

# SEPTEMBER 2024



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe how fast the summer has gone. Just yesterday, we marked the graduation of our high school seniors in our worship service, and then the weeks just vanished. Though, of course, they didn't. They were filled with their own pressing events and activities, some of which have made our heads ache from the whiplash of it all. I've found solace and enjoyment in a stack of books and in some good visits with family and friends. I hope you've found similar solace wherever you turn for such things!

There's much to be excited about this fall. I look forward to the resumption of our Sunday School program and choir offerings, to our Bible studies and discussion groups and shared meals and all the rest. Mostly, I'm just looking forward to seeing each of you in the Meetinghouse, or elsewhere, as our schedule gets going again. I've enjoyed my time away, but I've also missed all of you!

One of the initiatives we'll be undertaking this fall will be to work with a consulting firm called Convergence. As many of you know, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewardship have, for some time now, been grappling with a revenue gap in our annual budget, seeking both to understand where it came from and how to close it. Much of it has to do with the changing demographics of church attendance in the United States. According to a recent article in *The Atlantic*, 40 million Americans have simply stopped attending church in the last 40 years, a trend that only accelerated during Covid. Add to that the natural attrition that occurs as an aging population dies, and one can begin to understand why many churches are now struggling.

FCCOL has been more fortunate than most. Our pews and Sunday School are full and our vision is strong. Our members are committed with both their time and their resources. But we're not immune to the

(continued on page 4)

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

## Senior Choir Schedule

To all members of the Senior Choir - I am very much looking forward to the start of a new season and hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer!

Here is the September schedule:

**Wednesday, Sept. 4:** Rehearsal at 7:30 pm WELCOME BACK!!

**Sunday, Sept. 8:** Singing at the 10:00 am service, rehearsal at 9:15 am.

**Wed., Sept. 11:** Rehearsal at 7:30 pm.

**NB. Fri., September 13:** Ensemble Altera Concert at 7:00 pm!

**Sunday, Sept. 15:** Singing at the 10:00 am service, rehearsal at 9:15 am.

**Wed., Sept. 18:** Rehearsal at 7:30 pm.

**Sun., Sept. 22:** Singing at the 10:00 am service, rehearsal at 9:15 am.

**Wed., Sept. 25:** NO REHEARSAL - Date Night!

**Sunday, Sept. 29:** Singing at the 10:00 am service, rehearsal at 9:15 am.

Many thanks and best wishes to all,  
Simon

## Handbell Notes

The Old Lyme Ringers are excited to announce that the goal of \$4,010 to add another octave to our set of bells is now past the halfway mark. We have received thus far \$2,315. The bells are needed when rehearsals begin in mid-November. Many in the congregation have been blessed when the bells have been rung in worship. Would you consider a special gift to our handbell ringers? Your gift would be most appreciated!

To all the handbell players in the Old Lyme Ringers: Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, November 13, at 6:30 pm. Please put it on your calendar now! An exciting season of ringing is awaiting you—Christmas music, Christmas Eve peal, winter fun, somber Lent, and the glorious sounds of Easter are all included in the coming season! You won't want to miss any of it!

## Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)

Get ready for the **2nd Annual Fabulous Women's Jean Sale!**  
**The jean sale begins Monday, September 9th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Sheffield Auditorium.**



During the intake for the White Elephant Sale, women's jeans were again set aside for us because there is no room to sell them in the Women's Clothing Department. Jeans are priced at **\$5.00** and **we have sorted and tagged over 100 pairs - sizes 0 to 20!** Further details will be announced.

The *Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)* have enjoyed a summer break but we will

be back at work on September 9th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. In addition to the jean sale, the Partnership Store is also open during this time and visitors, shoppers, and new members are always welcome.

Eunice Taylor, Coordinator for *Ladies Who Stitch*

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

## Ladies Benevolent Society (LBS) Sept. Luncheon

Come join us for some fellowship, delicious food and a wonderful program at the LBS luncheon on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2pm.

