Coordinator for Ladies Who Stitch

Pottery Spring Class at Walt's Pottery Studio

Try out Pottery Spring class at Walt's Pottery Studio in the basement of our church. There are two classes offered, both on Wednesdays, starting April 5th - May 31st (9 weeks). Morning class with Betsy Copp will be held from 10am - 12noon and evening class with Wayne Kirk from 6 - 8pm. Cost \$100. To sign-up Contact: Wayne.kirk@Collins.com or betsy.copp@gmail.com.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study group will resume our study of the Gospel of Mark on Thursday, April 27th, from 11-12. We encourage you to join sessions with the Rev. Paul Verryn, April 5th.

Adult Forum

On April 23rd our guest speaker will be Dr. Lisa Miller, professor at Columbia University and author of *The Awakened Brain* and *The Spiritual Child*, a NY Times bestseller. Through extensive scientific research and real life application, in *The Awakened Brain*, Dr. Miller shows how and why spirituality heals and how to engage it in our lives. She will lead a discussion on the ways we can access our innate spirituality and build a more meaningful life. Copies of *The Awakened Brain* are available for purchase in the church office.

A Visit from the Rev. Paul Verryn

Paul Verryn, our Theologian in Residence, will be visiting us from South Africa from April 5th through April 24th. This will be a chance to visit and catch up on the state of affairs in South Africa, and also an opportunity to study with Paul in a few of his Bible Study sessions during the course of those two weeks. Please join us for any or all of these opportunities. His Bible studies will take place on Tuesdays April 11 and 13, and Thursdays April 18 and 20 in the library, starting at 4:30 pm.



Craft from Ladies Who Stitch (left).
Tree of Life travelers in Mecca, Saudi Arabia (above).

We'll plan to work together for about an hour- join us any of those days if you can!

On Friday, April 14 if you'd like to share in a simple potluck supper with Paul, please join us in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. Bring whatever you want to share. The conversation will be so good that we won't need anything fancy to eat! See you there!

Call Carleen at 860-304-2070 if you'd like to plan a time to walk with Paul or would like to invite him for a supper with your family.

Grief and Loss Group

Our next Grief and Loss group meets on Wednesday, April 26th at 5:30 pm in Hoag Parlor. All are welcome!

A monthly group for those who have lost a loved one and those whose losses continue. Sometimes loss includes the death of a loved one and for others, losses occur day by day as with the caregiving of a dear one with dementia.

Author, Frank Lesser, writes about this wild edge in his book and the "apprenticeship with sorrow" that can unfold on this very human journey. Join us as we share the burdens and the gifts. Co-facilitators Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager and Mary McGannon Kollman.

Memorial

Marion (Doris) King
 Donna Speirs
 Beth Hogan
 Sam Báez
 Roy Clark
 Tom Ruberti
 Steve Hoag
 Earl Peters

The Lyme Refugee Resettlement Committee

The Lyme Refugee Resettlement Committee is now looking for people to help with new refugees who may be coming in the near future. We offer help in many ways to get the family settled in Old Lyme. If interested, please call Joe Cipparone at 867-912-7161 or Robin Sedgwick at 860-434-2114 to find out more of what we do.

LBS Luncheons Resume

LBS Luncheons resume for the spring in ~~March~~ April (for real this time, March having been stolen from us by an imagined 3-day nor'easter that failed to materialize here in Old Lyme). The first Luncheon of the 2023 season will now be on **Tuesday, April 11, noon to 2 pm.**

The April 11th luncheon meal and dessert will be followed at 1 pm by a program we're calling *Phishing for Phools—Protecting Yourself Against On-line Scams and Phishing*. Kathleen Titsworth, Banking Outreach Director for the CT Dept. of Banking, will discuss the challenges (growing in number and subtlety, even as law enforcement says they are already "overwhelmed") followed by a Q-and-A discussion with the audience.

