

# MAY 2025



Dear Friends,

Almost as soon as the final note of the Hallelujah Chorus is sung on Easter morning, ministers tend to turn their minds toward summer. It can be a long journey from Christmas to Lent, and then from Lent to Easter, and the promise of rest is alluring. That's helped by the warmth of the spring air, and the budding trees. In a way, that's ironic, for we have just proclaimed the new life entailed by resurrection, which ought to signify, as Clarence Jordan of Koinonia Farm once put it, "a Carried Away Church," filled with energy, brimming with life. As alluring as it may be to let up after Easter, and as necessary as a well-timed pause might be, there are ways in which we are called to move out into the world, especially after our Easter proclamations.

There are new members to orient, and then to welcome (an orientation will take place on Sunday May 11 after worship, and we'll welcome new members in our service on Sunday May 18). There shall be a visit from the Justice Dance Performance Project on Sunday May 4, a dance troupe composed of formerly incarcerated women at York Correctional Facility. There is the Haitian dinner, celebrating our years-long partnership with the people of Deschappelles, Haiti, taking place on May 18. There is a Science Potluck Dinner, in which we'll consider the ways AI is transforming our lives, and there is another Moth Storytelling Potluck scheduled for Friday, May 30th.

Plans are also underway for a return visit to the Green Grass community in South Dakota this summer. We plan to celebrate our 40th year of partnership with that community during our visit, and we also plan to explore sites important for the Lakota people, in order to better understand our shared history. We are especially hoping that families will consider joining us for this journey, scheduled from June 18-25.

(continued on page 6)

# HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT



## Choir Schedule

To all members of the Choir - Thanks for all your lovely singing in April, especially on Maundy Thursday and Easter Day!

Here is what May's schedule is looking like:

**Sunday, May 4:** Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am. Guest Organist: En-Hua Holtz!

**Wednesday, May 7:** Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

**Sunday, May 11:** Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

**Wednesday, May 14:** Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

**Sunday, May 18:** Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

**Wednesday, May 21:** Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

**Sunday, May 25:** Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

**Wednesday, May 28:** Rehearsal at 7:30 pm. This is the last rehearsal of this season!

Many thanks and best wishes to all.

Simon

## Old Lyme Ringers Notes

The **Old Lyme Ringers** closed their eighth season of ringing with a big bang on Easter Sunday, April



20. They have all worked hard and have been successful in creating some interesting and beautiful music for worship over the past six months. We wish to thank Lisa Feltes, Barbara Hack, Allison

Hine, Cindy Hautaniemi, Pat Jungkeit, Rachael Jungkeit, Doug Kiem, Leslie Kiem, Annie McCarty, Sean McCarty, Donna Miller, Angela Mock, Kate Rice, and Matthew Rice. We all look forward to hearing more great handbell music next fall!

## ReBELLion

**ReBELLion** (our children and youth handbell choir) completed their first season of ringing on Palm Sunday, April 13. They played extraordinarily well

on that day, with a number of different techniques they had to learn in the rehearsals leading up to their playing in worship. Each young person was given a



Certificate of Appreciation and Achievement for his/her contribution of talent for this past season. We thank the young people and their parents for their dedication and

enthusiasm: Anderson Brant, Noah Brant, Lucy Byers, Zoey Dowd, Anna William Fitzpatrick-Nager, Augie Jungkeit, Devon Kiem, Colton Lodge, Ellison Lodge, Allie Mock, Clarissa Mock, Connor Rice, David Rice, and Lucy Vautrain.

For all the wonderful performances we deeply appreciate the teaching and conducting skills of leader Gary Jungkeit!

## Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)



It's May already - and June is just around the corner. For your calendars, June 9th will be our final working Monday until September.

Our creations will continue to be available in the

\*Partnership Store, in the Woman's Exchange/Lyme Tree gift store, and during the White Elephant Sale. We are grateful for recent donations of money, fabric, a Pfaff sewing machine, Insul-Bright, thread, knitted baby sweater/hat sets, crocheted bunnies, and more.

The fact that most of our creations are made using donated materials enables us to keep our prices reasonable and allows us to donate many things at little or no cost. During the month of April, our sales approached \$1500. That's a lot of support from you for FCCOL's missions. Thank you, thank you!



