

SUMMER 2025



"Sun in the heart, sun in the soul, fill the house with light again." Rumi

Dear Friends,

Happy June! I don't know about you but I have always measured my life in summers. When I was a kid, my family moved frequently because of my dad's job. Fortunately for us, summer always involved lazy days at the beach and no matter where we lived, we'd drive endless hours to end up on our favorite beach in the town of Dennis, Cape Cod.

Getting into the spirit of summer, I'm making my beach reading list and open to any suggestions! One of the books I've treasured recently is called *The Book of Alchemy* by Suleika Jaouad. For me it's been a powerful antidote to managing the stress and despair of our current news cycle. Jaouad is an accomplished writer (her first book, *Between Two Kingdoms*, is an extraordinary memoir) and finds journaling as a way to heal from the rollercoaster of her cancer journey. In her current book, she includes the writings of many other accomplished writers as well. Among them is a Yale Professor, Michael Beirut, who gave his students an assignment during COVID to engage in one simple act of creativity every day for 100 days. Thus, the 100 Day Project was born. It doesn't matter what you choose- be it a poem, a drawing, a photograph, listening to music, or any act of creation that lifts your spirit.

While the burdens of the world may feel overwhelming, I'm Inspired by this daily creativity challenge and happy to say, I'm now on Day 12 of my own writing project. As it happens, my 100 days will take me to the end of August so it has become my "One a Day" summer practice. Stay tuned. Care to join me in this endeavor?

What summer rituals and traditions do you have that help to nourish your soul? Is there something that you're looking forward to this summer? I hope it includes some lazy days and beach walks with a friend or two!

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

Choir

To all members of the Senior Choir:

Thank you for your wonderful singing at FCCOL this season! You have worked so hard, and your singing has really enhanced our services. Your efforts are very much appreciated!

Now, to everyone reading this; It's Your Turn!! This summer we will be holding three Summer Sings, or better known as "Turn up to FCCOL at 9:15am and rehearse for the 10:00am service, yes, it feels like the seat of your pants singing, but oh, what fun we'll have" Sundays! These will take place on June 8, July 13 and August 10. Please mark your calendars! I hope many of you will join us!

Simon

Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)

We have had such a busy, productive and creative year that it's hard to believe that June has arrived! Our final day working in the Sheffield is Monday, June 2nd, and then we will be on summer break until September 15th. With White Elephant Sale preparation beginning, and since summer coffee hours tend to be outdoors, the Partnership Store will likely be open only upon request - contact the church office. We will have the store open during the White Elephant Sale.

Many of our creations are consigned at the Woman's Exchange/Lyme Tree gift shop in the Big Y shopping plaza. Lyme Tree is open Wednesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and purchases there also contribute to charitable causes. We are so grateful for all the donations, support, and encouragement our group has received this past year.

Questions: Contact Eunice via email
(eunicetaylor@me.com)

God's Neighborhood

"Behold, the Spring has come; the earth has received the embraces of the sun and we shall soon see the results of that love!"

Every seed is awakened and so has all animal life. It is through this mysterious power that we too have our being, and we therefore yield to our neighbors, even our animal neighbors, the same right as ourselves, to inhabit this land." Sitting Bull- Sitting Bull was a chief and holy man of the Hunkpapa Lakota, a band within the larger Lakota Sioux nation.

Thank you so much to our Teachers of God's Neighborhood. We appreciate you and your time more than we can express. Thank you, Melissa DaPonte, Kristen Byers, MaryBeth Franco, Mary Bradford, Bradley Mock, and Rachael Jungkeit! We couldn't do what we do without your support. Thank you! Moreover, to our Teachers Assistants, thank you so much for all of your hard work and your steadfast support throughout the year! Thank you to Delaney Donovan, Ella Kiem, Naomi Cameron, Joe Kazadi, Finn Barrett, Zoe Eastman-Grossel, Julia Clark, Annabelle Coppola, Charlotte Thuma, Maeve Gosman, McCoy Gosman, Gabi Clark, Clarissa Mock, and Clair Mbele. We appreciate you all!

Thank you to our families for all of your support throughout this year. You helped tremendously, and we really enjoyed this year getting to know you and growing our bonds while sustaining God's Neighborhood and making it what it is. Thank you so very much!!

