

NOVEMBER 2024



Dear Friends,

In his letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul coined a phrase worth repeating often in these final days of October, and as we move into the elections of November. “Hold fast to what is good,” he says. Which is to say, seek out the things that are working well. Seek out the places where truth is spoken. Seek out the people and stories that will uphold your sanity and give you courage. Find those things, and hold onto them. Tightly.

It’s in that spirit that I’d like to share something that has lifted my spirits, something to which I am holding fast. Many of us are worried about the rise of the far right throughout the world, and how many people in our own country have been tempted by the policies, rhetoric, aesthetics, and theologies of the right. But an encouraging development took place recently among our neighbors south of the Rio Grande. In Mexico, they elected Claudia Sheinbaum, making her the first female President elected in all of North America. She was sworn in on Oct. 2, and she delivered an address worthy of our consideration, to say nothing of our emulation. In it, she laid out a 10 point summary of what she is branding “Mexican humanism.” I’m reproducing that summary here, because it is an immensely hopeful sign, but also because these are the sorts of values I would hope that we would carry with us into the polls. Here they are (with thanks to Google translate):

1. For there to be prosperity, it must be shared or, put another way, for the good of all, the poor first.
2. There cannot be a rich government with a poor population. This is a phrase from Benito Juárez García, which transformational governments make into reality, and which maintains that the ruler must live in a just modesty, without luxuries, paraphernalia or privileges, and that the government must not be a burden for the people. That is what we call republican austerity.
3. We, the governors [gender-inclusive: las y los gobernantes], must be honorable and honest. The use of government structures for personal or group benefit taints public service. Corruption must be fought for ethics and principles; but also, as we have seen, because therein lie the resources necessary for the well-being of the people and the development of the nation. In short, honesty brings results. In addition,

(continued on page 4)

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL



Senior Choir Schedule

To all the members of the Senior Choir- Thanks for such beautiful singing in October!

Here is what November is looking like:

Sunday, November 3:

Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am.

Wednesday, November 6:

Rehearsal at 7:30 pm.

Sunday, November 10:

Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am.

Wednesday, November 13:

Rehearsal at 7:30 pm.

Sunday, November 17:

Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am.

Wednesday, November 20:

Rehearsal at 7:30 pm.

Sunday, November 24:

Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am.

Tuesday, November 26th:

Ecumenical Service at 7:00 pm with a rehearsal at 5:30 pm.

Wednesday, November 27:

No Rehearsal-Happy Thanksgiving!

Many thanks and best wishes to all, Simon

Handbell Notes

There is good news to report: The goal of \$4,010 has been met, and the upper octave of twelve bells for our handbell set has been ordered and should be here by mid-December, if all goes well! I know the Old Lyme Ringers will be very anxious to try out the new bells as soon as they arrive! We are so grateful to the

many donors who made this all possible. Their generosity, beyond their regular yearly commitment, is so very much appreciated! It is now just a few weeks until the Old Lyme Ringers begin their first rehearsal on November 13. They are very much looking forward to getting their hands back on the bells and learning new music and getting to share their music with the congregation. It is rumored that even several church members and friends are also looking forward to hearing the bells in worship again. The hand chimes will be played at the opening of worship on November 17, and the entire handbell choir will ring on the first hymn on November 24. Let us praise God with the sound of bells in our Meetinghouse!

Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)

We are looking forward to filling the Sheffield Auditorium with our whole inventory during the November 16/17 Holiday Sales event. While we love being a part of the Partnership Store, we often joke that we need our own building to accommodate our many creations and supplies! In addition to the things we have made, we will offer donated items for which we lack storage space and/or are not likely to use in the near future, such as: vintage linens, quilt tops and pieces, fabric, notions, knitting supplies, woolen clothing, and more.

Here's a partial list of our creations - some of which are on display in the Partnership Store - all of which will be available during the sale and

would make great gifts.

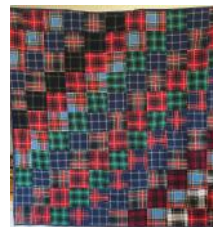
Baby/Child Items: quilts, afghans, receiving blankets, hats, socks, mittens, sweaters, bibs, touchy-feelies, crayon aprons, toys, games, & critters,

Cold Weather Items: hats, headbands, scarves, neck warmers, mittens, shawls, fingerless mitts, large patchwork wool and corduroy quilts,

Home Decor. Cooking/Dining Items: tablecloths, runners, napkins, pot holders, coasters, trivets, aprons, adult bibs, sachets (lavender & balsam), pillows, & baskets.

