

SEPTEMBER 2025



Dear Friends,

The other day I took a walk around the church building - outside and in. I hadn't been around for a few weeks, as summer travels and study took place. Strange to say it, but I guess I just sort of wanted to say hello to the space itself. And so I did. Fans were running in the Meetinghouse, and the shutters were covering the windows to keep it cool, and I thought about all the services we would shortly conduct in that place. The Sunday School rooms were quiet, and the Fellowship Hall was empty, all of them waiting to receive people. On the exterior, the front portico of the Meetinghouse positively shined in the late afternoon sunlight, having just received a new coat of paint. The gardens were in bloom and looked beautiful as the shadows lengthened. There was a hush about the building, as if, like many of us, it was resting after a busy and full year, and was now waiting to receive us all again. I felt glad to be there, glad to say hello after being away for a little while.

For a moment, it reminded me of that lovely (and, if we're being honest, troubling) children's book, *The Giving Tree* - a benevolent and living being that wishes for our presence, and is glad to see us when we return. That is what our Meetinghouse came to feel like on my late afternoon visit. (We trust that a great deal more care will be given in return than the boy gives his tree in Shel Silverstein's tale.)

And then my eye strayed to the corner of Ferry Road and Lyme Street, where a very real tree that had given itself to us reached the end of its life earlier this summer. That absent tree has created an empty space that I hope, one day before too long, will be filled once again - perhaps with a new tree that will shade and shelter our community across the years. As with the Giving Tree, I have to admit that I often took it for granted when it was there, but I miss it profoundly now that it's gone.

(continued on page 6)

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

FCCOL Choir

Here is what September's rehearsal and service schedule is looking like:

Wednesday, September 3: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 7: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, September 10: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 13: CONCERT by Ensemble Altera at 7:00 pm

Sunday, September 14: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, September 17: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 21: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, September 24: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 28: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Many thanks and best wishes to all.
Simon

Handbell Notes

Music, that covers much of the church year, has been selected for the new season, and the music has been ordered. The ringers are already looking forward to the season's beginning, as they share music making with their fellow ringers and with the congregation. Church members and friends have also stated that they can hardly wait to hear the bells again! It is now just a couple months away until the **Old Lyme Ringers** begin their first rehearsal on October 29. The first Sunday that the bells will be heard once again is November 2, All Saints Sunday. There is much that will be happening that day, and you won't want to miss any of it!

ReBELLion, our children's and youth handbell choir, will again meet during the winter months. More information will be forthcoming in future church newsletters!

Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)

The stitching ladies and gentlemen (we will have to consider a name change!) have been enjoying a summer break although some have continued to create. We have also enjoyed a couple of great summertime potlucks.



We will reconvene on Monday, September 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Newcomers and shoppers are always welcome. We break for lunch at noon (we bring our own lunches but provide coffee and tea). The Partnership Store, offering goods from Haiti, Palestine, Tribal Crafts and LWS, is open during our working hours.

The 3rd Annual Women's Jean Sale!

During White Elephant Sale intake, women's jeans are set aside because there is no room in the Sheffield to sell them during the sale. The Ladies Who Stitch will be offering these jeans for **\$5 each during September and October**. We have an even greater selection this year than last ... so stay tuned for dates and times.



Questions: Contact the church office, or Eunice via email - eunicetaylor@me.com

God's Neighborhood

Sunday, September 7th: Homecoming Sunday begins at the 10:00 am service when church programming for the academic year begins in earnest and God's Neighborhood Sunday School kicks off!

Welcome back to all our families and friends in God's Neighborhood! **Our Sunday School program, God's Neighborhood, begins Sunday, September 7th at 10:00 am.** Following the service, we're having an Ice Cream Social in Fellowship Hall.



Our theme this year is called **Let Justice Roll Down: Crossing Borders to Find Each Other.**

As a people of faith, we are called over and over again to cross boundaries in order to grow and live more fully into our shared humanity and world. In biblical times as now, people of faith learned to encounter other cultures, faiths, ethnicities, communities and genders to embrace the wholeness of humanity. Throughout the year, we'll explore ways to connect with our neighbors near and far! Classes will remind one another that even small acts of kindness and care can make the world a more generous place. We'll learn from one another in our community, too, from local neighbors to those around the world as we explore our curriculum with storytelling, music, drama, art and field trips. **Please submit a registration form for the child/children in your family on our opening day or as soon as you can.**

Please let us know if you might be interested in joining our class for volunteers or to be available as an occasional substitute when needed. *Our Teacher/Helper Orientation will be held on Thursday, September 4th, from 5:00-6:30 in the FCCOL library.*

Classroom News:

K-1 Teachers: Rachael Jungkeit, Kristen Byers and High School Helpers

2-3 Teachers: MaryBeth Franco and HS Helpers

4-6 Teacher: Mary Bradford, Brad Mock and HS Helpers

6-8 Middle School Cafe: Teacher Melissa DaPonte and HS Helpers

Save the Dates:

Sunday, September 21st: All families and supporters are invited during Sunday School time to an Open House downstairs during/after Sunday School to meet teachers, learn about our program for the year and visit with one another. Thanks to

our Board of Youth Ed (BYE) a reception will follow.