We'd also like to honor our high school graduates!!! Congratulations on this great achievement!! As Dr. Suess writes in Oh, the Places You'll Go!, "Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So... *get on your way!*"

Sunday, June 1st: Youth Sunday! Today our students will lead our service with joy and music!! This will kick



off our summer! Thank you so much to Gavin Lodge and Rachael Jungkeit for working around the clock in order to help us with this event! Please join us for coffee hour out on the lawn after the service. We will be offering for everyone to make their own Sundaes! Yay!!

Sunday, June 8th: Youth Group End of School Year Party! 3PM-6PM. Please join us at 67 Whippoorwill Rd, Old Lyme, for an obstacle course! Ages 10 and above. Bring lawn chairs and whatever you'd like to share!

June 18-25th: Green Grass Trip out to South Dakota! Reach out to Laura if you'd like to go!

Looking Forward to July (Date TBD): Serving the unhoused community on the New Haven Green. Stay tuned for more details in your email!

ARC BLOOD DRIVE

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the First Congregation Church of Old Lyme on Thursday, June 12th, 2025, from 1:00 pm -6:00 pm. Please see the link below to make an appointment before arriving.
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>



Trans Parent Group 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. Join us for our next meeting held at FCCOL on *Wednesday, June 18 at 5:30 pm* in the Hoag Parlor. For more information email us at: fccol@fccol.org.

Grief Group This monthly support group is for those who have lost a loved one and those struggling with other losses. Next meeting: *Wednesday, June 25th from 5:00-6:00 pm* in Hoag Parlor.

Writers at the Well *Thursday, June 5th at 12:00 am.* Join us as we meet once a month to write pages together and share our spiritual journeys as we go. Using informal writing prompts, participants give voice to memories and the stories that make up our lives. No writing experience necessary...just a willingness to pay attention and tap into the wellspring. Meeting in the Hoag Parlor. Copies of our Poetry book available in the Narthex or the Church office.

Immigration Ministry

At a recent Sunday service we heard about the need for family support volunteers for our Immigration Ministry. Many of you immediately stepped up and agreed to help. We are so grateful for your generosity of your time and desire to help others in need. We want to be sure that all members of the FCCOL community are aware of our request for volunteers for this special project. Sign-ups are continuing, therefore, If you are interested and have NOT yet signed up for this, please email Christine Harrington at lovingkindness025@gmail.com.

The New London Meal Center During the last thirty plus years our Mission Board has supported The New London Meal Center on the fourth Sunday of every month, serving a healthy meal at the Center which includes sending meals to the Homeless Hospitality Center. Various church committees and other groups, such as the Senior Choir and Senior PF, are assigned each month to provide a meal and servers. The Meal Center operates Monday through Friday with a small staff relying on volunteers to serve lunch and dinner to many hungry clients who might not otherwise consume warm, healthy meals.

We always need people who are willing to help out either by cooking a simple casserole (we provide the recipe), or shopping for items ahead of time, or helping on a Sunday evening when we serve at the site.

Each month we meet on the 4th Sunday at the church at 3:30 to pick up prepared food and donated drinks plus food, and then carpool to the Center. We serve promptly from 5:00-6:00. On occasion we have served as many as 170 meals to very hungry and appreciative clients. It remains a very important mission supported by our church.

If you have questions and/or can help out any month, please contact Julie Kuja at julie.kuja@yahoo.com or Charlie Hosley at 860-434-8538.

Communion Table Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for our communion table on a Sunday 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!

Memorials

**Frances Hart
Wayne Kyder**

Celebrating the Hamou's, An American Family

On May 10th, Kamber Hamou graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in computer science and data analytics, and in July he will start a new job as a software engineer at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Kamber's graduation was a day of celebration for the Hamous, and looking back it's clear there have been many, many reasons to celebrate since the family arrived in our community nine years ago.