The final spring TBS luncheon is on May 13th and we will have everything on display in the Fellowship Hall and in the \*Partnership Store. If you haven't shopped with us recently, check out some of our newest creations - beautiful hand embroidered bookmarks, colorful spring napkins, multi-colored rope fabric bowls and baskets, one-of-a-kind cork bulletin board, sweaters, socks, hats, bibs, and quilts for babies, and sweet guardian angels, to name a few.

\*The FCCOL Partnership Store, across from the Fellowship Hall, features goods from Palestine, Haiti, and Tribal Crafts as well as creations from Ladies Who Stitch. We call it guilt-free shopping since all proceeds go directly to the artisans, or to FCCOL outreach missions. LWS opens the Partnership Store on Sundays after the service, Mondays during our working hours, Wednesday around choir practice, and during most large in-house FCCOL activities. Also, our fabulous sexton, Sean, and/or our fabulous office manager, Anne, are happy to assist with store purchases by special request. Call the church office 860.434.8686 during working hours.

***Ladies Who Stitch regularly meet on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Sheffield Auditorium - with a lunch break in the library at noon. Visitors, shoppers, and potential new members are always welcome.***

Questions: Contact Eunice via email ([eunicetaylor@me.com](mailto:eunicetaylor@me.com)) or stop by on a Monday.

## God's Neighborhood

"What I try to tell young people is that if you come together with a mission, and it's grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible." Former Congressman, John Lewis.

We follow a long tradition of people who extended



open hands to uplift those in need. From the ancient Israelites, who supported one another in the wilderness, to Jesus who healed sick and marginalized people and included them in his community, to the early church, who shared resources to support widows, orphans, and others, the people of God have long been working to

support those who are in need. We are at our best as a community when our attention and care are directed outward to others.

**Sunday, May 4th:** God's Neighborhood at the Beach! Join us at 10:00 am. Let's meet at White Sands Beach with trash bags and gloves. We'll share an opening circle at 10:00 and then clean up the beach, finishing up at 11:00ish for donuts (coffee and cider, too).

**Sunday May 11th:** Mothering Sunday. Youth will learn to envision an abundant world where all are uplifted and discern how the church, including themselves, fit into that vision. God's Neighborhood will also be rehearsing for Youth Sunday on June 1st.

**Sunday, May 18th:** Our church will welcome new members today. In God's Neighborhood, our Youth Group will host our church historian, Carol Wakeman, and learn more about the Witness Stones plaques memorializing those people who were enslaved in Old Lyme. We'll also clean the plaques as well. Our K-5th graders will hear stories of Jesus' followers helping others and our students can then imagine how they can contribute to the service done by the church. Students will also practice their parts for Youth Sunday!

**Sunday, May 25th:** Memorial Day Weekend. As hard as goodbyes are, they are part of living in community together. In Sunday school, we'll explore the milestones, both happy and sad, that we as a church community share together—including those around people leaving the community—remembering that we are all one in Christ Jesus. Even when we are physically apart, we are still connected through our love of God. We'll also practice our parts for Youth Sunday next weekend, June 1st!!

### Coming in June:

**Sunday, June 1st:** Youth Sunday. This is our final day of the academic year in God's Neighborhood. Our students will run a special service at 10 am from the announcements to the sermon- and yes there will be singing!! This special service will wrap up our year of learning how to live intentionally in a community as a people of faith in the world. We'll also honor our high school graduates and offer a moment of Teacher Appreciation for all our adults helping in God's Neighborhood this year!

An ice cream social in the front lawn will follow the service!

## Memorials

Mary Pullen

## Science Discussion and Potluck Dinner



Our next Science Discussion potluck will be held at 6:00 on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Our discussion will center around the rapid advances of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the implications for the future. We had a great turn-out and a lively discussion last time (where we discussed Genetic Engineering) and we are looking forward to another thought-provoking night on the 9<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome - please bring a friend and your favorite dish to share!

## Justice Dance Performance Project, Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, May 4, 2025 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme for a performance of "**With These Hands.**" Connecting Self, Community, and the Earth was performed at York CI in 2024 as the culmination of Justice Dance Performance Project's year-long performance residency there.

