

DECEMBER 2025



Dear Friends,

"After the final no there comes a yes and on that yes the future world depends." - Wallace Stevens

By the time you read this letter, our church sanctuary will be decorated for Advent and Christmas. The Tree will be covered in white lights, garlands will dress the sanctuary in green splendor, and the anticipation of Christmas pageantry will be in the air. Over the pulpit will sparkle the silver star of Bethlehem, signifying the light coming into the darkness, and the many travelers making their way to the manger by starlight. We are all shepherds and wayfarers in this Holy Season making our way by starlight to the Christ child.

With the Advent and Christmas season upon us, we'll tell the stories of the Annunciations and Nativity found in the gospel accounts of Luke and Matthew. Each one a different take on the coming of *Emmanuel*, the God Who-Travels-with-Us. Like the memories and traditions of our own family Christmas stories, the gospel stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph are interwoven with the ancient texts and prophetic pronouncements of the season. Isaiah's vision (9:2), centers us on love, hope, and joy, *"The people who walked*

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HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

FCCOL Choir

Thank you for all your wonderful singing in November. Here is what December's rehearsal and service schedule is looking like:

Wednesday, December 3: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 7: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am
Wednesday, December 10: A Quiet Christmas at 6:0 pm. Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 14: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am
Wednesday, December 17: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, December 21: Singing at the 10:00 am Pageant with a rehearsal at 9:15 am
Wednesday, December 24: Rehearsal at 7:00 pm with services at 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm
Sunday, December 28: No choir needed at the 10:00 am service
Wednesday, December 31: No rehearsal. Happy New Year!

Many thanks and best wishes to all.
Simon

Handbell Notes

Old Lyme Ringers

As we begin to prepare for Christmas, the Advent season is a wonderful time to hear music from the bells, which they somehow remind us of the birth of the baby Jesus. Each Sunday before Christmas the handbells will be heard. On December 7th, a handbell sextet, made up of both adults and youth, will play a quiet but stirring arrangement of "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," accompanied by piano. On December 14th, the **Old Lyme Ringers** will play "Angel Tidings," a medley fusing the Christmas carols "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" with original musical motifs making a very appealing piece for the season. On December 21st, the Old Lyme Ringers will play in worship the familiar "The First Noel." This arrangement is far from the usual, as it begins so softly and finishes with a grand flourish and has the ringers playing both bells and choir chimes. Then, to complete the season, both the 8:00 and 10:00 Christmas Eve services will conclude with the

Christmas Eve peal, involving 16 ringers musically announcing the birth of Christ. Indeed, December will be a full month of bell activity!

Rebellion

Parents! Please put on your calendars now the starting date for **ReBELLion**: Thursday, January 8. Practices will be from 4:30 to 5:15. Please speak with Gary Jungkeit about your child's interest or let Anne in the church office know by calling 860-434-8686. There is room for no more than 14 children/youth to participate, and we must know who will be playing before the first practice. It will be great fun to again hear our young people playing bells in worship.

Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)

We had a fabulously successful holiday sale in the Sheffield Auditorium - amounting to \$3500! This money is all given to The Benevolent Society to support FCCOL's many missions and programs - which is why we refer to it as "guilt free shopping." Thank you to everyone who created, visited, shopped, purchased and otherwise assisted for the sale. We still have many creations in the Partnership Store so keep shopping!



Our NLHHC tote bag count is up to #528 since 2017 and we once again donated a collection of potholders to be given to new members in November.

Ladies Who Stitch meet regularly on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Sheffield Auditorium. Newcomers, visitors, and shoppers are always welcome. We also open the *Partnership Store* while we work, offering guilt-free shopping for goods from Haiti, Palestine, Tribal Crafts and LWS. We will meet on December 1st and 8th and then will be on break until January 5th. Happy New Year!



If you have questions, or you wish to receive the weekly LWS email updates, notify the church office, or contact Eunice via email

eunicetaylor@me.com.

God's Neighborhood

"Jesus's ministry relied on stories. His message was one of acceptance, hospitality, and love. Through telling his own stories- parables- and through his life, Christ encourages us to recognize God's presence, both in ourselves and in one another. He challenges us to spread love into all corners of the world, and to remember that all of us are created in God's image and deserve to be treasured as children of God." - Evelyn Robbennolt-Jones, *The Salamander at the Manger: Animal Stories of the Holy Night*.