Miscellaneous Items: holiday ornaments and creations, fashion jewelry, doggie bandanas, bags of all kinds.

Our September Women's Jean Sale,



using the women's jeans donated to the White Elephant Sale, was a great success. We sold 42 pairs of jeans for \$5 each and donated the remaining 53 pair to the Midnight Run, the New London Homeless Hospitality Center, and to the Crosby Fund for Haitian Education. We hope to continue this tradition next year.

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

Ladies Benevolent Society November Luncheon

Tuesday, November 12th will be the Ladies Benevolent Society's final luncheon of 2024, and it is our "Let's get into the holiday spirit" celebration! Chef Rick will be serving a soul and belly warming meal of ham, homemade baked beans, coleslaw and corn bread. A buffet of cakes, puddings, sweets and possibly a pie or two will be "the icing on the top" of this delicious menu.

Following the luncheon and while you are enjoying your sweet desserts, all are welcome to sit back and enjoy some musical selections presented by the **Old Lyme High School Select Chorus**. This talented group of vocalists have entertained us at our end-of-year holiday luncheon for many years and they always delight us with a professional and enjoyable performance.

We sit down to start our lunch at 12 noon, so arrive a little early to get your seat and make yourself comfortable. The musical program will begin at about 1pm. Suggested donation for the luncheon is \$5 plus an item for our food bank or our diaper bank. Please call FCCOL (860-434-8686) by Friday, November 8th to make a reservation.

God's Neighborhood

During the month of November we will continue to learn about Peacemaking along with strategies for conversations with others at the Peace Table. We'll also be getting ready for Thanksgiving and mindful of people and experiences we are grateful for in our lives. Our younger classes have already been practicing how to take a step back and find peace within, and the Youth Group will be learning and exploring the importance of self-care as modeled by Jesus. They will be encouraged to find their own avenues of inner peace. In fact, the bible story of Luke 6:6-13 shows how Jesus achieves a balance between his ministry and rest.

In this Thanksgiving season, we'll also give thanks for all the gifts we've been given and discuss the ways we share hospitality with friends, neighbors, and newcomers. How many ways can you think of to help us count our blessings? We'll keep adding to our Peace Tables downstairs in God's Neighborhood, too!

Here's a family prayer for the season:

Jesus, help us to be peacemakers this week and every week.

Give us the courage to be brave and kind.

Amen!

Sunday, November 3rd: During the 10 am service, we'll hear reflections from our youth about the Breakfast Run. In the afternoon, our Youth Group is doing a Fall Clean-up at the Major Edward Good Veterans Home for Homeless Veterans. The address is 19 Steward St, New London, CT. **12-2pm** and we'll go to a restaurant for pizza after! Reach out to Jolene Brant to RSVP 860-460-9511.



Saturday, November 9th: All ages are welcome to the **Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center 10am- go at your own pace**. We are getting a group rate going together, and we get to experience learning about this culture together! Then the next day, the kids will do a craft similar to something we see at the museum, during Sunday School. \$13 for youth, \$13 for chaperones, and \$18 for adults. Please reach out to Jolene Brant at 860-460-9511 if you'd like to go, or if you'd like to drop your child off at FCCOL and they go with us to the museum! We will plan to meet at the church at 9:00 am and drive as many as we can with us! Just need a headcount.

Sunday, November 10th: During Sunday School today our younger classes will make dioramas of something that inspired them at the museum, and our Youth Group will make beaded necklaces and bracelets.

Sunday November 17th: (Gratitude Theme)

At the 10am service, during the Children's Message, children will hear stories and wisdom from around the world surrounding gratitude. Then downstairs they will follow-up activities based on what they heard and also compose a litany of Thanksgiving to share with the congregation the following Sunday. In addition to helping with the Thanksgiving Litany, JPF and SPF, our Youth Group, will do some cooking for the New London Community Meal Center. They are making two kinds of chili (turkey and vegetarian), corn bread, and brownies and freezing them for the following week.

Sunday, November 24th: Today's Children's Message will be presented by our children and youth as they share with the congregation the litany of Thanksgiving that they composed the previous Sunday. Our Sunday Schoolers will share what our indigenous ancestors called, "the words that come before all else."