We're going Italian for the day! A delicious meal served family-style of pasta and sauce, meatballs & sausage accompanied by a side salad and finished with a home-made dessert will be followed by a program yet to be decided upon.

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, September 6<sup>th</sup> to make a reservation.

For those of you who want to get a jump on your holiday shopping, the Ladies Who Stitch will have many of their wonderful home-made items for sale during the luncheon, and the Partnership Store will be open with it's Tribal Crafts, Palestinian goods and Haitian arts & crafts.

## God's Neighborhood

### FCCOL Homecoming Sunday:

**September 8th at 10:00 am**

Welcome back to all our families and friends in God's Neighborhood! Our Sunday School program, God's Neighborhood, begins Sunday, September 8th at 10:00 am. Following the service, we're having an Ice Cream Social on the front lawn featuring the mobile Ice Cream Parlor back by popular demand.

On September 15th, all families and supporters are invited after church to an Open House downstairs in the Sunday School rooms to meet teachers, learn about our program and visit with one another. Our Board of Youth Ed will host a reception. Our theme this year is called Peacemaking Partners: Meet You at the Peace Table!



Each of our classes this fall will be exploring what it means to be a peacemaker and follow in the teachings of Jesus, the prophets and other wisdom figures of yesterday and today. Students will also learn some

pathways for finding peace within ourselves and skills for managing conflicts. We'll wonder about what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr meant when he said, "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice." Classes will remind one another that even small acts of kindness and care can make the world a more peaceful place. We'll learn from one another in our community, too, from local neighbors to those around the world as we explore our curriculum with storytelling, music, drama, art and field trips. Please submit a registration form for the child/children in your family on our opening day or as soon as you can!

Also, please let us know if you might be interested in joining our classroom of volunteers or be available as an occasional substitute when needed.

**Our Teacher Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 29th, from 5:00-6:30 in the FCCOL library.**

#### Other Classroom News:

**K-1 Teachers:** Rachael Jungkeit, Kristen Byers and High School Helpers.

**2-3 Teachers:** MaryBeth Franco, Melissa DaPonte and HS Helpers.

**4-6 Teacher:** Mary Bradford and HS Helpers.

**6-8 Middle School Cafe:** Teachers, Brad Mock, Sarah Gallardo with Elijah Stiles and HS Helpers.

#### Save the Dates:

**Sunday, September 8th:** Homecoming

Sunday begins at the 10:00 am service when church programming for the academic year begins in earnest and God's Neighborhood Sunday School kicks off!

**Sunday, September 15th:** God's Neighborhood Open House and Reception following the church service.

**Sunday, September 29th:** FCCOL Family Picnic, Kayaking and Fun at Camp Claire, Oakland Avenue, Lyme, CT. 3:00-6:00 pm.

See our private Facebook page, FCCOL Families, for announcements, news updates, and pictures only visible to families who are part of our God's Neighborhood Program. Please join our group to stay connected! We will continue to send out regular communications through weekly emails as well. By registering your children you will be included in these emails. High school youth and their parents will be included in email communications.

#### See you on September 8th! Love, Laura and Jolene

PS: It's not too early to start collecting for our winter clothing drive for the Youth Group Breakfast Run (in December) to NYC and the Homeless Hospitality Center. We are hoping that you can help by dropping off winter clothes to FCCOL, starting in October. Coats, hats, gloves, new socks, boots, sweatshirts and hoodies that are in good shape are needed to keep our neighbors warm!

## Grief Group

This monthly support group is for those who have lost a loved one and those struggling with other losses. Next meeting: Wed, Sept. 25th, 5:30-6:30, meeting in Hoag Parlor.

*Hope is the thing with feathers  
that perches in the soul  
and sings the tune  
without the words -  
And never stops  
- at all -  
Emily Dickinson*



## Writing at the Well

Friday, September 27th, 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 library.

## Adult Education

Our Sunday Adult Forum series begins on Sunday, September 22nd following the service, see page 6 for more details... Stay tuned for additional programming for the Fall and Spring from our Adult Education Committee.