The price of admission to the Luncheon is a donation of at least \$5, accompanied by a donation of canned goods for the food pantry or a donation of disposable diapers. As always, **please call the Church office at 860-434-8686** by Friday, April 7th to confirm your attendance so that we can be sure of food enough for all.

Mark you calendar for the following Luncheon on May 9th with Master Pastelist Judy Perry on "The Art of Healing."

Diaper Bank

The latest March newsletter for the SSKP reported that one out of eight children in CT face hunger (Feeding America). Combined poverty and ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) rates for the 11 towns that the SSKP serve, range from 21-36%. Our guests who frequent the Saturday Food Pantry face major challenges of food insecurity and financial instability.

**Food Insecurity
 Financial Instability
 1 in 8 Children face Hunger
 Diapers?!**

Diapers are a necessity. Yet for some families, securing enough food on a weekly basis may mean that baby has fewer diapers, less diaper changes, unhappy baby, stressed family.

Diaper Bank Saturday is addressing this need. In March:

- 68 babies each received a half case of diapers;
- 1 expectant mother registered;
- 4 new families registered;
- Every baby received baby wipes and a half case of assorted food, including fruits, vegetables, and meats.

NB	1
1	5
2	6
3	15
4	19
5	10
6	5
7	5
3/4PU	1
5/6PU	1
Total	68

DEAR FRIENDS, CONTINUED

West Africa share intimate ties, dating back nearly 400 years. In the spirit of our many partnerships and cultural exchanges, it began to feel critical to explore those connections, in all of their complexity, in all of their contradictions, for the sake of creating a shared future.

In addition to the necessary work of exploring a painful legacy, I also began to imagine ways not to remain trapped in cycles of guilt, but rather to celebrate the rich cultural traditions that continue to be expressed throughout West Africa. Those are traditions that have helped create the modern world, giving rise to much that we take for granted throughout the Americas. Everything from music to food, from dance to speech patterns, from dress to religious practice, and most especially the freedom movements throughout the Americas, have been shaped by the cultures and peoples that were forced to migrate from West Africa. Such cultural expressions deserve to be revered in the same ways that many of us esteem Greek, or Roman, or Hebrew cultures for all the ways they have shaped our understanding. The classical civilizations of Africa, many of which still live today, have formed our lives in ways that many of us scarcely comprehend.

Thus it is that a pilgrimage opportunity to West Africa began to take shape. Working with an organization based in the UK, we have made plans to visit Ghana, Togo, and Benin, from December 29, 2023 to January 11, 2024. We'll fly into Accra, Ghana, and we'll spend several days exploring the legacy of the slave trade in that country. That's work that we in the United States, and in Old Lyme, need to be doing. But with that experience serving as a

backdrop, we'll then pivot, beginning to explore some of the sacred traditions and practices that make that part of the world so vibrant. In Ghana, we'll journey to Kumasi, sacred site of the Ashanti kingdom, one of the most powerful kingdoms in West Africa until the end of the 19th century. We'll visit forest groves in that region, also deemed sacred, before crossing into Togo, where we'll visit Sokode, and the Tamberme Villages, which were arranged in such a way that they were able to resist slave traders. That means that those sites offer unique insights into cultural practices that remain more or less intact from before the rupture occasioned by the trade. From there, we'll continue our journey into Benin, where our pilgrimage will culminate with an exploration of the traditions found in ancient Dahomey - currently featured in the film *The Woman King*. There, we'll have the opportunity to attend the International Festival of Vodun, a world historical tradition that deserves to be counted among the world's great religious traditions. Those are merely a few of the highlights of this journey. Throughout, we'll be meeting with local leaders, and we'll be invited into many ritual moments that have, in ways large and small, helped to shape the modern world.

The time is now to start forming our group of travelers. Space is limited to no more than 15 people, and we'll need to begin making preparations for the journey soon. And so if you're interested, please reach out to me at steven@jungkeit.net.

