



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

June 21, 2026

Juneteenth Sunday

10:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #217 “Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow ”

*Call to Worship:

There is a wind stirring — not outside us alone, but within us, beneath our fear,
beyond our certainty, calling us toward one another.

**There is a fire burning — not to consume, but to illuminate;
not to destroy, but to awaken.**

The Spirit does not speak with one voice, one language, or one story.
The Spirit moves through many voices, many languages and cultures, and many traditions.

**And so we pray: Come, Spirit of courage. Come, Spirit of justice.
Come, Spirit of imagination and possibility. Blow through our assumptions.
Open us to new ways of loving.**

Fill us until our hearts grow larger than our fears, our compassion deeper
than our divisions, and our hope stronger than despair.

**We gather as a people held together by one sacred breath, praying:
Come, Spirit, Come.**

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

A Brief Meditation: Dr. Gloria Caballero Roca

A Song of Praise: Oyu Oro, with Lazaro Galarraga, Román Díaz,
Roger Consiglio and Sandy Perez

Scripture Readings: Ruth 1: 16-17 (The Inclusive Bible), Acts 2 (Selected Verses, from
The Inclusive Bible)

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Music:

Oyu Oro, with Lazaro Galarraga, Román Díaz,
Roger Consiglio and Sandy Perez

*Offertory Prayer / Pastoral Prayer

A Litany of Praise and Liberation, in Music and Dance:

Oyu Oro, with Lazaro Galarraga, Román Díaz, Roger Consiglio and Sandy Perez

Benediction

Postlude: Oyu Oro, with Lazaro Galarraga, Román Díaz, Roger Consiglio and Sandy Perez

**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 or her 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

Ruth 1: 16-17 (The Inclusive Bible)

Ruth said to Naomi, "Please don't ask me to leave you and turn away from your company. I swear to you: Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I'll die there too and I will be buried there beside you. I swear - may God be my witness and judge - that not even death will keep us apart."

Acts 2 (Selected Verses, from The Inclusive Bible)

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

Then Peter stood up and addressed the crowd: These people are not drunk as you think. No, it's what the prophet Joel spoke of: "In the days to come I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophesy, your young people will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams. Even on the most insignificant of my people, both women and men, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and I will display wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below.



On this Juneteenth Sunday, we honor the cultural systems of the circum-Caribbean as an innovating force in the Americas, in New England, and in Old Lyme. Today, we highlight the spirituality of Caribbean peoples, recognizing Old Lyme and New England more broadly as an extension of the Caribbean through its history and its ongoing cultural links.

We are especially pleased to welcome some of the best folk artists of this genre, who will guide and teach us about the collective genius of Caribbean peoples, through inherited methods of evoking and memorializing their history within a sacred context.

Our artists are initiates into Afro-Caribbean systems — traditions that have developed over the centuries to teach mutual respect and co-existence — whose performance art sustains collective support for the expression of visions and sentiments.

Through our work on the Witness Stones, as well as our linkage to the DeWolf family (past and present), we have come to understand how the African heritage of the Caribbean shaped our own history in New England. But other sources testify to that history as well: Melville's *Moby Dick*, for example, or the painting of the *Amistad* ship displayed in our church library, to name another example. The historic wealth of our coastal communities was developed through Atlantic shipping routes and Caribbean plantations. Our efforts are an attempt to recover that history, and to build a future marked by the sharing of our traditions and practices.

Understanding the value of ancestors in our lives (even if to appreciate the traditions and ideas they left for us), the artists this morning will lead us through a spiritual mass to evoke the

deceased who impact our lives positively, to evoke their legacies, whether they came from the Kongo, China, Native America, or Europe, and to recall how they fought against bondage, that we, who follow them, might achieve our own emancipation.

Responding to a sequence of images from paintings created by culture bearers in the Cuban ritual systems, the artists will then evoke the Carabalí people, whose presence in Santiago de Cuba lives through its carnival ‘comparsa’ groups, and in Havana and Matanzas through the Abakuá society for mutual aid.

