



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**2 Ferry Road,
Old Lyme, Connecticut
(860) 434-8686
www.fccol.org**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

March 23, 2025

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Stay With Us”** from *Captive and Free* by Egil Hovland

*Processional Hymn: “For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table” see insert

*Call to Worship: From “For the Children” by Gary Snyder, Turtle Island

The rising hills, the slopes of statistics lie before us,
the steep climb of everything going up, up as we all go down

**In the next century or the one beyond that, they say, are valleys,
pastures, we can meet there in peace if we make it**

To climb these coming crests

One word to you, to you and your children:

stay together

learn the flowers

go light.

Come, let us worship God.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #171 “Jesus’ Hands Were Kind Hands”

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Kumbaya”** traditional spiritual arranged Paul Sjolund

*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

Children's Message

Dana Dixon

Children's Song: #364 "This Little Light of Mine"
(Only children grades 3 and below proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: "Imagine" by John Lennon sung by Marcy Conway

*"You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.
I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will live as one."*

Scripture: Luke 14: 12-14, 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

Maeve and McCoy Gosman

Sermon: "Reflections on Sharing Humanity Night"

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Youth Group and Special Guest

*Closing Hymn: #500 "O For a World"

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, her or their 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

Luke 14: 12-14

Jesus turned to the host of the dinner party. “The next time you put on a dinner, don’t just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits and those whom the world says are from the wrong side of the tracks. You’ll be—and experience—a blessing. They won’t be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!—all will be blessed and welcome at the table of God’s people. (from *The Message*, Eugene Peterson)

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient and kind. Love is never jealous. It does not brag or boast. It is not puffed up or big-headed. Love does not act in shameful ways, nor does it care only about itself. It is not hot-headed, nor does it keep track of wrongs done to it. Love is not happy with lies and injustice, but truth makes its heart glad. Love keeps walking even when carrying a heavy load. Love keeps trusting, never loses hope, and stands firm in hard times. The road of love has no end. (from *First Nations Edition*)

Choir Anthems

Introit: “Stay With Us”

from *Captive and Free* by Egil Hovland

Text: Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us, it soon is evening, and night is calling. Jesus Christ, the world's true light! Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it! Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling. Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us, it soon is evening, and night is calling.

Offertory Anthem: “Kumbaya”

traditional spiritual arranged Paul Sjolund

Text: Kumbaya, my Lord, Kumbaya; Oh Lord, Kumbaya. Someone's prayin', Lord, someone's cryin', Lord, someone's singin', Lord, Oh Lord, Kumbaya!

The flowers this morning are joyously given to welcome Spring!

The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Julie Martel.

The nursery is open today with Miss Tiffany Goss.

(If you would like to would like to decorate our communion table with flowers in honor of, or memory of someone special in your life or a meaningful occasion, please call Jill Harned, 603-398-9004, to reserve a date).

Events Today and Meetings

TODAY Adult Forum Performance The Wheel Life Theater Troupe

Sunday, March 23rd at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

TODAY A Tour of the FLOGRIS Exhibit “Their Kindred Earth” will be given at 2:00 pm by Nancy Mol. This tour will be offered free to members of the museum and non-members who register at the Front Desk.

Events and Meetings The Week Ahead

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, March 24th at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Dante’s Paradiso Reading *Monday, March 24th at 6:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Board of Deacons Meeting *Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 pm in the Library.*

Pottery Class with Paul Fitzpatrick-Nager *Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25th and 26th at 6 pm in the Pottery Studio.*

Grief Group *Wednesday, March 26th at 5:00 pm in the Hoag Parlor.*

Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, March 26th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, March 26th at 7:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Newsletter Folding *Thursday, March 27th.*

Bible Study *Thursday, March 27th at 11:00 am in Hoag Parlor.*

The Kairos Document Reading *Thursday, March 27th at 12:00 pm in Hoag Parlor.*

ReBellion Rehearsal *Thursday, March 27th at 4:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

Shoreline Food Pantry *Saturday, March 29th at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall.*

TODAY Adult Forum Presentation: *Let's Get Together* by the Wheel Life Theater Troupe

From the Legacy Theater, Branford, CT. from 11:30-12:15. *Let's Get Together* is an original piece of devised theatre, written and performed by the Wheel Life participants. A show about the evolution of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the brave people in the '80s and '90s who brought it to pass, this entertaining and thought-provoking production boldly looks at how we can all "get together" to improve each other's quality of life—today and always. Directed by Julie Fitzpatrick (Laura's sister).

A tour of the FLOGRIS exhibit "Their Kindred Earth" will be given at 2:00 pm TODAY by Nancy Mol. This tour will be offered free to members of the museum and non-members who register at the Front Desk.

Church World Service Blanket Drive: CWS is one of the top 100 highly rated charities and merits a 4/4 star rating from Charity Navigator. Our generous congregation received a plaque in 2023, honoring FCCOL for having donated \$90,000 for blankets over the last 25 years. All kits distributed in 2024 for back packs, disaster relief, welcoming neighbors, the homeless, hygiene and wellness included a blanket. The blanket drive lasts until the end of March. Please support this important charity with your generous donations. Each blanket costs only \$10. Please make checks payable to LBS. CWS envelopes are available in the pews and may be put in the offering plate or sent to the church, c/o LBS.

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 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 on Thursdays 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. Email: fccol@fccol.org for the zoom link.

FCCOL Moth Storytelling Night Potluck

Join us for an evening of good food, good friends, and good storytelling! We will meet in the FCCOL Fellowship Hall on Friday April 4th at 6:00 for a Potluck Dinner and to hear an assortment of short Moth-style stories. (Don't know what "Moth" is? Come and learn!) Open to all - please bring a dish to share and a friend (no reservations necessary)! Questions? Contact Tom Sherer: tesjr299@outlook.com
If you would like to help with the potluck setup/cleanup, please contact Deb Heminway: dheminway9@gmail.com

Dante's *Paradiso* Reading Group

In preparation for our Maundy Thursday ascent with Dante through the *Paradiso*, all are invited to gather on a series of Mondays leading up to Maundy Thursday. We'll read key portions of the *Paradiso* together, and discuss their significance. The adventure continues on Monday, March 24th at 6:30 PM in the Hoag Parlor. All translations are welcome, but we'll refer most often to the Hollander and the Palma translations.

The schedule is as follows: March 24, March 31, April 7, and April 14. No need to sign up. Just come if you're interested. There will also be a Zoom option. Call the office for the link.

Nadine Pinede Book There are a few signed copies of her book "*When the Mapou Sings*" available in the FCCOL office and the partnership store for \$15.00.

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!

Caretaker Seeking Employment

Guili, who has worked with some of our families in the past, is seeking a fulltime, live-in, 24/7 caretaker position. She can be reached at 860-391-5691. References upon request .

Easter Schedule 2025

Maundy Thursday April 17th, 2025

A 6:00 pm service of communion and sacred music.

A reading of Dante's "*Paradiso*" will follow at 7:00pm.

Good Friday April 18th, 2025

The Meetinghouse is open for prayers and meditation.

Easter Sunrise Service April 20th, 2025

6:00am at Griswold Point
(if you need directions call the church at
860-434-8686).

Easter Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am Worship Services

Join us for a coffee and a light breakfast between services.

Childcare will be provided at the 9 o'clock service.

Sunday school will not meet,
but will resume on April 27th at 10:00 am.