Sunday, September 21st: FCCOL All Church Picnic, Kayaking and Fun at Camp Claire, Oakland Avenue, Lyme, CT. 3:00-6:00 pm

See our private Face Book page, *FCCOL Families*, for announcements, news updates, and pictures only visible to families who are part of our God's Neighborhood Program. Please join our group to stay connected! We will continue to send out regular communications through weekly emails as well. By registering your children you will be included in these emails. High school youth and their parents will be included in email communications.



See you on September 7th!

Love,
Laura and Jolene



PS: It's not too early to start collecting for our winter clothing drive for the Youth Group Breakfast Run (scheduled for Saturday, October 4th) to New York City. We are hoping that you can help by dropping off

winter clothes to FCCOL by October 3rd. . Coats, hats, gloves, new socks, boots, sweatshirts and hoodies and personal hygiene items that are in good shape are needed to keep our neighbors warm!

Weddings

Natalie Gilhool and Brandon Muto
Ian Maxwell and Sara Basciani
Olivia Hack and Philip Bates

Memorials

Robert Taisey
Rick Bugbee
Sarah Martin
Caroline Larken
Gerry Moore
Nancy Connell
Mary Pullen
Jennifer Hillhouse
Matthew Winkler
Robert Park Bugbee

Impressions of FRESH New London

Driving up to the property of FRESH New London, I was reminded of the terraced farms planted in the Andes mountains by the indigenous peoples of Peru. Along the side of the house where the office and classroom spaces are located, there were numerous parallel rows trailing up the hillside, covered with colorful raised beds filled with vegetables and flowers. They were growing collard greens and lettuce, tomatoes, beans, squash and corn (known as the three sisters), strawberries and herbs. Bees and butterflies filled the air. My mission was to interview Seanice Austin, the Co-Director and Administrator, and Chloe Nunez, Senior Program Manager. My goal was to learn about the program operations, the people that are served, and to hear about any new challenges FRESH might be facing. We talked for hours.

FRESH is a food justice community non-profit that began in 2004 with the purpose to teach young children about growing food. They had secured a farm in Waterford, and they took the children there to observe the farming operations. In 2015, the new Director developed a vision of expanding FRESH to become more community based and located within the city limits. Since then, they have worked in New London with city agencies to purchase or be gifted plots of inner-city lands that were underutilized or had long ago been vacated and were in disrepair. Some of



the lots had been used as dumping grounds by construction companies seeking spaces to deposit materials left in demolition sites. In fact, the terraces of the first area I viewed were created from blocks of concrete and rubble that were then covered with dirt and transformed by the raised beds. Some other gardens are located on land trust property using lease agreements.

It was determined that plots of land for creating gardens should be in densely populated areas with multiple family dwellings and that they should be near public transportation stops, when possible. One plot is on a street corner where there is also a small park with a playground and picnic table. Another is located across from an elementary school, and it includes a hoop house for growing seedlings as starter plants. The hoop house was donated by CT Handyman, and they also provided maintenance training for FRESH interns. Students from the school visit the gardens and learn about growing vegetables and the importance of eating healthy

foods. Currently FRESH owns and operates seven farming sites, each with its own distinct features. Three are community gardens, three have stand-alone Snap Beds and one is an urban farm.

(Continued on page 10)

The Benevolent Society September Luncheon

Cooler weather, colorful foliage and the beginning of fall activities are just around the corner, and we invite you to come join us for some fellowship, delicious food, and an entertaining program at The Benevolent Society's (formally The Ladies Benevolent Society) first Autumn luncheon on Tuesday, September 9th, from noon to 2pm in Fellowship Hall. Lunch begins at noon, and the meal prepared by Cathy Mathis and served to you by TBS board members promises to be delicious.

The luncheon program begins at 1pm, and we are pleased to welcome back Edie Twinning who was the speaker at our March luncheon where she talked about and showed her illustrations for the recently published book "Letters to Papa." She has now collaborated with Author Alison Mitchell 92, on her 32-page book "Townsend: The Positive Dog of Mystic Senior Living." Edie illustrated the book, and her sister, Kinny Kreiswirth, served as the editor. The sisters both retired to Old Lyme after professional careers in design and editing.

The book is a tale of "Townie," a mutt who resides at a senior living community, the people he looks after and the activities that they do together over the course of a week. While the colorful adventures of Townie and his friends are fiction, they were inspired by the busy lives of actual canine residents of StoneRidge Senior Living in Mystic.