The piece that unfolded looks at hands as a catalyst for story—the wisdom of hands; hands as compasses; hands that hold on; hands that let go; hands that create; hands that express anger; hands that help others; hands that connect communities; and hands that work with the earth. The York women developed

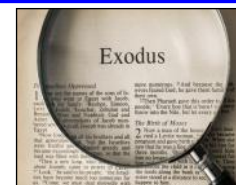
writing, dances, and songs working with JDPP teaching artists to develop the performance. JDPP is pleased to bring excerpts from this piece as a staged reading that includes narrative, song, and dance.

The cast includes JDPP teaching artists from the project and women who are part of JDPP's Stepping Out program for returning citizens in the community. We are grateful to The Florence Griswold Museum and The Benevolent Society of FCCOL for helping to fund for this event.



## Adult Bible Study: "Goodness, Greed and Grace: Book of Exodus

Curious about what we do in Bible Study? Wondering about the problem of evil and where the heck God might be found on any given day? Bible Study is every Thursday at 11:00 am (until May 22) in the Hoag Parlor and on Zoom. Email: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) for the zoom link.



## Friday Night Moth Storytelling and Potluck Dinner!

We had our first FCCOL Moth Storytelling night earlier this month and it was a huge success, with nearly 80 participants and a host of engaging stories. Given the enthusiastic response, the Moth Night will be back by popular demand. We are planning our next potluck for Friday May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to have 7 or 8 storytellers and there are still a couple slots available. If you have an engaging 5-minute story you would like to share, contact Tom Sherer at [tesjr299@outlook.com](mailto:tesjr299@outlook.com) for more information. Otherwise, set aside the date on your calendar to listen in and to join the fun! If you would like to help with the potluck setup/cleanup, please contact Deb Heminway: [dheminway9@gmail.com](mailto:dheminway9@gmail.com).

## Demonstration for Concern for Proliferation of Arms



On Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup> our church welcomed about 25 walkers, who were making their way from New Haven to New London over the 6 days of Holy Week. Their journey - all on foot - was to call attention to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dawn of the nuclear age. They were walking in demonstration of their concern over the proliferation of arms, as well as the on-going wars around our globe (in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan as well as other regions). They spent some time resting and

pondering the stations of the cross from the Solentiname Community which were on display in the Meetinghouse, as well as enjoying some light refreshments. Their journey, which was organized by Frieda Berrigan, was to culminate in Groton on Good Friday. It was an honor to have them with us.

**A huge word of thanks to all who donated medical supplies for distribution in Cuba.** In every community we visited, we were able to deliver one, and sometimes two bags overflowing with basic medical necessities - pain relief, vitamins, bandages, thermometers, and surgical head lamps (pictured above, and now in use!) - which you made possible. You were so generous, in fact, that we struggled to get everything down there, which was a wonderful problem to have. Everybody was deeply deeply appreciative. In several cases, we were able to hand surgeons - including a pediatric surgeon - one of the surgical lamps, and it was as if they were receiving a gemstone, an object of exceedingly great worth. So again, thank you to all of you who donated those items, large and small. You helped to make a difference in the lives of ordinary Cubans!



## Crosby Fund for Haitian Education Literacy Program

### Dear Friends of The Crosby Fund,

Since its construction in 2017, The Crosby Fund's Education Center has become a hub of daily activity, bringing a variety of educational programs to the local community, free of charge. From the beginning, one of its most essential offerings has been...Literacy.

With both Youth and Adult courses available, our Literacy Programs offer reading, writing and basic mathematics to children from 6 to 14, and to adults of all ages. Each two-year program meets three times a week, three hours per session. The Adult Literacy curriculum is provided by the Haitian Ministry of Education, and the youth program's materials and teacher training have been

made possible through a partnership with USAID. The Crosby Fund is so proud to be working with these organizations to help bring essential literacy programs to Haiti's rural Artibonite Valley.

In this our 21st Year, having provided more than 6,500 scholarships, The Crosby Fund has seen firsthand, every day, what the power of an education can do.

Thank you for your support in helping us provide the life changing gift of education.

