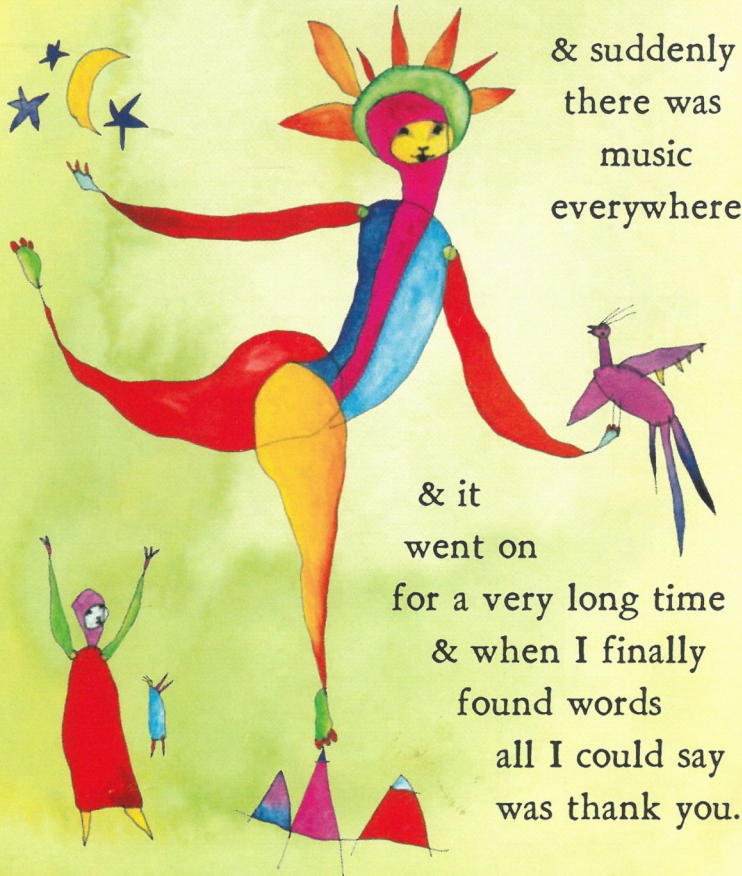


Don't you hear it? she asked
& I shook my head no
& then she started to dance



& suddenly
there was
music
everywhere

& it
went on
for a very long time
& when I finally
found words
all I could say
was thank you.

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

September 6, 2026

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 AM

Prelude

*Processional Hymn: #427 “My Life Flows On “

*Call to Worship: (from The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry)

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,

**I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.**

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.

**I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.**

For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.
Come, let us worship God.

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn: #376 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

Offertory Invitation

Offertory

*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. Dr. Gary Comstock

Pastoral Prayer Response: "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the hymn "Come and Fill Our Hearts". It is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." and "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!". The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the bass line providing a steady accompaniment.

Scriptures: Genesis 9:13-15a , Luke 10:25-37

Kathy Sugland

Sermon: "A Rainbow of Neighbors"

Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick - Nager

*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

Genesis 9:13-15a

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.

Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” And Jesus said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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*Flowers this morning are given in memory of Dave Long,  
who served in the past as Chair of the Board of Trustees and sang in the  
tenor section of the Choir for more than 20 years and loved this church!*

~~~~~  
The host for the Fellowship Hour this morning is Cathy Mathis.

~~~~~  
*The nursery is open today with Miss Kristin Kennedy.*

### **God's Neighborhood is returning on September 13th**

Our Sunday School program for classes K-8 begins on Sunday, September 13th at 10:00 am. We'll host an Open House for families during the service. An Ice Cream Social will be held on the front lawn afterwards.

We're thrilled that Gavin Lodge is our new Director of Youth Education this year!

Welcome to Jill Hartenstein the new leader of the Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship.

Registration forms will be available for your child/children on our opening day or from the church office as soon as you can. If you're interested in joining our classroom volunteers or to be available as an occasional substitute when needed, please contact Laura at [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org).

### **The "All Church" Picnic**

Our annual FCCOL "All Church" Picnic at Camp Claire, (15 Oakland Ave, Lyme) is scheduled from 3:00-6:00 pm. Bring a salad, side dish or a dessert! And a Friend!

### **Youth Group Cape Cod Weekend! Friday, September 25th- Sunday, September 27th: Craigville Beach Retreat Center, Centerville, Massachusetts**

Middle and high schoolers are invited to join us for a Cape Cod weekend retreat of fun, games and beach time. Departure for the Cape after school from FCCOL parking lot at 3:30. We'll carpool and return by late afternoon on Sunday.

For more info and to RSVP contact Laura at [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com)

Cost: \$150 (includes two nights and all meals) Scholarships are available.

### **The Benevolent Society September 8th Luncheon**

Put Tuesday, September 8th on your calendar - TBS luncheon time has returned for the fall season. Join us in the FCCOL Fellowship Hall at noon for a delicious lunch of pork chops, braised Alsatian style sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and dessert. All for a minimum donation of \$5.00 and a non-perishable item for our food pantry. In celebration of our country's 250th anniversary, highlights of the Florence Griswold Museum's juried art show by CT artists will be presented by Gary Comstock and Nancy Mol. Come and learn how the Museum is showcasing works by CT artists reflecting on their current perspectives of this country. Please call the office to RSVP at 860-434-8686 so we know how many people to cook for. Thank you!