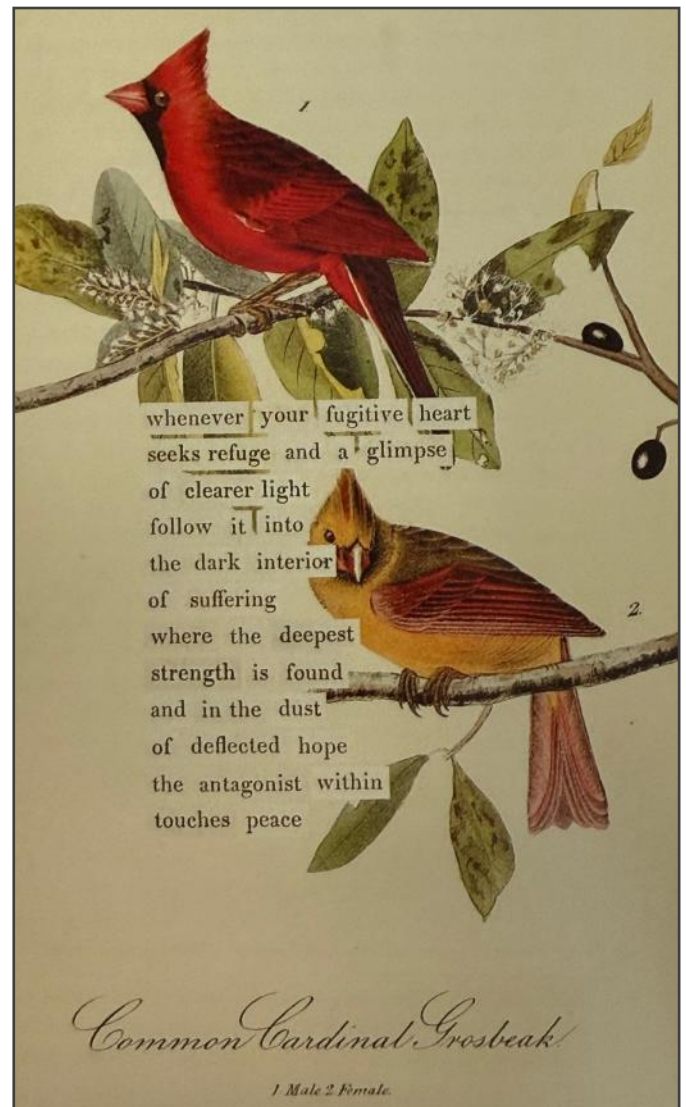
Suggested donation for the luncheon and program is \$5 per person, plus a nonperishable food item for our food bank or a package of disposable diapers for our diaper bank. If you plan to join us at the luncheon, please call the FCCOL office at (860) 434-8686 by Friday, September 5th to make a reservation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



Board of Missions: Visit to the Thames River Family Project

The Thames River Family Project is a transitional family program for young women and their families and partners, ages 18 thru 24. It offers many services for single women and young families experiencing homelessness. The program includes safe, secure housing and services to enable individuals to pursue goals of self sufficiency and end the cycle of homelessness and housing insecurity. Clients are allowed to stay one year. The facility has 24 apartments, some are 2- or 3-bedroom units. On site food pantry, laundry, play areas and playground for children, clothing and supplies for families are available as well as safe quality childcare. Programs that include support in goal setting, life skills, financial literacy and parenting classes are offered. Job opportunities with informational speakers are presented. During times that the governor issues a severe cold weather protocol, overnight emergency shelter is available in the building for outsiders. This very worthwhile program was founded in 1992 and does great work. It was a pleasure to visit.

Mary Jo Shettle



(Dear Friends, continued from the cover)

But really, though, it all suggested a greater absence: each one of you. Our Meetinghouse and our grounds are sorely lacking without all of the people that make up our community. Like that great shade tree on the corner, each of you, whether you know it or not, gives shade and shelter to our community. And when you're not there, we feel that something (someone!) is missing. I hope in the coming weeks that you'll find your way back to the Meetinghouse as our fall schedule begins. I hope you'll sense the way it receives and shelters us in good times and bad. I hope you'll sense the way you yourself do the same, simply by showing up and being present.

Our welcome home (Homecoming) Sunday will take place on September 7th. That's when our Sunday School program will kick off for another year. That's also when the choir will join us in worship once again. Adult Education and our Bible Study will start up again later in the month. Our Board meetings, and some special potluck gatherings will recommence. And our work with Convergence will continue, as we map out a thriving future for our congregation.

Throughout, we'll be asked to attend to some of the larger ethical issues defining our era: how to care for and protect immigrants, how to navigate ecological catastrophe, how we respond to the willed erasure of peoples and of histories, and how we handle the collapse of a shared understanding of reality (AI is poised to make this more difficult than it already is). Amidst so much inhumanity, we're challenged to ask how it is that we can remain human, and humane. Over and again, we shall be asked to consider how we might be worthy of being the church of Jesus Christ in this time.

One last thing, if I may: a recommendation. Earlier this summer a friend and fellow congregant urged upon me a delightful book that I shall now urge upon you: *The Guncle*, by Steven Rowley. *It is a witty, irreverent, soulful, often hilarious, and deceptively deep exploration of the new and alternative family structures all around us. A quick summary: Maisie and Grant, two children from Connecticut, go to live with their (gay) Uncle Patrick in Palm Springs after their mother succumbs to cancer. Patrick is reticent about children, and, more broadly, about family, but he finds himself coming alive to the world in surprising ways as a result of his niece and nephew. It's a book about grief and mourning. It's a book about family. It's a book about queer life in America. And it's ultimately a book about intimacy, about finding one another amidst our loneliness and hurt. Irreverent as it is, it's actually a pretty good portrayal of the love and belonging that I hope can take place in, well, a church, among all of us. It's one of my favorite reads of the summer.*

Wherever you happen to be, whatever is going on in your life, I hope you'll find your way to the shelter of our Meetinghouse soon. It stands ready, waiting to receive you, like a great shady tree from a well known children's book. It's not the same when you're not there.