Hello, December! The season of Advent has begun! Advent means "coming" and it is the season of **magic** and **laughter** and **love** leading to the birth of Jesus coming alive in our hearts once again. Each of the Sundays in Advent, families will be lighting the Advent Wreath during the service. Each family will receive the gift of an Advent Devotional called *The Advent Chorus*.

During this holy month in God's Neighborhood, our goal is to help our students remember the story of Christmas and notice God's presence and feel God in their lives. One way that we will do this is by creating a space where they can use their creativity and imaginations to bring each of their authentic unique selves to the characters that they will be playing in our Christmas Pageant. We thank our Pageant Director, Gavin Lodge, and our Music Director, Rachael Jungkeit, for their energy and creativity! We look forward to seeing you all throughout this month!

Families are also invited to participate in our Giving Tree this year. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30th, you are invited to take a gift tag from the tree. Each tag has gifts wanted for an undocumented family who has a loved one in detention. With your help, our whole church will provide Christmas gifts for these families. Please bring your wrapped gifts with tag to the stage in Sheffield by December 14th.



Sunday, December 7th, Second Sunday of Advent
Calling all angels, sheep, stars, unicorns and leading characters as we continue rehearsals for our upcoming Christmas

Pageant! Parents, we kindly ask for volunteers to bring in a snack for our hardworking kiddos each Sunday in December. Sign up for the date you'd like with Jolene.

Sunday, December 14th, Third Sunday of Advent

Our students will be rehearsing their parts and music for our magical Christmas Pageant! Thank you so much to Gavin Lodge for all of your hard work as Artistic Director!! We appreciate you so much!! After church, we'll share homemade Christmas cookies and hot chocolate at Fellowship hour.

Saturday, December 20th 10AM-12PM: Our last rehearsal before the big day! Our annual Christmas Pageant is tomorrow morning during the service! Pizza provided after rehearsal that day.



Sunday, December 21st, Fourth Sunday of Advent: 10am: Christmas Pageant! Stars and angels and sheep delight! Today is the day of the Christmas Pageant. We will enjoy our cherished tradition of storytelling, making merry, singing carols, fostering togetherness and instilling the Christmas values of love, hope and peace in our students, highlighting themes of humility, grace and community spirit!

Wednesday, December 24th: At 5:00 pm, we hold our Living Nativity service for families complete with live animals at the manger. We also hold two additional Christmas Eve services, Lessons and Carols, at 8:00 and 10:00 pm.

Thursday, December 25th: Merry Christmas!! The Christmas story - the story of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us - is a story of courageous love. A love that emboldens Mary to say "Yes!" to a mysterious God promising the impossible; a love that emboldens Joseph to trust that he has a role to play in making a home with Mary and bringing the Child of God more fully into the world; and a love that would later embolden the one Joseph named "Jesus" (a name that means "God saves") to follow the Holy Spirit - in the form of dove! - into the wilderness to begin his ministry (Matthew 3:16 - 4:1).



(continued on the next page)



Memorials

Mary Broughton
Tom Johnston

God's Neighborhood *(continued)*

This courageous love – a love that emboldens, that lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things, trusts the impossible, and protects the vulnerable – is the love at the heart of Christmas. And it's the same love we wait for, and call for, to inspire our hearts and change our lives.

Thank you so much to all of our students, families, and Sunday School teachers for your time and commitment throughout December!! And a huge THANK YOU to Gavin Lodge for your imagination in the creation and directing of our Christmas Pageant! And THANK YOU to Rachael Jungkeit for directing our Christmas music!! We appreciate you both so very much!!

Have a magical and lovely Christmas and New Year's everyone! **God's Neighborhood will reopen on Sunday, January 11th, after a two-week holiday break.**

FCCOL Moth Stories and Potluck Dinner

We still are looking for a couple of storytellers for our Moth storytelling night. Everyone has a fun story or two... please share! If you think you can cobble together a 5-minute story, we would love to hear from you (youth group members this also means you). Contact Tom Sherer.

