

JANUARY 2026



The Annunciation and the Adoration of the Wise Men, 1957, Clementine Hunter (1886/87–1988)

Dear Friends,

It's the time of year for resolutions and new beginnings, and I've got an idea in mind - see what you make of it: Let's read the entire Bible together this year. What do you say?

The Bible is probably the most frequently cited book in the world, and the least read. It is so ubiquitous that we think we know what's in it, even if that bears little resemblance to what's actually there. Sometimes, fear of what we might find there (what if the fundamentalists are right?) prevents us from actually reading the book. But this year, why not change that? Why not discover this complex compendium of stories, myths, poems, letters, visions, and wisdom for yourself? And why not do it in a progressive context, free of the dogma and coercion so often attached to reading the Bible?

I've created a day by day reading plan that will take us from Genesis to Revelation in 12 months. We'll cover three or four chapters a day, across 365 days. One day each week (Sunday) is free, and so you can either use it to catch up, or to take a day off. Then, on selected Sundays, we'll meet after church to talk about what we've covered - asking questions, sharing insights, voicing frustrations and encouraging one another along the way.

A reading calendar, with each day's readings sketched out day by day, is available on our website, and in the church narthex and office.

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HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCCOL

FCCOL Choir

Thank you for all your wonderful singing in December and especially on Christmas Eve! Here is what January's rehearsal and service schedule is looking like:

Sunday, January 4: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, January 7: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 11: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, January 14: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 18: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am

Wednesday, January 21: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 25: Singing at the 10:00 am service with a rehearsal at 9:15 am. Please plan to stay for the Annual Meeting following the service!

Wednesday, January 28: Rehearsal at 7:30 pm

Many thanks and best wishes to all.
Simon

Children's Handbell Choir—ReBELLion

A new season of handbell ringing for children and youth begins very soon. ReBELLion focuses on learning to read music, the basic skills of handbell ringing, and the experience of bell ringing in front of the congregation. The group will meet on Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:15, starting on January 8. There is room for no more than 14 participants, so if you and your child have an interest in this unique experience, please contact Gary Jungkeit, either in person, or by email: gjungkeit@gmail.com, or by text: 423-782-6308, or contact the church office: 860-434-8686.

Ladies Who Stitch (LWS)

After a winter break, we will be back at work on Mondays beginning January 5th. Even though we have sold and donated many things, we still have a huge inventory of sewn, knitted and crafted creations. The *Partnership Store* is open on Mondays while we work, and also Wednesdays around choir practice, Sundays after the church service, and for most major FCCOL events.



We recently donated over 40 knitted items to IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) and we continue to make large tote bags, 532 to date, for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center. Many of our creations are also donated to the ministers when they need gifts for outreach and for new FCCOL members.



We are grateful for our newest LWS members and for the extensive donation of fabric and notions from Pat Spratt - who recently retired her business *Patricia Spratt for the Home*. The new ideas



from new members and the wonderful donations we receive from many sources allow us to expand our offerings and keep our prices reasonable.

Ladies Who Stitch meet regularly on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Sheffield Auditorium. Newcomers, visitors, and shoppers are always welcome. The Partnership Store is open while we work, offering guilt-free shopping for goods from Haiti, Palestine, Tribal Crafts and LWS.

If you have questions, or you wish to receive the weekly LWS email updates, notify the church office, or contact Eunice via email - eunicetaylor@me.com.

God's Neighborhood

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

— C.S. Lewis

Happy New Year! We wish you so much love and joy!! Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Christmas Pageant!! And thank you to everyone who helped make it happen!! We hope you all had a very lovely and healthy holiday season!!

This month in God's Neighborhood we'll be getting back into our year-long theme and curriculum, *Let*

Justice Roll Down: Crossing Boundaries to Find Each Other. We'll read and act out in fun ways some of the Parables of Jesus. Jesus told stories known as parables to teach about loving our neighbors and friends and show what love, kindness and justice can look like in everyday life. Through art, drama and service projects, each parable will come to life. We will be learning how to practice these actions, both individually and in our community.