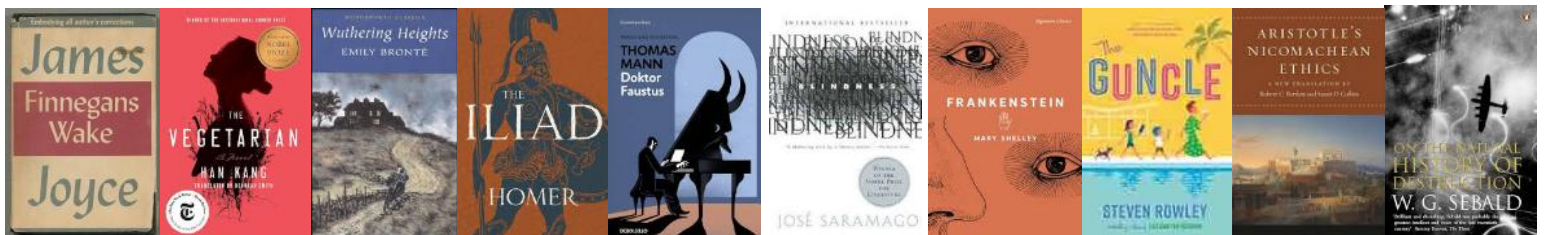
Stay human,



Reading: *Finnegans Wake*, by James Joyce (portions); *The Vegetarian*, by Han Kang; *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Bronte; *The Iliad*, by Homer; *Doctor Faustus*, by Thomas Mann; *Blindness*, by Jose Saramago; *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley; *The Guncle*, by Steven Rowley; *Nichomachean Ethics and Poetics*, by Aristotle; *On the Natural History of Disaster*, by W.G. Sebald.

Listening: The 1975, *Being Funny in a Foreign Language*; *African Scream Contest: Raw and Psychedelic Sounds from Togo and Benin*; *Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, Ella and Louis*; *Elza Soares, Planeta Fome*.

Watching: The films of Federico Fellini; *Somebody, Somewhere* (Max); *The Bear* (Hulu).



THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

The Board of Stewardship (BOS) is perhaps not very well known among many FCCOL members and friends. Consequently, some may have questions:

What is the BOS supposed to do?

FCCOL's governance is guided by Church Bylaws. They provide a framework for determining who is responsible for what. According to the Bylaws, the BOS's nine members are responsible for *...securing financial support for the Church and its benevolent and mission activities through annual pledges by the Church membership*. The BOS is one of six Church boards. FCCOL also has 10 or more Committees.

How important is the BOS?

BOS operations are vital because paid pledges fund the majority of our ministries and missions. Financial support provided by members and friends (78%) is the principal funding source for FCCOL's budget. Pledges provide (62%), open plate collections (3.5%) and additional contributions and special gifts (12.2%).

Who is invited to pledge?

The BOS sends pledge requests for financial donations to all Church members and friends during September. These invitations request an indication on a pledge card of the financial contribution a member or friend plans to make to FCCOL during the upcoming year.

How are pledge cards used?

Church administrators use the pledge cards to build the FCCOL budget for the year ahead. The budget is submitted for Congregational approval at the Annual Meeting in January. Pledges are indications – intentions, not contracts. While most pledges become contributions, not all do. Individual circumstances can change.

Aren't my Church service hours enough?

Pledges are needed in addition to the many ways many members and friends donate time and talent to FCCOL. Both are essential to establish and maintain a meaningful difference in the lives of those the Church strives to serve.

Isn't FCCOL a 'rich church' with lots of large pledges?

FCCOL is not a 'rich church.' While our endowment is able to contribute 5% of its value to the annual budget, members and friends provide almost 80%. Of course, large donors are very important, but they provide less than 23% of total pledges. All pledges matter.

How does the BOS operate?

The BOS holds monthly meetings to decide how it will fulfil its mandate. It also meets several times in the Fall and early Spring to mail initial pledge invitations and reminders to members and friends. Usually, these invitations include a brief note from a BOS member. These 'work sessions' require about two hours. In addition to the Ministers 'thank you' notes, the BOS Chair sends a note in response to each pledge, soon after they are received. We are very grateful for each pledge.

The BOS receives critical support at every step from the Church Clerk, Joanie May; Treasurer, Bob McCracken; and Office Manager, Anne Koczka. Their dedication, imaginations and good humor are invaluable. The BOS also receives frequent important input from the Ministers and the Communications Committee.

Jim Matschulat, Chair, 2025 Board of Stewardship

Final White Elephant Sale Report for 2025

Great weather and steady crowds countered the belief by many departments that they had nothing to sell. The shoppers proved us wrong again as we set another all-time record.

BEST SALE EVER (even after setting an all-time record last year !!)

Total Gross 2-day sales bank deposits were **\$112,349**

Adding in 2024 consignments, silver melting, etc., this year's final gross was **\$120,744**.

After deducting Food and Coffee/Donut costs, the dept sales totaled **\$119,843**

Of the 21 departments, 15 exceeded 2024 sales with 10 making new all time records.

