



With Tree of Life Friends



With Bedouins and Amal Abu Al Kho

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 8, 2026

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **“Father, We Praise Thee”** by Healey Willan (1880-1968)

*Processional Hymn: #517 “O God of Every Nation”

*Call to Worship: (from the Second Kairos Palestine Document):

**We look toward the day when we shall live together with all
the inhabitants of the earth,
in true peace and reconciliation —
founded upon justice and equality for all God’s creation,
where “mercy and truth meet, and
righteousness and peace kiss each other.”** (Psalm 85:10)

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Reflections: Ghoufran Alababidi and Jack Hine

*Hymn: #439 “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Children’s Message Kevin Booker, Jr.

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

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“God, That Madest Earth and Heaven”** by Daniel Gawthrop (born 1949)

*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

Reflections:

Kevin Booker, Jr. and Beth Hamilton

Pastoral Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Response: “Hear Our Prayer”

Musical score for the Pastoral Prayer Response. The score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -". The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The music is in the key of D major and 4/4 time.

Reflections:

Doug McCracken and Steve Jungkeit

* Hymn # 504 “God of Justice, God of Mercy”

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

The Annual Meeting will follow after this service.

**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.

Readings: Excerpts from the Second Palestine Kairos Document (2025):

1. The **God revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures in both Old and New Testaments** - the Creator of the Universe and of all humanity - is the One who was incarnate in the Son, Jesus Christ, the God of all peoples (Acts 10:34 - 35; Romans 10:12 - 13). God, the Creator and Father of all, stands in solidarity with and takes the side of the oppressed and the downtrodden, the victims of all forms of injustice and tyranny from every nation regardless of race, religion or nationality (Luke 4:18–19). The mission of the Church is thus made manifest in joining the work of God's Kingdom through the pursuit of peace, the defense of the oppressed, and the doing of good.
2. Genocide is a structural sin against God, against humanity, and against creation. It stands in direct opposition to the great commandment of love, the summary of the whole law (Galatians 5:14). Those who deny the genocide committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza - despite the overwhelming evidence, testimonies and even the statements of Zionists themselves - deny the humanity of the Palestinian people. We have the right therefore to ask: **How can one speak of Christian fellowship or communion while denying, supporting, justifying or remaining silent before genocide** - especially when such acts are committed in the name of God and Scripture? There must be honest reflection and repentance by all believers, especially by church leaders throughout the world.
3. We call upon all people of conscience - **believers in God from every faith and persons of conviction** - to join together in coalitions that safeguard humanity from further descent into the reality of injustice, tyranny and domination. We call for the creation of an alternative, just and humane world order as the present global system has failed in its most important responsibilities: to defend the weak and to preserve international peace and security.
4. More than ever, now is a time for **costly solidarity**. By its very nature, true solidarity is costly. It has a price. It is a faith-based stance, a human commitment and a moral responsibility. True solidarity is also the embodiment of our shared humanity and fraternity. Either we live together - or we perish together. Today it is Palestine. Tomorrow it will be other marginalized and oppressed peoples.

Choir Anthems

Introit: “Father, We Praise Thee”

by Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over, active and watchful, stand we all before Thee: singing we offer prayer and meditation: thus we adore Thee.

Monarch of all things, fit us for Thy mansions; banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending: bring us to heaven where Thy Saints united joy without ending.

All holy Father, Son and equal Spirit, Trinity blessed, send us Thy salvation; Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding through all creation. Amen.

Offertory Anthem: “God, That Madest Earth and Heaven” by Daniel Gawthrop (born 1949)

God, that madest earth and heaven, darkness and light; who the day for toil has given, for rest the night. May Thine angel guards defend us, welcome sweet Thy mercy send us; holy dreams and hopes attend us, this livelong day.

And when morn again shall call us to run life's way may we still, what e'er befall us Thy will obey. From the power of evil hide us, in the narrow pathway guide us. Nor Thy smile be e'er denied us, the livelong day.

Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and when we die may we in Thy mighty keeping all peaceful lie. When the last dread call shall wake us, do not Thou, our God, forsake us, but to reign in glory take us with Thee on high.

TODAY at FCCOL after the 10:00 am Worship Service

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.

The flowers this morning are dedicated to all those donating their time and resources to support all those in their time of need.

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

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

## Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, February 9th at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

**Board of Trustees Meeting** *Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00 pm in the Library.*

**ReBbellion Rehearsal** *Wednesday, February 11th at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

**Board of Missions Meeting** *Wednesday, February 11th at 4:00 pm in the Library.*

**Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal** *Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

**Bible Study** *Thursday, February 12th at 11:00 am in the Library.*

**Blood Drive** *Thursday, February 12th starting at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

**Church Council Meeting** *Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 pm in the Library.*

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, February 14th at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.*

**Pilgrimage to Brazil Meeting** *Sunday, February 15th at 11:30 am in the Library.*

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, February 16th at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

**Board of Music & Arts Meeting** *Monday, February 16th at 4:00 pm in the Library.*

**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](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) to request them.

### **Ash Wednesday Service February 18th at 6:30 pm**

Please join us on Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30 pm in the Meetinghouse. This year we will be reading parts 3 & 4 of T.S. *Eliot's Four Quartets*, followed by the distribution of ashes.

### **A Spiritual Pilgrimage to Brazil Meeting February 15th**

Next Sunday, February 15th after the 10:00 am worship service there will be a meeting in the Library for those interested in traveling to Brazil this August.

### **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 12th 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.

## **RSVP by February 14th: April Vacation: Walking in Their Footsteps Civil Rights Trip - April 11th through 16th**

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](mailto: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](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com)

## **2026 Stewardship Campaign Update.**

So far we have received commitments of \$635,988 from 265 generous members and friends, or 98% 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](mailto:steven@jungkeit.net).

*There will be a meeting on Sunday, February 15th after the 10:00 am worship service in the library for more information.*