

# SUMMER 2024



Dear Friends,

“There is a place where the sidewalk ends  
And before the street begins,  
And there the grass grows soft and white,  
And there the sun burns crimson bright,  
And there the moon-bird rests from his flight  
To cool in the peppermint wind.

-Shel Silverstein

I heard their laughter before I saw them. On a neighborhood walk the other day, I watched as three young children played a game of pretend around a madly blooming red azalea in their yard. Each of these second grade sprites had wings on (fairy wings, naturally) and a third, wore a crown. All of them had magic wands, too, because why not carry one wherever you go just in case you might need a bit of magic? They soon disappeared in between some bushes as I turned the corner, their giggles mingled with bird chatter following me all the way home.

Fun, play, joy. Summer is the time for that, isn't it?!

In a staff meeting recently we went around the table and shared something that we'd done over the past week that was "fun". While getting together with friends was the most common response, it took some of us awhile to come up with something.

When was the last time you had some fun? Or experienced a healthy dose of deep belly laughter? Not only does well being improve with some good times and laughter but the research points to an overall boost to our immune systems and is associated with better sleep, decreased blood pressure and healthier relationships.

(continued on page 4)

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

## Congratulations Class of 2024!

### Our High School Graduates

Elliott Bjornberg

Will Coppola

Leland Hine

Sabina Jungkeit

Mulanga Kazadi

## Senior Choir Schedule

### To all members of the Senior Choir:

Thank you for your wonderful singing at FCCOL this season! You have worked so hard, and your singing has really enhanced our services. Your efforts are very much appreciated!

Now, to everyone reading this; It's Your Turn!! This summer we will be holding two Summer Sings, or better known as "Turn up to FCCOL at 9:15am and rehearse for the 10:00am service, yes, it feels like the seat of your pants singing, but oh, what fun we'll have" Sundays! These will take place on July 14 and August 11. Please mark your calendars! I hope many of you will join us!

Simon

## Handbell Notes

The Old Lyme Ringers are continuing activities in the month of June. First, they will be attending a concert of the Shoreline Ringers on Sunday afternoon, June 2, in Old Saybrook, and second, they will be getting together for fellowship and potluck dinner on Tuesday, June 4. We know how much the ringers and the bells meant to the congregation this past season. They were a touching experience to many of the worshippers.

Thus, we want to expand our existing set and add an additional

12 bells. The bells are needed to fulfill the requirements of the advanced music the group is now ringing. Our goal is to have the funds no later than November 1, so that the bells are here and ready to ring for the Christmas season. So far we have received \$1,215 toward the goal of \$4,010 for the bells and case. Your gift, large or small, would be most appreciated! Bells can also be given as a memorial with names inscribed on the bell handle. Would you please consider a special gift to our handbell ringers? Any questions can be directed to Gary Jungkeit at [gjungkeit@charter.net](mailto:gjungkeit@charter.net)



## Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)

It is difficult to believe that it's already June! We have only three working Mondays left - June 3, 10, and 17 - before we take a summer break and store everything to make room for the White Elephant Sale. We will start up again on September 9th. During the summer, the Partnership Store, offering goods

from Haiti, Tribal Crafts, Palestine and LWS, is open on a limited basis following Sunday worship services and during the White Elephant Sale. Also, if you have a particular request, contact Eunice and she may be able to arrange a connection. Some of our creations are also consigned at the Woman's Exchange/Lyme Tree, located beside Subway in the Big Y Shopping Center. If you have never been there, it is well worth the visit as it is a unique gift store, offering beautiful creations from many artisans.

On May 13th, we received two beautiful antique quilts with local origins. In the fall, we will discuss with LBS how to best handle this valuable donation - so stay tuned. We made and donated Simple Bags for the new FCCOL confirmands, and potholders for new FCCOL members. And, since September, we have made and donated to the New London Homeless Hospitality Center, another 50+ large tote bags - making our total greater than 600 since 2017. One of our favorite things is being able to gift things to worthy causes and occasions.

Questions: Contact Eunice via email - [eunicetaylor@me.com](mailto:eunicetaylor@me.com).

## Grief Group

Join us for our monthly support group for those living with grief and loss. Wednesday June 26th, 5:30-6:30 pm in Hoag Parlor.

## Writing at the Well

The next meeting will be Friday, June 21st at 10:00 am in the Library. In this monthly spirituality group, we write and dip into the wellspring of the inward journey. No writing experience necessary.

## Hymn Sing

The **Hymn Sing** we did during a recent service received such a positive response we thought we'd try it again as part of a social evening. And so, on **June 14, Friday evening at 6:00 pm**, we will gather at Cynthia McFadden's home on the Connecticut River in Old Saybrook to eat and sing together. Rachael Jungkeit and/or Carleen Gerber will be at the piano, and we'll have food and beverages along with hymn books for the group. We can accommodate the first 50 people to call the church office at 860-434-8686.

