



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 22, 2026

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: “**Adoramus te, Christe**” from "The Seven Last Words of Christ"
by Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

*Processional Hymn: #72 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*Call to Worship:

Loving Spirit, breath of all life,
Gather us in with a deep peace that knows no bounds,
with an abiding hope that calls out to us from the center of the storm.
**Gather us in to the heartbeat of God. Shape us by prayer, compassion,
the search for justice and joy.**

May we all know how fearfully and wonderfully we are made,
each in the image of Love.

Come let us worship God.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #68 “Though I May Speak”

Children’s Message: Dr. Kevin L. Booker, Jr., Mr. Carey E. Redd II and Ms. Lyric Vargas

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

(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem: “**Stay With Us**” by Egil Hovland (1924-2013)

*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 image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system also has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!" The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple rhythmic patterns.

Scripture Readings: Exodus 23:9, Mark 4: 35-41

Kalonji Joyce

Sermon: “Bearing Witness: How to Speak Love in a Storm” Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

Special Music:

by Ms. Lyricc Vargas

*Closing Hymn: #427 “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

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.

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 23:9

“You shall not oppress the stranger, for you know the heart of the stranger - having been strangers yourselves.”

Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Choir Anthems

Introit: “Adoramus te, Christe” from "The Seven Last Words of Christ"

by Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Text: Adoramus te, Christe, et benedictus tibi; quia per sanctam Crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee for ever, for on the Holy Cross hast Thou the world from sin redeemed.

Offertory Anthem: “Stay With Us”

by Egil Hovland (1924-2013)

Text: Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us, it soon is evening, and night is calling. Jesus Christ, the world's true light! Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it! Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling. Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us. Stay with us, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us, it soon is evening, and night is calling.

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*The flowers this morning are given by Leslie Rawlings  
in loving memory of Marilyn Rawlings.*  
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The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Susan Mountz.
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*The nursery is open today with Miss Kacie Hand.*

*Please join us in thanking our special guests today for participating  
in our worship service.*

**Dr. Kevin L. Booker, Jr.** has been an educator for over 20 years, teaching in a variety of settings ranging from middle schools, high schools and colleges to prisons and adult education programs. He is currently an Assistant Professor at Mitchell College in the Business Division, teaching courses in Communication, Leadership, and First Year Experience. Dr. Booker is also the founder and CEO of Booker Empowerment, LLC, where he trains others on the art of leadership and building positive culture and climate. He is deeply involved in civic life through various boards and community initiatives and serves as Chairperson and Commissioner on the New London Parking Authority. Dr. Booker holds multiple advanced degrees and is the co-author of the book, *Emerging Men*, as well as the founder of Men and Women of Color Hike CT, promoting brotherhood and sisterhood through nature. The motto he lives by is "Get comfortable being uncomfortable." As a friend of FCCOL, we are grateful for his presence today in worship!

**Mr. Carey E. Redd II** is Director of Transportation, Transit, and Parking for the New London Parking Authority. Carey has been recognized countless times by contemporaries and peers for industry contributions, expertise, leadership, and professionalism throughout his career. Mr. Redd serves on United States Senator Chris Murphy's Transportation Advisory Council and State of Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont's Transportation Policy Committee. He serves on many boards and has received countless civic, community, and humanitarian awards throughout his distinguished career. Director Carey resides in Hartford, CT with his wife, Doreth. Their six adult children, Sharraine, Michael, Jermaine, Tanara, McCoy, and Ian, make their homes in cities that span the globe.

**Jourdelyn "Lyricc" Vargas** is an undergraduate scholar, poet, and community activist from Waterbury, Connecticut, of Puerto Rican and Dominican heritage. Her work explores the intersections of identity, social justice, literature, and education, using narrative and creative expression as tools for healing, empowerment, and social transformation. Lyricc is the author of *Mi Gente, Let's Get Personal* (2023), a collection of poetry and prose that examines youthhood, resilience, and the search for self within historically marginalized communities. She has contributed to *Turning the Corner* (Eber & Wein) and a chapbook curated by Katherine Duarte, performing and presenting her work in academic and community spaces, including the University of Connecticut (UConn).

