

OCTOBER 2023



Dear Friends,

My letter this month is an invitation - to an event, but also to a way of inhabiting the world. I want to draw your attention to the final weekend of October (the 28th and 29th) for the next in our series of All Saints celebrations. That's when Michele Rosewoman and New Yor-Uba, an 11 piece jazz Latin Jazz ensemble from New York City, will be with us. But I also want to use this as an occasion to think briefly about who we are at FCCOL, and why we do what we do. And so let me unfurl a set of images that help me to understand what we're about as a community of faith.

On a recent late summer Sunday, in a moment of relative stillness during the service, I remember noticing sounds from outdoors drifting in through the windows of the Meetinghouse. It happens with some frequency from late spring to early fall, when the only way to cool the space is by letting air flow through the open windows. Sometimes a siren interrupts us. Other times the beeping

of a delivery truck in reverse, or just the sound of tires on pavement will enter in. Occasionally there will be a conversation between passersby, or perhaps the roar of a motorcycle. For the most part, I don't notice those sounds. But on this particular Sunday, I suddenly thought that the open windows of the Meetinghouse were a perfect metaphor for the kind of faith we try to practice, and the kind of community we are attempting to be.

Imagine that the walls and the domed roof of the Meetinghouse are somehow akin to the structures that have upheld Christian faith for centuries. The walls and the dome are something like the Biblical stories and the theology that uphold a faith tradition such as ours. Any religious practice worth its salt has a formal structure of some sort, and in our case, that structure is made up of centuries of theological and doctrinal debates that have allowed for a particular form of existence (Congregationalism) to come into

being. Like the Meetinghouse itself, the life of faith depends upon a recognizable structure that gives it a shape, a content, and a form. As in architecture we don't need to understand the particular formulas of engineering or physics in order to benefit from the structure itself, so in the life of faith we may not always be aware of the theology that is holding up the content of our faith. But we depend upon it all the same, and we seek to understand it more fully.

Many churches I have known and observed attempt to make those structures into a kind of closed system. They shut the windows tight to keep the noises from outside the church from entering. In so doing, the church becomes a world unto itself. Outside ideas become suspect. Outside cultural materials are shut out. Such churches maintain an inner coherence - you always know exactly what they believe - but too often, they also become tight, airless, and claustrophobic.

CONTINUE ON P. 5

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

Michele Rosewoman



Michele Rosewoman and New Yor-Uba Jazz Ensemble

In keeping with our recently established practice of finding creative ways to celebrate All Saints Weekend (known variously in different parts of the globe as All Souls, Dia de los Muertos, Fete Gede, etc.), the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme will welcome Michele Rosewoman and her New Yor-Uba Jazz Ensemble to Old Lyme. On Saturday, **October 28** at 5:00pm there will be a concert, and on Sunday morning, **October 29** at 10:00 am for a Service of Sacred Music. We are fortunate indeed to be able to welcome such a stellar and storied ensemble to our community.

Formed 40 years ago, Michele Rosewoman's New Yor-Uba has blended contemporary jazz and traditional Cuban music, tracing the path of a dynamic musical and spiritual system from Nigeria to Cuba and then to New York (and, by extension, New England as well). This is the tradition of the Orishas, spiritual deities that govern different aspects of the world and of human life. The Orishas have provided strength and shelter for generations of people seeking to preserve their ancestry, and humanity, across numerous and varied hardships. Yoruba music and spirituality has been a gift to world culture, and has shaped the life of the Americas in ways that deserve broader recognition. Through her decades of musical innovation, Michele Rosewoman has been instrumental in bringing both the music, and the traditions, to a wider public.

New Yor-Uba is composed of: Michele Rosewoman (piano), Alejandro Berti (trumpet), Greg Osby (alto, soprano sax), Stacy Dillard (tenor sax), Chris Washburne (trombone, tuba), Yunior Terry (bass), Robby Ameen (drums), Román Díaz (percussion) Rafael Monteagudo (percussion), Abraham Rodriguez (percussion), and Roger Consiglio (vocals).

Funded in part by the New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, these concerts are a part of a wider tour this fall, with stops at Boston University and in Springfield, MA (The Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares). Using music as the conduit, it is an effort to highlight the contributions of African and Afro-Diasporic traditions to the cultural life of New England.