Becky Crosby



## And please join us for a Haitian Dinner!

*If you would like to learn more about our work in Haiti, please join us on*

***Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm***

*at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme for a presentation and an authentic Haitian Dinner prepared by "Mommy's Delicious Food" of Norwich.*

*For reservations please call the church at 860-434-8686.*

*Suggested donation: \$15 per person*



(Dear Friends, continued from the cover)

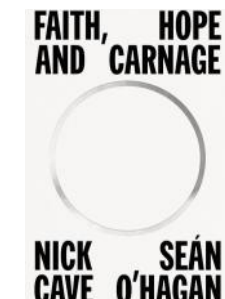
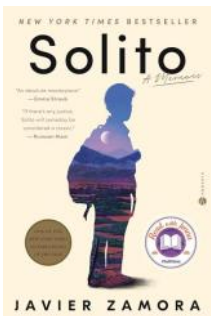
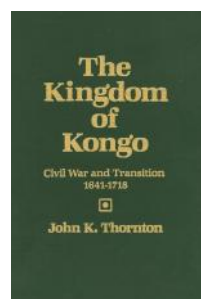
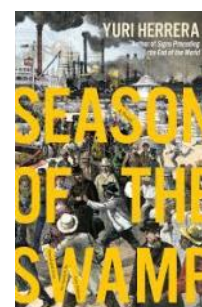
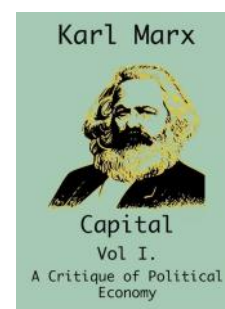
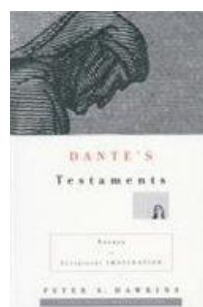
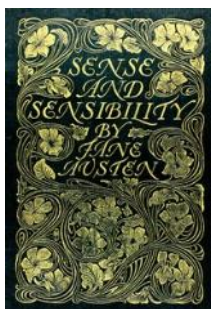
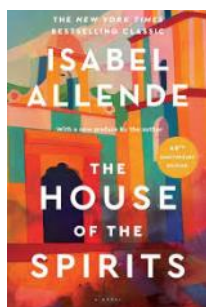
In addition to all of that, the ministers, staff, and a few volunteers are continuing to meet with community leaders and activists about how to respond to the urgent needs of immigrants throughout our state, and country. Know that we continue to plan and to strategize as we build out a comprehensive ministry to meet those needs. As things continue to develop, we'll keep you informed about ways to become involved.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the enormous loss to the world that occurred the day after Easter. The death of Pope Benedict affects our Catholic brothers and sisters most fully, but we as Protestants can and should mourn the loss of such an eloquent and faithful witness to God, to the simple and unadorned ways of Jesus, and to the Church. Francis was a model of deep learning and worldly engagement, and he consistently used his platform to lift up the needs of the poor, along with others who suffer and struggle. He was a voice for climate justice, and he worried about the growing inequalities in wealth distribution around the world, demonstrating how both Jesus and the teachings of the Church modeled a very different way. During the ascendancy of the far right throughout the world, Francis spoke of the dignity accorded by God to all peoples, including and especially to immigrants. He was an inspirational world leader, and we can pray that the College of Cardinals will choose a worthy successor to Francis in this fraught moment of our collective history.

It can be tempting, when the final note of Hallelujah sounds, to slow things down - to take a nap in that empty tomb! That's not our way at FCCOL. We're a people energized by all that resurrection entails, and it moves us to respond to the needs around us with energy and purpose, as a "Carried Away Church."

To which we can say, one more time, Hallelujah!

Steve



**Reading:** *Sense and Sensibility*, by Jane Austen (at last!); *The Poems of William Blake*; *Dante's Testaments*, by Peter Hawkins; *Paradiso (selections)*, by Dante; *The Kingdom of Kongo*, by John Thornton; *Faith, Hope, and Carnage*, by Nick Cave and Sean O'Hagan; *Season of the Swamp*, by Yuri Herrera; *The House of the Spirits*, by Isabel Allende; *Capital, Vol. 1 (selections)*, by Karl Marx; *Solito*, by Javier Zamora (in Spanish, and therefore slowly).

**Listening:** The albums of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, but especially *Ghosteen*, *Carnage*, and *The Skeleton Tree*.