The story began on a dark night in May, 2016, when a few members of our newly established Refugee Resettlement Committee drove to New Haven to pick up the Hamou family – Hani and Yaldiz and their three children, Darin, Kamber and Mohamed – refugees from Syria who had spent years in Turkey waiting for a chance to come to America. Despite travelling for over twenty-four hours, the Hamous bounded out of their van with energy and enormous smiles. None spoke English, but Hani had practiced a few words and knew exactly what he wanted to say. *Thank you!!! We want to work!!!* And work they have. Before the summer was out Hani had a full-time job and soon Yaldiz was working full time at Essex Meadows. The kids hadn't been able to attend school during the seven years of their exile, but in the fall Mohamed started fifth grade at Lyme School (he still says that was the happiest day of his life) and Darin and Kamber were enrolled as high school freshmen. Within a year the family was entirely self-sufficient, and thanks to extraordinary support from our local school system all three kids learned English and soon tackled full academic loads. Now, nine years later, the Hamous are all American citizens, and they still call Lyme/Old Lyme their home and our community their community. In September Darin returns full-time to her nursing studies, Mohamed will be a sophomore at the University of Connecticut, and Kamber will be settled with his new job at Pfizer. Yaldiz loves her friends at Essex Meadows and Hani his work at the middle school. The family is not only thriving, they are able to support relatives still in Syria and help new refugee arrivals and others here in southeastern Connecticut. There is indeed much to celebrate and be thankful for.

Board of Missions Update

As is noted in the FCCOL Annual report, numerous committees comprised of volunteer members of the church assist with organizational operations of the church. The task of the Board of Missions is to distribute funds made available through the annual budgeting process to local, state, national and international agencies in need of financial assistance. The majority of the agencies have been recipients of FCCOL support over the course of several years.

With the exception of the summer, we meet monthly to review the agencies' missions and functions. We deliberate regarding timing and appropriate levels of benevolences. For example, to date in this calendar year, funds have been distributed locally and regionally to agencies such as the Covenant Shelter, FRESH New London, the Homeless Hospitality Center, the Lyme Old Lyme Foodshare Garden and the New London Meal Center. Additionally, donations have been made to international partnerships such as the Israel/Palestine TOL and the Crosby Fund for Haitian Education.

During the summer months, members of the Board of Missions will be making visits to several of the regional agencies to assess their current challenges and needs. This information will help guide further distribution of funds later this year. Not surprisingly, we are finding the needs this year are greater, especially given the uncertainty of reduction and/or elimination of funding previously provided by governmental grants. Our goal is to continue to respond appropriately considering the mission of our church while also staying within our designated budget.

We welcome the input of members of the church who might have particular knowledge about the needs of our recipient agencies. This year, in response to the Strategic Planning recommendation to further engage church youth in our operations, interested high school students have been invited to attend our meetings to observe the decision making process. Recently we welcomed two of our youth members to our meeting. They shared that they found the nature of our task and the careful process of decision making to be very informative.

- Dale Bernardoni, Board Chair

Environmental Committee

A new initiative has launched, with the goal of quieting down and cleaning up the summer lawn care ritual. Below is a press release received:

Are you bored with the constant drone of leaf blowers? If so, welcome to **Connecticut River Towns Quiet Lawns!** We're a new organization working to eliminate gas-powered leaf blowers from our communities due to their health and environmental harms.

Gas leaf blowers' loud noise can cause hearing damage after two hours and their low frequency sound travels long distances. Their toxic fuel emissions are associated with autism, cancer, heart disease, and dementia. Those who operate them, children and the elderly are most at risk. The California Air Resource Board has found that operating a commercial leaf blower for *one hour* emits smog forming pollution equivalent to driving a new car for 1,100 miles.

We encourage lawn care firms to switch to electric and gas-free equipment when their old equipment needs replacing. Going green is good for business. There are already dozens of electric lawn care firms in the Fairfield County area of Connecticut which say they are popular with customers due to their clean energy and sustainable lawn care practices. Customers will always choose the quieter option when it is available. Research reveals that going electric is profitable as the running costs of battery equipment are dramatically lower. Using batteries saves purchasing multiple years' worth of gasoline and oil. Handheld electric blowers can be more powerful than gas models and are price competitive. Backpack blowers cost more but lower running costs lead to substantial savings over time.

We aim to encourage lawn care firms in our area to switch to electric and gas-free when their old equipment needs replacing, by creating a list of lawn care firms which use cleaner, quieter equipment. We will promote them on our Facebook page. Please get in touch with us if you know of any such firms.

Connecticut River Towns Quiet Lawns covers East Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme, Middlesex County, Madison and beyond. If you can help, please contact us on our [Facebook page](#), or call/text 860 598 8114.

Please like, follow and share our page to help spread the word!

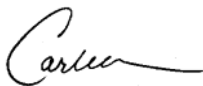
- Mariette Brown for the Environmental Committee

From our community work...