New Year Prayer: May God be with us as we journey into a new year together and enjoy learning from one another along the way! Amen.

January 11th: Sunday School reopens for the New Year at our 10:00 am service. **Bring a box of crayons, colored pencils or small notebooks to church today** to send with Steve and other travelers who will be flying to Palestine and Israel (and visiting an elementary school in Bethlehem that is friends with our church) to visit our partners and friends there. We'll begin to read the Parables of the Lost (coin, sheep, people). We hope you will join us!!

January 18th: In Sunday school today at 10:00 am, we'll celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday and learn about his influence on our world and other prophetic heroes of the Civil Rights Movement.

January 25th: We'll continue with our learning from last week and continue to read about the Parables of the Lost (coin, sheep, people) and how it is to experience belonging and love in the families and communities we're a part of here at FCCOL!

FCCOL Youth Group News

Happy New Year 2026!!

"In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer." Albert Camus

Cup of Joe Cafe Service Project: Serve guests who come to the FCCOL Food Pantry at the Cup of Joe Cafe on Saturday, January 10th from 8-10:30. Sign up for a time from 8:00-9:15 and 9:15-10:30 to serve and bring treats at lfitz.nager@gmail.com. In the Library. Thank you!

Confirmation: THE BIG QUESTIONS Jan -May 2026

A Confirmation Class is forming for high schoolers beginning January 25th from 4:00-5:30 (includes tacos). At FCCOL, Confirmation is a way for us to affirm the amazing young adults growing into

adulthood in our midst. Classes meet twice a month through May (once on a Sunday night for class together and once as a service or field trip). We'll wrestle together with the questions of our shared humanity as well as the big ones about faith, life, doubt, current events, justice, and what/who God might be to each of us. Ultimately, we'll wonder together about what it means to live a meaningful life. We'll learn about what makes FCCOL tick, visit other faith communities (a synagogue, mosque, Buddhist Meditation Center, etc.) and engage in service projects. Each Confirmand will be paired up with a church mentor as well. We'll have a Confirmation ceremony in May and a final retreat weekend on Cape Cod May 29th-31st. Join us-bring a friend! For more information email Laura at lfitz.nager@gmail.com.

Monday, January. 19th: MLK Celebration Yale Peabody Museum, 170 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT.

Join over a dozen community organizations as they gather at the Yale Peabody Museum in New Haven to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work, offering knowledge about food, educational, racial, and environmental justice. Set against the wonder of the museum, students from the New Haven Public Schools will share music and dance from 12-4 pm. Free. We'll carpool from FCCOL at 12. Email Jolene or Laura with any questions...

Save the Date: April Vacation: Walking in Their Footsteps Civil Rights Trip, April 11-16, 2026

Join us for this special FCCOL Youth trip to Koinonia Farm and other civil rights sites in Georgia! We'll fly into Atlanta and drive to Koinonia Farm <https://koinoniafarm.org> in southern Georgia, which will be our home base for 4 nights. While on the Farm, we'll learn about its 80-year civil rights history, engage in service projects, see the birthplace of Habitat of Humanity, explore the Jimmy Carter National Park, and visit the Albany Civil Rights Institute among other highlights.

Informational Meeting planned for Sunday, January 18th after the service in the library. Cost and itinerary information will be shared at that time. Scholarships available.

Memorials

Wendy Knight
Austin Wood

FCCOL Moth Stories and Potluck Dinner

Please join us for the next Moth Stories and Potluck dinner on Friday, January 23rd. The dinner will be at 6:00 and there will be a host of storytellers to follow. Contact Tom Sherer for more information. (tesjr299@outlook.com).

