



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

August 9, 2026

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #391 “God Made from One Blood”

Call to Worship:

Because of the great, infinite love which God has for all humankind,

**God makes no distinction in love between the blessed soul of Christ
and the lowliest of all souls.**

We should highly rejoice that God dwells in our soul
and still more highly should we rejoice that our soul dwells in God.

**Our soul is made to be God’s dwelling place,
and the dwelling place of our soul is God.**

Let us worship God in the dwelling place of our souls.

(Adapted from “Infinite Love” by Julian of Norwich)

Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #424 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

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: "Come Fill Our Hearts"

Two systems of musical notation for a two-part setting. The first system is for the vocal part, with a treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), and 2/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system is for the piano accompaniment, with a bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), and 2/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!"

Scriptures: Matthew 14: 22-33

Sermon: "Stepping Out "

Rev. Cathy Zall

*Closing Hymn: #404 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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

Matthew 14: 22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Please welcome Reverend Cathy Zall back to our pulpit. Cathy is well-known to most of us and is a frequent preacher at FCCOL, having served as an associate minister for a number of years. Cathy is the executive director of the Homeless Hospitality Center in New London. The work she does there is relentless, but critically important in our region. We are grateful to have her here with us this morning!

**Steve and members and friends of FCCOL departed yesterday
for Brazil to explore the African ritual traditions of Brazil.**

We wish them a safe journey!

*The memorial flowers today are given in honor of Breila Stefanie Hall,
Our Littlest Angel, born silently on August 9, 2011
Always Loved, Always Remembered, Always Missed – Jen, Greg, Kylie and Avi Hall*

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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 Clair Mbele.

PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Becky and Gary will lead a prayer service
at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road,
Monday, August 10th at 11:00 a.m.
Park in the circle or adjacent visitors' parking area.

If you are visiting us for worship this morning, we welcome you, and invite you to join us on the front lawn under the shade of the trees for fellowship and refreshments.

We invite you to pick up a “Welcome” packet, which can be found in the vestibule.

We hope this information will be helpful in acquainting you with our church and its activities and programs.

Quiet Activity Bags for young children are in the vestibule.

They are colorful bags with quiet projects for our youngest members.

Please feel free to offer these bags to your children.

(on the cover painting by Childe Hassam 1906)

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Emergency Blood Shortage

There will be a second blood drive at FCCOL this month, on Thursday, August 13th from 1:00 pm till 6:00 pm.



The American Red Cross has declared an emergency blood shortage as the blood supply fell nearly 25% in June. Blood donors are urgently needed to give now to help ensure patients receive lifesaving medical care without delay. Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Old Lyme to schedule an appointment.

Salt Marsh Opera in the Park—Free Event!

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to the Old Saybrook Green at 302 Main St, in Old Saybrook on **Friday, August 14th at 6:00 pm**. (Rain date: Saturday, August 15th.) For more information please call 860-535-3456 or visit SaltMarshOpera.org. Hope to see you there! This is a free event, donations are encouraged.

Essex Meadows Summer Bible Study - Friday, August 28th at 11 am

This summer bible study at Essex Meadows will be led by Gary Comstock. The next session will be on August 28th. All are welcome. Essex Meadows is located at 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 Thank You

Thanks to everyone who took part in the summer sings. The FCCOL choir will return on Sunday, September 13th. There are plenty of opportunities to join the choir for their regular season!

Flowers for Sunday Worship Services



Would you like to donate flowers for the Sunday worship services. It can be flowers that you have grown and arranged yourself, or you could order flowers and have them delivered, or a plant that you have and 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. 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. Please leave donations on the Sheffield Auditorium stage in the blue bin, marked "IRIS." (<https://irisct.org>). With ongoing heartfelt gratitude for your continued generosity and kindness to our neighbors.

New Additions to the Church Library:

There are some new additions to the FCCOL library. Julia Angwin and Ami Fields-Weber's *On Courage: How to be a Dissident in an Age of Fear* and Elizabeth Winthrop's new novel, *Conviction*, about the women and children stranded in the Middle East after the defeat of ISIS.

Grief Group and TransFamilies and Friends Support Group

During August, when the grief support group and the transgender parents and friends 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!

SAVE THE DATE: The 4th Annual Women's Jeans and Sweaters Sale!



During the White Elephant Sale intake, women's jeans and wool sweaters are set aside because there is no room to sell them. The *Ladies Who Stitch* will again be offering these jeans and sweaters for \$5 and \$10 in September. We have an even greater selection this year. **Mark your calendars! The first 3 sale days will be Saturday, September 12th from 10 - 2 pm, Sunday, the 13th from 12 - 2 pm and Monday, September 14th from 10 - 2 pm**, in the Sheffield Auditorium. **AND Saturday, September 19th from 10 - 3 pm** during the Christ The King tag sale.

September Newsletter Deadline is Wednesday, August 19th!

We look forward to getting back to a full schedule of meetings and activities after the summer has ended. Please get your articles, pictures and announcements in by August 19th for the publication. Thank you!

Common Good Gardens Volunteer Opportunity

Common Goods Gardens is an independent, all volunteer non-profit vegetable garden in Old Saybrook, and is looking to recruit additional volunteers for its Saturday morning gardening sessions from 8:30 - 11:30 am.

Volunteers join teams of experienced gardeners and work as their schedules allow.

The Garden and its farm stand partners grow and deliver about 10 tons of fresh produce to three Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries during a season. The pantries are in Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Niantic. The Garden's site (commongoodgardens.org) offers more information.

Contact Jim Matschulat at: jmatschulat@gmail.com if you may be interested in contributing to our mission. He will answer any questions and offer to introduce the Garden. Fresh air, exercise and new friends are guaranteed! Thank you.

THE TRUE LOVE

by David Whyte

There is a faith in loving fiercely
the one who is rightfully yours,
especially if you have
waited years and especially
if part of you never believed
you could deserve this
loved and beckoning hand
held out to you this way.

I am thinking of faith now
and the testaments of loneliness
and what we feel we are
worthy of in this world.

Years ago in the Hebrides,
I remember an old man
who walked every morning
on the grey stones
to the shore of baying seals,
who would press his hat
to his chest in the blustering
salt wind and say his prayer
to the turbulent Jesus
hidden in the water,

and I think of the story
of the storm and everyone
waking and seeing
the distant
yet familiar figure
far across the water
calling to them

and how we are all
preparing for that
abrupt waking,

and that calling,
and that moment
we have to say yes,
except it will
not come so grandly
so Biblically
but more subtly
and intimately in the face
of the one you know
you have to love

so that when
we finally step out of the boat
toward them, we find
everything holds
us, and everything confirms
our courage, and if you wanted
to drown you could,
but you don't
because finally
after all this struggle
and all these years
you simply don't want to
any more
you've simply had enough
of drowning
and you want to live and you
want to love and you will
walk across any territory
and any darkness
however fluid and however
dangerous to take the
one hand you know
belongs in yours.