(continued from the cover)

broader trends. During the past year alone, we've done an inordinate amount of funerals, and many of our most generous donors are no longer with us. Given everything, we are thriving as a faith community, but retaining that vigor will require some conscious strategy as we move into the future.

This is where Convergence comes in. After nearly a year of exploration, interviews, and community discernment, the Board of Trustees concluded that Convergence represents the kind of progressive theology we as a church community share, and that they have a track record in strengthening communities such as ours. During the next year, they'll be working with us to conduct listening sessions within our community, as well as reaching out to some of the neighboring institutions in our area to learn more about shared visions for our world. When that listening is completed, they'll be working with us to construct a comprehensive strategic plan for the future. What impressed all of us about Convergence, among other things, is their commitment to building on the strengths that congregations already have, rather than recommending that communities take on values or goals that are alien to their own self understandings. Speaking personally, I'm very excited to learn from the wisdom that Convergence brings, and to think deeply with all of you about enhancing our strengths at FCCOL. I think it'll be an exciting year.

What else? Well, there's Cuba, in spring 2025, as we continue to explore the music, rituals, and knowledges of the Caribbean and of Africa. There are the sacred bowl conversations, which, with the leadership of Rev. Susan Switzer, we hope to expand into small group opportunities. There's Dante's *Paradiso* to consider, and perhaps another gathering for the singing of hymns. Of course, there's also the ongoing catastrophe of Palestine to confront, and we'll be challenged to do so via some special guests this fall. There shall also be the test that our own elections present, as we seek to uphold the best within ourselves through another convulsive campaign cycle.

Through it all, we have a steady assurance that God has not abandoned the world, nor us within it. God is not the solution to this or that problem, or the answer to this or that question that besets us. Rather, in Jesus the Christ - God with us - we possess the assurance that whatever challenges come our way, we shall be given the strength to endure. And to thrive.

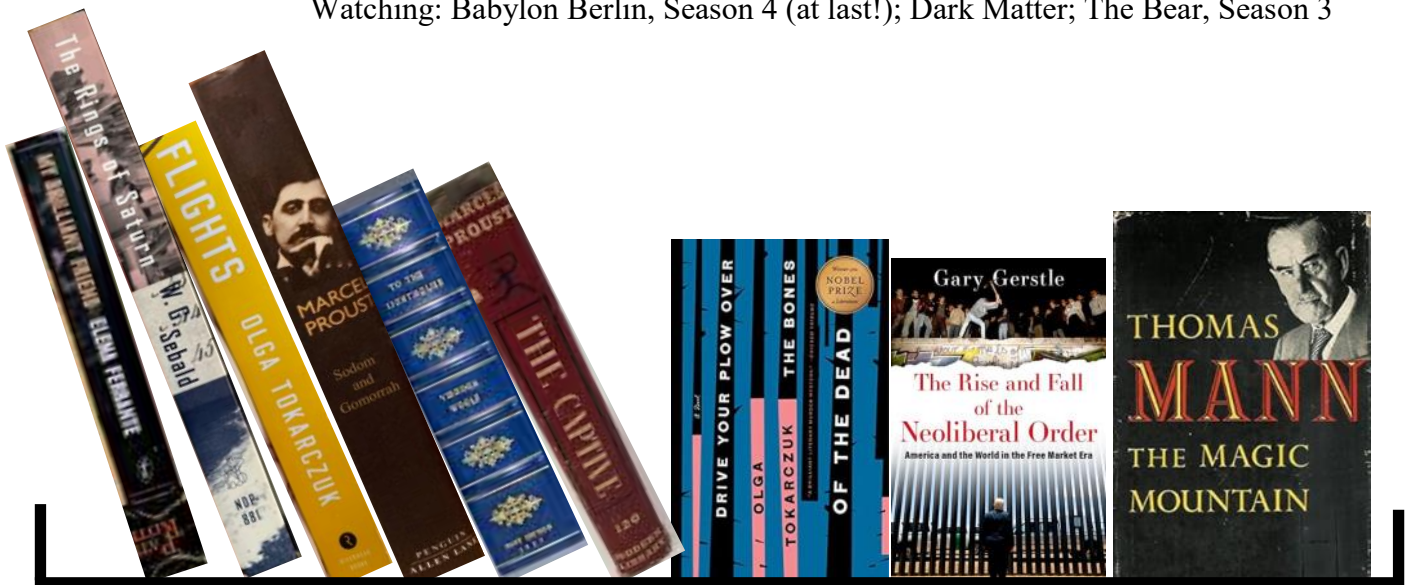
I believe that with all my heart. I hope you do too.