Then during our God's Neighborhood time downstairs, we will continue our conversations about the Native tribes in this area as well as do some more work on our dioramas.

Six of our Pilgrim Fellowship high school class students have the great opportunity to serve in New London at the New London Community Meal Center. Please reach out to Jolene Brant at 860-460-9511 if your youth would like to participate in this event.

Memorials

Janet Bent
Peter Carlson

- moral authority is the most important thing, and that cannot be bought on the corner, it is built with a single mystique, that of fighting honestly every day for a Mexico with justice, democracy and freedom.
4. The highest principle is that democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people. Or, returning to Juarez, with the people everything, without the people nothing.
 5. It is forbidden to prohibit. Freedom is the essence of democracy.
 6. The development and well-being of the people can only be strengthened by caring for the environment and natural resources.
 7. Women have [we have: tenemos] the right to substantive equality.
 8. Mexico is a sovereign, independent, free and democratic country. We want peace and fraternity among nations, and we coordinate, but we do not subordinate ourselves.
 9. Politics is done with love, not with hate. Happiness and hope are based on love for one's neighbor, family, nature and country.
 10. We condemn classism, racism, sexism and any form of discrimination. It is not just a matter of tolerance, it is the recognition that the deepening of inequalities will always lead to injustice. Brotherhood and sisterhood means seeing each other in the eye as equals.

There are those who worry about what comes across the border from our neighbors in Mexico. I have a very different view. I would gladly welcome Sheinbaum's humanism into our country. I would welcome it throughout the world. But I would also welcome it to our region, and to Old Lyme. In truth, they are the kind of values that are worthy of cultivation around FCCOL, in line with our very best theologies.

That's but one of the things (10 of them, actually) that I'm holding fast right now. There are many others as well, among them the voices of reason and sanity that are speaking right now, the civil servants and elected officials who are performing their roles with integrity, and the many volunteers who keep our electoral system functioning well.

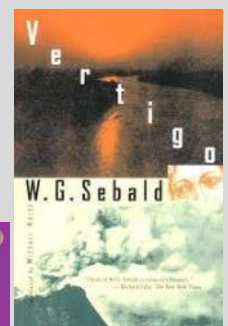
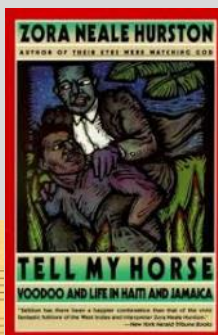
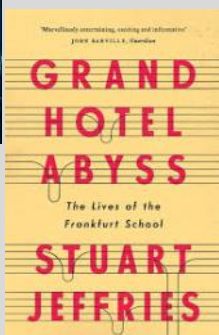
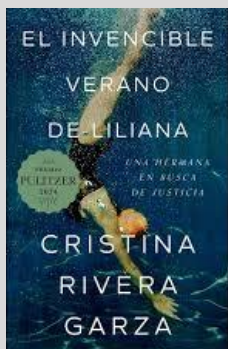
But there's also each of you - you who make up the FCCOL community, both near and far. To quote a phrase we heard recently, you help to make FCCOL an oasis of sanity amidst all the noise of this electoral season. You're a part of the goodness to which I hold. Tightly.

Hold fast to what is good.

Reading: *My Name is Red*, by Orhan Pamuk; *Grand Hotel Abyss*, by Stuart Jeffries; *The Fugitive* and *Time Regained*, by Marcel Proust; *Vertigo*, by W.G. Sebald; *El Invencible Verano de Liliana* (Liliana's Invincible Summer), by Cristina Rivera Garza; *Tell My Horse*, by Zora Neal Hurston; *Capital, Vol 1* (selections), by Karl Marx.

Listening: Radiohead (all the albums, but especially *Hail to the Thief*, *In Rainbows*, and *A Moon Shaped Pool*); The Smile (all three albums - *A Light for Attracting Attention*, *Wall of Eyes*, *Cutouts*).

Watching: *Babylon Berlin*, seasons 1-4 (entire).



GIVING MATTERS

What do you have faith in? What do you have faith for?

The 2025 Commitment Campaign invitation letter and Steve's powerful September 29th sermon invites thoughtful reflection about the concept of faith. Both ask us to think seriously about what FCCOL means to us. This inquiry points to a deep question: what in this life concerns us most? And, how is that concern related to the FCCOL 2025 Commitment Campaign?