## God's Neighborhood

Thank you to all our families, teachers, students, and volunteers who have helped make this year's Youth Education Program everything it is. I have felt so welcomed and loved in this positive and encouraging environment. It has been a pleasure getting to know all of you and growing with all of you through-out this year! And I very much look forward to working with you again next year!

The nursery will be open on Sundays throughout the summer except during the White Elephant Sale. On that weekend, our nursery will be brought upstairs. Details will be given before the service that weekend. Arts and crafts are available in Sheffield Auditorium during summer services for K-5th grade.

**Sunday, June 9th**, will be our last day of Sunday School. We will resume Sunday School for the new academic year starting on Homecoming Sunday,

September 8th at the 10am service. Here is our calendar for June:

**Sunday, June 2nd: Spring Cleanup at The Major Edwin Good House for Homeless Veterans. 19 Steward St. New London, CT 06320.** This event is for our Youth Group age 7th grade and up. Parents, please plan to help as well as many hands make light work. Bring yard tools, and bags, and gloves, for us all to do a spring cleanup for our veterans (lawn mowing, raking, planting, etc.).

**Saturday, June 8th: Rehearsals for Children's Sunday at FCCOL 3-5pm.** Thank you to Gavin and Rachael for directing and organizing this very fun event for our students. Rehearsals are a must. Parents, please bring a water bottle for your student. Pizza will be provided.

**Sunday, June 9th: Children's Sunday Service.** Join us for an end-of-academic year service where our students will take the lead and give the congregation an idea of what we learned and experienced throughout the year. Fun! We will also be honoring our high school graduates on this day. Congratulations to all of our hard-working seniors!!

**Sunday, June 23rd: Kim Thompson is hosting a little one's play date at the Cross Lane playground in Old Lyme from 3-5pm.** Yay! An event for our littles to get together and play! Come hang out with good company while our kiddos play at this fun playground! Bring a water bottle, snacks will be provided.

**Thursday, July 18th: Sunset and dinner at White Sands Beach 5-8ish.** We will all meet to carpool at FCCOL at around 5pm. Bring a blanket/chairs, drinks, and snacks so that we can enjoy the night together as the sun sets over Old Lyme!

## Confirmands & Mentors

Elsa Jungkeit & Carleen Gerber  
Annabelle Coppola & Kathy Sugland  
Ace Bairos and Bill Belluzzi  
Zoe Eastman-Grossel & Deb Heminway  
Phinneas Barrett & Alan MacGregor  
Julia Clark & Ellen Calkins  
Joe Kazadi & Fred Behringer

## New FCCOL Members

Aldrean Chuma  
Raegan Graziani  
Michael and Susan Jackson  
Joe Marcoux and Sue Phillips  
Sizani Mbonambi  
Lynn Richmond  
Randy Symington



## Diaper Bank Saturday

Baby Day is celebrated on May 2nd every year. In honor of our little guests, a Church member graciously gifted each baby and toddler with a new book. With food prices and non-food items skyrocketing, the gift of a book was greeted with warm smiles and eyes wide open. "Is this for me?" "Can I take one"? Adults carefully spent their time perusing the pages and pictures, before making a selection. Food, diapers, baby wipes, and occasional baby formula; knitted hats, an infrequent gift of a baby seat and, now, books! The surety of surprises is God's work in us. The ministry of the Diaper Bank is a grateful recipient of such surprises.

## Memorials in June & July

Sidney S. Whelan Jr.  
Constance Ludington Drayton  
Lucius D. Stark  
Ruth Cann  
Bill Johnson

While we continue to be engaged and aware of all the hard news and division swirling around us, I hope the summer days ahead allow you to unplug here and there. And tune into joy.

This is our FCCOL Summer Issue covering events at our church from June-August. Over the summer months, we continue our services at 10:00 am followed by fellowship hour under the trees. The choir will join us for Summer Sings, on Sunday, July 14th and Sunday, August 11th.

We wrap up our program year for God's Neighborhood on June 9th by celebrating Children's Sunday and also honoring our high school graduates. It is with great appreciation that we'll do our best to thank all of our Sunday School team from Jolene Brant, our Youth Education Coordinator, to all of our teachers, parents, and high school volunteers! There will be nursery coverage each Sunday throughout the summer while God's Neighborhood takes a break, resuming classes again on September 8th.

An evening at the beach is being scheduled for July at White Sands Beach and a Playground event for families of young children in June, so stay tuned for those dates.