Then they will evoke the West African deities known as Orishá, who are structured into a group known as the Lukumí Confederation, where they act essentially as a system of Laws to guide and heal those who serve them. Here in the Northeast, the closest equivalent might be the Iroquois Confederation, or the Six Nations, an egalitarian society whose ideas have contributed greatly to North American society.

The Artists:

Roger Consiglio, from Havana, Cuba, has been performing Afro-Cuban ritual and religious music for over 15 years. In Miami, he joined Marisol Blanco's Sikan Afrocuban Dance Project. In New York City, he has worked with Danis Perez's Oyu Oro Afrocuban Experimental Dance Ensemble and is an integral part of the Cuban rumba scene as a member of both Rumba de la Musa and the Román Díaz Ensemble. Roger recently joined the prestigious Michele Rosewoman's New Yor-Uba Ensemble, which presents a synthesis of contemporary jazz and traditional Cuban folkloric music as inspired by the late master Orlando ‘Puntilla’ Ríos.

Lázaro Galarraga, a native of Havana, Cuba, was a founding member of the National Folklore Ensemble of Cuba (Conjunto Folklórico Nacional de Cuba). Among the great percussion and vocal masters, he has recorded and performed with greats such as Cachao, Pío Leiva, Chucho Valdés, Paquito D’Rivera, Herbie Hancock, Al McKibbin and Plácido Domingo. He is featured in films like Oscar Valdes’ documentary “La Rumba” (1978), Andy Garcia's “Cachao: Uno Más” (1980), and the feature film “Dance With Me” (1998). A world-renowned teacher, performing artist, choreographer of Afro- Cuban music, culture and folklore, he currently lives in Los Angeles, where he is the musical director for the Caribbean Crew and the Percussion Artists Workshop (PAWS) Afro-Cuban Folklore ensemble in Los Angeles.

Román Díaz began his professional career in Havana with rumba group *Yoruba Andabo* — contributing Abakuá narrative performances on two of their CDs. In 1998, his project Wemilere was released by a French producer — followed by his Ventu Rumero project in 1999, which remains an unreleased masterpiece.

In 1999 in New York City, the film *Calle 54* featured Román with Orlando Ríos ‘Puntilla’, founder of a school for batá and rumba percussion in this metropolis. In 2001 in Brooklyn, Román led an Abakuá team to perform with Calabar communities from Nigeria, source of the Abakuá tradition. In 2004, he visited Calabar to showcase Abakuá performance at the invitation of the Governor of Cross River State, Nigeria. Inspired by these events, in 2009 Román led the recording *Okobio Enyenison*, an Abakuá jazz fusion project with the participation of Paquito D’Rivera, Steve Turré and Pedrito Martínez.

Ever faithful to the folk wisdom of Cuba, Román continues to play ceremonial batá for the growing initiation communities along the East coast.

‘Sandy’ Pérez, from the city of Matanzas, Cuba, descends from the Villamils, a well-known spiritual and musical family. Sworn to the drum as a youth, at 16 he commenced a professional career with the legendary group Afro Cuba de Matanzas, and has since performed and toured with Lázaro Ros, Steve Coleman, Yosvany Terry, Miguel Angá, Dafnis Prieto, Olodum, Munequitos de Matanzas, Pedrito Martinez, Román Díaz, and others. He currently resides in Gloucester, Mass.

Danys Pérez ‘La Mora’ Choreographer, from Santiago de Cuba, is a master of Afro-Cuban folkloric dance. A dancer, teacher, ethnologist and choreographer, she specializes in the styles of Oriente Province, a cultural region that infuses Afro-Haitian ideas in an Afro-Cuban context. At 13, she joined Ballet Folklórico Cutumba and toured internationally for 18 years, earning the highest designation of primera bailarina and primera profesora.

In 2005 in New York, ‘La Mora’ founded Oyu Oro, an Afro-Cuban Experimental Dance Ensemble, which has performed at BAM’s DanceAfrica, as well as in Denver, Miami, New Orleans, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Havana and Santiago de Cuba. In 2019 she won a Doris Duke Fellow Award as an artist and activist.