An undergraduate Psychology student at UConn, Lyricc combines creative practice with scholarly inquiry, drawing from human development, trauma-informed frameworks, social identity theory, and critical pedagogy. Her academic and creative approach bridges empirical understanding with narrative and artistic expression, situating personal stories within broader cultural and systemic contexts. A Waterbury Promise Scholar and former candidate for the UConn Undergraduate Student Government Senate, Lyricc has advocated for equitable access to education and comprehensive support for first-generation and low-income students. She uses her platform to mentor young people, promote artistic and civic engagement, and inspire communities to recognize and amplify marginalized voices. After the service, Lyricc will have books available for sale in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall!

## TODAY at FCCOL

The 'Reading the Bible in One Year' Meeting has been moved to from today to Sunday, March 1st after the worship service.

### TransParent Adult Forum Today at 11:30 am

Join us for this panel of friends, families, and members of the trans and nonbinary community — as they share their personal journeys, challenges, and achievements. Listen, learn, and discuss as we make our church a safe harbor for trans people.

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**Confirmation Class starts Today, February 22nd at 4:00 to 5:30 pm** (tacos served).

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).

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**DINE New London, Today, departs FCCOL at 3:30 pm for New London.**

### Upcoming Events and Meetings

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, February 23rd at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Board of Deacons Meeting** *Tuesday, February 24th at 7:00 pm* in the Library

**ReBELLion Rehearsal** *Wednesday, February 25th at 4:30 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Old Lyme Ringers** *Wednesday, February 25th at 5:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, February 25th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Aud.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, February 26th at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Board of Stewardship Meeting** *Thursday, February 26th at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

**New London Justice Singers** (Resistance Songs). *Thursday, February 26th from 6 to 7 pm* at All Souls New London, 19 Jay Street, New London, CT.

**Writing at the Well** *Friday, February 27th at 10:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Science Discussion and Potluck Dinner** *Friday, February 27th at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share if you can.

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, February 28th at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Wendy Knight Memorial Service** *Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 pm.*

**Nancy Strohla Memorial Service** *Saturday, February 28th at 3:30 pm.*

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### 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 26th and continue every Thursday from 11:00 -12:00 pm in the Library. Call or email the church for the Zoom link.

## **IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services)**

**IRIS** is helping the homeless and is especially in need of warm adult clothing and twin-sized bedding. Twice a month, a FCCOL volunteer travels to New Haven to deliver collected items. LWS will help by accepting new and gently-used donations for IRIS and for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center. Please leave donations on the Sheffield Stage clearly marked "LWS." (<https://irisct.org>.)

## **Church World Service Blanket Drive**

During February and March, The Benevolent Society collects the annual offering for the CWS Blanket Drive. The Blanket and Kit program was created by CWS to aid those who have lost everything due to disasters. Through your support 17,317 Blankets, 5,400 Emergency Cleanup Buckets, 71,760 Hygiene Kits, 39,000 School Kits and 1,600 Disaster Preparedness Kits were distributed in 2025. Each blanket costs \$10. Please make checks payable to TBS, indicating on the memo line "Blanket Drive." CWS envelopes are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plate or sent to FCCOL, 2 Ferry Road, c/o TBS. Thank you for remembering those in their time of need.

## **RSVP: April Vacation: Walking in Their Footsteps Civil Rights Trip - April 11 - 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 asap**. Contact Laura for more information: [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com). Youth scholarships available.

FCCOL friends,

Have you a friend's birthday you would like to celebrate? Have you an anniversary you would like to commemorate? Do you have a dear friend who has passed and you wish to remember?

We are in need of people to donate flowers for the Sundays worship services. It can be flowers that you have arranged yourself, or you could order flowers and have them delivered, or a plant to take home or give to a friend after the service.

We have been in contact with Mar, a florist in Old Saybrook, who has exquisite taste in flowers. If you wish to donate for a particular Sunday you can call her and she will make an arrangement and deliver it to the church.

It's easy..... bring in your own arrangement any day before Sunday **or call** Mar Florist (860 388-4670) or any florist of your choice to have them delivered.

**Please call** Jill Harned (603 398-9004) to reserve a date or arrange to get flowers for you and then call Anne (860 434-8686) in the office to tell her the dedication you would like to be printed in the bulletin on the date you picked.

## 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).