My hope is that, not unlike Tom DeWolf, this journey shall be a catalyst for many of us as individuals, but for our community

as well. My hope is that it serves as a call toward lives of healing and embrace, and toward visions of racial justice and reconciliation. My hope is that, whether on the journey itself or through other forms of participation, we might all open ourselves to new understandings of faith and the sacred, of pluralism and of our shared ethical responsibilities in the world.

Stay human...



Reading: *A Fistful of Shells* by Toby Green (I know I recommended this earlier, but it took some time, and it truly is excellent); Dante's *Inferno* (multiple translations); *Fifty Two Stories*, by Anton Chekhov; *Soul by Soul* by Walter Johnson.

Listening: *Grupo Monumental* (self-titled album from 1970's Cuba); *Moonlight Benjamin, Wayo*; *Soul'd Out: The Complete Wattstax Collection* (a monumental document of the 1972 festival in Watts, Los Angeles).

Watching: *Daisy Jones and the Six* (Netflix).

Stilllllllllllll Waiting For: *Babylon Berlin, Season 4*.

A Complete Reading of Dante's *Inferno*

"He descended into hell..."

So says one of the ancient creeds of the Christian Church (The Apostle's Creed) when speaking of the events of Holy Week. After the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, ancient and medieval Christians (and some modern ones too) believed that Jesus descended into hell to free those souls trapped in bondage. When that work was accomplished, Jesus rose again on what we now call Easter Sunday. In the words of the creed, "On the third day he rose again from the dead."

This year, FCCOL will be following that same ancient pattern. We'll gather on April 6th at 6:00 PM in the Meetinghouse for a traditional Maundy Thursday service of Scripture, sacred song, and communion. At 7:00, when the service is over, we'll transition, reenacting our own descent into hell by reading the entirety of Dante's *Inferno* in a darkened Meetinghouse. We have 34 different readers for each of the 34 cantos. Each canto will represent differing translations of the *Inferno*, some using traditional language, and some using very contemporary forms of expression. We'll take several breaks throughout, as music plays. Coffee and refreshments will be available in the connector between the Meetinghouse and the Fellowship Hall. For those who make it all the way to the end, emerging from the darkness of hell to see the stars once again, there shall be a late night celebration of sherry and wine. There will also be commemorative posters for those who make it all the way to the end. It shall be an unforgettable night.

★ WE'RE ON A ★
HIGHWAY TO HELL

A Complete Reading of Dante's *Inferno*

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 6 7:00 PM | The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

HAND SET AND PRINTED AT TYPE HIGH LETTERPRESS, ROCHESTER NY TYPEHIGH.COM

Here are several thoughts to help orient you for the evening:

1. The poem begins on Maundy Thursday. And so it is fitting that we read it on that particular night.
2. It is set in 1300, in the midst of a civil war then occurring in Italy between rival factions called the Guelphs and Ghibellines. The poem is filled with references to those realities, meaning that Dante is writing a theology of his own present, using all the mythological, theological, and literary resources that were available to him.
3. Recall that Dante wrote his great work when he was a political refugee, reckoning with the disaster that had been unleashed upon his world.

4. Recall as well that his journey into hell is but the first part of the poem. Healing is discovered in the second part, *Purgatorio*. A vision of human flourishing is found in the third, *Paradiso*. Ask yourself: do we also need to go beyond hell? What does it mean to heal from the sufferings inflicted there? And what might a life of flourishing look like, imaginatively and poetically speaking?
5. Don't get hung up on whether you believe - theologically speaking - in Dante's project. This is a poetic description of this world and of the world to come. It's not meant to be read as a metaphysical treatise. It is poetic, which is to say, existential, in character.
6. You won't follow each and every reference. Don't worry about that. Let the language wash over you, the way you might let a piece of music wash over you.
7. If you get restless or sleepy, get up and walk around. You don't have to be still throughout the reading. Walk out and get a cup of coffee. Or go to sleep in the pews. (What an interesting way to let sleep find you - while Dante's words are being read aloud. Surely you will have vivid dreams!)
8. If you can't make it through the entire reading, just come for part of it.
9. Let your curiosity be piqued. Who are these people that we'll be meeting? What is this world that we're exploring? How does it reflect not only Dante's world, but the world that we live in?
10. Above all, have fun with it. Relish the fact that you're able to explore one of the world's great classics this Holy Week, a text that has funded the imagination of generations of religious and secular thinkers alike.

