



**The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**

**2 Ferry Road,  
Old Lyme, Connecticut  
(860) 434-8686  
Website: [www.fccol.org](http://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

**October 18, 2026**

**Sunday Worship**

**10:00 AM**

Prelude

Introit: **“Adoramus te, Christe”**

by Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

\*Processional Hymn: #18 “Praise to the Living God”

\* Call to Worship:

We arrive from many roads, seeking love's ascent.

**We are here to climb.**

The first rung is close to the ground: love found at home, a hand held, a name spoken.

**We rise from the love we have received.**

Higher, the love of friend and neighbor, and the love of the stranger.

**We rise toward a love with no one left outside.**

Higher, the love that seeks justice, and tends the earth and all that lives.

**We rise toward a love that acts.**

And beneath every rung, the Love that holds us as we climb.

**We rise, and we are held.**

**Let us ascend together. Let us worship God.**

Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

A Minute for Missions

\*Hymn: #425 “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

Children's Message:

Children's Song: “Make New Friends”

lyrics taught by Rachael Jungkeit

*A four-part round*

Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold.

A circle's round, it has no end. That's how long I want to be your friend.

*(Children and youth proceed downstairs. Congregation remains seated)*

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem: **“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), music by W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

\*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: "Hear Our Prayer"



Scriptures: Genesis 2: 20-22 (The Inclusive Version), Genesis 28: 10-13 (The Inclusive Version), Psalm 123 (NRSV)

Sermon: "I Want to Know What Love Is, Part II: A Ladder of Ascent"

Rev. Dr. Steven Jungkeit

\*Closing Hymn: #409 "How Can We Name a Love"

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 Reading

### Genesis 2: 20-22 (The Inclusive Version)

The earth creature gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals. But none of them proved to be a fitting companion, so God made the earth creature fall into a deep sleep, and while it slept, God divided the earth creature in two, then closed up the flesh from its side. God then fashioned the two halves into male and female, and presented them to one another.

### Genesis 28: 10-13 (The Inclusive Version)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place he passed the night there. He took a rock and used it for a headrest and lay down to sleep there. During the night he had a dream: there was a ladder, standing on the ground with its top reaching to heaven; and messengers of God were going up and coming down the ladder. God was there, standing over him, saying, "I am your God, the God of Sarah and Abraham, and the God of Rebecca and Isaac."

### Psalms 123 (NRSV)

To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!  
As the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maid  
to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,  
until he has mercy upon us.  
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt.  
Our soul has had more than its fill  
of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of the contempt of the proud.

## Choir Anthems

**Introit: “Adoramus te, Christe”**

by Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

**Text:** Adoramus te, Christe, et benedictus tibi; quia per sanctam Crucem tuam redemisti mundum.

*Christ, we do all adore Thee, and we do praise Thee for ever, for on the Holy Cross hast Thou the world from sin redeemed.*

**Offertory Anthem: “ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

words by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), music by W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

**Text:** Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Breathe, O breathe thy loving spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest. Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us

all thy grace receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, pure and spotless let us be. Love divine, all loves excelling, love divine, pure unbounded love thou art. O love divine; enter every willing heart, O love divine

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*The flowers today are given by Christine Darnell in honor of all our Ministers.*  
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*The host for the Fellowship hour this morning is Kathy Sugland.*  
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*The nursery is open today with Miss Kristin Kennedy.*

### **Events Today at FCCOL**

**Adult Forum with David Rubino** “The 2026 Midterm Elections: What to Watch and Why it Matters,” following the 10:00 am service in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Youth Group Meeting** at 4:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium, pizza will be served.

**Boys Bell Ensemble Rehearsal** at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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

**Ladies Who Stitch** *Monday, October 19th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Boys Bell Ensemble** *Tuesday, October 20th at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**SAIL Meeting** *Tuesday, October 20th at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

**November Newsletter Deadline** *Wednesday, October 21st.*

**ReBELLion Rehearsal** *Wednesday, October 21st at 4:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**TransFamilies Support Group** *Wednesday, October 21st at 5:3 pm* in the Library.

**Old Lyme Ringers Rehearsal** *Wednesday, October 21st at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Choir Rehearsal** *Wednesday, October 21st at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Bible Study** *Thursday, October 22nd at 11:00 am* in the Library.

**Board of Stewardship Meeting** *Thursday, October 22nd at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

**New Adult Handbells Rehearsal** *Thursday, October 22nd at 5:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Writers at the Well** *Friday, October 23rd at 10:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor.

**Moth Stories and Potluck Supper** *Friday, October 23rd at 6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Youth Group Breakfast Run** *departing FCCOL at 6:00 am!*

**Food Pantry** *Saturday, October 24th at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

**Yoga Class** *Saturday, October 24th at 10:30 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

**Mabel Matschulat Memorial Service** *Saturday, Oct, 24th at 11:00 am* in the Meetinghouse.

**Adult Forum Harrington/Parillo** *Sunday, Oct. 25th at 11:30 am* in the Sheffield Aud.

### **Youth Group Breakfast Run Clothing Collection**

It's not too late to donate to our winter clothing drive for the Youth Group Breakfast Run (scheduled for Saturday, October 24th) to New York City. We are hoping that you can help by dropping off winter clothes to FCCOL by October 22nd. Coats, hats, gloves, new socks, boots, sweatshirts and hoodies and personal hygiene items that are in good shape are needed to keep our neighbors warm! Thank you!!! Please leave items on the Sheffield Auditorium stage., clearly marked "Youth Group."