We'll honor Juneteenth on Sunday, June 16th, at our church with returning Cuban musicians, Lazarro Galarraga, Roman Diaz, and friends. We hope you'll join us as well for a Juneteenth celebration of Jazz and Poetry at the Florence Griswold Museum from 2-4 on June 22nd. This event is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Witness Stones Old Lyme.

The Green Grass partnership Journey will take place Sunday, June 23rd through Saturday, June 29th.

As you can tell from the WES red flyers everywhere, the White Elephant Sale preparations have begun in earnest! See the calendar for all WES drop-offs and volunteer teams in the works. Those details and more can be found within these pages!

May piles of summer reading on lazy afternoons await you. May you find deep refreshment with family and friends, enjoy joyful and idle days and pack a magic wand in your backpack just in case. Give a call if you want to take an early morning walk or pull up a beach chair in our Fellowship garden now blooming in all its glory.

With love,



---

Reading:

Somehow: Thoughts on Love by Anne Lamott

West with Giraffes by Lynn Rutledge

Better Living through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World by Christian Cooper

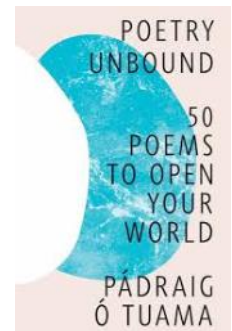
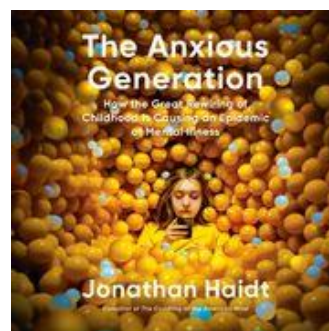
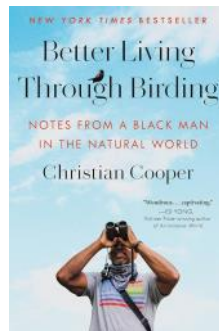
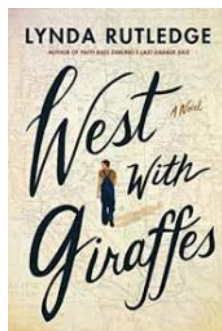
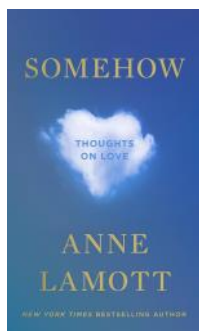
The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt

Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World by Padraig O'Tuama

Going to:

International Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven, CT

The Beach



## Board of Missions

### *Sharing Grace by the Pound*

Near the end of April, the Rev. Steven Jungkeit delivered a sermon entitled, "The Sacramentality of Everyday Life," that celebrated "moments of grace within a frenetic and merciless world." To make the case, Steve drew upon the lessons and themes contained in a popular television show called *The Bear* that revolves around a high-end chef and his staff in a low-end, Chicago sandwich shop.

Steve explained that one of the staff, a minor figure, learns the importance of attending to detail when serving others and in doing so, finds grace. "Grace is when someone intuits our needs and then meets them, just because," Steve said. "Through the acts of attention and care we lavish on one another, we have the power to confer such grace."

For more than 30 years that kind of grace has been delivered in the food pantry that our church operates as a host site of the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Food Pantry (SSKP) network serving 11 Towns in Middlesex and New London Counties. SSKP has five food pantries where registered guests can obtain groceries and eight daily meal sites where people can find a free hot meal. In 2023 SSKP shared almost 2 million

pounds of food with 162,00 registered guests – or enough for almost 1.5 million meals

SSKP was founded in Essex in 1989 in recognition that food security had become an issue for many that was not being met by municipalities. Today, more than 11,500 households are registered in the 11 Towns SSKP serves. The number of registrants in Old Lyme is 239 and in Lyme, 21. Food security was an issue then and its importance as a societal problem has only grown. The organization has operating budget of around \$2 million that is largely supported by donations of foods and funds from corporations, individuals, area chain stores (Big Y and Stop & Shop) local foundations, faith communities, community gardens and food co-ops. It receives no government support.

Between 8:30 and 10:30 most every Saturday morning will find dozens of individuals and families who have registered with SSKP FCCOL pushing their shopping carts through Fellowship Hall, filling their baskets with a complete array of grocery products that include fresh produce, canned goods, staples, dairy and eggs, frozen meats, bread and baked goods, as well as snacks and pet foods. In 2023 SSKP FCCOL shared 178,292 pounds of food with 1,058 guests – enough for 112,157 meals.

In addition, on the first Saturday

of the month, a group of FCCOL volunteers distribute diapers and baby food. Another ancillary program conducted by FCCOL is the "backpack program." In 2023 the program provided 3,836 pounds of snacks and other foods for 1,189 students in nine local schools.