85TH WHITE ELEPHANT SALE — 2023



Image of 1974 White Elephant Sale featured in the July edition of the Olde Lyme Gazette.

This will be our 85th 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 those that donated. Even with Covid canceling the previous 2 years we had the 3rd best sale ever last year and are looking to continue the pace.

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 7/7 with time out on Sunday, Monday & July 4th [see calendar enclosed]. Due to the volume we only have 6 days of intake and NO night intake. Don't miss out on your opportunity to donate those treasures but remember - Quality Items Please. More to follow on the type of items needed, drop-off times and any limited pick-up service. For the 2023 calendar, a

list of the items that we will accept and pictures of past year's fair including the YouTube videos, please look for more info on the church web site fcol.org.

This year's sale dates are:

Friday July 14th 9:00 to 2:00
 Saturday July 15th 8:00 to 12:00

As usual the WES board reviewed the 2022 sale and responded to comments - a number were incorporated in an attempt to make for a safer and better shopping experience.

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, selling, cleanup and especially with intake during the week to unload and sort, as the parking lot gets quite busy with cars dropping off items.

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. Current needs are:

- Baked Goods - Co-chair
- Children's clothing - (2) Co-chairs
- Knick knacks - Co-chair
- Men's dept - Co-chair
- Large Furniture - Co-Chair

- Worker refreshment during sale – school parent to guide young workers
- Package checking during sale – school parent to guide young workers

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. Each year we have 200+ volunteers and can always use more. If interested, please call the church 434-8686 or any one of


the following area coordinators:

Anita Allen	227-6850
Bob Davis	884-7568
Natalie Fogg	451-8460
Roxie Gallagher	227-4649

JUNE

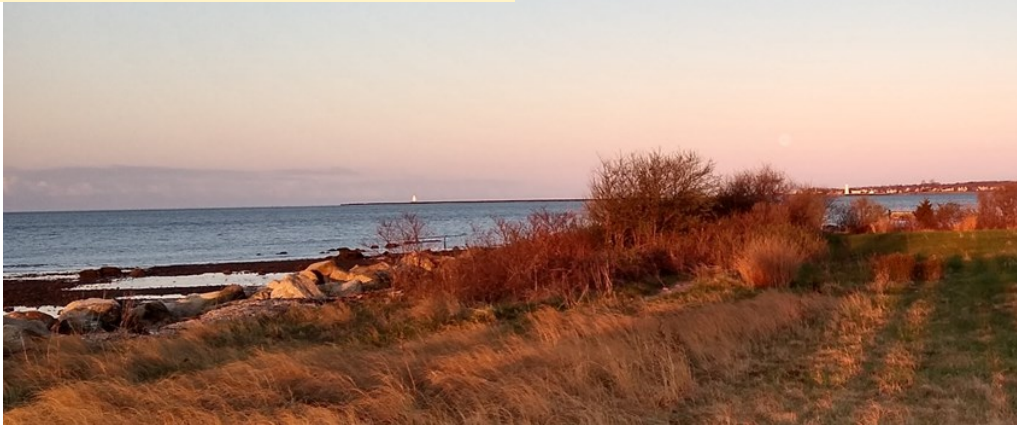
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18	19	20	21	22 Pre SET-UP INSIDE [hang signs move tables, etc]	23 Pre SET-UP INSIDE [milk crates, tubs, etc]	24 SET-UP INSIDE [9:00 am – 12:00]
25	26	27	28	29 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	30 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00 Workers Lunch	1 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 CLOSED Sort & Price	4 HOLIDAY 	5 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	6 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	7 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00 Workers Lunch	8 CLOSED Sort & Price
9	10 CLOSED Sort & Price for sale. Move art to Narthax Clean up and Finalize inside setup	11 During Day Big Tens & Sport Goods 5-7 pm Outside tables, Plant, Baked Good, Coffee Tents Go up	12 CLOSED Sort & Price Finalize any remaining outside Set-up	13 SET-UP OUTSIDE 8 AM ->> Workers Lunch	14 SALE 9:00 - 2:00	15 SALE 8:00 – 12:00 CLEANUP & Snacks 12:00 ->>