FCCOL does a lot of good in many places. Our Church has many causes, and many concerns. FCCOL is a good place to do good. However, many nonprofit organizations do good. And many compete with FCCOL for financial support. So, how is FCCOL different from other worthy nonprofit organizations?

The 2025 Campaign letter centers on the concept of faith - our faith in and for the future. It invites thought about the concept, idea, practices, dimensions and perhaps, the limits of faith. Simply, how does faith mean? How does our personal faith mean? Can it help center our lives on what matters? But what are the 'matters' our faith is most or even ultimately concerned with? What does it nurture? What does it fight for? And, why is it relevant? Will it make us more prosperous? Bring us more joy?

Faith, like stewardship is an intensely personal matter. As a people of faith and as a community of faith we share our attention and our resources to work toward a more compassionate, more just world. We are working together to bring God's Kingdom here, on Earth. Now. Not in some future place someday, somewhere in the sky.

While we are on our own personal faith journeys, at FCCOL we can seek and find guidance and be sustained on this journey by each other, by our ministers and by a timeless spiritual tradition. The origins of this spiritual tradition are recorded in the ancient histories and rich metaphors found in the Bible and related texts. If we listen very closely as they are read to us and as we read them in quiet moments, we may hear a Spiritual voice calling to us across time. A beacon relevant to what concerns us today. Here. Now.

FCCOL is not like any other nonprofit seeking contributions. FCCOL is a faith community comprised of people of faith, grounded in grace working together here and now seeking to make our world a little more compassionate a little more just. And, blessedly, we are a place of grace, welcoming all. Why, because we are a people of faith. A community of faith. Striving to come into right relationship with God. We are different from other worthy nonprofit organizations. Not better, different.

Please complete and return your contribution card so FCCOL can sustain its ministries, community outreach and pastoral counseling. FCCOL needs and deserves our support!

Thank you.

The Board of Stewardship

Adult Bible Study:

"Goodness, Greed and Grace: Journeys through Genesis and Exodus"

Curious about what we do in Bible Study? Wondering about the problem of evil and where the heck God might be found on any given day? Bible Study begins Thursday, September 26, 11-12. Hybrid format in person and on Zoom. Join us for rich discussion and wanderings as we pick up our reading of Genesis with Joseph, his brothers and that famous technicolor coat. Our companion book this fall will be *Reading Genesis* by Marilynne Robinson. Robinson wrote, "*The whole of human existence is like*

some sweet parable told in the most improbable place and circumstances...God values our humanity. One of the things that's fascinating about the Hebrew Bible is that it declared and was loyal to the fact that God is good and creation is good."

Adult Education Forum:

On Sunday, November 17th following the 10:00 am service there will be an Adult Forum presented by Fred Behringer and Tom Sherer on "Faith and Science. And Black Holes (Oh My!)" We hope you can all attend.

Environmental Committee

Wind Turbine Tour '24

On a Monday earlier this month, 12 members of our congregation were privileged to get an in depth presentation and tour of New London's revitalized State Pier, now home to the assembly and distribution of 65 wind turbines to the Revolution Wind Project off Rhode Island. This wind farm will provide clean power to 350,000 homes in CT and RI. Another 85 turbines are contracted for the Sunrise Wind Project, which will provide power to 600,000 New York homes, scheduled to begin work sometime in 2025. Additional projects are planned for the same region.

To be able to accommodate this, the pier had to be rebuilt and fortified to



handle the incredible weights of these components when they are delivered and staged for assembly offshore. State Pier is now the only active wind facility on the East Coast with direct access to the ocean. With this new heavy lift capability it's in a great position to market itself to additional heavy duty work when the wind farm work is completed. This site has provided not only 150 jobs to local people, but countless jobs up and down the supply chain around the country.

The towers are assembled there into two 200' sections, which, when assembled, will be 400' tall off the surface of the water. A single turbine, consisting of the monopiles, which weigh X tons, three 300' long, 40 ton blades, and a single 500 ton nacelle that holds the generator on top, are taken by barge to the site offshore



where they are assembled. There is only one barge in the country large enough to accommodate this load, with another being built. The turnaround time for the barge, carrying a single turbine, is four days. The wind farm is about 17 miles off the coast of RI. For optimum efficiency, the towers have to be a mile apart from each other in all directions. When completed, this farm will be quite large.