ARC Blood Drive



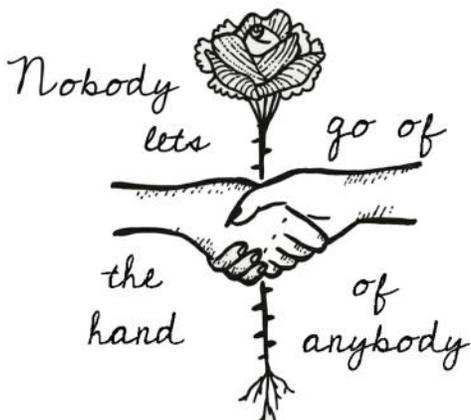
American Red Cross Blood Drive in January at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme will be on **Thursday, January 22nd** from 1:00 pm -6:00 pm. in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study:

The Book of Exodus: Please join us as we continue to discuss The Book of Exodus: Stories of Exile and the Search for Freedom which will begin again on Thursday, January 15th and continue every Thursday from 11:00 -12:00 pm in the Library. Call or email the church for the Zoom link.

TransParent Group Meeting

Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 5:30-6:30. Next meeting is on **January 21st**. 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. For more information email us at: fccol@fccol.org.



Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 25, at 11:15 am, the church will hold its annual meeting, during which, among other things, we will elect officers and board members, and approve the church budget for the coming year.

All Board and Committee chairs, please submit your annual reports by the deadline of January 9.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to:

- receive the reports of the ministers, boards and committees, and church officers for the year 2025;
- receive and approve the report of the nominating committee;
- elect officers and board members for the coming year;
- approve the church budget for the year 2026; and
- conduct such other old or new business as shall properly come before the meeting.

Upcoming Visit from Convergence



On Sunday February 1st we again welcome Rev. Gregg Carlson from the consulting firm Convergence. Gregg will present the final report from our year-long consulting engagement with Convergence at the Adult Forum after the worship service. While here he will also be conducting interviews with various staff and congregation members regarding the second phase of our engagement focusing on long-term staffing needs of the church.

Giving Tree Thank You!

Thank you to all who so generously purchased gifts for the children of detained immigrants! Over 60 gifts were picked up at our church and were delivered to our neighbors in need.

In addition to all the gifts purchased, our FCCOL Ladies Who Stitch donated a huge bag full of beautiful hand-knit hats and mittens!

With your acts of kindness and generosity toward those who are so much less fortunate than are we, you make our world a better place. I am grateful to have found this church community and for each one of you.

Merry Christmas!
ton

Christine Haring-

Adult Forum Sunday, January 11th at 11:30 am with Rev. Clare Robert

A Fresh Start: Embodied Contemplative Practices for the New Year!

Ours is an Incarnational faith, but often we leave the body behind or forget its importance. In this Adult Forum we will explore practical ways to quiet our whole being, and to employ our body as an ally in our faith journey. Embodied contemplative practices can be especially helpful when we are hoping for more inner peace and ways to deepen our spiritual life, especially as we make resolutions and need some fresh ways to support our efforts in the new year. Contemplative prayer, gentle movement, easeful breathing all help us listen more closely to the Still Small Voice of the Spirit, and to discover a deeper experience of rest. As we learn these ways of self care, we can give the best to others in compassionate service. There will be time for participants to set intentions, enjoy mindful movement and Q&A.

Rev. Clare Robert, STM, Yale Divinity School, Pastor Emerita of Spring Glen Church UCC in Hamden, has led groups around contemplative prayer practices over two decades of ministry. She is a Teacher of the Alexander Technique, an educational method of mindfulness in action, known for its gentle approach to improve posture, relieve stress and foster selfcare.

Southeastern Connecticut (SECT) Interfaith Community Organizing Project Invite

For any individual interested in learning about, and participating in, building an interfaith power base for systemic justice change in SECT, please put these important dates in your calendar. Come and hear about the process. Learn the tools for interfaith community organizing. Now more than ever, we are being called to do this work together. Please join us and SAVE these dates!

