



## **The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**

**2 Ferry Road,  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
(860) 434-8686  
[www.fccol.org](http://www.fccol.org)**

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister  
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister  
Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister  
Simon Holt, Organist and Director

**February 16, 2025**

**Sunday Worship Service**

**10:00 AM**

Prelude

Introit: **“Fear Not”**

Music and lyrics by Sean McCarty

\*Processional Hymn: #353 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

\*Call to Worship:

Ever-present God, the One who gives us life,

**you have called us together today.**

In this time of song, of prayer, and sacred story,

**speak to our hearts, animate our minds, refresh our souls.**

In a chaotic world where we often wonder what we have to give,

**open our imaginations to see the possibilities,**

**open our ears to hear the summons,**

**open hearts to let love overflow into the world.**

Come let us worship God.

\*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

\*Hymn: “The Summons”

by John Bell (see insert)

Children’s Message

Zoe Eastman-Grossel, Joe Kazadi, Finn Barrett

Children’s Song: #364 “This Little Light of Mine”

*(Children proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated.)*

Offering Invitation

**Offertory Anthem: “Distant Land: A prayer for freedom”**

Music and words by John Rutter born 1945

\*Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

\*Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: "As We Are Gathered"

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "As We Are Gathered". It is written in G major and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "As we are gathered, Je - sus is here; one with each oth - er, Je - sus is here. Joined by the Spir - it built up in love, part of the bod - y, the church of God." The first system is labeled "Refrain" and ends with a double bar line. The second system is labeled "Fine" and ends with a double bar line. The third system is labeled "to Refrain" and ends with a double bar line.

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-12, Jeremiah 1: 4-8, 1 Corinthians 14:26,

Maryann Furlong

Sermon: "If You Are Called to Anything, It will Sound like Freedom"

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

\*Closing Hymn: #404 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

\*Congregation Standing

*We thank you for worshipping with us. Following the life and teachings of Jesus, we are a church that strives to be a place of grace, welcoming all regardless of theological expression, age, race, gender, sexual identity, national origin or financial means. In our Church Constitution we recognize that "each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of his or her own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit." The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, established in 1665, cherishes this proud Pilgrim tradition. We are honored by your presence among us, and we invite you to help us become what we endeavor to be.*

## Scripture Readings

### Exodus 3:1-12

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up. "When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father and mother, the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Isaac and Rebekkah, and the God of Jacob and Rachel." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

### Jeremiah 1: 4-8

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Alas, Sovereign One," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

### 1 Corinthians 14:26 (The Message)

When you gather for worship, each one of you be prepared with something that will be useful for all: Sing a hymn, teach a lesson, tell a story, lead a prayer, provide an insight.

## Choir Anthems

**Introit: "Fear Not"**

Music and lyrics by Sean McCarty

**Offertory Anthem: "Distant Land: *A prayer for freedom*"**

words and music by John Rutter born 1945

I see a distant land: it shines so clear. Sometimes it seems so far, sometimes so near. Come, join together, take the dusty road; help one another: share the heavy load. The journey may be long: no end in sight; there may be hills to climb, or giants to fight. But if you'll take my hand, we'll walk together toward the land of freedom. (continued on the next page)

I hear a distant song: it fills the air. I hear it, deep and strong, rise up in prayer: O Lord, we are many; help us to be one. Heal our divisions: let thy will be done. I know the time will come when war must cease: a time of truth and love, a time of peace. The people cry 'How long till all our world can join the song of freedom.'

I touch a distant hand and feel its glow, the hand I hoped was there: at last I know. Swords into ploughshares: can it all come true? Friends out of strangers: start with me and you. I see another time, another place where we can all be one, one human race. The walls will melt away, we'll come together on the day of freedom.