Ladies Who Stitch

We are back at work on Mondays in the Sheffield Auditorium - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. We welcome shoppers, visitors, new members, and donations of quality fabric and yarn during this time.

While we work, we open the Partnership Store offering items from Haiti, Palestine, Tribal Crafts and the Ladies Who Stitch.

The Store is also open following Sunday morning church services. Fall and winter holidays are just around the corner - come shop with the Partners!

Questions? Please contact Eunice at eunicetaylor@me.com.

Senior Choir

To all members of the Senior Choir - thank you for such a great start to the new season!

Here is the October schedule:

Wednesday, October 4: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 8: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, October 11: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 15: Singing at the 10:00 am with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, October 18: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 22: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, October 25: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, October 29: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Many thanks and best wishes to all,
Simon

Bible Study: The Book of Ruth on Thursdays from 11-12

We're deepening our study of the Book of Ruth from the Old Testament. In just four short chapters, there's calamity, exile, gender issues, scandal, and sexualized stereotypes. Read on! Through her words and actions, the protagonist, Ruth, leads us to think beyond borders and the arbitrary lines we draw around "the stranger." Supplementary text: *Borders and Belonging: The Book of Ruth: A Story for our Times* by Pdraig O'Tuama and Glenn Jordan, (2021).

Adult Forum

Following the service on Sunday, October 15th, as part of our Brave Voices series this year, we're looking forward to hosting Viacheslav "Slavik" Lytvynenko, Slavik of Ukraine. He's currently at Yale Divinity School this year continuing his research through the Scholar at Risk program.

Ladies Benevolent Society

Our usual second Tuesday of the month luncheon will not be offered in October. It was hoped that we would instead host a Harvest Dinner, thinking that might help in increasing participation, which has been dropping off for a few years now. We were all set to host the dinner on October 22nd, but have learned just recently that the church may be hosting its own dinner on October 27th.

Not wanting to create a situation where our dinner might decrease the number of people attending a church-wide dinner just five days later, we have canceled our dinner hosting plans...and we will instead partner up with the Church Council to (hopefully) host a wonderful October dinner and opportunity for fellowship.

When plans have been firmed up, information will be made available on the church website and in the Sunday bulletin.

Grief and Loss Group: Healing in Good Company

This monthly support group is for those who have lost a loved one and those struggling with other losses. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 25th 5:30-6:30. Meet in Hoag Parlor. Co-Facilitated by Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager and Mary McGannon Kollman.

Writing at the Well

Friday, October 27th, 10:00-11:30.

Join us as we meet once a month to write pages together. Using informal writing prompts, participants give voice to memories and the stories that make up our lives. No writing experience necessary...just a willingness to pay attention and tap into the well-spring. Meeting in the library.

Save the Date! Women's Fall Retreat: Unexpected Gifts

Join us on Friday, November 3rd 10:00-2:30 pm.

"Take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention."

- John O'Donohue

As the leaves change and light grows precious, join us for a day apart as we enter a sacred rhythm for storytelling, friendship and quiet reflection along the Connecticut River. Bring a friend or just yourself! \$10 offering. Lunch provided. Location: Home of Susan and Bill Switzer, 12 Andrews Road, Essex CT. Facilitators: Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager and Susan Switzer. To register email the office at fccol@fccol.org.

Diaper Bank

- D** Daily health items for babies, infants and toddlers.
- I** Infants need, on average, 8 – 10 diaper changes every day.
- A** Anonymity is amazing at FCCOL. Individuals leave diapers and wipes with out ever being seen or recognized. It's humbling to know the ministry is all about the babies and their families.

The Diaper Bank never asked for food. It was not a goal, not part of our mission. Yet an anonymous individual donates cases of baby food: fruits, vegetables, and meats, every week. Also included are containers of rice and whole grain cereals. A rare glimpse of him was caught one day after this weekly donation. Opening the side door of the church, I waved and yelled, "thank you". He nodded and waved, as he got into his truck and drove away. AWESOME.

- P** Diapers are received like presents. Most guests, graciously accept these needed items with a smile and thank you. To be present to these guests is a humbling gift to the Diaper Bank volunteers.
- E** Eyes tell a story. Each guest, some accompanied by his/her child may show: longing; kindness; tiredness; a blank stare; happiness; anxiety; and/or stress. Everyone has a story.
- R** Reverence and respect for each other as fellow human beings is evident. We are all in this together. There is no "we and they"; "no us and them".
- S** Saturdays, one day a month, the Diaper Bank Ministry supports infants and toddlers with basic health needs. Next distribution dates: October 7, November 4, and December 2.