Orientation: Wednesday, January 7th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting/hosted by Saint Ann's Episcopal Parish/Old Lyme CT. <https://tinyurl.com/yckf2t9>, Meeting ID: 884 7552 6540 - Passcode: 815190.

Leadership Training: Saturday, January 10th 9 a.m. to 5 p.m./ Lunch Provided at The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, CT - Sheffield Auditorium. To register for this training use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yckf2t97>.

Delegate Meeting (Core Team Members from All Congregations) February 4th to endorse the house meeting campaign & engage in a house meeting practice session. All Souls New London, 9 Jay Street, New London, CT 06320.

FCCOL Film Night



Film Screening: *"Will and Harper"* (2024), on Friday, January 16th at 5:30 pm at FCCOL. Join us for this award winning witty and charming documentary with comedian, Will Farrell, and Harper, his long time friend of many years and writer from Saturday Night Live. The friends decide to go on a cross-country road trip to explore a new chapter in their relationship as Harper is transitioning genders. See review here: (Will and Harper - review by Roger Ebert.) Bring a friend! Pizza and Popcorn will be served and we'll leave time for a discussion following the movie. Sponsored by the TransParent Group.

Mid-Winter Viewing and Reading Suggestions for Transgender Awareness

FILMS:

Pose (2018), A Fantastic Woman (2017), The Danish Girl (2015), Transamerica (2005), Boys Don't Cry (1999), Paris Is Burning (1991).

BOOKS:

The Lilac People, by Milo Todd (2025), Finding My Way Out Of The Darkness: How I Found Self-Love & Acceptance, by Tony Ferraiolo (2024), Mad Honey, by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan (2022), Trans Mission: My Quest to a Beard, by Alex Bertie (2017), Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More, by Janet Mock (2014), She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders, by Jennifer Finney Boylan (2013).
by Gary Comstock

(continued from the cover, "Dear Friends")

The next question is, what Bible? There are many translations and paraphrases of the Bible, but here are three that are worthwhile: 1. The New Revised Standard Version - this is the most linguistically and theologically sound version out there. It was compiled by an ecumenical committee of many different backgrounds, and with a high level of scholarly care. The study version, with its notes and maps, is especially helpful. 2. The King James Version - it's not the most linguistically accurate version, and the language is, of course, dated. But look, it's Shakespeare's language, and this version is often stunning in its beauty and poetry. This is for those who come at the Bible from the vantage of literature - it's also the one I plan to use for this reading adventure. 3. The Message - this is a lovely and frequently powerful paraphrase by Eugene Peterson, a scholar of ancient languages. He renders the Bible in contemporary words and phrases, making it highly readable.

There are, of course, other possibilities, and some people like to compare different translations, which is a great idea. But...if you're planning to use a study Bible, I would highly recommend sticking to the NRSV Study Bible - the cover says The SBL (Society of Biblical Literature) Study Bible. Frankly, a lot of the other study Bibles remind me of poorly curated internet sites, with ads and messages and distractions flashing all around the text. For me anyway, those flashing messages tend to get in the way of actually reading the Bible, by (anxiously) telling you what you ought to be thinking and feeling as you read, rather than allowing you to simply encounter the text directly.

One further question: why do this now? I'll be preaching about this question early in the new year, but let me offer three quick responses here. First, in our culture the Bible has been hijacked by highly dogmatic voices that have over-simplified the book, while also turning it into a tool to control others. We progressives do well to claim the Bible for ourselves, and to read it with the nuance and care it deserves. Second, we're living in a time of declining literacy. For a people who value the Word, and words, we do well to go directly to the source, in order to acquaint ourselves more fully with the book that has shaped the imagination of believing and secular folk alike across the centuries. And third, this is a great opportunity for faith formation. Often, at FCCOL, we're focused on doing, which is one of the great gifts of our community. But I sometimes wonder if we miss opportunities for greater spiritual depth by bypassing the riches of Scripture and theology, together with the questions they raise for our lives.

