



Photograph by Jennifer McConnell

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister
Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister
Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister
Simon Holt, Director of Music

January 11, 2026

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Heavenly Light”** by Alexander Kopylov (1854-1911)

*Processional Hymn: #12 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*Call to Worship:

We come with questions that will not leave us alone,
with longings for truth deeper than easy answers.

**We come seeking wisdom—
not certainty that closes doors,
but insight that opens hearts.**

Wisdom that listens before it speaks,
that learns from many voices,
that honors both doubt and faith.

**Here, in this shared space,
may curiosity be holy,
and may wonder be welcome.
Let us worship God.**

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #445 “Be Thou My Vision”

Children’s Message

Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

Children’s Song: “Let Justice Roll Down”

Rachael Jungkeit

There's a voice strong and clear, ringing out far and near,
"Let justice roll down, let justice roll down!"
Like the rush of a stream, comes a powerful dream,
Let justice roll down, justice rolls down!

Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll, like an everflowing stream.

Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll, like an ever flowing stream, flowing stream, roll down!

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“When to the Temple Mary Went”** by Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)

*Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: **“Hear Our Prayer, O God”**

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -

The image shows the first system of musical notation for the Pastoral Prayer Response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -".

cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

The image shows the second system of musical notation for the Pastoral Prayer Response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace."

Scripture Readings: Proverbs 2: 1-10, Matthew 2: 12

Janie Peterson

Sermon: **“Where Shall Wisdom Be Found: A Story of Pilgrimage and Discovery”**

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

*Closing Hymn: #485 **“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”**

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

**Congregation Standing*

We thank you for worshipping with us. Following the life and teachings of Jesus, we are a church that strives to be a place of grace, welcoming all regardless of theological expression, age, race, gender, sexual identity, national origin or financial means. In our Church Constitution we recognize that “each member shall have the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of his, her or their own conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.” The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, established in 1665, cherishes this proud Pilgrim tradition. We are honored by your presence among us, and we invite you to help us become what we endeavor to be.

Scriptures

Proverbs 2: 1-10

My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding,
if you indeed cry out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures—
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path,
for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

Matthew 2: 12

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, the wise men left for their own country by another road.

Choir Anthem

Introit: “Heavenly Light”

by Alexander Kopylov (1854-1911)

Text: Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O light Divine! May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light! Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation! All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the scared altar! Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love! Show us the way unto our God, we pray! Thou our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise Thee!

Offertory Anthem: “When to the Temple Mary Went” by Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)

Text: When to the Temple Mary went, and brought the Holy Child, Him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed. He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God, he said; In peace I now depart, my Savior having seen the Hope of Israel, the Light of men.
Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be, as once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in Thee. And when we must from earth departure take may gently fall asleep and with thee wake.

The 2026 Offering Envelopes are now in the connector hallway outside the Meetinghouse.

If you would like offering envelopes, sign up on the sheet in the hallway or call the office at 860-434-8686 or email fccol@fccol.org to request them.

The flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Helene Benezra by the Mock family.

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*The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Julie Martel.*

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The nursery is open today with Miss Erin Cameron.

There is an Adult Forum TODAY at 11:30 am with Rev. Clare Robert in the Sheffield Auditorium after the service.

A Fresh Start: Embodied Contemplative Practices for the New Year!

Ours is an Incarnational faith, but often we leave the body behind or forget its importance. In this Adult Forum we will explore practical ways to quiet our whole being, and to employ our body as an ally in our faith journey. Embodied contemplative practices can be especially helpful when we are hoping for more inner peace and ways to deepen our spiritual life, especially as we make resolutions and need some fresh ways to support our efforts in the new year. Contemplative prayer, gentle movement, easeful breathing all help us listen more closely to the Still Small Voice of the Spirit, and to discover a deeper experience of rest. As we learn these ways of self care, we can give the best to others in compassionate service. There will be time for participants to set intentions, enjoy mindful movement and Q&A.

Rev. Clare Robert, STM, Yale Divinity School, Pastor Emerita of Spring Glen Church UCC in Hamden, has led groups around contemplative prayer practices over two decades of ministry. She is a Teacher of the Alexander Technique, an educational method of mindfulness in action, known for its gentle approach to improve posture, relieve stress and foster selfcare.

Events and Meetings

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

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

ReBbellion Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 14th at 4:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Board of Missions Meeting *Wednesday, January 14th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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

Film Screening of “Will and Harper” *Friday, January 16th at 5:30 pm* in the Sheffield Aud.

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

Civil Rights Trip Planning Meeting *Sun, Jan.18th at 11:30 am* in the Library.

Youth Group Trip to the Peabody Museum *Monday, January 19th departing at 12:00pm.*

Tree of Life Journey to Palestine

From January 12 - 22, ten travelers from FCCOL and Tree of Life will be visiting Palestine, to check in with our friends and partners, and to learn more from them about the conditions Palestinians have faced in the past several years. We'll be visiting the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Negev region, meeting with community and religious leaders, as well as ordinary families navigating extraordinary circumstances. We are an interfaith delegation, composed of Muslim and Christian travelers. Those making this journey are:

Ghoufran and Wail Allababidi, Fatina Al Nahlawi, Kevin Booker, Beth Hamilton, Jack Hine, Steve Jungkeit, Allison McCracken, Doug McCracken, and Alex Pinkowish.

Please keep all of these travelers in your prayers. But please keep those we shall be visiting in your prayers as well.