GOD'S NEIGHBORHOOD

Easter morning at Griswold Point 2022



Happy Easter!

With the arrival of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, students in God's Neighborhood will be hearing familiar scripture stories of the season and be on the lookout for sightings of spring in our backyards! We'll remember the message of love that Jesus shared at the Last Supper with his friends to "love one another as I have loved you." - John 13:34

Later in April, we'll celebrate Earth Day and the beauty of all creatures great and small. We'll reflect on some of the learning we've done this year about water conservation and communities in need of water around the world. We'll work on our service and art projects. How is your garden growing?

"The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night, but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory." - Isaiah 60:19

Sunday, April 2 - We'll have a children's parade of the palms and read the story of Jesus entering the gates of the city of Jerusalem. Together, students will consider how they may have reacted if they'd been in Jerusalem

that day. We'll also learn a little bit about Holy Week and the events of Easter and join the adults on the front lawn after church.

"So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord...!" - John 12:13

Easter Sunday, April 9 - Happy Easter! No Sunday School today.

"He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said." - Matthew 28:6

Sunday, April 16 - This week some classes will read and act out the scripture story of Jesus appearing to his disciples after the Resurrection and making them breakfast on the beach. Other classes will engage in a planting or rain themed activity.

"You have surrounded us with glory and splendor" - Psalm 8

Sunday, April 23 - Earth Day is here!!! In God's Neighborhood, we celebrate the beauty of spring and the sacred gift of water. We'll appreciate the smallest of creatures who need water in order to live and we'll engage in

a planting project. Each student will receive a surprise to bring home to our yards and gardens. A generous parent will join us today and share resources with us about our indigenous ancestors.

"O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." - Psalm 104:24

Sunday, April 30 - Today we'll review the work we've done, lessons learned, and stories shared. We'll also finish up any projects and begin planning for Children's Sunday on May 22nd.



Spring Poem: This Morning
by Mary Oliver
This morning the redbirds' eggs have hatched and already the chicks are chirping for food. They don't know where it's coming from, they just keep shouting, "More! More!" Their eyes haven't opened, they know nothing about the sky that's waiting. Or the thousands, the millions of trees. They don't even know they have wings. And just like that, like a simple neighborhood event, a miracle is taking place. What spring miracles have you seen lately?

ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Following up on Tom Sherer's piece a couple of months ago about the global insectocalypse:

The venerable oak.

Most people are aware by now of the pollinator gardens popping up everywhere, some of them part of the Pollinator Pathway project started in 2017 in Ct and NY., which now boasts 250 communities across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states in just over five years! Insects might be thought of as the plankton of terrestrial earth, underpinning so much else. Clearly, this issue is resonating. People are becoming more interested in planting native trees, shrubs and perennials to assist the natural world in defending against environmental difficulties.

A keystone species few people consider is the ever-present oak tree. Depending on the species, (and honestly, the survey!) estimates range that from 500-900 species of insects alone can be supported by a single oak tree by providing food and housing for bugs and their offspring. Our local white oak is one of these super-supporters. Red oaks are thought to provide habitat for over 150 species of insects. These in turn feed birds (and probably bats) while at the same time the trees provide housing and food for other warm-blooded creatures. These, also lower on the food chain, support the larger creatures.