See you at the Meetinghouse...

Reading: *The Magic Mountain*, by Thomas Mann; *To the Lighthouse*, by Virginia Woolf; *The Rings of Saturn*, by W.G. Sebald; *My Brilliant Friend*, by Elena Ferrante; *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*, by Olga Tokarczuk; *Flights*, by Olga Tokarczuk; *Sodom and Gomorrah* and *The Captive*, by Marcel Proust; *The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal Order*, by Gary Gerstle.

Listening: John Luther Adams, *Become Ocean*; Charlie and the Tropicales, *Jump Up!*; Post Malone, "Loser"

Watching: *Babylon Berlin*, Season 4 (at last!); *Dark Matter*; *The Bear*, Season 3





Storybook Project



My Caregiver & Me Program

## Board of Missions

### A Ray of Hope

The members of the Missions Board are given the responsibility of distributing funds provided through donations and fundraising to the dozens of agencies and organizations supported by FCCOL. Recipients are located throughout the greater New London County as well as numerous other communities as far away as South Dakota, Haiti, Palestine and South Africa. During this past year, under the leadership of Erik Johannessen, Missions Board members have attempted to visit as many of the agencies as possible in order to determine their current goals, challenges and needs. It has been both a heartwarming and heart wrenching experience for us all. Heartwarming in that we witness the real impact provided by our support and heart wrenching because the needs are so great.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit with Barbara Lisien-Juliano, the Executive Director of A Sacred Place (ASP). This organization was founded in 2004 in support of women incarcerated in York Women's Prison located in Niantic. York was originally a farm setting where incarcerated women learned housekeeping and cooking skills. Some gave birth to babies there. ASP volunteers at

that time were allowed to bring the women to their homes for dinner and some even stayed overnight. That practice ended during the pandemic.

Thus, the Storybook Project was introduced. Currently volunteers visit York for an afternoon two times a month. They bring with them a collection of new books suitable for young children through teenage readers. The mothers are able to select a book that they believe their child or children at home would enjoy. They record themselves reading a selection from the book, and it is subsequently given to their children to continue reading at home. In recent years books have been added honoring diversity, some written in Spanish.

Families are usually given the opportunity to have an extended visit at York once a month. During that time, ASP volunteers provide crafts for the moms to complete with their children, some also accompanied by their fathers. Other supports offered by the volunteers include facilitating a 13 week emotional literacy course, always with a wait list. Scared Sweeties provides gift bags for the infants of York women, including crocheted items made by women in the prison using washable donated pastel colored yarn.

The Barbara Mahon Fund supports

long-term sentenced women who wish to enroll in undergraduate college courses and certificate programs by paying for tuition, books and supplies. FCCOL LBS donates to this fund. One of the greatest challenges for women released from York is to find employment in order to afford housing and to pay for living expenses. ASP provides assistance as the women transition to halfway houses by supplying them with phones and helping them secure Social Security cards and a driver's license.

In what ways might FCCOL continue to provide assistance? The new moms would appreciate being given baby hats and infant clothes for sending with their children as they transition from the hospital to foster care. Most especially the ongoing generous donations of FCCOL members are instrumental in being able to cover ASP operational expenses, books and art supplies. On behalf of Barbara Lisien-Juliano and the women of York Women's Prison, thank you so very much for your substantial assistance to individuals and their families in such significant need of FCCOL support. It helps provide a ray of hope during such a trying time.