The church supports SSKP in numerous ways. It collects food and diaper donations from members and provides financial support as part of the local outreach programs overseen by the Board of Missions. In addition, the church provides some 2,000 square feet of storage space directly below the meeting house where visitors can see rolling shelves of canned foods and groceries, as well as refrigerators and freezers, shopping carts, moving carts and coolers.

And, of course, one of the most important contributions from FCCOL are the members who volunteer. According to Audrey Brainerd, who has managed the pantry since October 2019, some 39 volunteers participate every week. A crew unloads food truck deliveries on Thursday and another crew unpacks the food and produce and stages it for distribution in Fellowship Hall on Friday.

(continued on page 7)



**"This is how Fellowship Hall looks on Friday afternoon once the crew of volunteers has unpacked the produce deliveries and set up the shelves for food distribution on Saturday morning."**

**All This Sainted Difference:  
*Buscando Haiti*  
(Journey to Eastern Cuba, March 13-23, 2025)**

Rev. Steve Jungkeit

One of the many projects we've undertaken at FCCOL over the past several years has been to explore how the history of Old Lyme, and of Southern New England more broadly, has been shaped by contact with peoples of the African diaspora. We've learned of more than 300 enslaved people that lived on the spaces we now use for worship, for school, and for other activities. We've commemorated many of those individuals through the Witness Stones. With that, we've also opened an exploration of African diasporic rituals and music, here at home (with visits from Román Díaz and his ensemble) and by traveling to Ghana, Togo, and Benin, as well as other key locations in this story, like New Orleans and Haiti.

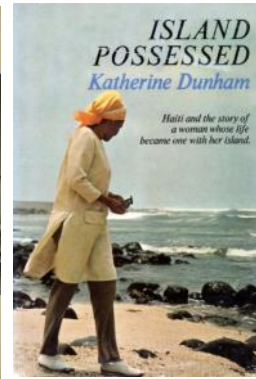
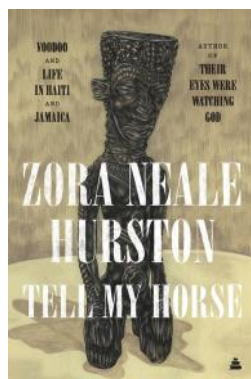
Now plans are afoot to visit the Eastern section of Cuba, centered around Santiago, from March 13-23, 2025. It's a section of the island called *Oriente*, a place that few outsiders now visit. It was there that thousands of Haitian planters and their captive workers fled after the Haitian Revolution. In exile twice over, the enslaved population there preserved the rituals, music, language and culture that had sustained them across both the Middle Passage and the Windward Passage (the straits separating Haiti and Cuba). To this day, those traditions can be found throughout Eastern Cuba, a living monument to the tenacity, courage, and creativity of a people across time and space.

In cities and mountain villages, we'll be exploring those traditions. This will be a journey with a heavy emphasis upon music and dance, which is how religion is conveyed in this part of the world. We'll be attending ceremonies every single day, and sometimes twice a day. We'll learn the history of the traditions we're encountering, and we'll also do a deep dive into the history and culture of the entire region. We'll be staying in the houses of locals. Because of conditions in Cuba, and because of the secretive nature of these traditions, this is a world that very few people get to access. But FCCOL will have that opportunity.

The journey will be organized and produced with our friend Ned Sublette, who has written the book on Cuban music, called, fittingly, *Cuba and its Music: From the First Drums to the Mambo*. Ned has joined us several times in Old Lyme, and he's been exploring the music and rituals of Cuba for the past 35 years. He's calling this journey *Oriente: Buscando Haiti*, which loosely translates as "looking for Haiti in Oriente." It's a resonant title, since our community hasn't been able to visit Haiti over the past several years. But we'll find Haiti, as it happens, in Cuba.

Email Steve Jungkeit if you're interested in learning more about this journey ([steven@jungkeit.net](mailto:steven@jungkeit.net)). It's a standalone experience, but it builds upon what we've done in West Africa in early 2024, as well as our visits to New Orleans and Haiti. And so why not come and discover a world of spirit, music, and culture that has shaped the history of the modern world?

**Addendum:** in preparation for this journey, I'll be exploring several key books this summer: *Tell My Horse*, by Zora Neale Hurston (the legendary folklorist and novelist who collected and preserved the stories of African Diasporic peoples throughout the Americas); *Divine Horsemen*, by Maya Deren (an experimental, avant-garde filmmaker in the mid 20th century, who was shaped by the traditions of Haiti); and *Island Possessed*, by Katherine Dunham (a dancer and choreographer who learned a crucial part of her art in Haiti, before sharing it more widely in the United States and beyond). In addition, I heartily recommend Ned's book, along with Ada Ferrer's Pulitzer Prize winning *Cuba: An American History*, for an overview of what we'll be exploring.