Critics say the construction of wind farms are disruptive to marine life, but whale mortality has not been shown to be a problem. In fact, the monopiles provide new habitat, and increased marine life has been recorded around them. On the other hand, research done at Brown University has shown links between anti-offshore wind and the fossil fuel industry (*what a surprise!*) <https://www.climatedevlab.brown.edu/post/>

[against-the-wind-a-map-of-the-anti-offshore-wind-network-in-the-eastern-united-states](#))



Our group was excited to learn about this positive environmental development in our backyard. It was impressive for both scale and coordination: the many moving parts and parties to get this accomplished- the vastness of the individual turbines, the immensity of the wind farms and their generating capacity, and coordination of the many entities, locally and around the country, involved. (see <https://ctwindcollaborative.org/>) . This is both an economic boon and an energy security win, producing clean energy with vibrant new marine habitats as icing on the cake.

Carleen said that she has worked hard to make her individual actions matter and, to paraphrase, this project is orders of magnitude greater than any effort she can do herself. She also knows her actions matter! It may seem like an individual's actions are insignificant, but they accumulate! They are as necessary as the bigger top-down items like this wind farm. It's all critical to moving toward a cleaner future. You can support this top-down effort by ensuring your utility company knows you want your energy to come from non-fossil fuel sources.

Monthly Support Group

For Parents, Caregivers and Family Members of Trans Youth/Young Adults: Our newly forming group will provide conversation, support, community and education for parents and caregivers around the issues of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diversity. Join us for an informational meeting held at FCCOL on Wednesday evening, November 13th from 5:30-6:30. For more information: fccol@fccol.org.

Grief Group

This monthly support group is for those who have

lost a loved one and those struggling with other losses. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 20th 5:30-6:30 pm in Hoag Parlor.

Writing at the Well

Friday, November 22nd, 10:00-11:30. Join us as we meet once a month to write pages together and share our spiritual journeys as we go. 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 wellspring. Meeting in the Hoag Parlor.

Mission Board

You may have noticed in the annual report that the Environmental Committee is a minor recipient of Mission money. This is used to provide environmentally friendly coffee for coffee hours! Many years ago we decided to buy rainforest friendly coffee from Koinonia Farm, and have done so ever since. This is a small line item, but you can be happy that your Sunday morning coffee is sustainable, and also supporting one of our partnerships

Women's Wellness Retreat: The Sanctuary of Friendship

Saturday, Nov 2nd, 2024. This year, we're invited to a wellness retreat including lunch, yoga and storytelling with women refugees from the New Haven area. We'll be meeting at the Guilford Community Center, 32 Church St, Guilford, CT. from 10:00-2:00. To register and get more information, emails to Anne at fccol@fccol.org.

Prayer Vigil for the Victims of Genocide in Palestine

Sunday, October 27th, 2024 at 2:00pm. Islamic Association of Greater Hartford, 1781 Berlin Turnpike Berlin, CT 06037. Sponsored by MCCT, IAGH and CAIR CT.

Weekly Sunday Flowers

We're scheduling members and friends who would like to provide pulpit flowers for a week. If desired, flowers can be given in memory of a loved one, with the loved one(s) mentioned in the bulletin. Flowers or greenery can be fresh from your garden or ordered from florist. A house plant from home displayed for the morning would be lovely, as well. To sign up for a future week, please call Jill Harned, 603-398-9004. Thank you.

2025 FCCOL Members and Friends and Staff Directory

In the coming months the office staff will be working on an updating the FCCOL Directory for the church. You will be contacted either by email, or phone or snail mail. We will be updating addresses, phone numbers, adding emails and cell phone numbers, in hopes of making communications easier throughout the church. Pictures may be optional, and this is the time to set a preference for communications from the church either email or digital communications and or direct mail.

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. One woman we know of would be grateful even for a room to rent for a period of time.

ELEPHANTS-IN-WINTER & FCCOL HOLIDAY SALE

There are going to be two unique and different sales held at FCCOL to help all shoppers, young and old, get everything they could possibly need for the 2024 holiday season. Seriously.....gifts and decorations, dinnerware and olive oils, mittens and wrapping paper. Two very different types of sales, held in multiple rooms, over the same two days! Both sales will be held on Saturday, November 16th (9am-2pm) and Sunday, November 17th (9am-1pm).