(tesjr299@outlook.com) and we can discuss. The January date will be announced in December.

Two ARC Blood Drives in December



There will be 2 American Red Cross Blood Drives in December at the First Congregation Church of Old Lyme on **Thursday, December 11th** from 1:00 pm -6:00 pm. and **Wednesday, December 31st** from 9:00—2:00 pm

Bible Study:

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

Transparent Group Meeting

Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 5:30-6:30. Next meeting is on **December 17th**. For Parents, Caregivers and Family Members of Trans Youth/Young Adults: Our group provides conversation, support community and education for parents and caregivers around the issues of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diversity. For more information email us at: fccol@fccol.org.

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 *Monday, Dec, 22nd*. Your donation will be printed in the *Christmas Eve bulletin*.

South Lyme Union Chapel

The South Lyme Chapel is having Lessons and Carols on **Sunday, December 21, at 3 pm**. The Select Singers from Lyme-Old Lyme High School will be there to lead us in the hymns we all know and love, the ones that make the Christmas season so meaningful to us. Please stay after the service and join us for snacks, hot chocolate, and fellowship!



Adult Forum Sunday, December 7th with Sarah Lufler Habitat for Humanity in Old Lyme

Please join us to welcome Sarah Lufler, the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut, as she discusses “Partnering with Habitat for Humanity on Plans for Old Lyme. Sunday, December 7th after the 10:00 am worship Service in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Christmas Potluck Dinner

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. 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 creches from other parts of the world and it was fun to see them all.

Gifts for the Homeless Hospitality Center of New London

Under our Meetinghouse Christmas tree we are gathering gifts for the folks at HHC. They would appreciate socks (any kind – for men or women) and also coffee (ground, please). A check made out to HHC is always welcome. You could place it in an envelope under the tree. Presents need not be wrapped. Thank You!

A Quiet Christmas Service to Light up the Darkness

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

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be a time of joy and hectic anticipation as well as pain and loss. For some, it can be a season of hardship and illness, disappointment or anxiety. Many of us, too, are acutely aware of the chaos of our world and looking for hope in the darkness.

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. All are welcome!

Faith-Based Community Organizing Save the Date!

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 from 9 am to 4 pm in 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 (GHIAAcljct.org.). To register for the January 10th training or to get more information, contact Susan Switzer at 917-951-6078 or sswitzer790@gmail.com.

(continued from Page 1, "Dear Friends")

in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."

The Christmas story is a story of courageous love. A love that emboldens Mary to say "Yes!" to a mysterious God promising the impossible; a love that emboldens Joseph to trust that he has a role to play in making a home with Mary and bringing the Child of God more fully into the world...This courageous love – a love that inspires, that lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things, trusts the impossible, and protects the vulnerable – is the love at the heart of Christmas.¹ It's the leap of faith we take together as a church community standing beside one another and our neighbors as we walk deeper into the world.

Just as Joseph, Mary and Jesus lived in a time of *No Room*, we live in a time of *No Room* where many people from those who are undocumented to those in the Trans community are forced to live in the shadows out of fear of reprisal. The Trappist monk, Thomas Merton (1915-1968), reminds us, "With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world, mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst."

With all that we carry and all that we hope for, may you find a new way into the Advent and Christmas stories this year. May they come to life inside you and me, especially in those anxious and tender places. May love magnify our lives in unexpected ways. May we be attentive to those for whom this time of year is especially painful. And may the strength of Love's courage shine on you and those you love through it all.

Our December calendar, as you'll find in these pages, is quite full! The Giving Tree is up and has gift tags for a number of undocumented families we'll be giving Christmas gifts to this year. Our PF Youth Group will offer coffee and breakfast treats to guests of the food pantry on Saturday, December 6th. The Director of Habitat for Humanity, Sarah Lufler, will offer an Adult Forum on December 7th and we'll welcome back Elm City Winds for "A Quiet Christmas" Service on Wednesday, December 10th. We hope you join us for our Christmas Potluck Party on Friday, December 12th, and rehearsals are in full swing for the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21st. And on Christmas Eve, we will hold services at 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