Tree of Life Journey

The next Tree of Life journey is planned for January 2–19, 2024, and will include an extension to Bosnia. Ghoufran Allabadidi will lead this trip along with Miki Newman who is originally from Bosnia and now serves as one of the leaders at the Bosnian-Islamic Cultural Center in Hartford.

From January 2 till January 13 we'll be in Israel and Palestine, visiting the people there who have become our friends over the past twenty years of our travels. From the 13th till the 19th we have an amazing opportunity to travel in Bosnia. The word "Bosnia" means running water. This is a beautiful country with lots of rivers, exceptional natural parks and mountains. The Winter Olympics were held there in 1984. The courageous people of Bosnia have endured many hardships and we will have the opportunity to learn about their past and present struggles. We are honored that they will be our hosts. A detailed flyer about this trip can be found in the front vestibule of the church and at our church office.

Our friend, Mazin Qumsiyeh, of the Palestine Natural History Museum and professor at Bethlehem University, closes his weekly newsletters with this phrase: "stay human." If you are in search of a deeper humanity, if you wish to move beyond theologies of exclusion, if you want to meet Tree of Life's extraordinary ensemble of friends – Christians, Muslims, Jews and those of no particular faith identity who everyday demonstrate what it means to "stay human", please join us for this journey.

For further information please contact Ghoufran at Ghoufran@tolef.org or David Good at davidwgood@fccol.org.



Church World Service honors Hildegard Rennhard and Our Church

At our September LBS luncheon we had a visitor from Church World Service's main office in Massachusetts. Adam Smithberg joined us to present Hildegard Rennhard with a certificate and plaque to honor her 25 years of service coordinating our CWS blanket drive. During those years, FCCOL has raised over \$90,000 to support the work of CWS, delivering essential blankets to climate and political crises all over the world. The blankets we have helped to purchase have made their way to folks impacted by natural disasters like hurricanes Katrina, Harvey and Irma and tornadoes in the Midwest. They are also critical in temporary shelters of asylees and asylum seekers. They also make their way to political and natural disasters around the globe.

We are grateful to Hildegard for her years of dedication to this important work. And we are grateful to each person who has supported this critical rescue work. Thank you all!!!

A Day in the Life at the Homeless Hospitality Center (HHC), New London

An elderly man limped across the parking lot and settled onto an outside picnic bench. Earlier that day he had been released from incarceration. He was sent away without the return of his personal belongings, so he had nothing. No wallet, no identification, no money, no key to his small apartment. In spite of an obvious leg injury, he did the only thing he could do. He walked several miles to the HHC to ask for help.

Later that day a young lady used an available computer to search on-line for daycare for her young daughter. Earlier in the week the young mother had been turned away from the house where she had been living. While she slept on a couch at a friend's house, she focused on her first order of business - finding adequate care for her child and then finding a job.

Both visitors were calm, clear thinking and seeking self-sufficiency.

On a day in August, as a member of the Board of Missions I visited Cathy Zall, the Director of HHC. My purpose was to become familiar with the facility and the services provided there and to assess their needs. Cathy generously spent her time with me, touring the site and asking permission to interview clients and support providers. While we think of HHC as housing those with housing insecurity, their services are significantly more far reaching. In the basement floor, individuals who were recently dismissed from hospitalizations are given private rooms and critical medical care. The first floor provides daytime services, such as bathrooms, laundry facilities and lunches, for those who are on the waiting

list for an overnight bed. Overnight guests qualify for a bed once their name is called from the waitlist. Otherwise they spend the night outside.

Add to this social services, medical supports, mental health counseling, and even a mailbox (where do you receive important mail when you have no home address?) and the depth of support reveals itself. Even the extra food

from the Shoreline Soup Kitchen that FCCOL and other area churches support is sent to feed the HHC clients.

Their urgent needs continue to grow. When asked how FCCOL could best support HHC, Cathy responded that they appreciate receiving funds to continue to provide services and maintain their property. In a recent meeting of the Board of Missions, it

was decided to continue and increase our support. Take pride knowing that, as members of FCCOL, your contributions are helping our neighbors most in need. Thank you.

