



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 19, 2026

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #51 “All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing”

Call to Worship:

Before we speak, God has heard our hearts.
Before we arrive, love has been waiting.

**There is no place we can go where the Holy One is absent—
not in our joy or our grief,
not in our certainty or our questions,
not in the heights of hope
or the depths of despair.**

We gather to acknowledge the One
who knows us completely,
loves us unconditionally,
and calls us to become a community
where all are seen,
all are valued,
and all are welcomed.

Let us worship God.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #89 “Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us”

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

Rev. Dr. Gary Comstock

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Carleen Gerber

Pastoral Prayer Response: "Spirit of the Living God"

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God". It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the soprano part. 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, use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." The score consists of three systems of staves, each with four parts.

Scriptures: Psalm 139: 1-12

Sermon: "In Search of Heart Knowing "

Rev. Cathy Zall and Mary Villa

*Closing Hymn: #445 "Be Thou My Vision"

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.

Scripture Readings

Psalms 139: 1-12

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and night wraps itself around me," even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

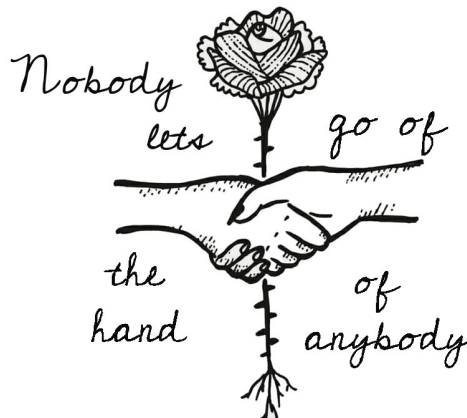
The flowers this morning are given by Christine Darnell.

The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Mary-Gardner Coppola.

The Nursery is open today with Miss Kristin Kennedy.

This morning, we are pleased to welcome Rev. Cathy Zall back to our pulpit. Cathy is well-known to most of us and is a frequent preacher at FCCOL, having served on staff for a number of years. Cathy is the executive director of the Homeless Hospitality Center in New London. Cathy is accompanied by her friend Mary Villa this morning.

Mary earned a BS from the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She has worked as a landscape designer and a municipal planner. She held the position of Curator/Information Resource Manager at Connecticut College Arboretum for 18 1/2 years. She has been leading the weekly Christian Meditation group at Connecticut College since 2017.



Essex Meadows Summer Bible Study - Friday July 24th and August 28th at 11 am

This summer bible study at Essex Meadows will be led by Gary Comstock. The first session will be on Friday, July 24th at 11:00 am, on the Book of Esther, Chapter One, "The Power of Refusing." The second session will be on August 28th. All are welcome.

Essex Meadows 30 Bokum Road in Essex. Park in the circle at building's entrance or in adjacent visitors' parking area; check in at front desk.

Summer Sing Date to Save on your Calendar: August 9th

Now, to everyone reading this: It's Your Turn!! This summer the choir will be holding one more 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" Sunday! These will take place next Sunday, August 9th. Please mark your calendars! We hope many of you will join us!



He who sings

scares away his woes.

Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616)

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!

Free Queen size Box Spring and Mattress

Carleen has a nearly new box spring and mattress in Queen size which she would like to donate to someone who would like to have it. A mattress cannot be sold of course- but it would be very nice to know if someone could make good use of it. I could help you transport it. Please let me know at 860-304-2070.

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.

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 worshipping 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.