Sadly, oaks are suffering their own pressures - from erratic weather causing droughts or soggy weather, invasive insects, browsing deer, human development and more. The deer are problematic because of their exploding population, which if left unchecked by predators, can

double every 2 - 3 years. Because white oak germinates in the fall, while red oak germinates in the spring, deer browsing is causing a decline in the white oak survival rate. During the winter the deer have little to eat, and a tasty young seedling is quickly consumed. (Not to let development off the hook here! I'm pretty sure we all recognize that is a huge factor in all of this.)

The super-supporters, our white oaks, are suffering a population implosion as the next generation gets depleted. It's important not to take the survival of this ubiquitous tree for granted. It truly supports so much that we all depend on.

- Mariette Brown

-Dept of Environmental Conservation- NY

-Tallamy, et al - Dept of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, Univ of Delaware 8billiontrees.com (uses USDA data)



But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

-Job 12:7-10



Japanese Knotweed

In this time between the cold of winter and our veggie gardens popping, Mother Nature provides a bounty just waiting for your interest! Do you know what kind of delicious treats await you, perhaps even right in your back yard? Dandelion greens and flowers, wintergreen leaves and berries, pine needle tea and so much more await. Foraging is a wonderful way to connect with nature at a deep and spiritual level, and the Connecticut Foraging Club is a wonderful resource to get you started. Here's what the CT Foraging Club says about Japanese Knotweed:

Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) is an edible invasive plant that is starting to emerge this time of year in CT. Japanese knotweed is best harvested as young, tender shoots. The shoots can be eaten raw or used as a rhubarb substitute in recipes. Japanese knotweed is highly invasive, so leftover pieces of the plant should not be put in your compost unless they are boiled first. Japanese knotweed has a high concentration of resveratrol, the compound in grape skins known to promote heart health.

- Mary Tomassetti



Tree of Life Travelers on their journey to Israel, Palestine and Saudi Arabia (above). Ladies Who Stitch craft (below).



Members and friends at our Chili Cookoff in February (above). Members of Ladies Who Stitch did an amazing restoration job on their "minister-bench rescue" (below). Toddlers enjoying the Nursery (right).



EMPLOYMENT

Rab Nawaz/Kappri Painting, LLC

Free estimates. Power painting, power washing interior and exterior, gutter cleaning, wallpaper install and removal. 30+ years experience. Satisfaction guaranteed. The church has experience with this company. Kappripainting@gmail.com or 860-857-0326.

American Craftsmen needs America's help. Let me restore your family heirloom as a furniture maker of 33 years. 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. Please contact Dick Humphreville at 860-442-5003 or www.humphrevillefurniture.com.

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 CAD12 - 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional. David S Nelson-Building Design Service DSNdesign@comcast.net or 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.

Professional Caregiver Available. For evening hours. For more information and references contact Sim at 203-833-2992.

Sue Mandeville: Transportation and/or accompaniment to professional or medical appointments, as well as 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.

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. To schedule a consultation, contact Lorelei at 860-536-0260 or loreleimitchell12@gmail.com.

Guli Gvelesiani: I lived in Old Lyme and worked for 7 years as a live-in caregiver for a church family. I can provide live-in caregiving for families in Old Lyme and other locations in CT. 860-391-5691.

Carolyn Randall: If anyone is flying somewhere for the holidays and you don't want to leave your car in long term parking, I will drive you to airport. Going South for the winter, I will drive you to airport—Bradley, Providence or JFK. Call me at 860-343-3573.

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 make recommendations; but their names and number are listed below:

- **Martha Durfee** 860-575-6518

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2 FERRY ROAD
OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371**

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #7
Old Saybrook, CT
Non-Profit Organization



The next Newsletter will be for May; deadline is April 14.

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!