Submitted by Dale Bernardoni,
Board of Missions

DEAR FRIENDS, CONTINUED

That's why I love what we do at FCCOL. We're a church with open windows. We depend upon the structures that hold us intact, but we keep the windows open in order to allow other cultural breezes to flow through - the questions that surface all around us, the ethical challenges that confront us, the differing ways of construing Divinity and the world that all of us encounter. It's never a matter of choosing between the two, the structure and the openings. We need them both in order to be attentive to the world as it actually exists in any given moment.

Over the years, many things have come through our open windows that have enlarged our perspective: Lakota friendships and rituals, the struggle for justice in South Africa and Palestine, the pursuit of education in Haiti, to say nothing of the immigrants and refugees that have become a part of our community. These are the people and perspectives that can enter a church structure with open windows and doors.

Lately, another set of sounds, images, and ideas has been drifting in, this time from the Caribbean, and West Africa. As we've learned more about the history of Southern New England and Old

Lyme, it has become clear that we need to be attentive to the African and African Diasporic arts and ideas that have helped to create the world we live in today. A part of that exploration will be a 14 day journey to Ghana, Togo, and Benin, taking place this coming December and January. But another way of exploring it shall be through the music of Michele Rosewoman and New Yor-Uba on the weekend of October 28 and 29, All Saints Weekend.

For thirty years, New Yor-Uba has been blending Latin jazz with the sacred music of Cuba, which emerged, in part, from West Africa. The band has played all around the world, perhaps most notably in a series of performances at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Fronted by Rosewoman on piano, they are an incredibly tight and exhilarating band, fusing sacred bata drums with a modern jazz sensibility. We are fortunate to be able to welcome them all.

On Saturday evening, October 28, they will offer a performance in the Meetinghouse at 5:00 PM. They'll return on Sunday morning for our worship service at 10:00 AM, with a repertoire of sacred Cuban music.

It's all a way of keeping our windows open, of allowing a fresh breeze to blow through the structures that continue to hold us. I hope you'll come and be a part of it.

Stay open. And stay human...



Reading: *The Auburn Conference*, by Tom Piazza; *The Sentence*, by Louise Erdrich; *Outer Dark*, by Cormac McCarthy; *The Aeneid*, by Virgil; *Paradiso*, by Dante; *Vodun in Coastal Benin*, by Dana Rush; *Inheriting the Trade* (reread), by Tom DeWolf; various *Dialogues*, by Plato.

Listening: *No Guru, No Method, No Teacher*, by Van Morrison; *The Vodoun Effect: Funk and Sato from Benin's Obscure Labels*; *Echoes Hypnotiques*, by Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou; selections from all stars of New York Latin Jazz: Machito, Tito Puente, and Tito Rodriguez.

Watching: *The Bear* (Hulu); *The Silo* (Apple TV).

GOD'S NEIGHBORHOOD



We are continuing to explore our theme for this year, *Everyone's Invited: Stories and Songs of Belonging from Around the World*. On Sundays in October, we'll deepen our understanding of hospitality and the specific practices and gifts we bring to welcoming others. Hospitality challenges the notion that we only welcome people who are similar to us. Rather, it is about welcoming all people and sometimes stepping outside of our comfort zones to include not only friends and neighbors but even folks we are at odds with...(and animals, great and small, too!) Throughout the month we may be planning some activities and events that welcome people and brighten someone's day in unexpected ways. Stay tuned!

On Sunday October 1st, all FCCOL families are invited to Josh and Kim Thompson's home at 2 Littlefield Lane for S'mores, fun and a fire pit: from 3-5 pm.

On Sunday, October 8th, our Youth Group is invited for a hike from 2-4pm at McCulloch Family Open Space! Parking is across the street from 63 Whippoorwill Rd Old Lyme.

Starting Sunday, October 15th, we are collecting winter clothing and personal care items for our winter clothing drive for the Youth Group Breakfast Run (in December) to New York City and the Homeless Hospitality Center. We are hoping that you can help by dropping off items to FCCOL on the morning of October 15th, 2023. Coats, hats, gloves, new socks, boots, sweatshirts and hoodies that are in good shape are needed to keep our neighbors warm! Students will be collecting from 10-12 that day in boxes at the front of the church and also in Fellowship Hall.