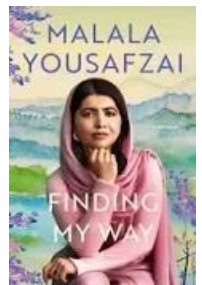
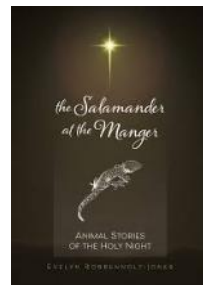
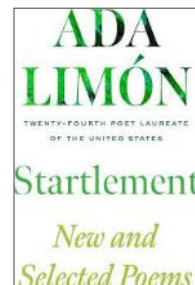
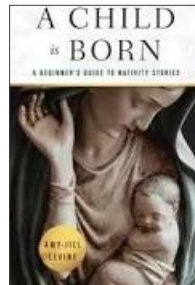
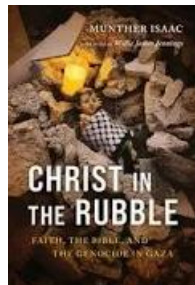
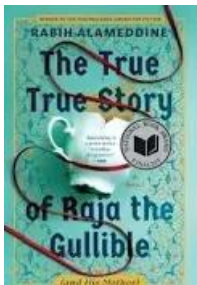
Hope to see you around the FCCOL Christmas Tree,

With love,

¹ Stephen Mitchell, *The First Christmas: A Story of New Beginnings*, 2021.

Books:

The True True Story of Raja the Gullible (and His Mother) by Rabih Alameddine, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *Christ in the Rubble* by Munther Isaac, *A Child is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories* by Amy Jill-Levine, *Startlement: New and Selected Poems* by Ada Limon, *The Salamander and the Manger: Animal Stories of the Holy Night* by Evelyn Robbennolt-Jones, *Finding My Way: A Memoir* by Malala Yousafzai.



BOARD OF MISSIONS

WAY TO STEP UP, FCCOL! Thanks to the generosity of all of you, the good people of our awesome church, we on the Board of Missions were fortunate to be able to do some terrific work to benefit local people in need this month.

Earlier in the year, we suspected something like this might be necessary. We met our initial obligations, but we were also able to hold some money in reserve. As events unfolded, we made some calls to find out how to best benefit the most people. Priority was given to local groups focused on feeding and safe housing or in other ways responding to the immediate crisis. In the end, \$17,000 in allocations were made, \$11,000 went to local groups concerned with feeding the most vulnerable affected by the SNAP and Medicaid cuts, such as Meals on Wheels, and DINE. We were also able to send a large chunk of money to Connecticut Food Share, picked because they can leverage that money into more food to distribute than downstream organizations can.

Another \$4,000 was distributed to groups we support who help families in crisis, which is always exacerbated by hard times. The Diaper bank, Covenant Shelter, Safe Futures and a Sacred Space were beneficiaries of this aid.

Finally, it's impossible to ignore our global citizenship, and the remaining \$2,000 was sent to World Central Kitchen for aid wherever they deem it necessary, and to ANERA, who work in Palestine. Thank you everyone for your continued generosity and support! We *are* making a difference.

Mariette Brown Secretary of the Board of Missions

GIVING MATTERS

Pledging at FCCOL provides a majority of the funds needed annually to support Church operations. So, every pledge matters, regardless of amount.

According to our bylaws *The Board of Stewardship shall be responsible for securing financial support for the Church and its benevolent and mission activities through annual pledges by the Church membership.* (FCCOL By-Laws, January 30, 2022).

Throughout the year the Board of Stewardship implements this responsibility by working closely with the Church Treasurer/Administrator, the Church Clerk and the Ministers to contact every Active member and Friend. The purpose of this outreach is to encourage participation in the annual pledge campaign. These efforts have produced relatively stable income for the church, despite a decline in membership. Since 2016 several pledging and membership trends have persisted:

- The yield from pledge campaigns while steady, lags inflation.
- While membership has declined somewhat, the average pledge has increased by 40%.
- About half the Active members pledge, historically and currently.