Report submitted by Dale Bernardoni, Mission Board member

## Want a fun Fall day-trip adventure?

Last May, a few of us ventured to Bristol, Rhode Island to spend the day exploring what was at one time one of the largest slave-ship arrival ports on the eastern seaboard. **Linden Place** is the historic home – now open to the public – of the DeWolf family.

Having read, “Inheriting the Trade” by Tom DeWolf, we were curious to learn more. And it turned out to be a wonderful day trip adventure. We learned a lot about the early days of the slave trade. We found a delightful little restaurant (called “Le Central”) right across the street from the historic home. And we explored the large state park which was established by the DeWolf family many years ago. We all agreed that our visit to Bristol, Rhode Island, had been intriguing and informative. And we wanted to encourage others to go explore there as well.

The trip, by car, must have taken a little under an hour and a half. And the scenery was lovely, especially along Route 1 meandering along the Rhode Island coast as we took our time driving home. Carpooling made the adventure all the more fun! Call Carleen (860-304-2070) if you have any detail questions!



### Diaper Bank Saturday

The summer months continued to be busy at the Diaper Bank. In June, 37 babies were in need; in August, 48. Each guest received a case of diapers and a case of baby food, in addition to wipes. The guests are always grateful for these items. Upon receiving the diapers, one guest shook her head and said “things are so expensive”.

The guests were thrilled with the unexpected gift of gently used clothing donated by the WES. Some guests appear cautious when new items are

added to the table. “Are these for me? Is it okay if I take one”? It is a gift for volunteers to witness such hesitancy and then such appreciation from our guests.

A big shout out to all members, friends, and neighbors who continue to make the Diaper Bank possible. Nearly all donations are anonymous. Diaper Bank volunteers arrive on the first Friday of every month to cases of baby food; and cases and packages of diapers stacked near the stairwell.

Constancy and faithfulness in action.

### Adult Forum with Stephen Berardo

#### “Voting -Why is it so difficult.”

On Sunday, September 22nd after the 10:00 am Worship Service please join us with Stephen Barardo to talk about the challenges that almost every country faces with managing voting in an open, free and fair process.



Join Ensemble Altera and Simon Holt, Friday September 13th at 7:00 pm at FCCOL. A "chamber choir of seamless perfection" (Boston Musical Intelligencer), for **A New Song: Psalms for the Soul**, as we offer a concert exploring the psalm texts in all their dizzying variety and poetic beauty. The concert features a wide variety of music, spanning many musical styles and periods, including Allegri's famous *Miserere*, as well as selections by Bruckner, Parry, MacMillan, and Rutter, along with world premieres by Michael Garrepy, as well as their 4th annual Composition Competition winner. Ensemble Altera is made up of the very best in local and national talent combined with singers from top international choral groups The Tallis Scholars, Tenebrae, and Voces8. Tickets only \$25! Not to be missed!



## NEW LONDON COMMUNITY MEAL CENTER

### The New London Meal Center

During the last thirty plus years our Mission Board has supported The New London Meal Center on the fourth Sunday of every month, serving a healthy meal at the Center which includes sending meals to the Homeless Hospitality Center. Various church committees, and other groups, such as the Senior Choir, and Senior PF are assigned a month to provide a meal and servers. The Meal Center operates Monday through Friday with a small staff and many volunteers to serve lunch and dinner to many hungry clients who might not otherwise consume warm, healthy meals.

Once a month a dinner meal is served on Saturday, but otherwise some of the clients haven't eaten a decent meal since their last one on a Friday evening at The Center. **We are always in need of people who are willing to help out\*** Each month we meet at the church at 3:30 to pick up prepared food and donated drinks plus food, and then carpool in to the Center. We serve promptly from 5:00-6:00. On occasion we have served as many as 170 meals to very hungry and appreciative clients, It remains a very important mission supported by our church.