Here are this year's top 5 departments:

Luxury	\$20,331	best ever
Women's/accessories	\$19,029	best ever
Jewelry	\$12,172	best ever
Art/Frames	\$10,044	best ever
Linens	\$9,481	best ever

Bob Davis – WES chairman, Alan Howell – WES Sale Treasurer,
Marianne Baez – TBS treasurer

ODE TO THE WHITE ELEPHANT SALE By Nathalie Fogg

White Elephant time is here again
Much to our chagrin
All chairman gather around
To discuss what to do
Some changes are new
Others remain tried and true

The "drop off date" is picked
And folks can't wait to begin
The day arrives and
Donations pour in

Some old and some new
We sort and polish and
Box up real nice
For you we have just the right price

How many times did we hear
"I'm down sizing"
"I just don't have room"
"It's a table I need"
"Where will I put it"
"I need a box. . .indeed"

Chuckles are heard from the big hall
It's Jim Noyes in Knick Knacks
Helping the ladies price
A "rooster in the hen house"
Having a ball..how nice

Mountains of furniture
Stored in the barns
Are moved just one more time
Not without a gripe or two
As they exclaim
"Under the tents with you"

The night watchman arrives
To Watch our loot
Should someone try to peek
At all our booty

Curious people stop in the night,
One stopped at two when seeing the sight
He wobbled from his car to ask
Is there a party?
He'd been to one no doubt

Excitement is high
The big day arrives,
Customers stream in eager to buy
To snatch up that bargain and exclaim
Look what I got for only a buck
Oh what luck!

We have a size two dress or eleven shoe
A great little hat for junior or you
There is an item in small furniture
A gem or jewel in the library
That's true!

A familiar face stops by to say hello
She's like an old friend
"Wouldn't miss this sale for anything"
She was heard to exclaim
"It is the best I have found
And I've been around"

Outfit your kitchen
Buy a bed or a rug,
It is all here in our neighborhood
Snug as a bug

<u>Departments</u>	<u>Sales</u>
Appliances (1)	\$2,134
Art Works	10,044
Baked goods	1,097
Books & Music	4,138
Children Books	936
Children Clothing	1,996
* Coffee and donuts	1,153
Flowers & baskets	7,179
* Food	1,134
Large Furniture	2,692
Jewelry	12,172
Kitchenware	3,191
Knick knacks	2,960
Linens	9,481
Luxury [incl instruments]	20,331
Men's Clothing	4,575
Pots and Pans	1,957
Small Furniture	4,495
Sporting Goods	7,081
Toys	2,047
Women's	19,029
Misc	<u>22</u>
Net Dept Sales	\$119,843
<u>General WES expenses</u>	<u>-\$15,815</u>
Net WES Sales	\$104,028
* Net [Gross sales minus dept expenses]	



Convergence Update from the FCCOL Future Task Force: What's Next

Our final Task Force meeting for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was held in June.

The first year of our Task Force's work with the consulting team from Convergence was focused on collecting as much information, input and data from our congregation and church leadership as possible, in order to set realistic, achievable goals to strengthen our church's future. That process, which emphasized listening to and hearing from as many congregation members as possible, resulted in four overarching action steps for our church that include:

- 1) Better and more interactive communications with the congregation and community
- 2) An ongoing program of "continuous stewardship" to tell our story all year, not just at financial campaign time.
- 3) An organized effort to more effectively attract and integrate new members into the congregation.
- 4) A major capital campaign to significantly increase the church's endowment to provide a stronger financial foundation in future years.

As we enter the second year of our work with Convergence, members of the Task Force will be reaching out to various church boards and committees to request time on their September agendas to discuss these goals in greater depth – with an eye towards identifying any components that might impact the 2025-2026 budget. It's anticipated that pursuing some of these goals will likely have an impact on the church's 2025-2026 budget. For example, as we seek to improve our communications, there will be costs involved in redesigning the church website and strengthening our social media presence.

We look forward to continuing this important work in the coming year and to working closely with the congregation on this journey to envision our future together at FCCOL. Please contact us with your comments, questions, concerns – or – the offer to volunteer!

Thank you!

Elizabeth Nocera (noceraek@gmail.com), and John Kiker (johnkiker@gmail.com), Co-Chairs,
FCCOL Future Task Force



As the Fall begins.....

We want to thank all those who help to make the hospitality of our fellowship hours possible.

There is a small committee whose members take turns preparing our coffee each Sunday. They arrive early and work in the kitchen to insure the coffee is ready on time. They are: Mike Gentry, Dan Renn, Dale Bernardoni, Lee Whitaker (Chairperson) and Deb Heminway (alternate). We are grateful because that coffee is delicious!

Also, there is a group of individuals who volunteer regularly to provide light refreshments for fellowship hour following worship. "Many hands make light work," as the saying goes, so if you'd like to offer to help on a given Sunday, please email Wendy Knight at wendyknight@gmail.com. That committee: Ellen Calkins, Kristen Clark, Mary-Gardner Coppola, Barbara Macgregor, Julie Martel, Cathy Mathis, Susan Mountz, Wendy Knight and Lee Whitaker. We thank them all for their dedication.