*The flowers this morning are given in honor of all the  
Young Leaders of tomorrow in our church.*

~~~~~  
*The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Ellen Calkins.*

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*The nursery is open today with Miss Tiffany Goss.*

## **Events and Meetings**

Following today's service please drop by the **South Lyme Union Chapel** to celebrate **Jimmy Carter's lifelong service to people in need.** Come, you won't be late. Enjoy coffee and refreshments and shared stories.



**Michelle Speirs Memorial Service** *Monday, February 17th at 11:00 am* in the Meetinghouse.

**FCCOL Office** will be closed Monday for President's Day.

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, February 17th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Families and Parents Care Trans Youth and Young Adults Meeting**

*Wednesday, February 19th at 5:30 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal** *Wednesday, February 19th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, February 19th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, February 20th at 11:00 am* in Hoag Parlor.

**The Kairos Document Reading** *Thursday, February 20th at 12:00 pm* in Hoag Parlor.

**Board of Stewardship Meeting** *Thursday, February 20th at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

**ReBellion Rehearsal** *Thursday, February 20th at 4:15 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Shoreline Food Pantry** *Saturday, February 22nd at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**Florence Griswold Museum in partnership with FCCOL** presentation of Photographer **William Earle Williams** *Saturday, February 22nd at 4:00 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

## **Bible Study Goodness, Greed and Grace: We have started to read the book of Exodus**

Bible Study continues every Thursday, at 11:00 am. In person and on Zoom.

Email: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) for the zoom link.

## **Reading the South African Kairos Document**

Members and friends are invited to gather for a reading and study group of the South African Kairos Document with Steve. Written at the height of the apartheid struggles in South Africa in 1985, this brief theological statement remains stunningly relevant. We'll meet every Thursday at 12:00 noon, in the Hoag Parlor, immediately after the weekly Bible study. Copies of the document will be available in the church Narthex, on the table at the bottom of the stairs between the Meetinghouse and the Fellowship Hall, and in the church office. Large format copies are available as well. Email: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) for the zoom link.

**Church World Service Blanket Drive:** Thanks to the generosity of donors who support the Blanket Drive, CWS was able to respond quickly with blankets and emergency kits to the devastation caused by hurricanes Helen and Milton in September and October across Florida, Georgia, North- and South Carolina and Tennessee. Each blanket costs only \$10. Please make checks payable to LBS. CWS envelopes are available in the pews and can be put in the offering plate or sent to FCCOL c/o LBS, 2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371."

**Stand Together for Democracy, No Dictators, Protest the Coup, Monday February 17th at 12:00 pm Old Saybrook Green.**

**Florence Griswold Museum and FCCOL are hosting a Lecture by photographer William Earle Williams** "The Evolution of Their Kindred Earth from Concept to Exhibition" at FCCOL on Saturday, February 22nd at 4:00 – 5:00pm in the Meetinghouse. Over the past forty years Williams has made sites of African American history more visible through his exquisite photographs.

**Petition to State Legislators supporting Environmental Efforts:** If you are interested in information or want to sign the CT Coalition for Climate Action petition from the Inter-religious Eco-Justice Network, contact Mariette Brown for more information at: [marietteb98@gmail.com](mailto:marietteb98@gmail.com).

**IREJN (Interreligious Eco-Justice Network)** is a statewide group focusing on environmental issues. During this tumultuous time, it's key that we make sure our Federal legislators understand that Connecticut residents want them to stand for, and protect, what is left of the natural world. They need to know that we care about climate change and the future for our children and all of creation. Mariette Brown will have postcards available during Fellowship hour this week for people to write a quick note to our representatives about the importance of protecting our environment.

## **Playing God: The Ethical Implications of Genetic Engineering Potluck Supper**

Friday, February 21st at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Friday, February 21st at 6:00 pm is the first in a series of Faith and Science Discussion Potluck Suppers. "Know What's on Your Plate? Exploring the Risks and Benefits of Genetic Engineering." All are welcome (no science background required). Bring a dish to share. If you would like to help with the set up and break down of the potluck please contact Deb Heminway at [dheminway9@gmail.com](mailto:dheminway9@gmail.com).

## **Youth Group Mardi Gras Breakfast**

Sunday, March 2nd from 8:30-9:30 am. Join us for our annual Mardi Gras breakfast celebration at FCCOL. Our Middle and High Schoolers will be making breakfast for our congregation with the assistance of Chef Phil Brant. This annual celebration is also a way for them to raise donations for scholarships for upcoming trips to Ellis Island in April and our trip to Green Grass, South Dakota (June 23rd-June 28th). Planning underway for both of these journeys. Email Jolene for details and to sign up to help.

**Homeless Hospitality Donations:** We are grateful to everyone who helped with the donations of socks and coffee for the Homeless Hospitality Center of New London. Their request for canes (used canes are just fine!) and ground coffee and socks will continue. Please bring them to church and leave them with the deacons at the front door if you have one to donate; or bring it to the church office during the week. Many thanks.

## **2025 Stewardship (Financial) Campaign Update**

Our 2025 campaign, which provides the financial resources for the church to operate every year, is nearing the “home stretch.” So far, we have received 255 generous commitments totaling \$585,604 which is very close to our goal of \$600,000. Last year we received 280 commitments. So, we would very much appreciate for those who have not yet made a commitment to come forward. We would like to exceed the goal this year, so that we don’t have to rely on a contribution from our Endowment Fund, which we needed to do last year. If you have not yet made a commitment, and/or have misplaced your commitment card, please call the office (860-434-8686) and we will make sure you get one. You can also give us your commitment over the phone or enter a pledge on our website at [www.fccol.org/](http://www.fccol.org/) donate. THANK YOU!

**Nadine Pinede**, there are a few signed copies of her book “*When the Mapou Sings*” available in the FCCOL office for \$15.00.

**Sunday Flowers:** We're scheduling members and friends who would like to provide pulpit flowers for Sundays. To sign up, call Jill Harned, 603-398-9004. Thank you!

**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. Even a room to rent for a period of time would be greatly appreciated.

**A Room to Rent** is available in the home of one of our church members. If you'd like more information please give your contact information to Anne in the church office and she'll connect you with the home owner.

**Car Wanted:** Our caretaker, Bill Slivinski, is in need of a car. Please let us know if you can help. Call the office at 860-434-8686. Thank you!

**Stair Chair Available:** A stair chair has been donated and available to any one in need of one. Please contact Ellen Calkins for more information at [ercalkins@gmail.com](mailto:ercalkins@gmail.com).

# Convergence Consulting Workshop

## March 1st To Help Determine Our Church's Future

*You're invited!*

Our church is ready to take the next step to help determine our future – and we'd like you to be part of the process.

**On Saturday, March 1, from 9:30 am till noon**, we will be holding a workshop in the Sheffield Auditorium that will help our congregation visualize the ministries, outreach efforts and issues that we will focus on in the next five years. Light refreshments will be served including lots of coffee.

The workshop is open to all members and friends – and we'd love to have you participate. The workshop will be facilitated by Rev. Gregg Carson from Convergence, the consulting firm we engaged to help our church thrive. Gregg previously updated us on the Convergence work at a November adult forum, and this is a next step in the process.

The goal of the workshop is to help our congregation articulate a clear, concrete vision of how we can best position our church to meet the needs of our members and our Old Lyme community.

**Please RSVP no later than February 20<sup>th</sup> by sending an email to [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org).** Thank you.