



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 18, 2026

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Psalm of Celebration”** by Jane Marshall (1924-2019)

*Processional Hymn: #78 “There is Love All Around You”

*Call to Worship:

**Loving God, take our fears our
worries, distractions, and all
and turn them into grace and mercy,**

And, following the example of Martin Luther King, Jr.
and all your Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints from every age,

**May we do justice and love fiercely
May we follow in the footsteps of love
Today and forevermore.
Come let us worship God.**

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #466 “That Cause Can Never Be Lost or Stayed”

Children’s Message Anna William Fitzpatrick-Nager and Ellison Lodge

Children’s Song: “This Little Light of Mine”

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“What Sweeter Music”** by John Rutter (born 1945)

*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: “Come Fill Our Hearts”

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. The melody is in the Treble clef, and the bass line is in the Bass clef. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly. Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!" The score includes a repeat sign at the end of the first line and a double bar line at the end of the second line.

Scripture Readings: Psalm 46: 1-7 (NRSVUE), Isaiah 58:1-4, 5-8, Matthew 19:14

Kathy Sugland

Sermon: “Stars in the Night Sky: Teach Your Children Well ”

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

Special Music: “Teach Your Children Well” (*lyrics on the back cover*) by Graham Nash
performed by Marcy Conway, Christine Harrington and Sean McCarty

* Hymn # 467 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

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

Psalms 46: 1-7 (NRSVUE)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
God utters God's voice; the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Isaiah 58:1-4, 5-8

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet.
Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.
For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God.
They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them.
‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’
“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers.
Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.
“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the
cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your
righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Choir Anthem

Introit: “Psalm of Celebration”

by Jane Marshall (1924-2019)

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honor and majesty is his work, his righteousness endures forever. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. God sent redemption to his people, has commanded his covenant forever, holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

Offertory Anthem: “What Sweeter Music”

by John Rutter (born 1945)

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turn to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and lustre, public mirth, to heaven and the underearth. We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns the patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honour; who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

For a future Sunday if you would like to decorate our communion table with flowers in honor of or memory of someone special in your life or a meaningful occasion, please call Jill Harned at 603-398-9004 to reserve a date. Thank you.

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.

Recently a donation was made to FCCOL from an account at Merrill Lynch, there was no indication on the check of who made the donation. Also 2 other donations not accounted for in our books: 6 shares from Microsoft and another donation of 2 shares from Merck & Co. If it was you, please call the office at (860) 434-8686 and ask for Bob or Julie. We would like to give you credit and thank you!

The flowers this morning are given in honor of all the prophetic ancestors on whose shoulders we stand, with gratitude.

~~~~~  
*The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Barbara Macgregor.*

~~~~~  
The nursery is open today with Miss Erin Cameron.

Events and Meetings

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

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

Board of Deacons Meeting *Tuesday, January 20th at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

February Newsletter Deadline *Tuesday, January 20th.*

ReBillion Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 21st at 4:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Transparent Group *Wednesday, January 21st at 4:00 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 21st at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Bible Study *Thursday, January 22nd at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

Blood Drive *Thursday, January 22nd 8:00 am till 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Writing at the Well *Friday, January 23rd at 10:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor.

Moth Stories and Potluck Dinner *Friday, January 23rd at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

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

FCCOL Annual Meeting *Sunday, January 25th at 11:15 am* in the Meetinghouse.

Tree of Life Journey to Palestine

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

From January 13 - 22, ten travelers from FCCOL and Tree of Life are 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.

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

Join over a dozen community organizations as we 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.

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.

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 21st 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 has begun. 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.

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).

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.

2026 Stewardship Campaign Update. So far we have received commitments of \$608,288 from 258 generous members and friends, or 94% 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!

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.

Confirmation: THE BIG QUESTIONS Starting on January 25th - 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

Visit From Convergence Consulting

Gregg Carlson from Convergence Consulting will again be with us over the weekend of February 1st. At the Adult Forum on that Sunday Gregg will make a presentation on the work we have done together over the past year. That session will provide an opportunity for us to make comments and ask questions. Also, during his visit Gregg will be meeting with a number of our congregation members and staff to begin to assess the longer-term staffing needs of the church as we pursue the initiatives that resulted from our work over the last year.

Call To Action! “Collective Writing Congress Campaign.”

Please join us tomorrow, Monday, January 19th on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Day for the **“Collective Writing Congress Campaign.”** We will write letters to our Congress people in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm.

You are encouraged to bring your own personal stationary, envelopes and pens. FCCOL will have additional supplies. Snacks will be provided as well as coffee and tea.

We thank you for your continued love, compassion and courage during these challenging times. Hope to see you on Monday! All are welcome.

Southeastern Connecticut (SECT) Interfaith Community Organizing Project Invite

For any individual interested in learning about, and participating in, building an interfaith power base for systemic justice change in SECT, please put these important dates in your calendar. Come and hear about the process. Learn the tools for interfaith community organizing. Now more than ever, we are being called to do this work together. Please join us and SAVE this date! **Delegate Meeting** (Core Team Members from All Congregations) Wednesday, February 4th from 6 - 8pm to endorse the house meeting campaign & engage in a house meeting practice session. All Souls New London, 9 Jay Street, New London, CT.

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.

Teach Your Children by Graham Nash

**You, who are on the road
Must have a code you try to live by
And so become yourself
Because the past is just a goodbye
Teach your children well
Their father's hell did slowly go by
Feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's the one you'll know by
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you, you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you
And you, of tender years
Can't know the fears your elders grew by
Help them with your youth
They seek the truth before they can die
Teach your parents well
Their children's hell will slowly go by
And feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's the one you'll know by
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you, you would cry
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you
Ooh, and know they love you
And know they love you, yeah
And know they love you**