I know, I know...more than a few of you will think that we've lost our progressive bearings by undertaking such an exercise. Set those fears aside. This is the book that has provided solace to countless people for more than two millennia. It's the book that fueled the German Resistance Movement in the Nazi era. It's the book that stood at the center of the Civil Rights Movement. It's the book that has fueled liberation movements in Latin America and Africa. And it can be the book (or one of them) that fuels our own response(s) to the struggles of the 21st century.

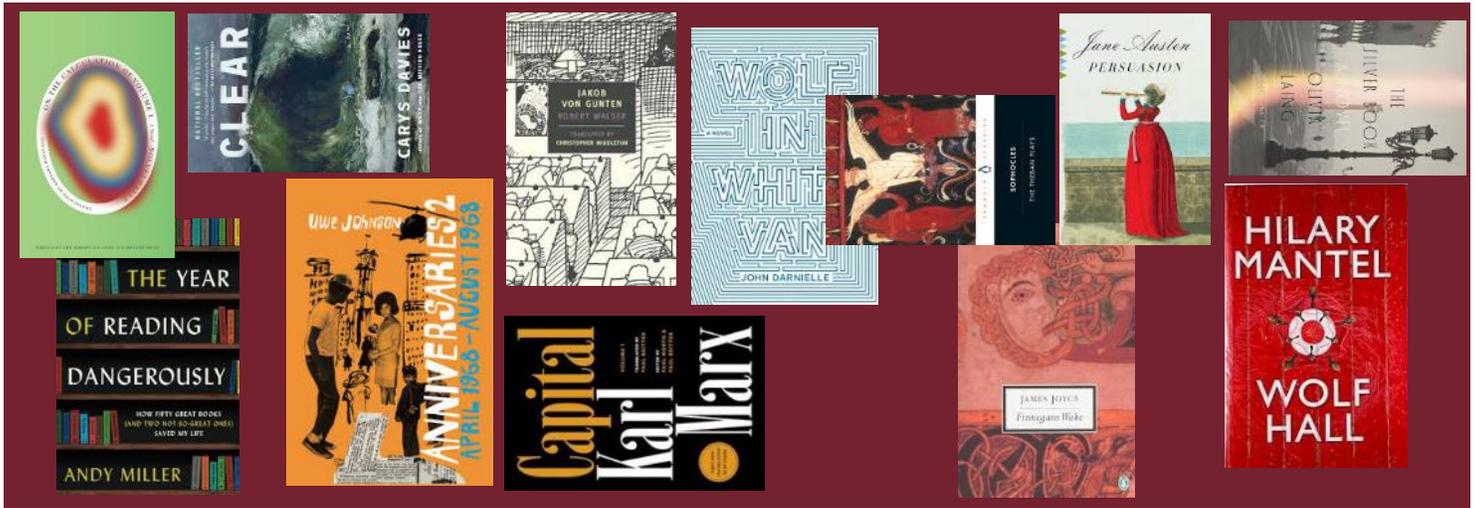
So what do you say? Shall we do this together?



P.S. It has been my habit in recent years to read a great classic or two each winter, one that I've neglected, or that I wish to return to. This year, I intend to reread George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. Some of us read it during Covid, but I find myself returning to passages from that novel often, and I want to experience it again. It's such a wise and knowing novel. If you're interested in reading it, let me know, and I'll organize a conversation for us. Admittedly, I fumbled a bit last year, and didn't manage to schedule a discussion of our winter reads. But I'll try to do better this year!

(continued on the next page)

Reading: *On the Calculation of Volume, Vol. 1*, by Solvej Balle; *Persuasion*, by Jane Austen; *Clear*, by Carys Davies; *Jakob Von Gunten*, by Robert Walser; *The Theban Plays*, by Sophocles; *The Silver Book*, by Olivia Laing; *Wolf Hall*, by Hilary Mantel; *Wolf in White Van*, by John Darnielle; *The Year of Reading Dangerously*, by Andy Miller; *Anniversaries* (portions), by Uwe Johnson; *Finnegans Wake* (portions), by James Joyce; *Capital, Vol. 1* (portions), by Karl Marx.