## Board of Missions

(continued from page 5)

On Saturday, more than 20 volunteers participate in the actual distribution to guests. FCCOL volunteers are involved in all three days, and many are longtime participants, including Henry May, Liz Edmonstone and Britt Sinay, along with others quoted below.

John and Angie Falstrom have been Friday morning volunteers since February 2018. "Working side by side with Audrey and the wonderful people that share in the belief that we should be giving back when we can has given me some of my closest friendships that are nothing short of amazing," says John. "I'm so happy that I have the opportunity to help others, even in this small way," says Angie.

Gary Shettle started working at pantry in 2015, and more recently his wife, Mary Jo, has served in a back-up role for absent volunteers.

He started with the Friday crew, unpacking produce and moved to Saturdays when he distributes fresh fruit and citrus. "I would not trade this experience for many things in my life," he says. "It makes you appreciate what you have but at the same time admire those who are working hard each and every day trying to provide for their loved ones."

"When you see those smiles on our friends and families, it just makes you smile and appreciate that in some small way you are able to help," Gary continued. And Joy Bylan agrees: "I dare say it makes all of the volunteers go away with a smile feeling as though they have accomplished something."

Joy started working at SSKP FCCOL almost 15 years ago. "It was the first thing I did after I joined the Church. I loved it from the beginning ...," says Joy. She has worked in various capacities

over the years and now distributes shopping carts to guests." It is wonderful to greet each guest and talk briefly with them," she explains. We try to make the pantry a welcoming place each and every week."

As Steve observed in his April 28 sermon, "We are all called to be ministers in the tradition we belong to the priesthood of all believers, it's called."

To see this ministry in action, FCCOL members are encouraged to visit Fellowship Hall Saturday mornings, and if there is sufficient interest, a tour of the pantry space below the Meeting House could be arranged. And, of course, donations of odd and funds are always welcomed.

Submitted by John A. Higgins, Member of the Board of Missions and SSKP FCCOL volunteer since 2019.



## Board of Missions

Several members visited the gardens of Fresh New London this month. FNL works with families and youth of New London to bring fresh produce to families in need while building community.

Not only do they grow food, they are working in partnership with the Ledge Light Health District and the Southeastern Connecticut Community Land Trust ([sectclt.org](http://sectclt.org)) to provide a weekly food pantry at "The Place for Community Wellbeing."

The pantry is located in the former New London American Legion Hall. It serves 500-600 families per week. Health care workers from L&M visit the pantry to provide health screening, vaccinations, and teaching. Plans for the building include creating a commercial kitchen for the community to use, offices for social services and mental health workers.

Chris Van Scoy

For more information, contact:  
Southeastern CT Community Land Trust, [sectclt.org](http://sectclt.org)

Fresh New London [freshnewlondon.org](http://freshnewlondon.org)

# White Elephant Sale 2024

**July 12th 9:00 - 2:00 pm**  
**July 13th 8:00 - 12:00 pm**

## June

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Pre Set –Up Inside	Pre Set –Up Inside	Set –Up Inside	INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00 <i>Workers Lunch</i>	INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00
hang signs move tables, etc.	milk crates, tubs, etc.	9am -12pm			

## July

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00 <i>Workers Lunch</i>	HOLIDAY	CLOSED Sort & Price	CLOSED Sort & Price
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
CLOSED Sort & Price	During Day Big Tents & Sport Goods	CLOSED Sort & Price	SET-UP OUTSIDE 8:00 AM ->>	SALE 9-2pm	SALE 8- 12pm
For Sale. Move Art to Narhex	5-7 pm Outside tables, Plants, Baked Goods, Coffee Tents Go up	Finalize any remaining outside Set-up	<i>Workers Lunch</i>		CLEAN UP AND SNACKS after 12
Clean up and Finalize inside setup					

### 2024 White Elephant Sale— Donations

**Intake** – Again we are keeping intake to only 6 days 9:00 -2:00 pm and NO nights. Please bring your items to the church Ferry Road parking lot entrance beginning Thursday, **June 27, 28, 29th – July 1, 2, 3rd (NOT Sunday, June 30)**. The side driveway will be closed for parking during intake.

**Quality of Donations** – We are being more selective each year. We have to be able to sell the item in two days [9 hours total] or else items will be given to one of our many recycle groups or discarded. By insisting on clean salable items we can reduce the sorting, handling and disposal of damaged or broken items. As always we are grateful for your donations and sorting them in advance really helps.