If you are have questions and are interested in helping out any month, or especially during September you may contact either Charlie Hosley at [hosleycs@aol.com](mailto:hosleycs@aol.com) or [julie.kuja@yahoo.com](mailto:julie.kuja@yahoo.com).

**\*Either by cooking or shopping for items ahead of time or helping when we serve at the site.**

## Environmental Committee

**Monday, October 7, 11:30 am FIELD TRIP** planned for interested members of the congregation:

The Environmental Committee, in the spirit of Facing the Future, has arranged a field trip to the **construction area of the Offshore Wind project at the New London pier**. This will be about an hour long introduction to the site and the CT Port Authority's part in it. We will have an opportunity to ask questions about the project and see (from a secure area) a section of the construction site. There are five or six slots available at this time. If there is enough interest, a second trip could be planned.

If you would like to see these massive turbines more closely and have your questions answered, please email Mariette Brown at [MarietteTB98@gmail.com](mailto:MarietteTB98@gmail.com).

More trips of this nature are in the works to allow a more in-depth exploration of the changes happening around us, how they mesh together and impact us, and the 'buffet' of energy sources being developed in our region.

-Mariette



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To honor the memory and legacy of Rev. David Good and his tireless work with our Tree of Life partnership, Anne McCarty & Nick Westbrook will be selling a variety of Palestinian goods including olive oil in both bottles and tins, soap, za'atar, and bracelets during Fellowship Hour for the next several Sundays. David's book of compiled sermons,



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."



## **GIVING MATTERS**

As FCCOL members and friends, we join with each other in a sacred Covenant to serve each other, the Church, and our community. We also reach far beyond ourselves and our borders to South Dakota, South Africa, Haiti, Palestine - anywhere our care can reach. Anyone that needs our caring touch. That's Who We Are! It's what we are called to do!

### ***Giving Matters.***

Our Church home, the building itself requires Time, Talent and Treasure. Each are gifts we freely give to welcome all seeking a spiritual place. A sanctuary.

### ***Giving Matters.***

Our Wider Community requires our "gifts" too. Feeding those who need sustenance, a place to

feel safe while they rest and a comforting, hopeful voice. There's so much more our outreach provides. And more we strive to support.

### ***Giving Matters.***

It's now time to make our own "Stone Soup." Let's join together, look into our larders, and share a generous congregational blend of Time, Talent and Treasure. Let's jointly Commit to a year ahead that provides a Wide-Open Door to everyone seeking spiritual and physical nourishment.

### ***Sharing Matters.***

We are on a pilgrim's journey that began long, long ago and continues today. Here. Now. Together, in faithful partnership, nurtured by the Holy Spirit we will succeed.

Together we are becoming what we are committed to be. A source of hope, compassion and justice.

### ***Commitment Matters.***

Our financial campaign for the year 2025 will start this month. Stewardship Sunday is September 29<sup>th</sup>. Over three-quarters of the funds needed to keep our church operating and our ministries and missions healthy comes from the contributions of our members and friends. When you receive your commitment card, please be as generous as you are able. Your commitment very much matters!

Thank you,  
Your Board of Stewardship

## **Weekly Communion Table 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



## **BLOOD DRIVE**

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the First Congregation Church of Old Lyme on Thursday, Sept. 12th 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>

## **Seeking Employment**

Guli Gvelesiani, I have 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.

# HOME COMING SUNDAY!!

Welcome back to all our families and friends in God's Neighborhood! Our Sunday School program, God's Neighborhood, begins Sunday, September 8th at 10:00 am. Following the service, we're having an Ice Cream Social on the front lawn featuring the mobile Ice Cream Parlor back by popular demand.



## Christ the King Church Harvest Festival

Christ the King Church are supporters and many were volunteers at the FCCOL WES. They are having their rummage sale on Saturday and Sunday, September 21st and 22nd. Even if you can't volunteer or donate, please stop buy to support them.