One of our "take-aways" from the Convergence consulting firm was that connecting our work with other agencies in our towns has the potential of strengthening all of us. In that vein, I've been attending meetings that hope to address what is considered an ever-increasing epidemic of loneliness in our area. Lymes' Youth Service Bureau, Lymes' Senior Center, Ledge Light Health District coordinators, Lyme and Old Lyme library officials, our first-responders and ambulance officials and other area churches have all been participating. There has been an interesting sharing of ideas.

I'll give you more information as we have it. But here is one interesting new initiative. There is a website/resource being formed now called "URCommunityCares.com" which hopes to help people connect with one another for rides to events and other kinds of support. Currently it is a work in progress; but it has good potential for helping us help our neighbors.

For those in our area, please watch for information about the opening of the newly renovated Lymes' Senior Center on Saturday May 31st. There will be lots of new opportunities for fellowship in that new facility. We hosted the Senior Center folks for many of their outreach programs during their renovation process. And while we are sad to see that sharing of facilities ending, we are rejoicing with them that their new building is "up and ready to go."



(Dear Friends, continued from the cover)

Life at FCCOL gets a little simpler as we wind down our program year, celebrate the end of God's Neighborhood and honor our high school graduates on Sunday, June 1st. We'll also try to have fewer meetings and more vacation days over the next few months.

Of course, for many of us here at FCCOL, June begins intense preparation for the White Elephant Sale (dates of the sale are July 11th and 12th) and I know that most departments are already deep into organizing this month.

Plans are well underway, too, for the 40th Anniversary partnership journey to visit our Lakota friends on the Cheyenne River Reservation from June 18th-25th. We hope to celebrate this ongoing relationship which has fostered deep roots between FCCOL and the Lakota community in Green Grass for decades now. A group of 17 of us (9 adults and 8 young people) will be forming a special tiospaye- Lakota for "extended family"). We look forward to sharing our journey with you when we return and we're very grateful for your support and prayers. It is not an easy journey to make but it is a deeply meaningful one.

I hope you'll enjoy yourself this summer, whatever these summer days hold for you. We look forward to seeing you in church, around the neighborhood or on the beach. Come for iced coffee sometime, too. Our doors are always open!

With love,



Reading: *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman; *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley; *A Billion Butterflies: A Life in Climate and Chaos Theory* by Dr. Jagadish Shukla ; *Water by Rumi*, translated by Haleh Liza Gafari; *Coded Justice: A Thriller* by Stacey Abrams (released July 15th); *The Book of Alchemy* by Suleika Jaouad; *Dream Count* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Watching: *Jaws: 50th Anniversary Summer! (time to scream)*; *The Four Seasons: Netflix series with Tina Fey (time to laugh)*; *Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning (time to go)*; 'Lakota Nation vs. United States' (2023 Documentary) (time to cry).

Pastoral Prayer for May 25, 2025 Rev. Carleen R. Gerber

The tradition of Memorial Day was established in the years immediately following the Civil War when the women – mostly of the South – made it a yearly ritual to lay flowers at the graves of the soldiers who'd lost their lives. The price of war is grief and suffering. Theirs was an act of devotion and memorial.

As a preacher it's almost painful to try to preach about war. Is there such a thing as a "just war?" I really don't know the answer to that question. But it tugs at both my heart and my soul.

One of the ways that I honor Memorial Day every year is to read the long poem of Walt Whitman that is entitled "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed." Whitman served in the nursing corps during the Civil War and he knew well the heavy cost of lives lost. **And** he loved and admired Abraham Lincoln. He wrote the poem to expiate the deep sorrow he felt at Lincoln's assassination. Lincoln died on April 15, 1865; when the lilacs were blooming in Washington D.C. Whitman died almost 40 years later; but the poem lives on. I'll give you just a few of the opening lines—but I urge you to read the whole poem on your own, someday. Perhaps tomorrow....

*"When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd,
And the great star early droop'd in the western sky in the night,
I mourn'd, and yet shall mourn with ever-returning spring..."*

Would you join me in prayer....

Loving and eternal God, on this sober weekend of celebration, in the midst of a kind of turmoil we as a nation have perhaps never before endured, we turn to You for strength and resilience and, yes, peace. We remind ourselves of gifts given with abundant and generous mercy: the smell of the lilac, the spectacular beauty of the Iris, the graceful woodland azalea that is scattered about only through the mercy of wild birds. We admire the still, gray-blue waters of Long Island Sound and the racing flow of the Connecticut River, fed even now with the run-off of

(continue on page 11)

GIVING MATTERS

Summer 2025

The BOS is *very* grateful to the many friends and members who responded to our pledge request during the 2025 campaign. We greatly appreciate the Congregation's continuing support.