## Donating Large Furniture for the White Elephant Sale [July 12th and 13th]

We are LIMITING the amount of large furniture that we will accept this year. We are **NOT** planning any pickup service due to manpower scheduling and conflicts, but may do some if truck available. If you do have a piece to donate and are wondering whether we will accept, please call the office 434-8686 anytime; night or day and hit the WES call back line - leave a message with all the particulars. We will contact you to discuss your large furniture donation. The emphasis is on clean, QUALITY items.-- **NO sofa beds, stuffed couches/chairs, dining room sets or particle board furniture.**

### Items We CANNOT Accept:

Dirty or Broken Items or Junk	Gas cans with Gas or kerosene
Appliances (Large):	Guns, Knives, Weapons
Air Conditioners [Freon issues]	Magazines, Newspapers
Refrigerators, freezers & Stoves	Mattresses or Box Springs
Washers & Dryers	Paint
Bike helmets [used - safety concerns]	Phones
Books: Technical or Textbooks, Encyclopedias	Punch Bowl sets - they don't sell
Car Seats - safety liability	Rugs [used]
Cribs used - safety liability	Scanners
Chemicals	Stereo equipment, Speakers
Computers, monitors & software	Skis -old style downhill
Furniture - stuffed sofa/chairs or sofa beds	Stuffed animals [used]
Furniture - particle board	Tires
Furniture - Dining Room sets	Treadmills
Lamps [floor or table]	TVs [all styles]
Luggage [old hard sided ones]	

### Items We Will GLADLY Accept (Quality Please !!!!)

Antiques, Fine China, Silver	DVD's (Family Content)
Appliances, Small (Working)	Furniture [Not on the 'can not accept' list]
Art, Sculpture, Posters, Frames	[call church office if a question 434-8686]
Baskets	Gifts, Sundries, Knickknacks
Bedding, Linens	Jewelry: Costume & Fine
Boats, Canoes, Kayaks	Kitchen Items (Appliances, Dishes, Cookware)
Bicycles, Tricycles	Luggage [soft sided or Steamer trunks only]
Books: Children's', Non-Fiction, Fiction	Musical Instruments
Christmas & Holiday decorations	Plants, Containers
Clothes: Children's, Men's, Women's	Shoes
Clothes: Fine, Fashion	Skis [downhill ones must be " <u>shape</u> " style]
Clothes: Vintage, Costume, and Accessories	Sporting Goods [good condition]
Collections	Tools (House & Garden)
Curtains, Drapes	Toys and <u>New</u> Stuffed Animals

## ADULT FORUM BOB POTTER: Power and Remembrance: Reclaiming Black Lives Through Art.

**Sunday, June 2nd**, after the 10:00 am Worship Service, Church member Bob Potter will share his expertise on contemporary Black artists:

Throughout the history of Western art, people of color have been relegated to unidentified, subservient, and marginalized roles, or have been completely absent in paintings presented by major museums. African American artists Romare Bearden, Amy Sherald, Kerry James Marshall, and Kehinde Wiley confront this reality creating powerful images of the black experience in history, popular culture and American life. In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. this lecture will explore the art and lives of these artists through examples of their work, biographical profiles, historic context and in videos where the artists share their own personal journeys as artists.

Kerry James Marshall



Romare Bearden



Kehinde Wiley



Amy Sherald



## BLOOD DRIVE

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the First Congregation Church of Old Lyme on Thursday, May 13th from 1-6pm. Please see the link below to make an appointment before arriving. What are the benefits of donating blood? reduce stress, improve your emotional well-being, benefit your physical health, help get rid of negative feelings, provide a sense of belonging and reduce isolation. <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>



FCCOL is establishing a  
Memorial Fund in memory of  
Rev. David W. Good

which we hope will continue  
to fund ministries to which  
David was devoted.

Please mark your donations  
“David Good Memorial.”

Thank you.

It's hard to stay optimistic in the face of all the dire news these days, (All other disasters aside, I'm thinking specifically about the environment.)

At the end of Laura's recent sermon she proposed a 'talk back' - a conversation I believe is long overdue. So we chatted briefly and agreed that something along the lines of a potluck with a conversation about our hopes and fears, as well as looking at what is going *right*. It would be nice to find out what we would like the future to look like, and explore ways we can get there.

Many people are working hard at living their vision of a beautiful future - one that works for everyone. We can do it too! Wouldn't it be fun to meet some of them? So stay tuned, and start imagining how *you* would love to live!

Mariette Brown

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed to our Easter offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing. These funds are made available through the United Church of Christ for emergencies worldwide wherever and whenever there is a need. This year we were able to contribute \$9,320 to this important cause. We have frequently been cited as one of the most generous UCC churches in the country.

