



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

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Handbell Sextet: Matthew Rice, Kate Rice, Devon Kiem, August Jungkeit,
Sean McCarty, Annie McCarty; Rachael Jungkeit, piano

*Processional Hymn: #130 “O Christ, How Shall I Meet You?”

*Call to Worship:

We would be building structures still undone,
O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift,
Waiting till love can raise the broken stone
And creative hearts bridge the human rift.

We would be building, Architect Divine,
Reveal the shape of life in your design.

Let us worship God.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Dawn Chorus

The Parker Family

*Hymn: #129 “Of Eternal Love Begotten”

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Creator of the Stars of Night”** Malcolm Archer (born 1952)

*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: # 151 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” verse 4 only

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 32: 16-18, Luke 2: 1-7

Sermon: “A Labor of Love” Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

*Closing Hymn: #126 “Take Heart, the Journey’s Ended”

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

Isaiah 32: 16-18

Then justice will dwell in the wilderness
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
The effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Old Lyme Handbell Ringers

Introit: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Sondra K. Tucker
Handbell Sextet: Matthew Rice, Kate Rice, Devon Kiem, August Jungkeit,
Sean McCarty, Annie McCarty; Rachael Jungkeit, piano

The handbell arrangement of “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” is a meditation on the German Christmas Carol from the 16th century. The words and music are found in our hymnal as Hymn #148.

Choir Anthems

Offertory Anthem: “Creator of the Stars of Night” Malcolm Archer (born 1952)
Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light, Jesu, Redeemer, save us all, and hear thy servants when they call. Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eveningtide, proceeding from a virgin shrine, the Son of Man, yet all divine. At thy great name, exalted now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow, and things in heaven and earth shall own that thou art Lord and King alone. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, Laud, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

*The flowers this morning offered in loving memory of
Nancy A. Higgins and her daughter, Nancy McIndoe.*

The host for the Fellowship hour this morning is Priscilla Swanson.

The nursery is open today. Please welcome our new staff member, Erin Cameron.

Today at FCCOL

Adult Forum with Sarah Lufler and MaryLou Gannotti: “Partnering with Habitat for Humanity on Plans with Old Lyme”

Today following the 10:00 am service in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Please join us as we welcome Sarah Lufler and MaryLou Gannotti to the Adult Forum today.

“Partnering with Habitat for Humanity on Plans with Old Lyme”

A note from Sarah: I’m as passionate about the work we do with families in our homeownership program as I am about educating the community at large about what that means. “Affordable housing,” or “housing” in general, carry an undeserved negative connotation that is often the first hurdle renters and new homeowners have to clear before they settle into a home. The most common misconception about Habitat is that we produce less-than-quality homes and give them away. I look forward to the opportunity to speak, engage, encourage, and hopefully recruit more help! I’m looking forward to celebrating my 4th anniversary with Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut in January, after spending 17 years with YMCA’s in Syracuse, NY and Westerly, RI. Originally from Guilford, I now live in Pawcatuck.

A little about MaryLou: MaryLou Gannotti serves as Mission Engagement Director for Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut. She's working to build a better future for individuals and families in Eastern Connecticut by promoting affordable homeownership, volunteerism at building sites, the two ReStores, and behind the scenes. MaryLou enjoys connecting with civic groups, faith communities, and businesses to promote all things Habitat. She loves sharing the stories of the Habitat homeowners she meets and understands resilience begins with a home. As the granddaughter of immigrants, MaryLou has seen first-hand the transformative power of homeownership and the ripple effect it creates for future generations.

Upcoming Events this Week

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, December 8th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Board of Trustees Meeting *Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, December 10th at 5:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

A Christmas Service to Light Up the Darkness *Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, December 10th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium. **ARC**

Blood Drive *Thursday, December 11th from 1:00-6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study *Thursday, December 11th, 11:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor. Email the church at fccol@fccol.org or call 860-434-8686 for the link to the zoom Bible Study.

