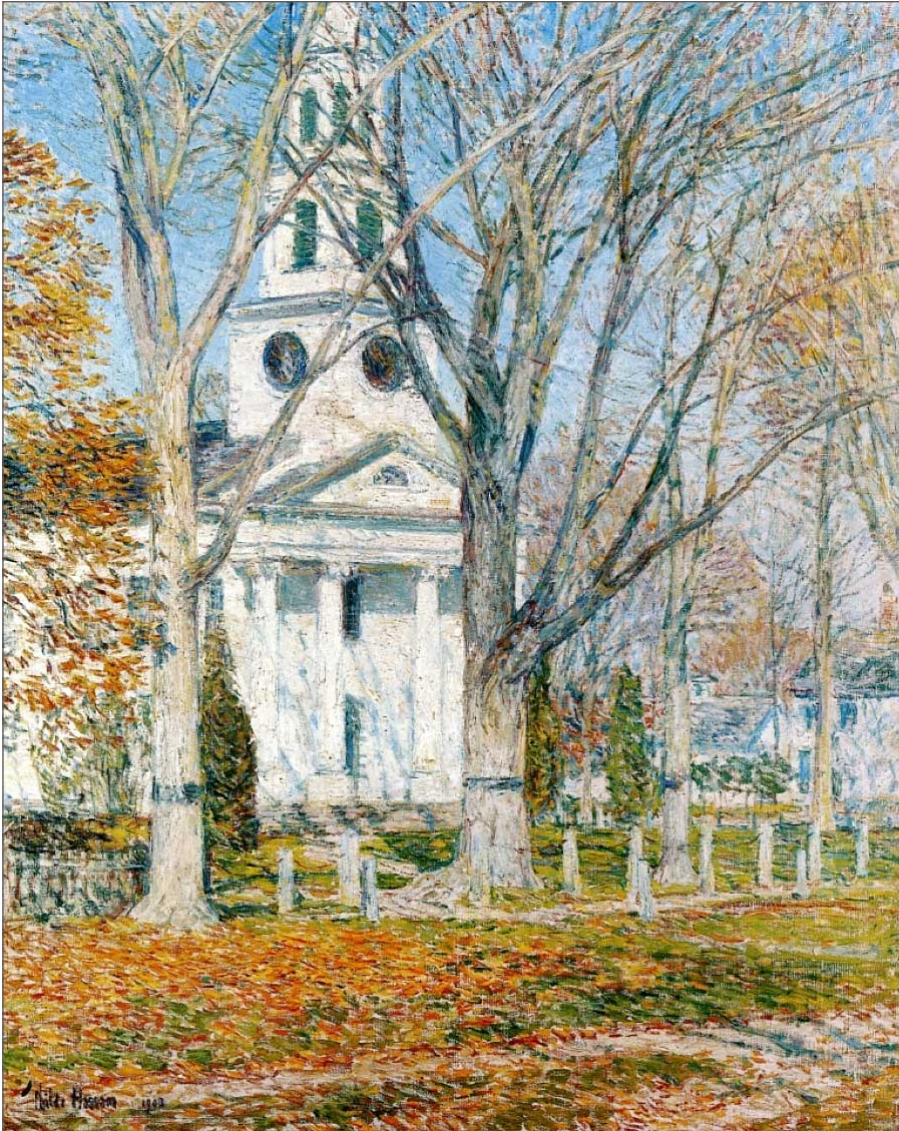




The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**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

August 31, 2025

COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #258 “Morning Has Broken”

Call to Worship:

We gather this morning to celebrate
the abundance of our lives together.

**In this spiritual community, we gather strength from one another,
and offer our hands in compassion and generosity.**

In the authentic and gentle manner of our connections,
we cultivate a simple openness to one another to brighten our spirits.

**May we be grateful for the ways we nourish and uplift each other,
for it is this sharing together - in loving communion - that sustains us.**

Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #385 “Shadow and Substance”

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Music

*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: “Eat This Bread”

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and

nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup,

trust in me and you will not thirst.

Scripture: Acts 17: 22-28, The Gospel of Thomas, Fragment 77

Sermon: “God, After All”

Rev. Dr. Steve Jungkeit

Hymn: #318 “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Sacrament of Communion

Closing Hymn: #378 “God, We Thank You for Our People ”

Benediction

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 Reading

Acts 17: 22-28

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

The Gospel of Thomas, Fragment 77

(Words attributed to Jesus): "I am the light that is over all things. I am all: from me all came forth, and to me all attained. Split a piece of wood; I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there."

~~~~~

*The hosts for the Fellowship hour this morning are John Kiker and Dan Hulseberg.*

~~~~~

*The nursery is open today and there will be arts
and crafts for elementary ages across from the nursery.*

~~~~~

*For a future Sunday if you 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 at 603-398-9004 to reserve a date. Thank you.*

~~~~~

(Painting on the cover by Childe Hassam)

Upcoming Events and Meetings

The FCCOL Office will be closed Monday, September 1st for Labor Day.

Choir Rehearsal: begins on *Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Sunday School Teachers and Volunteers Training: Our Teacher/Helper Orientation will be held on *Thursday, September 4th, from 5:00-6:30* in the FCCOL library. Please let us know if you might be interested in joining our class for volunteers or in being available as an occasional substitute when needed. Contact Laura 860-304-9096 or Jolene 860-460-9511.

The Shoreline Food Pantry: *Saturday, September 6th starting at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

Coming Soon

Homecoming Sunday, September 7th: 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! Followed by Ice Cream Sundaes!

Sunday, September 21st: FCCOL All Church Picnic, Kayaking and Fun at Camp Claire, Oakland Avenue, Lyme, CT. 3:00-6:00 pm.