## Your Mission Dollars at Work:

5 members of the Board of Missions toured the **Homeless Hospitality Center** (HHC) in New London. Many of us in the congregation are familiar with their existence, founding and mission, but the things that struck us at our visit is both how very effective HHC is at housing people, and how great the need is. Affordable housing is in crisis - and HHC is on the frontlines of aiding people who need a safe, affordable place to live. In the last year they have seen their elderly population skyrocket, and the length of time to find an affordable place to live go from a month to over six months. As the needs change and arise, HHC has responded with a special respite care facility for elderly and ill, as well as a safe quiet space for veterans with PTSD.

Once housed, HHC has found that people will get creative about staying in their homes. While many become accustomed to their homeless situation, HHC has developed strategies over the years to minimize the time spent in the shelter.

There are two goals: get people into homes, and keep them there. Homelessness is so much more than not having a roof over your head. HHC attempts to address some of the things we all take for granted with a vast array of programs and services: help so people can avoid homelessness in the first place; counselors to help the newly housed stay in their homes; an *address* where shelter residents can receive mail; a phone; free wifi; laundry facilities; coaching and computer access for job applications; a ride; a simple doctor visit (Community Health Center has a clinic right at the shelter,) financial support to repair a car so someone can get to their job; extra help with security deposits to make the last hurdle into an apartment. The list is endless, as are the opportunities for volunteers. The work HHC does is truly one of the success stories of Southeastern Connecticut's social service responsibilities. They work hard to get people off the streets, and give aid to those who are on the streets. They welcome volunteers with all sorts of skills. For more information, see <https://www.nlhhc.org/>

-Mariette Brown for the BOM

---

## GIVING MATTERS

A sincere **THANK YOU** goes out to our members and friends who have committed to support the church's 2024 Stewardship financial campaign. As we have said many times, over 75% of the church's annual financial needs come from individual contributions from our members and friends, and so it is no cliché to say the church couldn't do it without you all. We have received commitments of \$578,699 from 277 pledgers. This is encouraging since the total exceeds the 2023 campaign. However,

this total came from somewhat fewer givers than last year, which is of some concern. This also means that the average commitment continues to increase each year, so, we doubly appreciate the increased generosity of those who responded. Of the 277 commitments, 89 increased their amount over 2023, and 24 were responders for the first time. However, a challenge still remains for 2024. Due to the relentless march of inflation, our budget for the year still

shows a deficit of expenses over expected income, even after a planned additional infusion of \$50,000 from the church endowment fund and a 25% reduction in benevolence giving. THANK YOU again to all those who have pledged. And we hope, that for those who are able, we can count on additional support for 2024.

The Boards of Stewardship and Trustees, and the Treasurer.

## God's Neighborhood

"Our students community outreach project with Friends of Feral Felines at the Niantic Animal Hospital was a great success! Our youth were able to perform well-checks and provide vaccinations for a homeless mom cat and her five kittens proving that we as humans are interconnected with animals, and by helping animals we are helping to make our world a better place. A special

thank you to Sofia Noti for this idea! We will now be doing it annually. To reach out or to donate to Friends of Feral Felines since they are a nonprofit charitable organization operated entirely by volunteers and supported solely by donations; find them here:

["feralfelines.org"](http://feralfelines.org)



---

## Southern New England United Church of Christ - Annual Meeting

Friday, June 21st and 22nd, at 6:30 pm will be the annual meeting of the Southern New England UCC in Amherst Mass. For more information or for updates on the United Church of Christ and our area UCC churches, contact Laura.

---



## Baked items needed for WES Baked Goods Tent

In the past, people were called and asked to provide home made treats for the White Elephant Sale Baked Goods Tent, but in these times of continuous phone scams and robo-calls we have found that people are unwilling to answer their phone if they don't recognize the incoming call number.

So this year we are going to try to publicly ask for baked donations through our church newsletter, Sunday Bulletins and email notifications. Anyone willing to contribute a baked good to be sold on

Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> should let Fay Richardson know (860-434-3349),

or leave a message on the WES message line at the church office (860-434-8686).

Baked items can be dropped off in the church kitchen on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>

or brought in early on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Crosby Fund for Haitian Education Dinner

Thank you to everyone who supported the Haitian Fund by attending the dinner, which raised \$3,400.00 including the sale of many pieces of art. It was a great evening. About 105 people attended and shared a Haitian Dinner prepared by “Mommy’s Delicious Food” Restaurant in Norwich. Dessert was prepared by members of LBS. The presentation followed the dinner. Ted presented me with flowers to celebrate our 20th anniversary of the founding of The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education in 2004. We had a raffle for a Haitian painting. The winner was Judy Hurlbert, a first-time visitor to our church! It was a big success and many thanks to LBS for sponsoring the event!



Beth Hamilton sent me this poem below following the death of David Good. It called to my mind the healing power of the natural world.