The Organizers:

Dr. Gloria Caballero Roca is an educator, researcher and activist. From Havana, her two decades of global experience includes expertise in translation, Latin American, Latinx and Caribbean studies, Women’s and Gender studies. With two Ph.D.’s, two MA degrees, her mission has been to train critical thinkers who recognize human interdependency and our connectedness with Mother Earth. She is currently an elected official for the Holyoke School Committee, Ward 4.

Ivor Miller studies the cultural history of West Africa and its impact in the Caribbean and the Americas through the largest forced migration in human history. He co-edited “Calabar on the Cross River: Historical and Cultural Studies” (2017) and co-translated Lydia Cabrera’s Cuban dictionary of Cross River phrases as “The Sacred Language of the Abakuá” (Univ. Press of Mississippi, 2020), funded by an NEH Scholarly Editions and Translations grant. His book, “Voice of the Leopard: African Secret Societies and Cuba” (UP of Mississippi 2009/ CBAAC Lagos 2011) was awarded Honorable Mention by the Association for Africanist Anthropology. A Research Affiliate, African Studies Center at Boston University, a researcher in the Department of History, University of Calabar, Nigeria (2011-2021), he was a Fulbright Scholar to Nigeria (2009-2011).

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*The flowers this morning are given in celebration of Juneteenth!*  
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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 Kristin Kennedy.*

*(on the cover: photograph by Jenni McConnell)*

**The Shoreline Food Pantry on *Saturday, June 27th at 8:30 am* is Curbside Only.**

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

IRIS is helping the homeless and is especially in need of twin-sized bedding, personal care items, kitchen items (including dishes, glassware, baking pans, cookware) and diapers. Gift cards (e.g. to Walmart) are also welcome. A FCCOL volunteer regularly 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. With on going heartfelt gratitude for your continued generosity and kindness to our neighbors. Please leave donations on the 2nd floor in the office clearly marked “IRIS” during the WES.

**Grief Group and TransParent Group**

During July and August, when the grief support group and the transgender parents support group will not hold regular meetings, the Rev Gary Comstock has offered to be on call to offer support if folks would need that. Please call Anne in the church office and give her your contact information and Gary will get in touch with you!

**The WES SALE days are:**  
Friday July 10th from 9 am till 2 pm and Saturday July 11th from 8 am till noon.

**White Elephant Sale—Volunteers Still Welcome!**

In prior years more than 200 folks have helped in some way or another..... sorting, organizing, outside setup, selling or cleanup after the sale. Even a few hours of your time will be greatly appreciated. For those of you who would like to help, please call one of the department heads listed below and volunteer to work in an area that interests you, or just show up! Especially needed days are intake days (June 25, 26, 27, 30 and July 1 and 2 from 9 -2pm) and set-up outside days (July 7th and 9th starting at 8am.) and Clean-up on Saturday from 12:30—4pm! Even a few hours in any area you would like would be appreciated and it’s fun too! Thank you in advance.

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|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Jane Marolda | 860-608-0257 | Jayne Brundage  | 860-918-1321 |
| Mike Gentry  | 860-608-3223 | Rick Strickhart | 860-304-4132 |
| Scott Mahon  | 860-949-5422 | Marianne Baez   | 860-608-8321 |
| Deb Heminway | 860-625-3144 |                 |              |

**ATTENTION ALL BAKERS! THE WHITE ELEPHANT IS COMING UP**

Between now and then please set aside a couple of hours to bake your favorite pie, cake, cookies, scones, muffins—whatever suits your mood — for the Bakery Booth. It’s fine to bake now and freeze for delivery later. We’re out to beat our 2024 record-setting sales, so every brownie and lemon bar helps! Please mark your contributions with *nuts or no nuts* and drop them off at the church kitchen on Thursday afternoon, July 10, or between 7:30 and 9:00AM at the Bakery Booth on sale day, July 11. Questions? Please call Faye Richardson (860) 434-3349. **Thanks!!**

