



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 13, 2026

Homecoming Sunday

10:00 AM

Prelude

Introit: **Chorale Prelude on "St. Theodulph"**

by Melchior Teschner (1584-1635)

arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

*Processional Hymn: #1 "We Limit Not the Truth of God"

* Call to Worship:

We gather once more because we believe there is yet more light to be found.

We come with open hearts and curious minds.

Love is still calling us forward.

The Spirit is still moving among us—

in ancient stories and new questions,

in quiet moments and courageous action.

So let us begin again,

Making room for the possibility

that the holy is already here,

waiting to be recognized.

Let us worship God!

*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Communications Update from John Kiker

*Hymn: #32 "God of Grace and God of Laughter"

Children's Message

Gavin Lodge

Children's Song: "Won't You Be My Neighbor? (Mr. Rogers)"

(Families are invited to proceed downstairs with their children and youth for a brief Open House)

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **"Kumbaya, Traditional Spiritual"**

arranged by Paul Sjolund (born 1935)

*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

Pastoral Prayer Response: “Spirit of the Living God”



Scriptures: 1 Peter 3: 13-16, Luke 1: 26-34

Sermon: “New Lines of Faith to Trace”

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

*Closing Hymn: #353 “Called as Partners in Christ's Service”

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

1 Peter 3: 13-16

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Luke 1: 26-34

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be?"

Choir Anthems

Introit: Chorale Prelude on "St. Theodulph" by Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

Text: All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring. Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son, who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One.

Offertory Anthem: Kumbaya, Traditional Spiritual, arranged by Paul Sjolund (born 1935)

Text: Kumbaya, my Lord, Kumbaya; Oh Lord, Kumbaya. Someone's prayin', Lord, someone's cryin', Lord, someone's singin', Lord, Oh Lord, Kumbaya! Alleluia!

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*Flowers this morning are given by the Brant Family in honor of God's Neighborhood, FCCOL staff, and the congregation, wishing everyone so much love and to have a great year!*

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The hosts for the Fellowship Hour this morning are Kathy Sugland and the Youth Group.

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

## **Events Today at FCCOL**

### **Adult Forum TODAY at 11:15 in the Fellowship Hall.**

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.

**New Handbell Ringers Meeting TODAY** after the 10:00 am service in the Hoag Parlor. More information on the next page.

### **The 4th Annual Women's Jeans and Sweaters Sale! TODAY from 12 - 3 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium!**

The *Ladies Who Stitch* will be offering jeans and sweaters for \$5 and \$10 in September. We have an even greater selection this year. Mark your calendars! There are still two more days to shop: Monday, Sept. 14th, 10 - 2 pm and Saturday, Sept. 19th from 12 - 3 pm .

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

Our annual FCCOL "All Church" Picnic at Camp Claire, (15 Oakland Ave, Lyme) is today from 3:00-6:00 pm. Bring a salad, side dish or a dessert, and a friend! We hope to see you there!

## **Upcoming Events this week at FCCOL**

**LWS Jeans Sale** *Monday, September 14th from 10-2 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Board of Mission Meeting** *Wednesday, September 16th at 5:00 pm* in the Library.

**Trans Families and Friends Group** *Wednesday, Sept. 16th at 5:30 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal** *Wednesday, Sept. 16th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, September 16th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**LWS Jeans Sale** *Saturday, September 19th from 12-3 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Adult Forum with Paul Woodworth** *Sunday, September 20th at 11:30 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium. There are more details on the next page.

**Immigration Ministry Meeting** *Tuesday, Sept 22nd at 5:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Board of Deacons Meeting** *Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

**October Newsletter Deadline** *Wednesday, September 23rd.*

**Calling all Handbell Lovers—Meeting TODAY at 11:15 in the Hoag parlor.** 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! 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!

**Immigration Ministry Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 22nd at 5:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall**

Our immigrant neighbors need you! Please join us for a one-hour conversation about how you can help our immigrant neighbors with Red Folders and Court Accompaniment. These tasks may seem a bit daunting but some of your friends at FCCOL have participated in both activities. Fortunately, they are happy to share their experiences with us and answer your questions.

If you have attended our trainings, please bring your Red Folder materials to this meeting. We hope to see you there! Peace & Love, Christine Harrington & Carolyn Hartsfield

**All Things Voting Southeastern Connecticut,** organized by members of local Indivisible groups, is launching a coordinated effort to get out the vote and advocate for free and fair elections in November. They are working locally and aligning with organizations across the state and country to support at-risk elections. A kick-off meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at All Soul's Church in New London. Come support our democracy!

**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.

**Adult Forum on September 20th** - Paul Woodworth and Suzanne Thompson - Tackling barriers: Long Island Sound restoration through dam removal and coastal forest protection Paul Woodworth is Sr. Director of Ecological Restoration with Save the Sound. He'll be joined by Suzanne Thompson, Save Oswegatchie Hills Outreach Coordinator. Save the Sound works with community groups to remove old dams to restore river flows and to protect coastal forests from overdevelopment, among other notable efforts.

**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 11am, Thursday, Sept. 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!

**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.

**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.

**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. 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.

**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!

**A New Website is Coming to FCCOL from your Communications Committee**

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.)\*

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**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 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](http://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**



*(On the cover: painting by Childe Hassam 1905)*