



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

July 5, 2026

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #86 "The Lone, Wild Bird"

Call to Worship: (adapted from Eagle Poem by Joy Harjo)

To pray we open our whole self

To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon

To one whole voice that is us.

And we know there is more

That we can't see, can't hear;

Can't know except in moments

Steadily growing, and in languages

That aren't always sound but other Circles of motion.

We see you, see ourselves and know

That we must take the utmost care

And kindness in all things.

Breathe in, knowing we are made of All this,

and breathe, knowing We are truly blessed

because we Were born, and die soon within a True circle of motion,

We pray that it will be done

In beauty. In beauty.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #472 "I Would Be True"

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Selection

*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

Rev. Rebecca Crosby

Pastoral Prayer Response: "Hear Our Prayer"

Musical score for the Pastoral Prayer Response. The score is written for voice and piano in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in - cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace." The score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line.

Scriptures: Book of Samuel II 1:25-27, Gospel according to Matthew 22:37-40

Sermon: "Is It Just a Breeze?"

Rev. Dr. Gary Comstock

*Closing Hymn: #493 "In the Bulb There is a Flower"

Benediction

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 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.

(On the cover: watercolor by Charles W. Reyburn)

Scripture Readings

Book of Samuel II 1:25-27

David, who would be king, mourns the death of his king Saul, and Saul's son Jonathan:

How the mighty have fallen in battle!
Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

I grieve for you, Jonathan, my brother;
you were very dear to me.
Your love for me was wonderful,
more wonderful than that of women.

How the mighty have fallen!
The weapons of war have perished!

Gospel according to Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus said: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

The flowers this morning are given by Rev. Dr. Gary Comstock with love for Ted Stein.

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*The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are Elizabeth Marsh,  
Cathy Mathis and friends.*

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The Nursery is open today with Miss Kristin Kennedy.

Announcement About Summer Staffing

As summer sets in, we wish to let you know about our pastoral coverage for the months of July and August. As many of you know, Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager has taken a leave of absence that will continue through the end of the summer, as her husband Paul recovers from a major surgical procedure. To get us through this period, Rev. Becky Crosby and Rev. Dr. Gary Comstock will be joining our staff, helping with pastoral care as well as providing leadership on Sunday mornings. Becky is well known to most of the congregation, having served as an associate minister at FCCOL for many years, prior to stepping down to run the Crosby Center for Haitian Education in 2014. Gary has been worshiping with us for the past several years, having recently retired from Wesleyan University, where he was the campus chaplain for seventeen years. He is an experienced preacher, liturgist, and pastoral counselor, and we can be grateful for his presence among us. Indeed, we can be grateful to both Becky and to Gary for their willingness to help during these summer months. Please help them to feel welcome on Sunday mornings, or whenever you see them.

Both Steve and Carleen will be around for much of the summer. If there are any immediate needs, don't hesitate to get in touch. And please keep Laura, Paul, and Anna in your prayers throughout the coming months, as they all come through a challenging season together.

Summer Sing Dates to Save on your Calendar

Now, to everyone reading this: It's Your Turn!! This summer the choir will be holding two Summer Sings, or better known as "Turn up to FCCOL at 9:15 am and rehearse for the 10:00 am service, yes, it feels like the seat of your pants singing, oh, what fun we'll have" Sundays! These will take place on July 19th and August 9th. Please mark your calendars! We hope many of you will join us!

Flowers for Sunday Worship Services

We are in need of people to donate flowers for the Sunday worship services. It can be flowers that you have arranged yourself, or you could order flowers and have them delivered, or a plant that you could take home after the service. Please call Jill Harned (603) 398-9004 to reserve a date and reach out to the office (860-434-8686) or email at fccol@fccol.org to let us know the dedication you would like to be printed in the bulletin on the date you picked. Thank you!

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. Ladies Who Stitch (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. Dr. 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 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.

Jane Marolda 860-608-0257
Mike Gentry 860-608-3223
Scott Mahon 860-949-5422
Deb Heminway 860-625-3144

Jayne Brundage 860-918-1321
Rick Strickhart 860-304-4132
Marianne Baez 860-608-8321

ATTENTION ALL BAKERS! THE WHITE ELEPHANT SALE IS FRIDAY!!!!

Still time bake your favorite pie, cake, cookies, scones, muffins – whatever suits your mood – for the Bakery Booth. Our goal is to bring in \$1,000 or more for the third year in a row, 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 9, or between 7:30 and 9:00AM at the Bakery Booth on sale day, July 10. You can pull into a reserved parking spot in front of the Bakery Booth and someone will come to your car to collect your treats. Questions? Please call Faye Richardson (860 434 3349). **THANKS EVERYONE!**



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.