To date, 270 pledges have been received totaling \$617,569. This is the highest financial total since 2018. The growing generosity of members and friends produced this result. The average amount pledged has increased about 35% since 2018 - from \$1,700 in 2018 to \$2,287 so far this year.

This strong pledge support along with more general donations enables FCCOL to sustain local and regional outreach. It also enables our partnerships and international support. Both local and global Church initiatives flow from our mission of reaching beyond ourselves to help our world become a little more compassionate, a little more just.

While we achieved our financial goal, the number of pledges, was less than we had hoped. This number has been dropping for some time, likely affected by the drop in active membership. Membership was 803 in 2018, 701 last year.

However, these data do not tell the whole story. Notwithstanding the declining number of active members recorded in our Annual Reports, FCCOL is a *very* active, very vibrant church. A beehive of activity almost every day of the week - in Old Lyme, our local region and far beyond.

This phenomenon suggests the need to develop some measure for 'active participation' by members and friends. This additional measure may reveal a more accurate assessment of Church vitality than the number of active members alone.

While reflecting, with gratitude, on the results of the 2025 campaign, the BOS is making plans for 2026. When you receive our pledge request, please know that we highly value both your participation and your donation. Our pledging participation enables FCCOL to continue as a trusted steward of our gifts. While unexpected donations are most welcome, pledges are the budget 'building blocks. They enable the Church to continue to be well-managed, and financially responsible.

Thank You!

The Board of Stewardship

MORE GIVING MATTERS! – IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

On Behalf of the Board of Stewardship, I want to share with folks in our age bracket the way that Don and I have found to fulfill our church pledge. Using part of the Required Minimum Distribution of an IRA we are able to give to the church an amount that, had we taken it for our own use, would have been reduced by the income tax we would have had to pay on it. If you are at an age where you are required to take an "RMD," you might consult your own tax advisor and see if this "way of giving" is advantageous to you as well. It surely is a "win" for the church in our case.

The following is a more detailed way of explaining this. And I'm grateful to Tom Grant and Bob McCracken for their wisdom in advising us, and making this clear to others. Carleen and Don Gerber

For those who have Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs,) and who are of the age where required mandatory distributions have to be taken (RMDs), it is useful to be aware of a possibly beneficial income tax consideration. Generally, the distribution of an RMD to you is taxable as current income. (This because your IRA has grown tax-free up until now). HOWEVER, if you make charitable contributions from your IRA during the year, they will (1) count as satisfying some of your RMD, AND (2) they will reduce the taxable amount of that RMD. These are called Qualifying Charitable Distributions (QCDs). Thus, they have the same effect as a direct deduction that you would take on your tax return. The benefit (for most of us) is that you can take the automatic standard deduction AND get the ADDITIONAL deduction by reducing the taxable part of your RMD. CAVEAT: Please consult your tax advisor/preparer to determine if this benefit applies to you.

Bottom line (for most of us) – this could be a win-win for both you AND the church!

2025 White Elephant Sale— Donations

Intake – Again we are keeping intake to only 6 days 9-2 and NO nights. Please bring your items to the church Ferry Road parking lot entrance beginning Thursday **June 26th – July 2nd** [except for June 29]. See calendar in the newsletter. The side driveway will be closed for parking during intake.

Quality of Donations – We are being more selective each year. We have to be able to sell the item in two days [9 hrs total] else give to one of our many recycle groups or discard. By insisting on clean salable items we can reduce the sorting, handling and disposal of damaged or broken items. As always we are grateful for your donations and sorting them in advance really helps.

Donating Large Furniture for the White Elephant Sale [July 11th and 12th]

We are LIMITING the amount of large furniture that we will accept this year. We are **NOT** planning any pickup service due to manpower scheduling and conflicts, but may do some if truck available. If you do have a piece to donate and are wondering whether we will accept, please call the office 434-8686 anytime; night or day and hit the WES call back line - leave a message with all the particulars. We will contact you to discuss your large furniture donation.