We are grateful that the Active members and Friends who pledge give with increasing generosity and 'step up' their pledges. However, challenges remain. Arresting the decline in membership and increasing the number of Active members who pledge are among them. The Church is here for everyone, so everyone is encouraged to pledge, regardless of amount. Every pledge matters.

So far, as of November 23rd, 199 members and friends have pledged \$509,903 toward our 2026 campaign goal of \$650,000. Thank you!

Gratefully,
The Board of Stewardship

Moment for Stewardship by Eunice Taylor

November, 16, 2025

Good Morning Everyone,

It's a privilege to speak with you and I appreciate Carleen asking me to do so.

A couple of years ago, when Faye Richardson and I were honored with "Deacon Emeritus" recognition - the tribute ended with this statement - "**Eunice - we're not sure what we'd do without you.**" Well, the real truth is, I don't know what I would do without FCCOL.

I am so grateful to be in the 8th decade of my life on this planet - and it's amazing to realize that for more than half of those eighty plus years, I've been involved in one way or another with this wonderful and unique First Congregational Church of Old Lyme. It is my home away from home.

In addition to that, throughout my younger years, I was "Sunday-schooled," "pilgrim fellowshipped," confirmed, married, guided and counseled within the Congregational tradition. Therefore, I've had a lot of "Congregational" experiences about which I can speak, so Steve has assured me that if I go into overtime, he can cut his sermon short! :) Having begun with that, I've never considered myself to be a particularly religious person - spiritual maybe - and my church attendance and support were irregular during the first half of my life.

In 1973, when I married and moved from Massachusetts to Connecticut, I didn't immediately seek a church. There wasn't a Congregational church in East Lyme, my former husband Bill was very much an ex-Catholic and wasn't interested in church involvement, and we were both very busy being teachers and parents.

Sometime in the late 70's when my daughter Kristin was in pre-school, a conversation with teaching colleague Julie Kuja, brought FCCOL to my attention and I will be forever grateful to her for that! I began attending services and soon thereafter, Carleen invited me to join the choir. For many years, under her leadership, and now under Simon's, choir has been an incredible blessing in my life - a gift that keeps on giving.

My daughter, Kristin, who lives in California, recently reminded me that she's grateful to have grown up here at FCCOL. She remembers fondly - singing in the children's choir, attending Sunday school and youth fellowships, learning about being a good, kind and generous person - vs. the guilt, sin, and Hell messages that some of her friends still live with today.

I'm a retired teacher and educational consultant, who spent nearly fifty years in the field of public education before fully retiring in 2014. One of the many challenges of retirement is to decide how to spend your time, and money (if you have it.)

Although I do pledge annually, I don't have a lot of money to offer - but I do have time, energy and skills. I had been thinking about this when, back in 2015, Nathalie Fogg asked if I would consider taking over the leadership of the LBS sewing group - a group in which my mother, Frances Libby, had participated for over 30 years. I decided this might be an appropriate retirement activity for me and a good way to support FCCOL. I will be forever grateful to Nathalie for asking me to take on this role.

Early on, we changed our name from the LBS Sewing Group to "Ladies Who Stitch" or LWS, in order to become more inclusive, and especially to attract knitters and crocheters - and thankfully they came. Actually, we may need to rethink our name again to include our crafters and our gentlemen contributors.

This group, the Ladies Who Stitch, a third of whom come from outside our community, is the epitome of creativity, fellowship, and nurture. And, while many of us spend hours at home, sewing, knitting, and crafting, we work together on Mondays from 10:00 - 2:00 just down the hall in the Sheffield Auditorium.

I LOVE Monday mornings - and while I loved teaching, I can't say that I always loved Monday mornings. The heart and soul of the Ladies Who Stitch could be the subject of a full sermon, from which I'll spare you for now. Suffice it to say, that the support and camaraderie of this wonderful group is another gift beyond measure.