Listening: *The Mookse and the Gripes* (podcast); *One Bright Book* (podcast); *Bleed Out* and *Through This Fire Across From Peter Balkan*, both by The Mountain Goats; *Live God*, by Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds.

Watching: *My Brilliant Friend* (HBO); *Stranger Things*, Season 5 (Netflix); *Intervista*, from Federico Fellini; *The Battle of Algiers*, from Gillo Pontecorvo.

Giving Matters

Pledges from FCCOL Members and Friends fund most of our Church’s mission and the ministry plan to achieve it. So, each person who pledges helps make our world a little more compassionate, and a little more just. Our giving matters.

FCCOL’s mission is to transform lives by serving near and far communities as a generous place of grace following the life and teachings of Jesus. FCCOL is a beacon of compassion to everyone searching for it and in need of it.

FCCOL’s mission is met through the inspired ministries and leadership of FCCOL’s three gifted pastors’ arm in arm with a legion of dedicated members and friends. This legion is bound together by mutual covenant and held firm by a compelling set of three shared core beliefs:

Everyone is welcome.

Love is everything; kindness matters.

No human being is illegal; human rights belong to everyone.

FCCOL is a noncreedal church. That means we believe that each Member and Friend has the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of their own conscience under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

FCCOL’s compelling mission and values spring to action in FCCOL’s ministry funding plan – the Church budget annually approved by the Congregation. The majority of the financial resources to support this plan are provided by pledges made and honored annually by Members and Friends.

Pledge campaigns are conducted throughout the year by the Board of Stewardship. The BOS extends pledge invitations to each Member and Friend in the fall of each year. So we all regularly have the opportunity to personally make a difference in the lives of those in need. It is important to remember that when we pledge, we are helping transform lives.

Our Giving Matters!

2025 Board of Stewardship

All This Sainted Difference: A Spiritual Pilgrimage to Brazil

August 10-20, 2026

In her poetry collection *The Cachoeira Tales*, Marilyn Nelson writes of a contemporary group of pilgrims, each with a story to tell, traveling together not to Canterbury, but to Cachoeira, Brazil. There, the pilgrims encounter the Sisters of Our Lady of the Good Death, who blend African, Indigenous, and Catholic ritual elements. Founded by those who had been enslaved during the 19th century, the sisterhood was established to serve the poor, while keeping alive the sacred traditions of Africa, handed down as a precious inheritance from one generation to the next. Every year in Cachoeira, the Sisters offer a three-day celebration of music and of dance, where the Orixas (African divinities who bear a striking resemblance to Christian saints) come in order to bless, heal, chasten, and encourage contemporary people. It is in Cachoeira that the pilgrims in Marilyn's poems converge. And it is in Cachoeira that pilgrims from FCCOL shall converge this coming August.



This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the African ritual traditions of Brazil. Visiting not only Cachoeira, but locating ourselves in and around the city of Salvador, we'll encounter the rituals, music, dance, foodways, and visual art that have sheltered and protected human lives through generations of hardship. We'll visit *terreiros* (house temples) around the city and throughout the surrounding countryside. And we'll discover how these dynamic and aesthetically charged spiritual systems (Candomblé and Umbanda) have evolved across time. The centerpiece of our journey will be the Feast of Our Lady of the Good Death, where we shall witness how the Sisters become a living bridge between this world and the other.

Designed to resonate and to link with our travels to Haiti, Cuba, New Orleans, and West Africa, our pilgrimage to Cachoeira and Salvador will be organized with the help of our friend Ned Sublette, and his vast network of contacts in Brazil. It is a fabulous opportunity to explore a beautiful part of Latin America (it will be winter in Salvador, meaning we can expect temperatures in the 70's and 80's), together with the history and spirituality of the African descended peoples of Bahia.