Save the Date: FCCOL Youth Group Night at the Kate Theater in Old Saybrook!! On Wednesday, November 1st, at 7 pm, we'll meet for pizza and see the new musical, *Stand Up & Speak Out*,

featuring our own high school student, Ace Bairos. The musical addresses the effects that exclusion and negativity have on our youth and informs students about ways that they can Stand UP against the cycle of insensitivity. This show features inspiring songs, dialogue and dance with an important message for all ages meant to create a chain reaction of kindness! We have a limited number of tickets for purchase \$17.00. See Jolene at jmbrant2023@gmail.com to reserve! Join us for pizza at 5:45 in Old Saybrook before the show!



Images: Our September 10th, Homecoming Sunday service.



ON THE ENVIRONMENT



AI, Climate Change, Pandemics...Competing For Attention

Geoffrey Hinton is an emeritus Professor of computer science from the University of Toronto. He is a pioneer of AI (artificial intelligence) and now leads The Center for AI Safety. In a recent interview (Global Public Square, September 3, on CNN), Hinton shared his deep concern that unregulated AI poses an existential threat. He mentioned other concerns and threats to society including pandemics, nuclear war and more. However, his primary focus was AI.

Surprisingly, he suggested that climate change is somewhat down on his long list of concerns. Why?

Later in the interview, Prof. Hinton elaborated on his view of the priorities before us. He went on to say that unregulated AI and several other 'big ticket' topics concern him more because these, as yet, have no known remedies. He added that climate change has a known and fairly straightforward remedy: transition quickly to end the combustion of oil, gas, and coal, i.e., all fossil fuels.

As we transition away from fossil fuels, our planet will very slowly start to heal. An important take-away point is that hurricanes and other severe storms are ways that nature attempts to reduce the concentration of heat energy on the planet. View it this way: all that wind energy of a hurricane was once energy stored in warm water. Nature is rebalancing by moving energy from the warmest areas of earth toward the colder regions. However, we know this response is creating other problems. The polar ice caps are increasing impacted in negative ways. Unfortunately, some political leaders still say, 'drill baby drill'.

Donald Gonci

Climate March

Dave and I and about 15,000 of our friends met in NYC on 9/17 for the global climate March to end fossil fuels. Many different contingencies gathered before the 2023 UN Climate Ambition Summit, aiming for achieving sustainable development goals more quickly among signing countries.

People representing unions, indigenous groups, religious, refu-

gee, youth, racial and gender identity groups all gathered to express collective outrage at inaction on moving away from using fossil fuels, which are responsible for runaway climate change.

It was so gratifying to see such an accepting, diverse and dynamic crowd. A lot of energy was directed at Biden for not declaring a climate emergency. Recent policy decisions make it clear that neither party takes this crisis seriously. Nonetheless - local and lower level elections can still send a strong message. Please hold our politicians accountable! (Along with doing what you are already doing yourselves, that is!)

