

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme
Rev. Dr. Gary Comstock
Pastoral Prayer – August 2.2026

Hello God,

It's good to have you with us on this warm moist day following the refreshing days of rain this past week. We look forward to more rain to come this week.

Thank you for the timely and plentiful rain that will prepare and stand us in good stead for the drier weeks of August.

The slower and more relaxed pace of August is also a time for personal contemplation — for considering what we may want to do, or need to do, as we roll into the active months of harvest, school, jobs, and new projects.

Many of us are feeling the weight of animosity and negativity in our culture at this time — as well as the defeat and hopelessness bred by daily insults and disregard for humanity that are so casually meted out to whomever for their kindness, thoughtfulness, and cooperation.

As with Langston's poem that we read this morning, we yearn to find the road out of this hell into a time of affirmation and positive interaction with others.

So, help us, please, as we insist on beginning the work of building — of creating — with you an alternative to what is prominent and destructive at this time.

Help us to restrain our impulse to criticize, disapprove, and rage against what is truly reprehensible but needs to be replaced by our own efforts to reconstruct and build what you once called your "holy mountain" on which none "shall hurt or destroy."

Guide us as we refuse to argue on his terms and seek instead to create and affirm life on yours.

Thank you for the dynamic, engaging, and inspiring work of Connecticut artists in the new Patchwork exhibit at the Florence Griswold Museum. With their carefully tendered technique, craft, imagination, and dedication the artists show us what matters most and what we need to build a community, a union, of deeply and honestly felt commitment to peace, love, and life.

We are ready to pave the road, to walk it, and to re-build the peaceable kingdom with you, our mother, father, sister, brother, partner, closest friend.

We love you, God.

Amen