### **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. Dedications in honor of or memory of are printed in the Sunday bulletin. Please call Jill Harned (603) 398-9004 to reserve a date or reach out to the office at (860-434-8686) or email at [fccol@fccol.org](mailto:fccol@fccol.org). Thank you!

### **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 sale days in the Sheffield Auditorium will be:

**Saturday, September 12th from 10 - 2 pm**

**Sunday, September 13th from 12 - 3 pm**

**Monday, September 14th from 10 - 2 pm**

**Saturday, September 19th from 12 - 3 pm**

### **Adult Forum September 13th**

Julie Martel - REVE Kandale: Community Development in Western Congo. REVE Kandale Foundation supports self-help initiatives in rural Democratic Republic of the Congo. Partnering with a strong local community organization, they help the people realize their dreams of a better life.

### **Something New is Coming to FCCOL!**

As many of you know, for nearly three years, we've been working with Convergence — and more recently our design partner SmallGood — to reimagine our website from the ground up. The result: a bolder, more confident site that actually looks and feels like \*us\*. More photos of our community. A clearer voice on the issues we care about. Easier ways to get involved beyond Sunday mornings.

Huge thanks to the congregation members of all ages who joined our brainstorm workshop and helped shape this new look and feel.

Launching mid-September.\*\* Sneak peeks of pages and images coming your way very soon

\*(Note: if any minors appear in featured photos, Gavin Lodge will be reaching out to parents directly to confirm approval before those images go live.)\*

from your Communications Committee

### **Trans Families and Friends Support**

For Parents, Caregivers and Family Members of Trans Youth/Young Adults: Our group provides conversation, support community and education for parents and caregivers around the issues of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diversity. Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 5:30-6:30. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 16th.

## **Grief Group**

Our monthly support group is for those who have lost a loved one and those struggling with other losses. We meet the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:00 pm in the Hoag parlor. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 23rd.

## **Weekly Bible Study Starting Sept 24th**

**“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:2**

Join us at 11:00 am, Thursday, September 24th in the Library as we continue our weekly journey through the first five books of the Bible (known as the Torah). We'll resume our study of the Book of Numbers and continue from there. Whether it's your first time or you've been a regular reader with us, bring a bible and your curiosity! Fresh coffee and lots of questions await us!

## **Writing at the Well**

Join us on Friday, September 25th at 10 am in the Hoag Parlor as we meet to write pages together and share our spiritual journeys as we go. Using informal writing prompts, participants give voice to memories and the stories that make up our lives. No writing experience necessary...just a willingness to pay attention and tap into the wellspring.

**Calling all Handbell Lovers!** If you love the sound of handbells and would like to encounter the pure joy of ringing bells, but you have little or no experience in reading and/or playing music, here is an opportunity for you: Gary Jungkeit is starting a bell choir for adult beginners. If you can count to FOUR, you qualify! An organizational meeting for interested individuals will meet briefly on Sunday, September 13, in the Hoag Parlor, right after the 10:00 worship service. We will discover who is planning to ring and at what day and time the group will decide for their practices. Already seven people have expressed an interest. We need a minimum of 8 people and a maximum of 11 to make this new endeavor work. Please consider and join us!

## **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.

*(On the cover: painting “Unheard Music” by Brain Andreas)*

## The Call to Churches—In an Age of Gaza, Christian Nationalism, & the Cry of Palestinian Christians.

**A free, online series of lectures by Dr. Mark Braverman. *All are welcome!***

With the resurgence of Christian Nationalism and Christian Zionism, churches are called to speak and act in faithfulness to Christianity's core values of universal love and compassion.



Mark Braverman, PhD, is an author, speaker, and longtime advocate for justice in Palestine and Israel.

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

The Bible, God's Promises & the Challenge of Christian Zionism: Whose Land, Whose Covenant?

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

Christian-Jewish Relations & the Weaponization of Antisemitism: The Challenge to Interfaith Relations Today

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

The Meaning of the Palestinian Call for American Christians: The Challenge of the Gospel



*This series is brought to you by St. John's Holy Land Committee. All sessions will be held over Zoom. Click or scan to register.*

*Visit <https://stjohnsnorwood.org> for more information.*

*Or try these links:*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DTBbj6qoRqmCyH4zaKybgA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DTBbj6qoRqmCyH4zaKybgA#/registration)

[Link to register for Mark Braverman lecture series.](#)

You've built with **Habitat for Humanity**, now you're invited to golf with Habitat!

The Habitat Classic – Fore the 65 is happening at [Mohegan Sun Golf Club](#) on [Monday, September 28th](#). Registration opens at 8am, shotgun start at 10am. Golfers welcome. Win a car for a hole-in-one!

Details are available at [habitatect.org](https://habitatect.org), scroll to golf.

Support the Habitat mission by bringing your foursome or consider sponsoring a hole.

Contact Habitat Director of Development Melissa Kibler at [development@habitatect.org](mailto:development@habitatect.org) or call (860)442-7890 ext. 204.

Thanks for building a better future, one swing at a time.....

**register here**

