



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

February 1, 2026

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Gloria”** Wenzel Müller (1767-1835) arr. Martha Lynn Thompson (b. 1940)
Old Lyme Ringers and Simon Holt, organ

*Processional Hymn: #477 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

*Call to Worship:

We gather in the name of a light that reveals what is hidden,
that names what must be changed.

**We welcome the flashes of lightning that illuminate the truth;
the spark that disrupts injustice;
the fire that instill itself within our bones.**

Here, may our minds be enlightened,
our hearts set on justice,
and our lives bent toward love.

Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #366 “We Are Marching” (Siyahamba)

verses 1-3

Children’s Message

Allison Hine

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

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Distant Land A Prayer for Freedom”** 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: “Spirit of the Living God”

A musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature is B-flat major. The time signature is 4/4. The music is arranged in three sections of four lines each, with lyrics in the center of each section. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me; Spir - it of the", "liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,", and "use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with various rests and dynamic markings.

Scripture Readings: Exodus 19: 1-2, 16-19, Matthew 24: 23-27, John 1: 1-5

Sermon: “The World is Lit By Lightening”

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

* Hymn # 511 “Let There Be Light, Lord God of Hosts”

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

Exodus 19: 1-2, 16-19

On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now all of Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder.

Matthew 24: 23-27

Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘There he is!’—do not believe it. For false messiahs[f] and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Take note, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look! He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look! He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

Old Lyme Ringers

Introit: “Gloria” Wenzel Müller (1767-1835) arr. Martha Lynn Thompson (b. 1940)
Old Lyme Ringers and Simon Holt, organ

“Gloria” was thought for many years to be written by Mozart, even stating that the piece was from his Twelfth Mass, but recent musicological research has determined that Wenzel Müller (1767-1835) as the authentic composer. Müller was a prolific Austrian composer, but many music publishers used Mozart’s name as a way to sell their music for a fast buck. Today’s Introit was arranged for handbells and organ by Martha Lynn Thompson (b. 1940), a retired full-time organist, who, along with her husband Felix, oversaw a handbell ministry of 14 handbell choirs at St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Choir Anthem

Offertory Anthem: “Distant Land *A Prayer for Freedom*” by John Rutter (born 1945)

I see a distant land: it shines so clear. Sometimes it seems so far, sometimes so near. Come, join together, take the dusty road; help one another: share the heavy load. The journey may be long: no end in sight; there may be hills to climb, or giants to fight. But if you'll take my hand, we'll walk together toward the land of freedom.

I hear a distant song: it fills the air. I hear it, deep and strong, rise up in prayer: O Lord, we are many; help us to be one. Heal our divisions: let thy will be done. I know the time will come when war must cease: a time of truth and love, a time of peace. The people cry 'How long till all our world can join the song of freedom.'

I touch a distant hand and feel its glow, the hand I hoped was there: at last I know. Swords into ploughshares: can it all come true? Friends out of strangers: start with me and you. I see another time, another place where we can all be one, one human race. The walls will melt away, we'll come together on the day of freedom.

TODAY at FCCOL after the 10:00 am Worship Service

Adult Forum with Gregg Carlson from Convergence Consulting

Gregg Carlson from Convergence Consulting has been visiting with us this weekend. At the Adult Forum today Gregg will make a presentation on the work we have done together over the past year. This session will provide an opportunity for us to make comments and ask questions. Also, during his visit Gregg has been 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.

*The flowers this morning are dedicated to all those who are unhoused,
especially during these frigid days and nights.*

The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are Cathy Mathis and Lynn Richard.

The nursery is open today with Miss Erin Cameron.

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.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Adult Forum with Gregg Carlson from Convergence Consulting

TODAY at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

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

ReBellion Rehearsal *Wednesday, February 4th at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

Grief Group Meeting *Wednesday, February 4th at 5:00 pm in the Hoag Parlor.*

Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, February 4th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, February 4th at 7:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Bible Study *Thursday, February 5th at 11:00 am in the Library.*

Food Pantry and Diaper Bank *Saturday, February 7th at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.*

Cup of Joe Café *Saturday, February 7th at 8:00 am in the Library.*

Musical Masterworks *Saturday, February 7th at 5:00 pm and*

Sunday, February 8th at 3:00 pm in the Meetinghouse.

Annual Meeting *Sunday, February 8th at 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall.*

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.

FCCOL's Annual Meeting Sunday, February 8th after the 10:00 am service

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 on Thursday, February 5th and continue every Thursday from 11:00 -12:00 pm in the Library. Call or email the church for the Zoom link.

Church World Service Blanket Drive

During February and March, The Benevolent Society collects the annual offering for the CWS Blanket Drive. Blankets are distributed to the homeless, to people who are affected by snow storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes and floods. Each blanket costs \$10.

Please make checks payable to TBS, indicating in the memo line "Blanket Drive." CWS envelopes are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plates or sent to FCCOL, 2 Ferry Road, c/o TBS. Thank you for remembering the less fortunate among us.

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 this important date in your calendar. Now more than ever, we are being called to do this work together. Please join us:

Wednesday, February 4th from 6 - 8pm Delegate Meeting (Core Team Members from all Congregations) endorse the house meeting campaign & engage in a house meeting practice session. All Souls New London, 9 Jay Street, New London, CT.

Save the Date: April Vacation: Walking in Their Footsteps Civil Rights Trip - April 11th through 16th, 2026, reserve by February 14th

Join us for this special FCCOL Youth trip to Koinonia Farm and other civil rights sites in Georgia! We'll fly into Atlanta and stay one night, then 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.

We have spots available and will be making plane **reservations by February 14th**. Contact Laura for more information: lfitz.nager@gmail.com. Youth scholarships available.

Confirmation The Big Questions, starting on February 22nd

Confirmation Class is forming for high schoolers beginning February 22nd 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 wrestle together with the questions of our shared humanity as well as the big ones about faith, life, doubt, current events, justice, and what/who God might be to each of us. Ultimately, we'll wonder together about what it means to live a meaningful life. 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

Bill McKibben: Zoom Author Talk, February 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Acclaimed environmentalist Bill McKibben will speak on his new book, *Here Comes the Sun*, a call to harness the power of the sun. Energy from the sun and wind is suddenly the cheapest power on the planet and growing faster than any energy source in history. If we can keep accelerating the pace, we have a chance. Join us for this free Zoom presentation. Online Registration - <https://ctaudubon.org/2026/01/tuesday-winter-series-bill/>

2026 Stewardship Campaign Update.

So far we have received commitments of \$619,488 from 263 generous members and friends, or 95.3% 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.