And lastly, a "shout out" to the committee that provides Sunday morning flowers in the Meetinghouse. Jill Harned coordinates that effort and she can be reached at 603-398-9004. Christine Darnell and Stephanie Webster assist Jill. They would welcome offers of help.

by Carleen Gerber

Impressions of FRESH New London (continued from page 4)

There are three categories of raised beds in each plot - those maintained by FRESH for making donations to food banks and pantries, those leased by individual families to plant their own vegetables and herbs, and those located along the outside of the FRESH fences where any member of the community can come to take fresh vegetables free of charge, perhaps on their way home from work. These are referred to as Snap Beds.

FRESH has three primary goals. First, of course, is to grow food by using reclaimed space. **Second is to empower youth intern leadership on a year-round basis.** Students from area high schools and colleges are paid a small salary to prepare and maintain the beds and to run the public school education programs. This demonstrates that farm workers are valuable and should be compensated for their hard work. The students share information on social networks about food insecurity and how it can be addressed. In addition, they partner with area meal centers by assisting with fresh food preparation. Their year-round schedule includes waking up the farming beds and sowing seeds in the spring, then harvesting, processing, weighing, washing and distributing vegetables throughout the summer and early autumn. In the winter they visit schools with their presentations. They teach Saturday workshops for the community. FRESH also offers \$5,000 scholarships to student interns for post high school college studies. Currently there are former FRESH interns enrolled at UConn Avery Point, Eastern CT State University, Central CT State University, Three Rivers Community College, UMass and Brown University. Many have chosen to focus their studies on fields related to agriculture, history, community development, international studies and global food injustice.



The third goal is to engender community engagement, not for the community but with the community. An Advisory Board provides guidance for the development of this goal. FRESH is one of the many benevolences of FCCOL. Their funding for securing land and purchasing necessary tools, equipment and materials comes from donations and non-profit grants. They hope to be able to purchase a used pick-up truck for moving materials to their properties and to deliver vegetables to food banks and soup kitchens. It is anticipated that city, state and especially federal grants may be reduced in the coming months and years. The leaders of FRESH are actively seeking new funding sources, and they are applying for any grants for which they qualify. Their expenses include payroll and office space. Currently they are operating with a deficit budget.

Just as centuries ago the indigenous people of Peru learned to farm their mountain sides in order to feed their people, so too FRESH exists to provide quality organic food for our inner-city neighbors, ensuring that they have access to food with dignity. The members of the FCCOL Board of Missions recommend that we should continue to support FRESH in their critically important endeavors.

Submitted by Dale Bernardoni Chairperson of the Board of Missions

TransParent Group:

Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 5:30-6:30. Next meeting is on September 17th in the Hoag Parlor. 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.

Grief and Loss Group: Healing in Good Company

This monthly support group is for those who have lost a loved one and those struggling with other losses. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 24th from 5:00-6:00 pm in Hoag Parlor.

If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

-Emily Dickinson

Adult Education:

Our Sunday Adult Forum series begins on Sunday, September 28th. Our speaker will be Professor Mark Zimmer from Connecticut College. "The Duality of AI: Tutor, Collaborator and Creative Ally, but also Hallucinator, Intellectual Thief and Environmental Polluter."

Stay tuned for additional programming for the Fall and Spring from our Adult Education Committee.

Bible Study:

The Book of Exodus: Stories of Exile and the Search for Freedom

Begins on Thursday, September 25th, from 11-12 in the Library.

Cut and paste the link below into your browser.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87247159042?pwd=xKhyjFSzCLRrhqTGBw6lB3Qvx0Navg.1>

Meeting ID: 872 4715 9042, Passcode: 039076

Writing at the Well Trip:

Friday, September 26th, 10:00-11:30. Field Trip. On this Friday, we have planned a special field trip to Trail Wood in Hampton, CT. This is a beautiful property once owned by Pulitzer prize winning nature writer and photographer, Edwin Way Teale, and it's taken care of by the local Audubon Society. (Requested donation: \$5.00.) Car pooling from church parking lot at 9:00 am. We'll explore, walk and write and enjoy a lunch at the Vanilla Bean before returning to the church about 2:00ish. For more information, email Deb Heminway at dheminway9@gmail.com.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the First Congregation Church of Old Lyme on Thursday, September 11th, 2025 from 1:00 pm -6:00 pm. To make an appointment before arriving, cut and paste this link: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.



Sunday Worship 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. Thank you!

Dedications from Pledge Donors

Marianne Baez in memory of Sam Baez
Kimberly Baton in honor of Rev. David W. Good
Ed & Janet Burr in memory of our Parents
Lucia Chapman in memory of Robert and Virginia Chapman
Sandy D'Esopo in memory of Cheryl Sharp-D'Esopo
Alexandra Eadie-Friedmann in memory of Austin Eadie-Friedman
Dean & Sandra Eubank in honor of Brooks and Walter
Martha Gibson in memory of Mary Rose Lieber
Jim & Steffie Hall in honor of Rev. David W. Good
Susan Hermanson in honor of Rev. Carleen Gerber
Jennifer G. Hillhouse in memory of Dr. Matthew Griswold
Ann Kloter in memory of Judith Gardiner
Richard Korsmeyer in memory of Renni Ridgeway-Korsmeyer
Suzanne Mandeville in memory of Rev. David W. Good, and in honor of FCCOL Outreach
Jim & Mabel Matschulat in memory of our Parents
Blair McBeth in memory of Patricia McBeth
Sean McCarty in memory of Mark McCarty and Rev. David W. Good
Bob McCracken in memory of Sally McCracken
Candy Stanberry in memory of Dr. Mark Stanberry
Janice Thaxter & Jim Cunningham in memory of Alma and James Thaxter, Sr. and Jr.
Susan von Reichenbach in honor of the FCCOL Music Program
Austin Wood in memory of Susan Wood

2025 Pledge Campaign Contributors and Donors

FCCOL acknowledges, with gratitude, members and friends who pledged and made donations during the 2025 Campaign. There are an additional 68 cash and anonymous donors not listed.