Mariette Brown

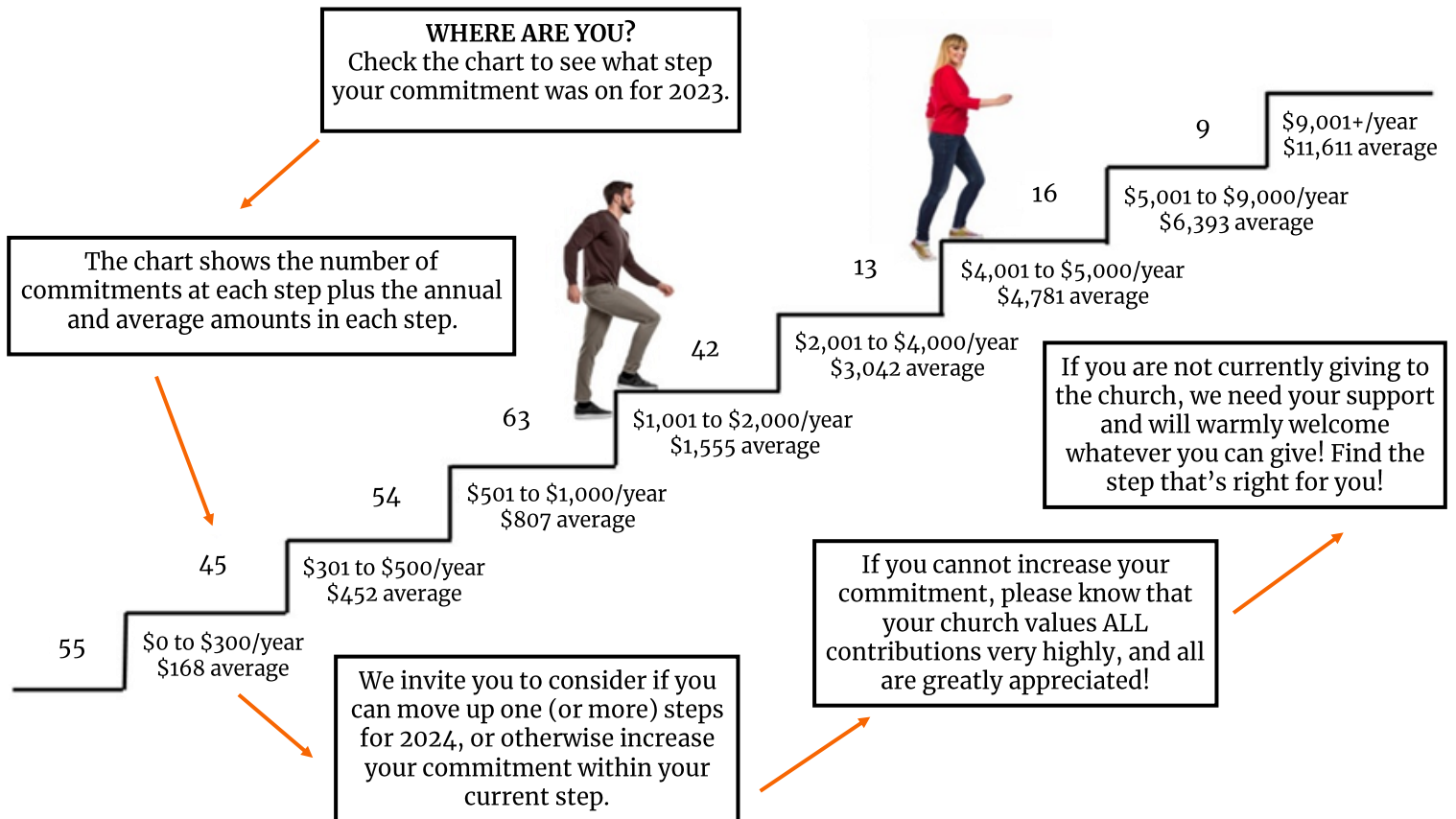
A Book to Read Together

Matthew Desmond's new book "Poverty by America" is a heart-wrenching but important book about the social insecurity and financial instability that ravage so many people in our country. It's not an "easy read" but it would be a *good read* to process with others. Join us if you can Thursday, October 12th at 4:30 pm in the church library.

GIVING MATTERS (THE SECOND IN A SERIES)

2024 CAMPAIGN—GIVING MATTERS!

AN INVITATION FOR ALL TO “STEP UP” IN 2024!



As we noted last month, a number of questions regarding church finances and making contributions naturally arise, especially at this time of year. In September we provided significant more detail on the church's operating financial situation. Here, we'll try and address often-asked questions regarding contributions from the congregation, such as: How much should we give? What is the "right" amount? How much do other people give? Why does the church want an annual commitment? What is expected of me?

To start with, no contributions are REQUIRED of anyone. We are not like a club or civic organization where there are set dues or assessments required in order to belong. Giving to our church is

completely voluntary. Some give substantially, some give modestly within their means. We, of course, hope that all contributions are motivated by a belief in our missions and ministries. But these are individual free-will decisions. And, we deeply appreciate ALL contributions. In a typical year over 75% of the church budget comes from individual contributions.

Each fall we do ask contributors to make an annual commitment. We understand that this type of request may not be familiar to those who come to this church from other faith traditions. But it is important to us so we can properly plan for the coming year. A majority of our budget is fixed in the near-term. But some of it is not, and we need to know

if some expense reductions or the need to look for other sources of income is necessary. We have in the past used the term "pledge", but since this is misinterpreted by some as a legal contract, we now prefer the term "commitment". But we want to make clear that this is in no way a binding or legal obligation. It is simply a best estimate. And as family financial situations change during the year we understand contributions may change accordingly.