The emphasis is on clean, QUALITY items.-- **NO sofa beds, stuffed couches/chairs, dining room sets or particle board furniture.**

We CANNOT accept:

Dirty or Broken Items or Junk	Gas Cans with Gas or Kerosene
Appliances (Large)	Guns, Knives, Weapons
Air Conditioners [Freon Issues]	Magazines, Newspapers
Refrigerators, Freezers, & Stoves	Mattresses or Box Springs
Washers & Dryers	Paint
Bike Helmets [used-safety concern]	Phones
Books: Technical or Textbooks, Encyclopedias	Punch Bowl Sets - they don't sell
Car Seats - safety liability	Ruds [used]
Cribs – safety liability	Scanners
Chemicals	Stereo equipment, Speakers
Computers, Monitors & Software	Skis –old style downhill
Furniture –Stuffed sofa/chairs or sofa beds	Stuffed Animals [used]
Furniture –Particle board	Tires
Furniture –Dining room sets	Treadmills
Lamps [Floor or table]	TVs [all styles]
Luggage [old hard sided ones]	

We GLADLY Accept [Quality Please !!!!!]

Antiques, Fine China, Silver	DVD's (Family Content)
Appliances , Small (working)	Furniture [Not on the " <u>cannot accept</u> " list]
Art, Sculpture, Posters, Frames	Gifts, Sundries, Knickknacks
Baskets	Jewelry: Costume & Fine
Bedding, Linens	Kitchen Items (Appliances, Dishes, Cookware)
Boats, Canoes, Kayaks	Luggage [soft sided or steamer trunks only]
Bicycles, Tricycles	Musical Instruments
Books: Children's, Non-fiction, , Fiction	Plants, Containers
Christmas & Holiday Decorations	Shoes
Clothes: Children's, Men's, Women's	Skis [downhill ones must be " <u>shape</u> " style]
Clothes: Fine, Fashion	Sporting Goods [good condition]
Clothes: Vintage, Costume, and Accessories	Tools (House & Garden)
Collections	Toys and <u>New</u> Stuffed Animals
Curtains, Drapes	

2025 White Elephant Sale – Volunteers Needed

In prior years more than 200 folks helped in some way or another sorting, organizing, outside setup, selling or cleanup after the sale. Even a few hours of your time will be greatly appreciated. You'll have a great time, meet new friends and have a rewarding experience.

For those of you who would just like to help out -- please call one of the department heads listed below and volunteer to work in an area that interests you or just show up during intake days and give us a few hours in any area you like.

Thank you in advance!

Anita Allen 860-227-6850

Nathalie Fogg 860-451-8460

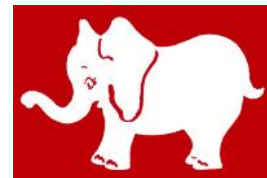
Jane Marolda 860-859-2497

Bob Davis 860-884-7568

Roxie Gallagher 860-227-4649

Dave Pellerin 860-885-8928

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 19 Pre-set up inside (hang signs, move tables) 9:00 - 2:00	June 20 Pre-set up inside (milk crates, tubs etc..) 9:00 - 2:00 <i>Workers Lunch</i>	June 21 Set up inside 9:00 - 2:00	June 26 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	June 27 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00 <i>Workers Lunch</i>	June 28 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 30 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	July 1 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	July 2 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00 <i>Workers Lunch</i>	July 3 CLOSED Sort & Price	July 4 HOLIDAY	July 5 CLOSED Sort & Price
July 7 CLOSED Sort & Price Move Art to Narthex Clean up and Finalize Inside Setup	July 8 8 am put up Sport Goods, Coffee, Plant Tents Big Tents 5-7 pm Baked Goods Tent Toy Fly and all Tables	July 9 CLOSED Sort & Price Finalize any Remaining Outside Set-up	July 10 SET-UP OUTSIDE 8:00 AM <i>Workers Lunch</i>	July 11 SALE DAY 9-2 pm	July 12 SALE DAY 8-12pm CLEAN UP AND SNACKS after 12 pm



2025 White Elephant Sale- Calling All Bakers

Baked Goods Thanks to everyone who made 2024 our best year ever – \$1,273 – all from the sale of cookies and pies and brownies and all kinds of good things you made and delivered for the White Elephant Sale!!! Please set aside time again this year to bake your favorite treats, label with a name/description and note whether there are nuts/no nuts. It's helpful if cupcakes, brownies and cookies are wrapped in half-or-full dozen packages. You may drop off in the church kitchen on Thursday afternoon, July 11, or pull up to the bakery booth at the front of the church on the morning of the sale, July 12, between 7:30 and 9AM. THANKS!!!!