LBS will be hosting the always popular Elephants-in-Winter sale. All the holiday items collected during the intake days for the White Elephant Sale this past July will be arranged throughout the Fellowship Room and sold at bargain basement prices. If you've come to this sale before, you know from experience the vast assortment of delightful treasures that await. If this will be your first time attending, you will find Christmas decorations, greens and wreaths, holiday china and glassware, linens and sweaters and stockings, toys, books, CD's and DVD's, paper goods, lights, candles, and ornaments.

The Partnership Committees of FCCOL will be hosting their fourth annual Holiday Sale with the Ladies Who Stitch set up in Sheffield Auditorium, and the other partnerships selling their goods in the Partnership Store and the library. Here is your chance to get beautiful, thoughtful and unusual gifts for everyone on your holiday list. There will be Haitian arts and crafts, imported olive oil and soaps, Lakota jewelry and crafts, and (of course) one-of-a-kind handmade items from "The Ladies Who Stitch". Everything for sale is wonderfully unique, and the support provided to the partnerships helps so many.

Come and shop, immerse yourselves in the holiday spirit, meet old acquaintances and make new friends. These sales would make the Grinch smile!

For the David Good Memorial Award from Yale Divinity School

October 9, 2024

First, let me say that it is an honor to receive this award on behalf of David and his wife and family. And on behalf of the congregation he nurtured and led with wisdom, compassion and affection for over 38 years; a congregation that loved him in return.

David was a resilient, tenacious prophet in his time. I've heard it said that a "prophet critiques the dominant ideology, articulates the public pain, and seeks creative solutions." David Good was a fearless prophet; and he led his congregation into and through some of the most bedeviling and confounding justice questions of his time.

In 1985, he established a partnership with a little community on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota that has now endured for forty years; opening the eyes of his congregation to the challenges of systemic racism and endemic deprivation and oppression. And he raised up before them an authentic respect for the inherent dignity and essential worth of their indigenous religious traditions. And that was only the beginning.

He led his people into a mutually enriching friendship with the people of the Methodist churches of South Africa; establishing a partnership which began during the darkest days of apartheid, and has endured for over 30 years. Several times he led journeys there for parishioners.

And that led to the forging of a friendship with a neighborhood, tuition-free elementary school in Harlem New York, enabling our youth to build friendships with children of another race and very different cultural heritage.

Some years later, David began to build a relationship with Habitat for Humanity. Many times he led members of the congregation to Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia, birthplace of Habitat, where the courageous theologian and prophet, Clarence Jordan, had pioneered "a demonstration plot for the kingdom of God." Introducing Clarence Jordan's richly contextual theology to the congregation deepened our appreciation and understanding of the most painful years of this country's civil rights era.

It was on this foundation of a deep understanding of the catastrophic cost of racism in *this* country that enabled his congregation, years after he had retired and passed the torch to others, to respond to the murder of George Floyd with a depth of compassion that was honed through time.

In 2001, following the World Trade Center catastrophe, he embarked upon what he saw as the essential task of helping us all to more fully understand and respect the world's three primary religions, and to explore how they interface in the crucible of land some people call "Holy." He formed a partnership that came to be known as "The Tree of Life." For more than twenty years he led groups of people – people of all three faiths – to explore Israel and Palestine, to understand how the political reality of that region has ignited the tensions that have led this world to the brink of war – and into war – over and over again. Working tirelessly to promote human rights for the Palestinians living under occupation, and for Israelis living under a different form of dehumanizing occupation and oppression, it was ironic beyond words that the catastrophe he had long feared did unfold in the months before and following his death. Twenty years of annual visits enabled over four hundred travelers from churches, synagogues and mosques, to bind themselves one to another in pursuit of deeper understanding. But it did not ultimately stem the horror we



have now witnessed.

Sometimes people have wondered how he could have persuaded a vital but relatively small congregation in the sheltered community of Old Lyme, Connecticut, to follow him with dedication and respect as he pushed open the windows of their world, and challenged them to pursue issues of justice and truth that they might well have chosen to ignore. And I think the answer to that is that he was also a beloved pastor; a compassionate guide and counselor who believed in the importance of deep and real pastoral care. He had an almost impeccable memory for people's names and their stories.

David brought to his ministry a deep love of philosophy and theology, literature and poetry which gave breadth and depth and strength to every task he undertook; and informed and shaped his sermons. He had great admiration for Paul Tillich and the "theology of culture," urging his flock to attend theatre, listen to music, explore the arts. And he had **authentic, enduring** respect for ALL the world's religions.