**Watching:** *Cien Años de Soledad (Netflix)*; *The Two Popes (Netflix)*.

## **The Benevolent Society May Luncheon**

The daffodils and the Forsythia bushes are out in force, and we at The Benevolent Society (formally known as the LBS) are looking forward to your company at our May luncheon on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>, noon to 2pm, in the Fellowship Room. Come join us for some delicious food, friendly conversation and an entertaining program at our third Spring luncheon of 2025, which will be our last luncheon until after the summer. Chef Rick promises a delicious meal with side dishes complimenting his homemade meatloaf, a main course that earned raves last year.

The after-lunch program will be a presentation by The Connecticut Nurses Honor Guard, during which some of the members will describe their organization, services and outreach. They are a dedicated group who pay tribute to fallen nurses by performing at funerals and memorial services, along with providing comfort to families who have lost loved ones. A non-profit organization composed of active and retired nurses, they volunteer their time and compassion, and we are proud to acknowledge their dedication and service.

Suggested donation for the luncheon and program is \$5 per person, plus a nonperishable food item for our food bank or a package of disposable diapers for our diaper bank. If you plan to join us at the luncheon, please call the FCCOL office at (860) 434-8686 by Friday, May 9th to make a reservation so we can be sure to have enough food prepared for all to enjoy.

**TransParent Group** For Parents, Caregivers and Family Members of Trans Youth/Young Adults: Our group will provide conversation, support community and education for parents and caregivers around the issues of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diversity. Join us for an informational meeting held at FCCOL on Wednesday, May 21st at 5:30 in the Hoag Parlor. For more information email us at: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto: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, May 28th from 5:00-6:00 pm in Hoag Parlor.

**Writers at the Well** Friday, May 16th at 10:00 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.

**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 a month to provide a meal and servers. The Meal Center operates Monday through Friday with a small staff and many volunteers to serve lunch and dinner to many hungry clients who might not otherwise consume warm, healthy meals.

**We are always in need of people who are willing to help out\*** 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 are interested in helping out any month, you may contact Julie Kuja at [julie.kuja@yahoo.com](mailto:julie.kuja@yahoo.com).

**\*Either by cooking or shopping for items ahead of time or helping when we serve at the site.**



We are very grateful for the talent and dedication of Jill Harned, who makes our altar flowers a reality. Her Easter display was really beautiful. Jill is always looking for volunteers to take over a specific Sunday - so let her know if you'd like to help at 603-398-9004.



## 2025 White Elephant Sale [87<sup>th</sup>] – Volunteers Needed

This year's sale dates are **Friday 7/11 & Saturday 7/12** - from 9:00 to 2:00 and 8:00 to 12:00 respectively.

This is a good time of the year to sort through the cellar and attic to put aside some of those treasures for this year's sale. Hold those goodies until first intake day, **Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup>**. Last year was our best ever sale, so looking for big things this year.

Here is a list of areas in need:

Appliances, (2) Co-chairs, Intake supervisors to screen donations (3) People, Kitchen (1) Co-chair, Knick-Knacks (1) Co-chair, Parking lot attendants on sale day—Workers.

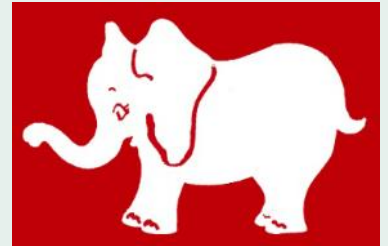
In prior years more than 200 folks helped in some way or another sorting, organizing, outside setup, selling or cleanup after the sale. Even a few hours of your time will be greatly appreciated. You'll have a great time, meet new friends and have a rewarding experience.

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



## 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 [celobrate8@gmail.com](mailto:celobrate8@gmail.com). We will be having

## Environmental Committee

I'd like to thank Claire Matthews for sharing this letter written in opposition to the proposed Brookfield compressor station:

"I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed gas pipeline in Connecticut referred to as Project Maple. This project represents not only a step backward in addressing climate change but also a threat to our environment, health, and local communities.

As Connecticut works toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitions to renewable energy sources, the



construction of another gas pipeline and compressor station will exacerbate our reliance on fossil fuels. The expensive infrastructure will be paid for by us ratepayers and is counterproductive to the urgent need to invest in cleaner, sustainable energy solutions such as solar and wind.