Save the Date: FCCOL's Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25, at 11:15 am, the church will hold its annual meeting, during which, among other things, we will elect officers and board members, and approve the church budget for the coming year.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to: receive the reports of the ministers, boards and committees, and church officers for the year 2025; receive and approve the report of the nominating committee; elect officers and board members for the coming year; approve the church budget for the year 2026; and conduct such other old or new business as shall properly come before the meeting.

Film Screening at FCCOL of "Will and Harper"

Film Screening: "*Will and Harper*" (2024), on **Friday, January 16th at 5:30 pm** at FCCOL. Join us for this award winning witty and charming documentary with comedian Will Farrell, and Harper, his long time friend of many years and writer from Saturday Night Live. The friends decide to go on a cross-country road trip to explore a new chapter in their relationship as Harper is transitioning genders. Bring a friend! Pizza and Popcorn will be served, and we'll leave time for a discussion following the movie. Sponsored by the TransParent Group.

Weekly Bible Study

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

Children's Handbell Choir—ReBELLion

A new season of handbell ringing for children and youth begins very soon. ReBELLion focuses on learning to read music, the basic skills of handbell ringing, and the experience of bell ringing in front of the congregation. The group will meet at 4:00 pm starting on Wednesday, January 14th. There is room for no more than 14 participants, so if you and your child have an interest in this unique experience, please contact Gary Jungkeit, by email: gjungkeit@gmail.com, or by text: 423-782-6308, or call the church office: 860-434-8686.

Reading the Bible in One Year:

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

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

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

A year-long reading plan can be found in the narthex, the church office, or online. The adventure has begun, it's not too late to join in! Call the office to receive the calendar by email.

MLK Celebration at Yale Peabody Museum, Monday, January 19th

Join over a dozen community organizations as they gather at the Yale Peabody Museum in New Haven to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work, offering knowledge about food, educational, racial, and environmental justice. Set against the wonder of the museum, students from the New Haven Public Schools will share music and dance from 12-4 pm. Free. We'll carpool from FCCOL at 12 pm. Email Jolene or Laura with any questions.

Youth Group Planning Meeting Sunday, January 18th for the "Walking in Their Footsteps Civil Rights Trip" in April

Informational Meeting planned for after the service in the library. Cost and itinerary information will be shared at that time. Scholarships available.

Join us for this special FCCOL Youth trip to Koinonia Farm and other civil rights sites in Georgia! We'll fly into Atlanta and drive to Koinonia Farm <https://koinoniafarm.org> in southern Georgia, which will be our home base for 4 nights. While on the Farm, we'll learn about its 80-year civil rights history, engage in service projects, see the birthplace of Habitat of Humanity, explore the Jimmy Carter National Park, and visit the Albany Civil Rights Institute among other highlights.

Moth Stories and Potluck

Please join us for the next Moth Stories and Potluck dinner on **Friday, January 23rd**. The dinner will be at 6:00 and there will be a host of storytellers to follow. Contact Tom Sherer for more information at (tesjr299@outlook.com).

2026 Stewardship Campaign Update. So far we have received commitments of \$602,788 from 255 generous members and friends, or 93% of our goal of \$650,000. If you have not yet responded, please do so by email or phone so that we can fully fund our missions and ministries for 2026. Thank you!

All This Sainted Difference: A Spiritual Pilgrimage to Brazil, August 10-20, 2026

In her poetry collection *The Cachoeira Tales*, Marilyn Nelson writes of a contemporary group of pilgrims, each with a story to tell, traveling together not to Canterbury, but to Cachoeira, Brazil. There, the pilgrims encounter the Sisters of Our Lady of the Good Death, who blend African, Indigenous, and Catholic ritual elements. Founded by those who had been enslaved during the 19th century, the sisterhood was established to serve the poor, while keeping alive the sacred traditions of Africa, handed down as a precious inheritance from one generation to the next. Every year in Cachoeira, the Sisters offer a three-day celebration of music and of



dance, where the Orixas (African divinities who bear a striking resemblance to Christian saints) come in order to bless, heal, chasten, and encourage contemporary people. It is in Cachoeira that the pilgrims in Marilyn's poems converge. And it is in Cachoeira that pilgrims from FCCOL shall converge this coming August.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the African ritual traditions of Brazil. Visiting not only Cachoeira, but locating ourselves in and around the city of Salvador, we'll encounter the rituals, music, dance, foodways, and visual art that have sheltered and protected human lives through generations of hardship. We'll visit *terreiros* (house temples) around the city and throughout the surrounding countryside. And we'll discover how these dynamic and aesthetically charged spiritual systems (Candomblé and Umbanda) have evolved across time. The centerpiece of our journey will be the Feast of Our Lady of the Good Death, where we shall witness how the Sisters become a living bridge between this world and the other.

Designed to resonate and to link with our travels to Haiti, Cuba, New Orleans, and West Africa, our pilgrimage to Cachoeira and Salvador will be organized with the help of our friend Ned Sublette, and his vast network of contacts in Brazil. It is a fabulous opportunity to explore a beautiful part of Latin America (it will be winter in Salvador, meaning we can expect temperatures in the 70's and 80's), together with the history and spirituality of the African descended peoples of Bahia. Contact Steve Jungkeit for more information, at steven@jungkeit.net.

Confirmation: THE BIG QUESTIONS January-May 2026:

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