Christmas Potluck Dinner *Friday, December 12th at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Food Pantry *Saturday, December 13th at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

Mary Broughton Memorial Service *Saturday, December 13th at 2:30 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

Anglican Singers Lessons and Carols *Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 pm* at St. James Church in New London.



Immigration Ministry Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall

This year's Giving Tree will be in honor of our neighbors who are, or have loved ones who are, struggling with the immigration process. All who would like to purchase Christmas gifts for these families should take a tag from the Giving Tree located in the Fellowship Hall.

Many tags have 3 gift requests from one child. We would like to get all 3 gifts for the children who have asked for them. It might be a nice idea to work together with an FCCOL friend; each of you purchasing one gift. The maximum for each gift should be \$25.00.

Please do NOT wrap any gifts. All gifts should be placed in a bag with the identifying tag securely affixed to the bag. **All unwrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 14th.** Thank you for your generosity and kindness to the immigration community.

The Homeless Hospitality Center Tree is in the Meetinghouse

We'll be gathering socks, coffee (ground), gloves and Dunkin Donuts gift cards for the folks at the Homeless Hospitality Center in New London. There are a few other more costly items that would be helpful and Anne in the office has a list of those things if you want to give her a call. No need to wrap them! We'll be collecting these gifts all the way till January 4th.

A Service to Light up the Darkness

Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm in the Meetinghouse.

Join us for a contemplative service of music, prayer and candle lighting as we gather to create sacred space for one another this Advent. We'll honor the blessings that come from attending to what is deepest and most in need of healing. Featuring the music of Elm City Winds, a woodwind quintet from New Haven and the FCCOL choir. All are invited to share a cup of cocoa with holiday treats after the service.

Christmas Church Potluck

Please join us for Christmas cheer, some carol singing and a chance to share in our potluck specialties. We'll gather on Friday, December 12th at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and you are welcome to bring along your own light libation if you wish.

And if your family has a crèche that you're willing to share, please bring it to adorn our tables. Last year we had a delightful collection of crèches from other parts of the world, and it was fun to see them all.

Christmas Eve Service Memorial Music and Flowers

If you would like to make a contribution towards our special Christmas Eve Music and Flowers in memory of a loved one, please leave a message at the church office, 860-434-8686 or email fccol@fccol.org by Friday, December, 19th. Your dedications will be printed in the 8 pm and 10 pm Christmas Eve bulletins.

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign

We are deeply grateful to the 217 members and friends who have come forward with commitments so far of \$525,243, or 81% of the 2026 goal of \$650,000. Without the continuing generosity of our congregation we could not support the missions and ministries of our church year to year. Contributions from individual members and friends provide funding for over 75% of our annual needs. We hope that those who have not yet responded will do so generously. If you have not received our letter and commitment card, please call the church office (860-434-8686) and we will remedy that! **THANK YOU!**

Save the Date: Faith-Based Community Organizing

If ever there is a time to work towards creating systemic change, it is now! Join members of FCCOL and other congregations in New London County on **Saturday, January 10th, 9 - 4pm**, in the Sheffield Auditorium to learn about faith-based community organizing and how we are building a power base to create change. To get a sense of this kind of organizing check out Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA cljct.org). To register for the January 10 training or to get more information, contact Susan Switzer at 917 951-6078 or sswitzer790@gmail.com.

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

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Christmas Services

A SERVICE TO LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS

Wednesday, December 10th, at 6:30 pm at FCCOL.

Join us for a contemplative service of music, prayer and candle lighting as we gather to create sacred space for one another this Advent. This event features the music of Elm City Winds, a woodwind quintet from New Haven, and our Church Choir.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 21st, at 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24th

THE LIVING MANGER

at 5:00 PM Service for families with young children

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

at 8:00 PM Service

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS WITH A MESSIAH SING

at 10:00 PM Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25th, the church will be open for prayer and meditation.

EPIPHANY SERVICE

Sunday, January 4th, at 10:00 am in celebration of 3 Kings Day