Your pledges and donations are critically needed to sustain and advance FCCOL's impact and reach.

THANK YOU!



Leslie Alexander & Norris Manser
Anita Allen
Deborah Ames
Moe & Sue Ancil
George Anderson
George Anderson
Marianne Baez
John & Christine Bairos
Bob & Barbara Ballard
Gail Barley
Gerry Barrett
Matthew Barrett & Beth Hamilton
Sharon Barton
Robin Baskett
Kimberly Baton
Bob & Martha Beaudoin
Harvey & Susan Beeman
Fred Behringer & Julie Martel
Janet Belke, Jr
Michael & Nancy Bell
Bill & Jody Belluzzi
Dale Bernardoni
Mary Ann Besier
Tom & Barbara Beyer
Maggie Bice
Diane Bielski
Diana Blair
Jon & Lois Bordner
Alan & Mary Bradford

Jolene & Philip Brant
John & Jane Braselton
P.J. Brewer
Mary Broughton & Don Crane
David & Mariette Brown
Brad & Cynthia Burgess
Ed & Janet Burr
Vicki & Steve Bush
Jon & Deborah Butler
Rolf & Joy Bylan
Barb Campbell
Maria Campbell
Mary Charlton
Joe Cipparone & Ellen Calkins
Lucia Chapman
Dave & Kristen Clark
Kay Knight Clarke
Diane Claussen
Ed & Fran Clayton
George & Linda Clough
Bernard Cole
Gary Comstock
Gretchen Handy Comstock
Marta Cone
Marcy Conway
Carolyn Cook
David Cook
Libbie Cook
Mary-Gardner Coppola

William & Janice Crandall
Ted & Becky Crosby
Kenneth & Hyoun-Shin Cynn
Mary Dangremond
Christine Darnell
Chris & Maria DeFiore
John Delmhorst
Sandy D'Esopo
Mary Devins
Burgess Dole
Andrea Donald
Bill Donovan & Carol Adams
Dean & Lauren Donovan
Alexandra Eadie-Friedmann
Terry Eddy
Dean & Sandra Eubank
Jim Fairfield-Sonn
John & Angie Falstrom
Lisa Feltes
Carolyn Fish
Doug & Katherine Fisher
Elaine Fitzpatrick
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager
Nathalie Fogg
Jonathan & Alexandra French
Becca Frost
Maryann Furlong
Roxie Gallagher
Mike & Cathy Gentry

Don & Carleen Gerber
 Martha Gibson
 Frank & Kim Gilhool
 Carol Giuliano
 Nancy Gladwell
 Don & D Gonci
 Chris & Rene Gosman
 Mimi Gourlay
 Tom & Betsy Grant
 Jay & Gerry Graves
 Jeff & Heather Graybill
 Gabrielle Grenfell
 Becca Griffin
 Evan Griswold & Emily Fisher
 Julia Griswold
 Tim Griswold
 Jerry & Dencie Guindon
 Greg & Barbara Hack
 Greg & Jen Hall
 Jim & Steffie Hall
 Susan Hall
 Pamela Hamilton
 Mark & Kacie Hand
 Warren Hannas & Christy Laurence
 Lecia Harbison
 Jill Harned
 Christine Harrington
 Ted & Jill Hartenstein
 Cas & Sue Haskell
 Brian & Cindy Hautaniemi
 Susan Hermanson
 John & Ross W. Higgins
 David & Alyce Hild
 Jennifer G. Hillhouse
 Claudia Hincks
 Jack & Allison Hine
 Simon Holt
 Charlie & Lynnie Hosley
 Alan & Sharon Howell
 Drew Hudson & Sousan Arafeh
 Sara Ingram
 Bill & Todd Jackson
 Joe Jackson
 Erik & Connie Johannessen
 Lloyd & April Johnson
 Pam Johnson
 David & Kate Johnston
 Tom Johnston
 Gary & Pat Jungkeit
 Steven & Rachael Jungkeit
 Joseph Kazadi & Martine Kabanya
 Peggy Kenny
 Bruce & Barbara Kenyon
 Carol Keyes
 Allan & Karin Kiem
 Doug & Leslie Kiem
 John Kiker & Dan Hulseberg
 Chet & Suzanne Kitchings
 Ann Kloter
 Wendy Knight
 Bill Kollman & Mary McGannon-
 Kollman