Contact Steve Jungkeit for more information, at steven@jungkeit.net.

The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education



During this season of giving, The Crosby Fund would like to offer our sincerest thanks for your continued support and generosity in giving the gift of education to the young people of Haiti.

Because of your kindness, The Crosby Fund has been able to provide 7,368 scholarships since 2004 to students from Pre-K through

University, including tuition, books, uniforms, room & board, and so much more.

From our amazing staff in Haiti and all of us at The Crosby Fund, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

This past year was a busy one for the members of the Board of Missions. Many of our long-standing benevolences and their clients experienced budget cuts from government sources, thus reducing their revenue streams. We carefully deliberated about each of our distributions, often communicating directly with agency organizers or conducting actual site visits to assess current program needs.

Because of the generosity of this congregation, altogether over \$64,000 was distributed to the following agencies this calendar year:

- **Globally:** United Church of Christ (UCC).
- **Direct Partner Support:** Green Grass Church, Israel/Palestine Tree of Life, Crosby Fund for Haitian Education and the Haitian Soup Kitchen.
- **New London County outreach:** Lawrence and Memorial Hospital Chaplaincies, Habitat for Humanity, Safe Futures, Health and Welfare, Thames River Family Program, Martin House for veterans, Alliance for Living, Covenant Shelter for families, Fresh New London Community Garden, Homeless Hospitality Center, A Sacred Place Niantic Women’s Prison Program, Lyme/Old Lyme Food Share Garden.
- **Middlesex County outreach:** Middlesex Hospital Chaplaincies, Old Saybrook Estuary Meals on Wheels.
- **FCCOL Projects:** New London Meal Center, FCCOL Diaper Bank.
- **Congregation Connections:** World Central Kitchen, AMOS Resources, Central Food Bank, Anera.

Clearly FCCOL has made a difference locally, nationally and globally for those in need. A full report of the expenditures will be included in the Annual Report document distributed at the FCCOL Annual Meeting. Many, many thanks to all for your generosity.

The Benevolent Society (TBS)

Happy New Year 2026! The board members of The Benevolent Society (formally known as The Ladies Benevolent Society) want to thank all of the wonderful people who helped out with and patronized our 2025 White Elephant Sale and our end of the year Elephants-in-Winter and Partnership Holiday sales. Because of you, both sales were the most successful ever, and TBS was able to increase the amount of our monetary mission commitments. Not only did we propose an increase of almost \$14,000 in our approved 2026 TBS Mission Commitment (\$84,2000) over our 2025 total, but we met at the end of November and voted to disperse \$35,000 in additional funds to help with the need locally and internally at FCCOL.

Need has increased for many of the organizations that TBS and FCCOL support, and we don’t see a decrease in this need occurring any time soon. So, while we withheld some of the funds we have available so that we can help to meet immediate monetary challenges faced in the beginning of the coming year, we on the TBS board approved to send additional financial assistance to the following organizations:

Care & Share, East Lyme / Salem, CT	\$ 3000
Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. Old Saybrook	\$ 4000
New London Homeless Hospitality Center	\$ 5000
Maj. Edw/Good House – NLHHC Veteran’s Housing	\$ 3000
A Sacred Place: The Barbara Fund	\$ 2000
Safe Futures, New London	\$ 5000
Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry	\$ 3000
CT Foundation for Dental Outreach	\$ 2000
New London Community Meal Center (DINE)	\$ 5000
CPA Prison Arts Program (York)	\$ 1000
Tree of Life To defray costs overruns for the TOL concert fundraiser	<u>\$ 2000</u>
TOTAL	\$35000

Our financial support would not have been possible without all of the people who support our fundraisers and assist in making them successful. We thank all of you so very much, and wish you a happy, safe and healthy 2026!

JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

FCCOL Office Closed for New Years Day!

Epiphany - Three Kings Day Service *Sunday, January 4th at 10:00am* in the Meetinghouse.

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, January 5th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

WES Meeting *Monday, January 5th at 10:00 am* in the Library.

Grief Group *Wednesday, January 7th at 5:00 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

SECT Orientation *Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30 pm* at St. Ann's Parish.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

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

SECT Faith Based Organizing Training *Saturday, January 10th from 8:00– 5:00 pm*
in the Sheffield Auditorium.

The Shoreline Food Pantry & Diaper Bank *Sat, January 10th at 8:30 am* in the Fellowship Hall.

Cup-A-Joe Café Youth Group *Saturday, January 10th at 8:00 am* in the Library.

SECT Leadership Training *Saturday, January 10th at 9:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Adult Forum with Rev. Clare Robert *Sunday, January 11th at 11:15 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, January 12th at 10:00 am* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Palestine Trip leaves Today, *Tuesday, January 13th.*

Board of Trustees Meeting *Tuesday, January 13th. at 7:00 pm* in the Library.

Board of Missions Meeting *Wednesday, January 14th at 4:00 pm* in the Library.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 14th at 7:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Bible Study *Thursday, January 15th at 11:00 am* in the Library.

Board of Stewardship *Thursday, January 15th at 4:00 am* in the Library.

ANNUAL REPORT Deadline *Friday, January 16th.*

FCCOL Film Screening "Will and Harper" *Saturday, January 16th at 5:30 pm* in the Sheffield Aud.

The Shoreline Food Pantry *Saturday, January 17th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

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

January Newsletter Deadline *Tuesday, January 20th.*

TransParent Group Meeting *Wednesday, January 21st at 5:30 pm* in the Hoag Parlor.

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 21st at 6:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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

ARC Blood Drive *Thursday, January 22nd from 1:00pm–6:00 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

ReBbellion Rehearsal *Thursday, January 22nd at 4:30 pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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

The Shoreline Food Pantry *Saturday, January 24th at 8:30 am* in Fellowship Hall.

Annual Church Meeting *Sunday, January 25th at 11:15 am* in the Meetinghouse.

First Confirmation Class *Sunday, January 25th from 4-5:30 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium.

New London Meal Center Dinner *Sunday, January 25th departing FCCOL at 3:30 pm.*

Ladies Who Stitch *Monday, January 26th at 10:00 am in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Newsletter Folding *Tuesday, January 27th.*

Board of Deacons Meeting *Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00 pm in the Library.*

Handbell Ringers Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 28th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, January 28th at 7:30 pm in the Sheffield Auditorium.*

Bible Study *Thursday, January 29th at 11:00 am in the Library.*

ReBbellion Rehearsal *Thursday, January 29th at 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

The Shoreline Food Pantry *Saturday, January 31st at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall.*

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister (203-430-3208)

The Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister (860-304-9096)

The Rev. Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister (860-304-2070)

Simon D. Holt, Director of Music (860-705-3037)

The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby, Minister for Haitian Outreach

Rebecca A. Francisco serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel

Jolene Brant, Director of Youth Education/Junior & Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Leader

Robert McCracken, Church Administrator

Anne Koczka, Office Manager

Julie Mardjekaj, Bookkeeper

Sean McCarty, Sexton

Church Office Tel: 860-434-8686

Fax: 860-434-1135

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Website: www.fccol.org

Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

South Lyme Union Chapel Worship - 10:00 a.m.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD LYME, Member U.C.C.

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
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The submission deadline for the February Newsletter will be Tuesday, January 20th.

Please e-mail the church office at fccol@fccol.org if you want to be added to or removed from the newsletter mailing list, or receive your copy digitally!
Thanks for your help!



The reproduction of our Meetinghouse is from a painting by Guy Carleton Wiggins.