### **Weekly Bible Study Thursday, October 22nd**

**"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:2**  
Join us at 11am, Thursday, October 22nd 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!

### **Transgender Awareness Group, Wednesday, October 21st at 5:30 pm in the Library.**

All are invited to attend this open discussion led by four parents of trans daughters and sons. Ask your questions, listen to what transgender and nonbinary people and their families face today, and share suggestions as to how we can understand and learn from each other. Pizza will be served.

### **Moth Storytelling This Friday!**

The first storytelling potluck dinner of the Fall season is planned for this **Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:00 In the FCCOL Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for this fun-filled evening of great stories, delicious food, and hearty fellowship (no reservation required). We have a great slate of storytellers lined up, so please come out and join us for what promises to be a great evening.

### **YOU'RE INVITED TO SAIL's LAUNCH EVENT (Southeast Alliance for Interfaith Leadership)!**

SAIL is officially launching as an organization on **Wednesday, October 28th** at St. Paul's Catholic Parish, 170 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. FCCOL clergy and members have been instrumental in the formation of this interfaith community organizing group, whose purpose is to create a collective power-base for systemic social justice change in Southeastern Connecticut.



Over 200 people from across Southeastern CT. will be in attendance. (Including 40 FCCOL families and friends). It will be an inspiring evening for all! Please pre-register so we know you're coming by using the QR code here or link: <https://cljct.org/sail-registration/>. (But if you don't pre-register, come anyway.) Local politicians, allied social justice organizations, and friends of many faith communities will be in attendance! Please come!

### **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. 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.

### **Upcoming Adult Forums in October (held on Sundays at 11:30 am)**

#### **Sunday, October 25** - Parillo/Harrington Duo

The Parillo/Harrington Duo is a critically acclaimed musical collaboration featuring jazz pianist, Joe Parillo, and classical cellist, Christine Harrington.

#### **Silent Movie "Phantom of the Opera" with Organ Accompaniment on Halloween Night**

Please join us to watch the 1925 silent movie "Phantom of Opera" in the meetinghouse with live accompaniment on the organ by Robert Humphreville. Saturday, October 31st. Trick or treaters will be on the lawn starting around 5pm. Free and open to the public; there will be popcorn; bring a friend!

**Update on Bill Slivinski** As some of you may know, our faithful and beloved property overseer Bill suffered two very serious medical events in May and June. After two hospitalizations and rehab treatments, Bill is now a long-term resident at the Bayview rehabilitation and care facility in Waterford. He is adapting well to his new situation, but he misses his church family. Cards and/or visits to Civita Care Bayview, 301 Rope Ferry Road, Room 205-B, Waterford, CT, 06385 are always welcome. If anyone would like to make a contribution to help Bill's personal expenses, please send a check to the church with "Bill S. Fund" in the memo line. Any amount would be welcome

#### **Coming Soon All Saints Sunday**

On Sunday, November 1st we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday. As in previous years, we invite the community to bring pictures of loved ones to display on the communion table. If you have lost someone in the past year, we invite you to call the office to share the name of the person you would like to honor. At the end of the service, there will be a time in which all the names are read, and remembered.

#### **SAVE THE DATE:**

On Sunday, November 1, we'll be celebrating the publication of Carleen Gerber's book of prayers, drawn from her many years of offering heartfelt and eloquent prayers Sunday by Sunday. Each prayer is accompanied by a painting from Angie Falstrom, who also designed and published the book. But our Sunday morning celebration has another purpose as well. It has been 50 years since Carleen first began working at FCCOL, first as a part time organist, then as the director of music, and then as a minister. Following the service, there will be a reception in honor of Carleen's dedication to this church. It is a chance to give thanks for the strong foundation of leadership she has given, helping to make us the vibrant community we are today. We hope you'll join us that morning, as we celebrate a book, a ministry, and a thriving faith community.



#### **Flowers for Sunday Worship Services**

Would you like to donate flowers for the Sunday worship services? 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!

**Rescheduled: Youth Group Cape Cod Weekend!** The Cape Cod Youth Retreat has been rescheduled for November 13th -15th. Details to follow! For more info and to RSVP, contact Laura at [lfitz.nager@gmail.com](mailto:lfitz.nager@gmail.com).



# **The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**

*2027 Stewardship Campaign*

**Please join the FCCOL 2027  
Financial Campaign,  
now underway.**

But they who wait  
upon the Lord  
shall renew  
their strength;  
they shall mount  
up with wings  
as eagles;  
they shall run,  
and not be weary;  
they shall walk,  
and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

**Your pledge will help strengthen  
our six ministries — worship,  
youth and adult education,  
music, pastoral care, and  
hands-on mission outreach  
and community support.**

**Our Church is very grateful  
for each pledge!**

**Thank you from the Board of Stewardship!**