How much should we give and is there a "right" amount? The "answers" here are very subjective and individual. A simple calculation shows that the average household contribution is about 1,900 per year. Not very satisfying guidance. It is an average of

some 300 households...some can and do give substantially more, some much less. A better perspective is provided in the graphic to the left. It shows how our church's contributions are distributed, and indicates how many households are in each range and what the average is within that range. So, each household can see how their sit-

uation compares to the others. Importantly, it also suggests and encourages each of us to "step up" when possible. The church's obligations increase with inflation each year, and we need those who are able to "step up".

We hope this column has helped with some of your frequently asked questions. Have more? Call

Jim Matschulat, Stewardship Chair, at 860-638-7337 or Bob McCracken, Treasurer, at 860-326-1206.

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY BUDGET FOR 2024 (8/22/23)

For posting in October 2023 newsletter, to be voted on at November Luncheon (11/14/23)

<u>LBS INTERNAL NEEDS</u>	<u>proposed</u>
WES/EIW expenses for 2024	15,000
Old Lyme Historical Society Calendar for 2024	288
Postage, paper	40
Luncheon expenses, programs	1,000
Kitchen equipment and supplies	1,000
Miscellaneous (reserved for unexpected expenses)	500
Reimbursement for groceries purchased for NL Meal Center	400
Total operating reserve for LBS internal needs:	\$18,228

MISSION GIFTS to be made in 2024*

FCCOL Pledge	30,000
FCCOL Major Maintenance Escrow Fund	5,000
Church World Service / One Great Hour of Sharing	2,000
Crosby Fund for Haitian Education	5,000
Cactus Jack Foundation, Inc.	300
Charley's Closet (Guilford Interfaith Volunteers)	500
Diaper Bank (partnered with Shoreline Food Pantry at FCCOL)	3,000
The Estuary, Inc., Old Saybrook	1,000
Hospice Care:	
Hospice & Palliative Care, Middletown	500
The Connecticut Hospice, Branford	500
Literacy Volunteers – Valley Shore, CT, Inc.	250
Lymes Senior Center	1,000
Lymewood (nfp operated by Elderly Housing Mgmt, Inc.)	200
New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Inc.	6,000
NLHHC, Veteran's Housing (Maj. Edw. Good House)	2,000
A Sacred Place: The Barbara Fund	1,500
Safe Futures, New London	3,000
Tribal Crafts	2,000
Total LBS Mission Commitments:	\$63,750

TOTAL LBS BUDGET FOR 2024: \$81,978

*FCCOL estimates that about a third of the annual FCCOL operating budget directly supports Mission outreach to the community and the wider world. None would be possible without a sustained investment in the core facilities of FCCOL which is necessary to launch, house, and nurture all of these efforts.

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.

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.

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

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.

Professional Male Caregiver Available with car: My name is Aldrean and I'm available for full-time and/or live in caregiving. For more information and references contact Al at 917-957-3963.

Retiring Artist Looking for an Apartment: I am looking for a small apartment to rent or a house sharing arrangement for mid May to the end of September 2024 in the shoreline, CT River area. Please contact me at 772-233-8958. Thank you, Maria Campbell

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 OF OLD LYME

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister (860-434-8686)
The Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister (860-304-9096)
The Rev. Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister (860-304-2070)
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music (860-705-3037)
The Rev. David W. Good, Minister Emeritus
The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby, Minister for Haitian Outreach
Rebecca A. Francisco, a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary,
serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel.

Jolene Brant, Director of Christian Education/Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Leader
Rachael Jungkeit, Director of Children's Music
Robert McCracken, Church Administrator
Odile Irakiza, Church Office Manager
Julie Mardjekaj, Bookkeeper

Church Office Tel: 860-434-8686
Fax: 860-434-1135
e-mail: fccol@fccol.org
Website: www.fccol.org

Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.
South Lyme Union Chapel Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Counseling and Psychotherapy Tel: 860-434-3813
Cary Walker, LCSW

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME,
Member U.C.C.

The reproduction of our Meetinghouse on the back is from a sketch by William Steeves.

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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The next Newsletter will be for November; deadline is October 18.

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!

