



FCCOL Christmas Pageant

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

**2 Ferry Road,
Old Lyme, Connecticut
(860) 434-8686
Website: 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

December 21, 2025

FCCOL Christmas Pageant

10:00 AM

Prelude

Handbell Introit: **“The First Noel”** arr. Cathy Moglebust Old Lyme Ringers

*Processional Hymn: #114 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (use lyrics as below)

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel Refresh us at your life-giving well.
All people long to feel your grace, Pour out your Spirit on every place.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

2. O come to us, our Everlasting Home, Your people lost and broken, roam,
And seek a place of welcome and peace, From war and violence, may they know release.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

3. O come Beloved, hear your peoples’ plea The wounded soul, the homeless refugee.
May ‘Welcome’ be our own heart’s call, ‘Till there be room and justice for us all.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

(Words by Juanita L. Austin)

*Call to Worship:

Gather us in to listen to the ancient story made new

Gather us in to savor the wonder

Gather us in to sing of our blessings

Gather us in with our hopes and challenges, preparations and dreams

Gather us in just as we are, the young and the young at heart, too.

May love abound!

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, God-Is-with-Us!

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting:

The DaPonte Family

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“A Maiden Most Gentle”**

by Andrew Carter

*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

Christmas Pageant: **The Great Christmas Game Show**

*Closing Hymn: #134 “Joy to the 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 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.

Old Lyme Ringers

Introit: “The First Noel”

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Old Lyme Ringers

“**The First Noel**” is a meditation on the Christmas Carol found in our hymnal as Hymn #141. This arrangement by Cathy Moglebust uses both handbells and choir chimes to express the mystery and wonderment of the nativity of Jesus.

Choir Anthem

Offertory Anthem: “A Maiden Most Gentle”

by Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing: of Mary the mother of Jesus our King. Ave Maria. How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild. Ave Maria. The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call the Lord of creation, and Savior of all. Ave Maria. Three Kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare, and marveled in awe at the babe in her care. Ave Maria. Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray; sing praise to the Savior, sing endless ‘Ave.’ Ave Maria.



*The flowers this morning are given in celebration
of all our students, teachers and families.*



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



The nursery is not open today in honor of the pageant.



(on the cover, photograph from the 2024 God’s Neighborhood Christmas Pageant)

Upcoming Services

Christmas Eve Services, *Wednesday, December 24th.*

5:00 pm The Living Manger

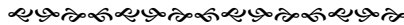
8:00 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

10:00 pm Candlelight Service of Lesson and Carols and Messiah Sing

**The Meetinghouse will be open for Meditation and Prayer on
Christmas Day.**

Epiphany Worship Service *Sunday, January 4th at 10:00 am*

God's Neighborhood Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 11th



The Christmas Eve Offerings will be dedicated to support the Ministers' Discretionary Fund of the First Congregational Church. Over the course of the past year this fund has dispersed over \$40,000 to support local families in need. It is supported by this church's annual budget, by occasional special donations in memory of a loved one, and, **most importantly**, by the annual Christmas Eve collection. We ask that you give as generously as you can.

The 2026 Offering Envelopes will be available soon. We will let you know when they are available to be picked-up.

Gifts for the Homeless Hospitality Center are being collected until January 4th

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.

Children's Handbell Choir—ReBELLion

A new season of handbell ringing for children and youth begins very soon. ReBELLion focuses on learning to read music, the basic skills of handbell ringing, and the experience of bell ringing in front of the congregation. The group will meet on Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:15, starting on January 8. There is room for no more than 14 participants, so if you and your child have an interest in this unique experience, please contact Gary Jungkeit, either in person, or by email: gjungkeit@gmail.com, or by text: 423-782-6308, or contact the church office: 860-434-8686.

Weekly Bible Study

Please join us as we continue to discuss The Book of Exodus: Stories of Exile and the Search for Freedom which will begin again on Thursday, January 15th and continue every Thursday from 11:00 -12:00 pm in the Library. Call or email the church for the Zoom link.

Confirmation: THE BIG QUESTIONS January-May 2026

A Confirmation Class is forming for high schoolers beginning January 25th from 4:00-5:30 (includes tacos). At FCCOL, Confirmation is a way for us to affirm the amazing young adults growing into adulthood in our midst. Classes meet twice a month through May (once on a Sunday night for class together and once as a service or field trip). We'll wrestle together with the questions of our shared humanity as well as the big ones about faith, life, doubt, current events, justice, and what/who God might be to each of us. Ultimately, we'll wonder together about what it means to live a meaningful life. We'll learn about what makes FCCOL tick, visit other faith communities (a synagogue, mosque, Buddhist Meditation Center, etc.) and engage in service projects. Each Confirmand will be paired up with a church mentor as well. We'll have a Confirmation ceremony in May and a final retreat weekend on Cape Cod May 29th-31st. Join us-bring a friend! For more information email Laura at lfitz.nager@gmail.com

Reading the Bible in One Year

The Bible is probably the most frequently cited book in the world, and the least read. It is so ubiquitous that we think we know what's in it, even if that bears little resemblance to what's actually there. But this year, why not change that? And why not do it in a progressive context, free of the dogma and coercion so often attached to reading the Bible?

This year, Steve is inviting all who wish to join him on an intellectual and spiritual pilgrimage: a day by day reading of the Bible that will take us from Genesis to Revelation in 12 months. We'll cover three or four chapters a day, across 365 days. On selected Sundays, we'll meet after church to talk about what we've covered - asking questions, sharing insights, voicing frustrations and encouraging one another along the way.

Recommended versions: The New Revised Standard (most theologically and linguistically responsible), the King James (most poetic), and the Message (most contemporary).

A year-long reading plan can be found in the narthex, the church office, or online. The adventure begins on January 1.

Gifts for the Giving Tree—Thank You

Thank you to all who so generously purchased gifts for the children of detained immigrants! Over 60 gifts were picked up yesterday at our church and will be delivered to our neighbors in need.

In addition to all the gifts purchased, our FCCOL Ladies Who Stitch donated a huge bag full of beautiful hand-knit hats and mittens!

With your acts of kindness and generosity toward those who are so much less fortunate than are we, you make our world a better place. I am grateful to have found this church community and for each one of you. Merry Christmas!

Christine Harrington

PLAYBILL®

“The Great Christmas Game Show Pageant”
The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme



The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

Presents

“The Great Christmas Game Show Pageant”

Written By

Gavin K. Lodge and the Students of God's Neighborhood

Wren Yates

Miles Coppola

Anna Williams Fitzpatrick-Nager

Ellison Lodge

Naomi Cameron

Maeve Gosman

Colton Lodge

Augie Jungkeit

Devon Kiem

Connor Rice

Ace Bairos

Anderson Brant

Noah Brant

Abigail DaPonte

David Rice

Lucy Hartenstein

Lane Cameron

Izzy Thompson

Emilia DaPonte

Kate Ardrey

Trent Cameron

Allie Mock

Sebastian Parker

Ethan Bochet

Henry Kyle

Teddy Constantine

Angels:

Hailey

Emberly

Phoebe

Adelyn

Finley

Animals:

SeeYin

Abigail

Cassidy

Emerson

Zach

Nora

Julia

Miles

Directed by Gavin Lodge

Music Performed by Rachael Jungkeit and Simon Holt.

Special thanks to Noah Brant on piano and our

Director of Sunday School, Jolene Brant, and our amazing high school volunteers.

Please pardon any unintentional omission or errors. Additions and changes to the cast made without notice.