The KING'S RUMMAGE SALE — part of the annual Harvest Festival at Christ the King Church — opens its doors at 8:30am on Saturday, September 21, 2024!

The King's Rummage Sale attracts bargain hunters and treasure seekers from all over Southeastern Connecticut. You never know what you'll find! Toys and sporting goods; books, CDs and DVDs; jewelry; holiday decorations; housewares and small appliances; artwork; furniture; collectibles and more!

*The RUMMAGE SALE will continue Sunday morning, September 22, from 9am to Noon, when many items will be HALF PRICE!*

## Intake information:

Donations of clean and saleable items for the Rummage Sale will be accepted September 5 – 14, 2024, 9am–noon (*EXCEPT Sunday Sept 8*).

*SPECIAL EVENING HOURS: 5–7pm on September 5 and September 12 only.*

Please bring your donations to the Parish Hall entrance of the church complex. (*Follow signs.*)

Please note: We are NOT collecting clothes or shoes. In addition, there are a number of items we cannot accept due to health regulations or lack of marketability. Please check our list of items we can and cannot accept.at:

<https://tinyurl.com/86p9h93a>

*Questions about a donation to the Rummage Sale? Need help with a large item? Email us at:*

**[CTKHarvestFestival@gmail.com](mailto:CTKHarvestFestival@gmail.com)**

Christ the King Church

1 McCurdy Road , Old Lyme, CT 06371

860.434.1669

**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.

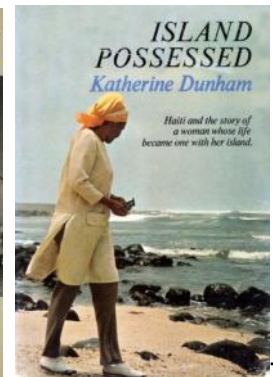
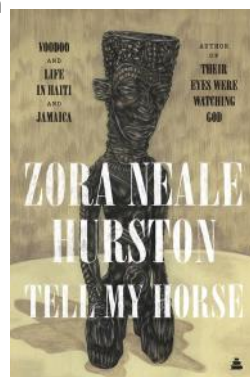
Now plans are afoot to visit the Eastern section of Cuba, centered around Santiago, from March 13-23, 2025. It's a section of the island called *Oriente*, a place that few outsiders now visit. It was there that thousands of Haitian planters and their captive workers fled after the Haitian Revolution. 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.

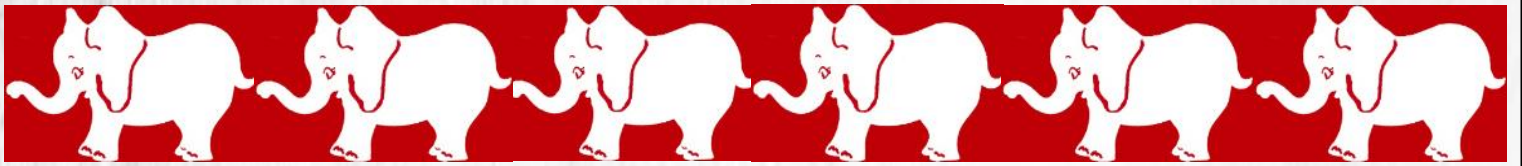
In cities and mountain villages, we'll be exploring those traditions. This will be a journey with a heavy emphasis upon music and dance, which is how religion is conveyed in this part of the world. We'll be attending ceremonies every single day, and sometimes twice a day. We'll learn the history of the 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.





## Final White Elephant Sale Report for 2024

The first couple of hours on Friday were overcast and sales were brisk outside and then the rains came but only during sale hours. Saturday was worse with torrential rains all morning shifting cleanup to Sunday afternoon after things dried out, but that didn't stop the shoppers.

### Bottom line

**BEST SALE EVER** [even after setting an all time record last year !! ]

Total Gross 2 day bank deposit sales were => **\$99,293**

Adding in 2023 consignments, silver melting, etc. - this year's final gross was **\$101,397**

Of the [21] departments, [12] exceeded 2023 sales with [7] making new all time records.