Richard Korsmeyer
 Onnie Kotzan
 Julie Kuja
 Gregg & Joyce Kundrat
 Pete & Susan Lang
 Breck & Sue Lardner
 Elin Larson
 Russell Learned & Allyson Cotton
 John & Cathy Locke
 Dann & Kathy Lockwood
 Dave & Sandy Long
 Chuck & Louise Lynch
 Alan & Barbara MacGregor
 Sally MacNichol
 John & Wendy Madsen
 Suzanne Mandeville
 Venant Manirakiza & Clothilde
 Mukawera
 Joe Marcoux & Sue Phillips
 Julie Mardjekaj
 Jane Marolda
 Cathy Mathis
 Jim & Mabel Matschulat
 Claire Matthews
 Henry & Joan May
 Simphiwe (Sim) Mbele
 Blair McBeth
 Annie McCarty & Nick Westbrook
 Sean McCarty
 Patsy McCook
 Suzi & Thomas McCormack
 Bob McCracken
 Doug & Rebecca McCracken
 Cynthia McFadden
 John McGannon
 Randy & Jo McHugh
 Elizabeth McLaughlin
 Christina McLean
 Nan Meneely
 Joe & BethAnn Merola
 Carl & Gayle Miller
 Reed Miller
 Bradley & Angela Mock
 Jeryl & Vicki Mohn
 Wayne & Susan Mountz
 Vicky Murphy
 Bob & Sally Myers
 Jack Nelson & Jane Marsh
 Marilyn Nelson
 Tu & Joyce Nguyen
 John & Heidi Niblack
 Jeanne Nichols
 Scott & Lisa Nierendorf
 Elizabeth Nocera
 Mike & Becky Nortz
 Dave Ogle
 Dennis & Joan Overfield
 Mike & Meg Parulis
 Paul & Patti Parulis
 Bob & Kathy Patterson
 Ned Perkins
 Janie Peterson

Paul Petrie & Allison Hild
 Mary Jane Piela
 Maureen Plumleigh
 Arthur & Esther Pope
 Carolyn Randall
 Dan Renn & Sue Frost
 Hildegard Rennhard
 John & Jill Ressler
 Mike & Faye Richardson
 Kenneth Roberts
 Mark Rohrberg
 Chris & Roddy Roosevelt
 Betsy Sams
 Bill & Betsy Sandberg
 Jack & Jeanne Schaaf
 Herb & Amy Searle
 Robin Sedgwick
 Tony Semproni & Kathy Kurowski
 Ed & Sandy Shanahan
 John & Judy Shepherd
 Tom Sherer & Deb Heminway
 Sandy Sims
 Britt Sinay
 Bill Slivinski
 Barbara Smith
 Emily Snow
 Cheryl Sorensen
 Dave & Ginny Speirs
 Candy Stanberry
 David & Carol Stanland
 Starkweather Family
 Patricia Storace
 Rick Strickhart
 Jeffrey Sund & Jane Piro
 Priscilla Swanson
 Susan Switzer & Bill Colihan
 Randy Symington
 Eunice Taylor
 Janice Thaxter & Jim Cunningham
 Ed & Jeanne Thomas
 Josh & Kim Thompson
 Eve Todd
 Steven & Kristell Todd
 David & Lina Tuck
 Susan von Reichenbach
 Mary Waldron
 Jean Walsh
 Betsey Webster
 Bill & Sue Webster
 Tom & Stephanie Webster
 Melinda Welch
 Tina West
 Lee Whitaker
 Adele White
 George & Cynthia Willauer
 Judith Winkler
 Mike Winterfield
 Austin Wood
 Trent Wright
 Steve Wyatt

SEPTEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

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

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

God's Neighborhood Teachers Orientation *Thurs, Sept 4th from 5:00 - 6:30 pm* in the Library.

The Shoreline Food Pantry and Diaper Bank *Saturday, Sept. 6th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Home Coming Sunday Worship Service *September 7th 10:00 am.*

God's Neighborhood Sunday School Begins *Sunday, September 7th 10:00 am.*

The Benevolent Society Luncheon *Tuesday, September 9th at 12:00pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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

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

Red Cross Blood Drive *Thursday, September 11th at 1:00 am to 6:00 pm* in Fellowship Hall.

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

Ensemble Altera with Simon Holt *Saturday, September 13th at 7:00 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, September 15th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

October Newsletter Deadline *Wednesday, September 17th.*

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

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

The Shoreline Food Pantry *Saturday, September 20th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Matthew Winkler Memorial Service *Saturday, September 20th at 2:00 pm* in the Meetinghouse.

God's Neighborhood Open House *Sunday, Sept 21st at 10:00 am* in the Sunday School Rooms.

ALL Church Camp Clair Picnic & Fun Sunday *September 21st from 3:00 - 6:00 pm* at Camp Clair.

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, September 22nd at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

The Benevolent Society Meeting *Tuesday, September 23rd at 10:00pm* in the Library.

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

Grief Group *Wednesday, September 24th at 5:00 pm* in the Hoag parlor.

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, September 24th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study *Thursday, September 25th at 11:00 am* in the Library.

October Newsletter Folding *Thursday, September 25th.*

Writers at the Well *Friday, September 26th at 9:00 am* **Field trip!**

The Shoreline Food Pantry *Saturday, September 27th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship Sunday *September 28th.*

New London Community Meal Center (Dine) *Sunday, September 28th departing at 3:30pm.*

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, September 31st at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

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

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

Website: 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.

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

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #7
Old Saybrook, CT
Non-Profit Organization



The submission deadline for the October Newsletter will be Wednesday, September 17th.

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.