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2025 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.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 21st, at 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24th

THE LIVING MANGER

5:00 PM Service for families with young children

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

8:00 PM and 10:00 PM Services

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

First Congregational Church of Old Lyme 2 Ferry Road Old Lyme, CT
www.fccol.org

DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, December 1st at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Board of Music and Arts Meeting *Monday, December 1st at 4:00 am in the Library*

Board of Missions Meeting *Wednesday, December 3rd at 4:00 pm in the Library.*

Grief Group *Wednesday, December 3rd at 5:00 pm in the Hoag Parlor.*

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

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

Bible Study *Thursday, December 4th at 11:00 am in the Library.*

Cup of Joe POP-UP Youth Group at the Food Pantry *Saturday, December 6th at 8:00 am.*

The Shoreline Food Pantry & Diaper Bank *Sat, December 6th at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.*

Musical Masterworks Concerts *Saturday, December 6th at 5:00 pm and Sunday,*

December 7th at 3:00 pm in the Meetinghouse.

Adult Forum with Sarah Lufler *Sunday, December 7th at 11:30 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

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.*

A Quiet Christmas Service *Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm in the Meetinghouse.*

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

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

Bible Study *Thursday, December 11th at 11:00 am in the Library.*

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

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

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

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

Ladies Who Stitch *End of year gathering, Monday, December 15th.*

TransParent Group Meeting *Wednesday, December 17th at 5:30 pm in the Hoag parlor.*

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, December 17th at **6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.*

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, November 17th at 7:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Bible Study *Thursday, December 18th at 11:00 am in Library.*

Board of Stewardship Meeting *Thursday, December 18th at 4:00 pm in the Library.*

January Newsletter Deadline *Friday, December 19th.*

Writers at the Well *Friday, December 19th at 10:00 am in the Hoag Parlor.*

God's Neighborhood Christmas Pageant Rehearsal *Saturday, December 20th at 10:00 am.*

Christmas Pageant *Sunday, December 21st at 10:00 am in the Meetinghouse.*

Board of Deacons Meeting *Tuesday, December 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Library.*

Christmas Eve Services *Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00pm "The Living Manger"*

at 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm "Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols"

FCCOL Office Closed for Christmas *Thursday, December 25th.*

The Church will be Open Christmas Day *Thursday, December 25th for Prayer and Meditation.*

New London Meal Center Dinner *Sunday, December 28th departing FCCOL at 3:30 pm.*

Newsletter Folding *Monday, December 29th.*

ARC Blood Drive *Thursday, December 31st from 9:00am–2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

Moment for Stewardship by Eunice Taylor *(continued from page 8)*

This is the season of thankfulness and I am so thankful for the presence of FCCOL and all it represents in my life - and in our lives together. And, I'm thankful for the richness that has been acknowledged in previous testimonies - the openness, the inclusion, the inspiration, enthusiasm and dedication of our ministers, the active involvement in social justice issues, the life-long learning from so many sources, the friendships, the many opportunities for growth in all areas of life, and on and on ...

While money certainly is an essential part of keeping this beautiful meeting house, facility, and its programs and missions alive and well, it takes a lot more than money to "fund" everything that goes on here and there are so many ways to give.

Also - if for whatever reason - you at this moment in your life feel so stretched that you think you have nothing more to give, you can be like the little shepherd boy in the Christmas song - and give your heart - for your very presence here is a gift in itself.

As our ministers remind us every week, it is good to be together in this place - and, I know, that from this congregation, this community, and, in the words of David Good, "this place of grace" - I have always received more than I have given - and so, I believe, will you.

Thank you for listening.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister (203-430-3208)

The Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister (860-304-9096)

The Rev. Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister (860-304-2070)

Simon D. Holt, Director of Music (860-705-3037)

The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby, Minister for Haitian Outreach

Rebecca A. Francisco serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel

Jolene Brant, Director of Youth Education/Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Leader

Robert McCracken, Church Administrator

Anne Koczka, Office Manager

Julie Mardjekaj, Bookkeeper

Sean McCarty, Sexton

Church Office Tel: 860-434-8686

Fax: 860-434-1135

e-mail: fccol@fccol.org

Website: www.fccol.org

Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

South Lyme Union Chapel Worship - 10:00 a.m.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME, Member U.C.C.

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
OLD LYME
2 FERRY ROAD
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The submission deadline for the January Newsletter will be Friday, December 19th.

Please e-mail the church office at fccol@fccol.org if you want to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list, or receive your copy digitally!
Thanks for your help!



The reproduction of our Meetinghouse is from a sketch by William Steeves.