Gas releases are built into the pipeline system and happen on schedule at all compressor stations. NIH has documented that these gas releases can cause cancer, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular mortality. Children, seniors, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing conditions are particularly vulnerable. The proposed addition to the Brookfield compressor is only 1,900 ft from the local middle school. The construction of this pipeline will also have a detrimental impact on local ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and wildlife habitats.

Rather than investing in outdated and harmful fossil fuel infrastructure, we should focus on expanding clean energy solutions that will create green jobs, lower energy costs in the long run, and help Connecticut become a leader in environmental sustainability.

Governor Lamont said in a recent interview that while he supports the gas pipeline, 'CT will ultimately do what the people want.' We have an opportunity now to speak up on behalf not only of ourselves but especially our children and grandchildren."

### Housing Wanted

We regularly hear from folks who are in need of an affordable rental. If you have any information that could be helpful, please let Anne in the office know. Even a room to rent for a period of time would be greatly appreciated.

### Caretaker Position Available

Aldrean (Al) Chuma is a professional caregiver and available to offer any assistance you may need with your loved one at home. Part-time and full-time hours. References available at: #917-957-3963.

### Caretaker Available

Guili, who has worked with some of our families in the past, is seeking a fulltime, live-in, 24/7 caretaker position. She can be reached at 860-391-5691. References upon request.

# MAY 2025 CALENDAR

**Bible Study** *Thursday, May 1st at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Food Pantry and Diaper Bank** *Saturday, May 3rd at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**Adult Forum Justice Dance Performance** *Sunday, May 4th at 11:30 am* in the Meetinghouse.

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, May 5th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

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

**ARC Blood Drive** *Thursday, May 8th from 1:00 pm -6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, May 8th at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Science Discussion on "AI" and Potluck** *Friday, May 9th at 6:00pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, May 10th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**New Members Orientation** *Sunday, May 11th at 11:15 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, May 12th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**The Benevolent Society Luncheon** *Tuesday, May 13th at 12:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Board of Trustees Meeting** *Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

**Ballroom Dancing with Sean McCarty** *Wednesday, May 14th at 10:00 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, May 14th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Board of Stewardship Meeting** *Thursday, May 15th at 4:00pm* in the Library.

**Writer's at the Well** *Friday, May 16th at 10:00 am* in the Hoag parlor.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, May 17th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**New Members Sunday**, *May 18th at 10:00 am* followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

**Haitian Dinner** *Sunday, May 18th at 5:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, May 19th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Newsletter Deadline** *Wednesday, May 21st* in the Library.

**TransParent Group Meeting** *Wednesday, May 21st at 5:30 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, May 21st at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, May 22nd at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, May 24th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

**Adult Forum with Abigail Cipparone** *Sunday, May 25th after the 10 am service* in the Sheffield Aud.

**New London Community Meal Center** *Sunday, May 25th departing FCCOL at 3:30pm.*

**FCCOL Office will be closed** *on Monday, May 26th* for Memorial Day.

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, May 26th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Newsletter Folding** *Tuesday, May 27th* in the Library.

**Board of Deacons Meeting** *Tuesday, May 27th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

**Grief Group** *Wednesday, May 28th at 5:00pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, May 29th at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Moth Storytelling and Potluck Dinner** *Friday, May 30th at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall,

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, May 31st at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

# 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

Church Office Tel: 860-434-8686

Fax: 860-434-1135

e-mail: [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org)

Website: [www.fccol.org](http://www.fccol.org)

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.

## Giving Matters

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign - now essentially completed - has resulted in \$617,569 in commitments and contributions from 270 very generous members and friends. This is the first time since 2018 that we have met and exceeded our annual goal of \$600,000. That goal is important because to maintain our missions and ministries and keep them vibrant, we need to outpace inflation. Importantly this year we were able to increase the Board of Missions benevolence giving by \$10,000, after several declining years. The average pledge this year was \$2,287, up from \$1,700 as recently as 2018. This increase demonstrates what a generous and dedicated congregation we are. And to paraphrase our column title "**Giving Really Matters**"! Thank you everyone.

From the Board of Stewardship and the Treasurer

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
OLD LYME  
2 FERRY ROAD  
OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371**

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The submission deadline for the June/Summer Newsletter is Wednesday, May 21st.

Please e-mail the church office at [fccol@fccol.org](mailto: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.*