The Benevolent Society Luncheon *Tuesday, September 9th at 12:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall. Cooler weather, colorful foliage and the beginning of fall activities are just around the corner, and we invite you to come join us for some fellowship, delicious food, and an entertaining program at The Benevolent Society's (formally The Ladies Benevolent Society) first Autumn luncheon.

The post-lunch program begins at 1pm, and we are pleased to welcome back Edie Twinning who was the speaker at our March luncheon where she talked about and showed her illustrations for the recently published book "Letters to Papa." She has now collaborated with Author Alison Mitchell 92, on her 32-page book "Townsend: The Positive Dog of Mystic Senior Living."

Suggested donation for the luncheon and program is \$5 per person, plus a nonperishable food item for our food bank or a package of disposable diapers for our diaper bank. If you plan to join us at the luncheon, please call the FCCOL office at (860) 434-8686 by Friday, September 5th to make a reservation so we can be sure to have enough food prepared for all to enjoy.

The Salt Marsh Opera Presents: Ensemble Altera at FCCOL

The Four Elements, Choral Visions of Nature, Spirit, and Wonder Across the centuries. *Saturday, September 13th at 7:00 pm* in the Meetinghouse. For tickets and more information visit: www.ensemblealtera.com/tickets.

Bible Study: The Book of Exodus: Stories of Exile and the Search for Freedom

Begins on Thursday, September 25th, from 11-12 in the Library.

The Board of Missions: has just released \$1,000 to support Humanitarian Relief in Gaza through "ANERA (America Near East Refugee Aid)."

From *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker

Here's the thing, say Shug. The thing I believe. God is inside you and inside everybody else. You come into the world with God. But only them that search for it inside find it. And sometimes it just manifest itself even if you not looking, or don't know what you looking for. Trouble do it for most folks, I think. Sorrow, lord. Feeling like s—.

It? I ast.

Yeah, It. God ain't a he or a she, but a It.

But what do it look like? I ast.

Don't look like nothing, she say. It ain't a picture show. It ain't something you can look at apart from anything else, including yourself. I believe God is everything, say Shug. Everything that is or ever was or ever will be. And when you can feel that, and be happy to feel that, you've found It.

Shug a beautiful something, let me tell you. She frown a little, look out cross the yard, lean back in her chair, look like a big rose. She say, My first step from the old white man was trees. Then air. Then birds. Then other people. But one day when I was sitting quiet and feeling like a motherless child, which I was, it come to me: that feeling of being part of everything, not separate at all. I knew that if I cut a tree, my arm would bleed. And I laughed and I cried and I run all around the house. I knew just what it was. In fact, when it happen, you can't miss it. It sort of like you know what, she say, grinning and rubbing high up on my thigh.

Shug! I say.

Oh, she say. God love all them feelings. That's some of the best stuff God did. And when you know God loves 'em you enjoys 'em a lot more. You can just relax, go with everything that's going, and praise God by liking what you like.

God don't think it dirty? I ast.

Naw, she say. God made it. Listen, God love everything you love? and a mess of stuff you don't. But more than anything else, God love admiration.

You saying God vain? I ast.

Naw, she say. Not vain, just wanting to share a good thing. I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it.

What it do when it pissed off? I ast.

Oh, it make something else. People think pleasing God is all God care about. But any fool living in the world can see it always trying to please us back.

Yeah? I say.

Yeah, she say. It always making little surprises and springing them on us when us least expect.

You mean it want to be loved, just like the bible say.

Yes, Celie, she say. Everything want to be loved. Us sing and dance, make faces and give flower bouquets, trying to be loved. You ever notice that trees do everything to git attention we do, except walk?

Well, us talk and talk bout God, but I'm still adrift. Trying to chase that old white man out of my head. I been so busy thinking bout him I never truly notice nothing God make. Not a blade of corn (how it do that?) not the color purple (where it come from?). Not the little wildflowers. Nothing. Now that my eyes opening, I feels like a fool. Next to any little scrub of a bush in my yard, Mr. ____s evil sort of shrink. But not altogether. Still, it is like Shug say, You have to git man off your eyeball, before you can see anything a'tall.

Man corrupt everything, say Shug. He on your box of grits, in your head, and all over the radio. He try to make you think he everywhere.

Soon as you think he everywhere, you think he God. But he ain't. Whenever you trying to pray, and man plop himself on the other end of it, tell him to git lost, say Shug. Conjure up flowers, wind, water, a big rock.

But this hard work, let me tell you. He been there so long, he don't want to budge. He threaten lightning, floods and earthquakes. Us fight. I hardly pray at all. Every time I conjure up a rock, I throw it.

Amen.

COMMUNION SERVICE

INVITATION

PRAYER OF OPEN HEARTS

May we turn again to you, O God, in ways that move us beyond ego to wholeness, beyond judgement to healing, beyond self-serving to generosity. May we know you in the whole of life, in both the blessings and the burdens of our lives. Heal our hurts and open our hearts this day as we return to love again. Amen.

BLESSING OF GRACE

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING OF PEACE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, O God, for all who have gathered round this table. For the food and cup of blessing which delight and nourish us and for companionship that sustains us. May we know the fullness of your presence at every meal and in all our sharing this day and always, AMEN.

It is the practice of this church to serve grape juice and gluten free bread in our communion service.

Tree of Life Educational Fund & The Center for Arabic Culture (CAC) Presents Ramzi Aburedwan and his Dal'ouna Ensemble in Concert.

Sunday, November 2, 2025 at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

~ Michael Dabroski will premier his "Violin Suite No. 5 -
A Prayer for David" as a tribute to Tree of Life's late founder Rev. David W. Good.

For information, contact Rev. Dr. Steve Jungkeit, steven@jungkeit.net