David knew that for the gospel to be **real**, it needs to have arms and legs, as well as mind and heart.

In Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus, we find these words; "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened." David Good saw the world through the eyes of his heart. He was compassionate and generous; and yet, all the while, steady at the helm of a ship that he steered faithfully toward justice and truth and mercy.

The congregation was blessed by his ministry. And they continue to be blessed by the ongoing work which he only began. The challenges ahead us, and the windows yet to be opened onto the world, are many, and they are challenging; but as we push forward it will be we – you and I together who craft the greatest possible tribute to his life and work.

Quoting one of David Good's favorite poets, I leave you with these words from one of T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets, the one entitled "Dry Salvages:"

***For most of us, this is the aim never here to be realized;
who are only undefeated because we have gone on trying.***

And to that, I would have to say Amen.

Rev. Carleen Gerber



An Update on the David W. Good Memorial Fund

Shortly after David Good's memorial service this past April, FCCOL invited members and friends to contribute to a fund established in his honor. Thanks to the generosity expressed by many of you, that fund now stands at a little over \$22,000, and counting. To reflect David's long commitment to mission partnerships and education, the ministers, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Committee, have decided that the fund will be used to support the ongoing work of our partnerships. The fund will be invested along with our endowment, though, unlike the endowment itself, it will be available for use when needed. Whether for Green Grass or Palestine, for South Africa or Haiti, or a newer venture, the David W. Good Memorial Fund will be used to expand upon the work that David began, and that we continue in his memory.

NOVEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

Food Pantry and Diaper Bank *Saturday, November 2nd at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Women's Retreat *Saturday, November 2nd from 10:00-2:00 pm* at the Guilford Comm Ctr.

Youth Group Clean Up *Sunday, November 3rd from 12:00 pm till 2:00 pm* in New London.

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, November 4th at 10:00am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Senior Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, November 6th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Ballroom Dancing with Sean McCarty *Wed. November 6th at 10:00am* in the Fellowship Hall.

ARC Blood Drive *Thursday, November 7th from 1:00 pm -6:00pm,* in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study *Thursday November 7th at 11:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor.

Endowment Committee Meeting *Thursday, November 7th at 6:30pm* in the Library.

Food Pantry *Saturday, November 9th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group Trip *Saturday, November 9th at 10:00 am* to the Pequot Museum.

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, November 11th at 10:00am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Ladies Benevolent Society Luncheon *Tuesday, Nov. 12th at 12:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Board of Trustees Meeting *Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

Elephants in Winter Set Up *Wed, Thurs, Fri, Nov. 13th -15th all day* in the Fellowship Hall.

Parent Support Group *Wednesday, November 13th at 5:30 pm* in Hoag Parlor.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, November 13th at 6:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Senior Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, November 13th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study *Thursday November 14th at 11:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor.

November Newsletter Deadline *Friday, November 15th.*

Partnership Sale Set Up *Friday, November 15th all day* in Library and Sheffield.

Food Pantry *Saturday, November 16th at 8:30 am* **Curbside.**

Elephants in Winter / Partnership Store SALE *Sat. Nov. 16th 9-2pm and Sun. Nov. 17th 9-1 pm.*

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, November 18th at 10:00am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Board of Deacons Meeting *Tuesday, Nov. 19th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

Grief Group *Wednesday, November 20th at 5:30 pm* in Hoag Parlor.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, November 20th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, November 20th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study *Thursday November 21st at 11:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor.

Board of Stewardship Meeting *Thursday, November 21st at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

Church Council Meeting, *Thursday, November 21st at 7:00pm* in the Library.

Writers at the Well *Friday, November 22nd at 10:00 am* in Hoag Parlor.

Food Pantry *Saturday, November 23rd at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, November 25th at 10:00am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Ladies Benevolent Society Meeting *Tuesday, November 26th at 10:00 am* in the Library.

Meetinghouse Thanksgiving Gratitude Service *at Tues. Nov. 26th 7:00 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

FCCOL Office Closed *on Thursday, November 28th.*

Food Pantry *Saturday, November 30th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

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

Rachael 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

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.

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The submission deadline for the December Newsletter is Friday, November 15th.

Please e-mail the church office at fccol@fccol.org if you want to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list, or receive your copy digitally!
Thanks for your help!



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