



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

Choir Carol: *A Spotless Rose*

Herbert Howells
Soloist Sean McCarty

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

Choir Carol: *Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Solo: *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam
Soloist Brian Cheney (tenor)

Offertory Prayer

Choir Carol: *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*

arranged David Willcocks

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

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 and Brian Cheney and Sean McCarty.



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, Allison Hine, Leland Hine, Anna Jungkeit, Augie Jungkeit, Elsa Jungkeit, Jeremy Jungkeit, Lilly Jungkeit, Luca Jungkeit, Pat Jungkeit, Rachael Jungkeit, Sabina Jungkeit, Annie McCarty, Sean McCarty, Angela Mock, Kate Paterson, 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.



Under The Meetinghouse Christmas Tree

We’ve been collecting gifts for the Homeless Hospitality Center of New London under our tree and we’ll continue through January 5th. If you’ve not had a chance to add a gift, please feel free to do so. They need not be wrapped.

Special needs requested for coffee (ground) because they need so much of it, socks, and recently I was told that canes would be wonderfully helpful. They have plenty of crutches – but hardly any canes and there is a growing demand because, unfortunately, a great many of the incoming guests are older. If you have a cane at home you no longer are in need of – that would be just fine!

*We are grateful to those who have offered support for our
Christmas Eve flowers and special music!*

In loving memory of
Vincent J. Santangelo, Robert V. Santangelo, Ray and Pauline Johnson
by April Johnson

In loving memory of Dr. Mark Stanberry
by Candy Stanberry.

In memory of our parents Roy and Jane Clark and
Bernard and Patricia Cellillie
by Dave and Kristen Clark.

In memory of loved ones
by Priscilla Swanson.

In memory of Virginia W. Gonci
by Don and D. Gonci.

In memory of our parents: Ann and Cornelius Hack and William Kelly
by Greg and Barbara Hack.

In loving memory of Carl and Nancy Johnson
by Pam Johnson.

In loving memory of Pauline, Frank, Polly and Philip Rogers
by Deborah Butler.

In loving memory my parents Etta W. Todd and Arthur D. Todd
by Eve Todd.

In memory of loved ones
of the Gerber and Hine families.

In memory of loved ones
of the Fitzpatrick and Nager families.

Mission Outreach at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme in 2024

This evening's offering will be used to support the Minister's Discretionary Fund of the First Congregational Church. Over the course of the past year this fund has dispersed a little over \$24,000 to support families in need. 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 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 \$54,000 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 \$63,750 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 region.

Additionally, in 2024, special gifts totaling more than \$160,000 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, a newly formed "Immigration Assistance Fund," The David Good Memorial Fund" (designated to assist in our partnership work), and more.

Beyond all that's listed above, anonymous gifts of over \$80,000 have enabled us to fund the rebuilding of the church's "parsonage barn" which is critical to our White Elephant Sale projects.

Thus, in total for the year 2024, over \$382,000 in critical support was made possible through the generosity and dedication 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
Alliance for Living of SECT
Covenant Shelter of New London
The Shepherd's Field School of Beit Sahour
Lymewood Senior Housing
Lymes' Senior Center Building Project
Lyme-Old Lyme Food Share Garden
Church World Service
UNRWA
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,
NLHHC Veterans' Housing Project (The Major Edward Good House);
Cactus Jack Foundation
Charley's Closet of Guilford
Literacy Volunteers of Valley Shore
Ct Hospice
Estuary Council of Seniors
A Sacred Place of the York Prison (the Barbara Fund)
World Central Kitchen
United Palestinian Appeal
ANERA (for aid to Gaza)
AMOS project connecting faith communities in New London County.

As 2024 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.

Epiphany Festivities Fellowship on January 5th: Service at 10:00 followed by a festive Fellowship Hour in honor of Epiphany or Three Kings Day. God's Neighborhood Sunday School resumes today!

God's Neighborhood: The Sunday School is on winter break and will return on January 5th with the start of the new session of our curriculum.

Old Lyme Meeting

Several of our members have been active in a plan to make some changes in the layout of the Halls Road business area. There is an important hearing that is critical to the progress of this work which will be held on Monday, January 13th at 6:30 in the Old Lyme Town Hall. This is perhaps mostly pertinent to residents of Old Lyme, though the shopping district is an important part of our region. The meeting is public.

ARC Blood Drive

Thursday, January 2nd om 1:00pm till 6:00 pm at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme.

Housing Wanted

We regularly hear from folks who are in need of an affordable rental. If you have any information that could be helpful, please let Anne in the office know.

ACLU Civil Rights Town Hall in Old Lyme

On Thursday, January 9, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Connecticut will hold a town hall at the First Congregation Church of Old Lyme (FCCOL) entitled "Civil Rights Town Hall: Implications of a Second Trump Administration."

Legal, policy and communications experts from the ACLU of CT will outline how the organization plans to use every tool at its disposal – litigation, advocacy and grassroots organizing – to protect civil rights and discuss the critical role Connecticut residents can play.

The experts will also take questions from the audience and facilitate a robust conversation on protecting the civil liberties most likely to be targeted by the incoming administration, including: Free speech and the right to assemble, Immigrants' rights, Reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, LGBTQIA+ rights, Voting rights, Criminal legal system, Government surveillance

To attend the town hall, please RSVP on this website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aclu-of-connecticut-civil-rights-town-hall-old-lyme-tickets-1090070934509>.



*The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 25th
and open at noon on Thursday, December 26th.*

The Meetinghouse will be open for Meditation and Prayer on Christmas Day.