Here are this year's top 5 departments:

|                     |          |           |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| Women's/accessories | \$17,801 | best ever |
| Luxury              | \$11,894 |           |
| Jewelry             | \$9,619  | best ever |
| Art/Frames          | \$8,210  |           |
| Sporting Goods      | \$6,914  | best ever |

Bob Davis – WES chairman

Alan Howell – WES Sale Treasurer

| <u>Departments</u>  | <u>Sales</u> |                           |                |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Appliances          | 1,908        | Knick Knacks              | 3,387          |
| Art Works           | 8,210        | Linens                    | 5,988          |
| Baked Goods         | 1,273        | Luxury (Incl Instruments) | 11,827         |
| Books / Music       | 3,731        | Men's Clothing            | 3,647          |
| Children's Books    | 1,157        | Pots and Pans             | 1,415          |
| Children's Clothing | 1,980        | Small Furniture           | 4,484          |
| Coffee and Donuts   | 1,136        | Sporting Goods            | 6,914          |
| Flowers and Baskets | 6,219        | Toys                      | 2,301          |
| Food                | 1,645        | Women's                   | 17,801         |
| Large Furniture     | 3,062        | Miscellaneous             | 16             |
| Jewelry             | 9,619        | <u>Department Sales</u>   | <u>100,476</u> |
| Kitchenware         | 2,756        | <u>General Expenses</u>   | <u>-14,084</u> |
|                     |              | <u>Net WES Sales</u>      | <u>86,392</u>  |





# SEPTEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

**FCCOL Office closed** *Monday, September 2nd* for Labor Day.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sept. 3, 4, 5th at 12:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, September 4th at 7:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Food Pantry and Diaper Bank** *Saturday, September 7th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**Homecoming Sunday, Sunday School Starts Today, Sunday Worship Service** September 8th.

**Ladies Who Stitch “JEANS SALE”** *Monday, Sept. 9th at 10:00am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Ladies Benevolent Society Luncheon** *Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 12:00pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Board of Trustees** *Tuesday, September 10th at 7:30pm* in the Library.

**Ballroom Dancing Lesson** *Wednesday, September 11th at 10:00am* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sept. 11, 12, 13th at 12:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, September 11th at 7:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**ARC Blood Drive** *Thursday, September 12th from 1:00 -6:00pm*, in the Fellowship Hall.

**Ensemble Altera Concert and Simon Holt** *Friday, September 13th at 7:00 pm* in Meetinghouse.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, September 14th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**God’s Neighborhood “Open House” Sunday School,** *Sunday Sept 15th at 10:00 am.*

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, September 16th at 10:00am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Senior Center Luncheon** *Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sept. 17, 18, 19th at 12:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, September 18th at 7:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**October Newsletter Deadline** *Thursday, September 18th.*

**Board of Stewardship** *Thursday, September 19th at 4:00pm* in the Library.

**Writers at the Well** *Friday, September 20th at 10:00 am* in Hoag Parlor.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, September 21st at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**Adult Forum with Stephen Berardo** *Sun. Sept. 22nd at 11:30 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, September 23rd at 10:00am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Ladies Benevolent Society Meeting** *Tuesday, Sept. 24th at 10:00 am* in the Library.

**Board of Deacons Meeting** *Tuesday, September 24th at 7:00pm* in the Library.

**NO Senior Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, September 25th, Date Night.*

**Grief Group Meeting** *Wednesday, September 25th at 5:30pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, September 26th at 11:00 am* in Library.

**Writers at the Well** *Friday September 27th at 10:00 am* in Hoag Parlor.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, September 28th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**Stewardship Sunday,** Sunday Worship Service September 29th.

**God’s Neighborhood Picnic and Kayaking** *Sunday, Sept. 29th at 3:00 pm* at Camp Claire.

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, September 30th at 10:00am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

# **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](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.

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The submission deadline for the October Newsletter is September 18th.

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.*