Carleen Gerber

### Easter, 2011 - a poem by Beth Hamilton

The minister says the world seems to have lost its bearings. The whole world, he means. All its people and animals, the mammoth trees, the smallest insects, every single body of water - all suffering. The litany of woes is exhausting. War, hunger, inequity, cruelty, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, a loss of civility, loss of sanity, loss that goes on and on and on, loss with end, amen.

I sit, stricken, waiting for the light of the resurrection to wash over me, and think, *Any minor angel will do at this point, God*, when the minister says Saint Augustine believed a people is defined by the object of its love, and I suddenly remember the way my grandfather would lower himself slowly down on one knee to pick a tomato, hold its lush body to his nose and inhale deeply, like a man burying his face in a woman's neck.

# JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER ..... 2024 CALENDAR

## June 2024

- Food Pantry** every Saturday, except July 6th and 13th, at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall.
- Sidney S. Whelan Jr. Memorial Service** Saturday, June 1st, at 12:00 pm.
- Youth Group Trip** Saturday, June 1st at 1:00 pm New London Veterans House.
- Tree of Life Zoom Meeting** Tuesday on June 4th at 7:00 pm. online zoom meeting.
- Bell Ringers Pot Luck Dinner** is Tuesday, June 4th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Board of Missions** Wednesday, June 5th at 4:00pm in the Library.
- Senior Choir** Wednesday, June 5th at 7:30 pm in Sheffield Auditorium.
- Church Council Meeting** Thursday, June 6th at 7:00pm in the Library.
- Children's Sunday Rehearsal** Saturday, June 8th from 3-5:00 pm.
- Board of Trustees** Tuesday, June 11th at 7:30pm in the Library.
- ARC Blood Drive** Thursday, June 13th from 1:00 -6:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall.
- Hymn Sing** Friday, June 14th at 6:00pm at Cynthia McFadden's in Old Saybrook.
- Juneteenth Worship Service** Sunday, June 16th at 10:00 am.
- FCCOL Office** is closed for Wednesday, June 19th.
- \*Board of Stewardship** Thursday, June 20th at 7:00pm in the Library.
- Make Music Day** Friday, June 21st, on Lyme St.
- Constance Ludington Drayton Memorial** Saturday, June 22nd at 2:00 pm.
- God's Neighborhood Play Date** Sunday, June 23rd at the Cross Lane Playground.
- Green Grass Trip** Sunday, June 23rd to Saturday, June 29th.
- WES Intake** Thurs, Fri, Sat, June 20, 21, 22 morning only.
- \*Board of Deacons** Tuesday, June 25th at 7:00 pm, in the Library.
- WES Intake** Thurs, Fri, Sat, June 27, 28, 29 morning only.

## July 2024

- FCCOL Office** is closed for Thursday, July 4th.
- WES Set Up** July 1-11th (not Thursday July 4th and not Sunday, July 7th).
- WHITE ELEPHANT SALE** Friday and Saturday, July 12 9-2pm and 13th 8-12 pm.
- LWS Meeting** Mondays, starting July 15th at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.
- Ruth Cann Memorial** Thursday, July 18th at 1:00 pm.
- God's Neighborhood** Thursday, June 18th from 5:00-8:00 pm at White Sands Beach.
- \*Board of Stewardship** Thursday, July 18th at 7:00pm in the Library.
- Bob Johnson Memorial** Saturday, July 20th.
- \*Board of Deacons** Tuesday, July 23rd at 7:00 pm, in the Library.

## August 2024

- ARC Blood Drive** Thursday, August 8th from 1:00 -6:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall.
- \*Board of Stewardship** Thursday, August 15th at 7:00pm in the Library.
- LBS Meeting** Tuesday, August 27th at 10:00 am in the Library.
- \*Board of Deacons** Tuesday, July 27th at 7:00 pm, in the Library.

### \*Monthly Repeating Meetings.

- \*Board of Deacons** Fourth Tuesday of each Month at 7:00 pm, in the Library.
- \*Board of Stewardship** Third Thursday of the Month at 7:00pm in the Library.

# **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. Rebecca T. Crosby, Minister for Haitian Outreach

Rebecca A. Francisco serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel

Jolene Brant, Director of Youth Education/Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Leader

Rachel Jungkeit, Director of Children's Music

Robert McCracken, Church Administrator

Anne Koczka, Office Manager

Julie Mardjekaj, Bookkeeper

Sean McCarty, Sexton

Church Office Tel: 860-434-8686

Fax: 860-434-1135

e-mail: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org)

Website: [www.fccol.org](http://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 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
OLD LYME  
2 FERRY ROAD  
OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371**

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



The submission deadline for the September Newsletter is August 16th.

Please e-mail the church office at [fccol@fccol.org](mailto: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!



*The reproduction of our Meetinghouse is from a sketch by William Steeves.*