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

June 2025

Children's Sunday, *June 1st*

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, June 2nd at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Choir End-of-the Year Party, *Wednesday, June 4th at 5:30* to home of Elizabeth Marsh

Church Council *Thursday, June 5th at 6:00 pm* in the Library.

Writers at the Well *Thursday, June 5 at 12:00 am* in the Hoag parlor.

Food Pantry *Saturday, June 7th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

First "Summer Sing" *Sunday, June 8th*

Green Grass Meeting *Sunday, June 8th at 11:30 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Board of Trustees Meeting *Tuesday, June 10th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

Red Cross Blood Drive *Thursday, June 12th , 1:00-6:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

Convergence Task Force *Thursday, June 12th at 5:30 pm* by Zoom.

Food Pantry *Saturday, June 14th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Green Grass Trip Departure *Wednesday June 18th.*

TransParent Group Meeting *Wednesday, June 18th at 5:30 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

WES Pre-Set Up, *June 19th, 20th and 21st.*

Board of Stewardship Meeting *Thursday, June 19th at 4:00pm* in the Library.

Food Pantry *Saturday, June 21st at 8:30 am* Curbside.

New London Community Meal Center (Dine) *Sunday, June 22nd departing FCCOL at 3:30pm.*

Board of Deacons Meeting *Tuesday, June 24th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

Grief Group *Wednesday, June 25 at 5:00pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

WES Intake Begins, *Thursday, June 26th 9:00-2:00 pm.*

WES Intake Continues *Friday, June 27th to Wednesday, July 2nd, 9:00-2:00 pm.*

Food Pantry *Saturday, June 28th at 8:30 am* Curbside.

July 2025

FCCOL Office is closed for *Friday, July 4th.*

WES Intake continues *Tuesday & Wednesday, July 1st and 2nd.*

WES *July 3rd-10th* Pricing and tents go up.

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE *Friday and Saturday, July 11th 9-2pm and 12th 8-12pm*

Summer Sing *July 13th.*

Stewardship Committee Meeting *July 17th, 4:00 pm* in the Library.

August 2025

Red Cross Blood Drive *Thursday, August 7th, 1:00-6:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

Food Pantry *Saturdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

September Newsletter Deadline *Wednesday, August 20th*

The Benevolent Society meeting *August 26th, at 10:00 am* in the Library.

Board of Deacons Meeting *Tuesday, August 26th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

winter up north. We anticipate the warmth of summer, and the gathering of friends in that season when time seems to move a little more slowly for us all. Our blessings are many, Loving God, and we need to hold on to them – cherish them – for they are the antidote to our worries and fears and sadness.

On this weekend of memorial, we remember those who have lost their lives *believing* that this country was a great experiment in the equality of all men and women- men and women who had a right to freedom and justice. Men and women who had a right to dream big dreams for both themselves and the generations that would follow them. The violence of war forms a tapestry of pain and suffering that is hard to imagine when we sit here in a beautiful and timeless sanctuary of peace. And yet – imagine it we must. For every war asks of us that we work to forge a pathway to lasting and just peace. And every war reminds us once again that there cannot be a lasting peace unless there is true justice for **all** your beloved children all across this world. And so far, Lord be with us, we have failed to build that lasting and durable peace. Help us, guide us, now and in the future, we pray.

In this week ahead, help us to hear your voice in the chatter of the birds, and to feel your presence in the gentle winds of Spring. Help us to find healing in great music, and in the shared company of friends, and in the laughter of children at play. Help us to remember that you are with us always and in all times – no matter how infrequently we call You to our minds. Grant us peace at the end of every day and give to us your mercy to rain down upon our weariness, our frustrations and our fears.

All this we pray in the name of Unkulu Unkulu – a God bigger and broader than anything our limited minds can imagine. And in the name of Jesus the Christ, our friend and guide through all life's storms.

Amen.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister (860-434-8686)

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

Rachael Jungkeit, Director of Children's Music

Robert McCracken, Church Administrator

Anne Koczka, Office Manager

Julie Mardjekaj, Bookkeeper

Sean McCarty, Sexton

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Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.

South Lyme Union Chapel Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Counseling and Psychotherapy Tel: 860-434-3813

Cary Walker, LCSW

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

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The submission deadline for the September Newsletter will be Wednesday, August 20th.

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.