

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

May 2019

Dear friends,

For the past several weeks, I've opened our services with the words of a poet named Paul Eluard, who said, "There is another world, but it is hidden inside of this one." I love that image, because it radiates in so many different directions. It might pertain to the world of the Spirit, where we seek to uncover the grace that undergirds our existence. It might pertain to the world of biology, where microscopic cellular processes are at work in ways we cannot perceive with our ordinary senses. It might pertain to the world of peacemaking, where we seek to build more compassionate communities from the materials that have been handed to us. But it might also pertain to bureaucratic procedures that are kept out of the public purview, a world hidden inside of the one we ordinarily inhabit. I believe the treatment of human beings in courts, detention centers, jails, and along the border, is another world hidden inside of this one. And I believe it is ethically and spiritually imperative to seek that world out. Far too many among us, myself included, find it far too easy to allow that world to remain hidden.

Lina Tuck, who has coordinated our immigration outreach for the past several years, recently had an experience visiting an immigration court in Boston. She was there with Glenn Formica, the attorney representing Malik and Zahida, as well as Glenda Caballero Cardenas (the wife of Miguel Torres). The Boston court oversees all immigrant cases in our region involving detentions. Glenn was there to represent a man from Norwalk who had been in detention for many months. Lina shared that experience at a recent staff meeting, and then wrote about it in an email to our immigration volunteers. It was a powerful story, and I wanted all of you to read it. Here's a part of what Lina shared:

My first impression walking into the courtroom was visceral despair. Four humans, three men and one woman, were seated on the bench. All were in prison clothes, some in orange jumpsuits, others in gray two-piece attire. All were shackled with chains, both feet and hands. A prison guard was sitting close by, ensuring they wouldn't get away. My heart was broken and my reasoning confused. How can our government incarcerate human beings for trying to seek asylum?

In efficient bureaucratic fashion, the proceedings began. Glenn's case was the last to be heard. The man Glenn was representing has been in the United States for over a decade. He has been in detention for many months and was previously denied bail. Glenn was hoping the judge would reconsider granting bail due to material changes in the case. Since detainment, this gentleman's family has completely crumbled. Their financial well being has been devastated, they have lost their apartment and now live in a homeless shelter. Their daughter has medical issues that have been exacerbated by the increased stress on the family. Not only that, detention has also caused significant medical issues for Glenn's client, which were not adequately addressed in prison. For these reasons and many others, the judge overruled the previous judge's ruling and granted bail! I can't tell you how incredible it was to hear those words. There were no dry eyes among the family and other Connecticut advocates who were there to support the family.

If I didn't already believe a community of many could make a difference before this day, I would be sold after this experience. We are thankful for attorneys like Glenn who take pro bono cases. We are thankful for community organizers and leaders working on the front lines and bringing these cases to our attention. We are thankful for immigrant bail funds, which can be used to post bail for those who are able to be freed from immigration prison. We are thankful for community volunteers who support and assist in this immigration work. Together we can make a difference.

I'll add to Lina's words by saying how thankful I am to our church community for being willing to undertake the work of supporting individuals and families who are in crisis, and to help lighten the load of those who are being persecuted because of inhumane and unethical government policies. We have made a difference, and we will continue to do so.

I believe that our children and grandchildren will ask one day how we responded to this moment of our history. I believe we'll be held responsible for the ways we sought not to know, and not to see, the human wreckage piled high by the immoral policies currently being enacted. There is another world, and it is hidden inside of this one. I pray we'll have the continued resolve to see what's happening – and then to do our part to shape a world based on compassion, care, and hospitality, which we find in our faith commitments.

Stay human....

Steve

CINCO DE MAYO!

Come celebrate with a Native taco at FCCOL Sunday, May 5th, 5:30 pm!

On **Sunday, May 5th, at 5:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall, the Green Grass Partnership Committee will be hosting a Native taco dinner to celebrate our 34 years in partnership with the small community of Green Grass located on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. **\$10 at the door gets you a delicious taco with all the trimmings!** Made with a frybread base and stacked with plenty of meat and veggies, it is one of our favorite meals when we visit our friends out west (vegetarian options will be available). **Musical talents provided by our very own Marcy Conway!** Singer and guitarist Marcy Conway, will be offering traditional Mexican songs as well as familiar songs in Spanish, selections on Navajo flute and Iroquois women's songs. There will be drums, shakers and rhythm instruments available or bring your own. Audience participation is welcome! **Native American art & jewelry will be available for sale at a 25% discount.**

The Tribal Crafts doors will be open for shopping as we prepare for the June 2019 trip.

Learn more by visiting www.tribalcraftsinc.com

Proceeds from the celebration will benefit the Green Grass Partnership. All are welcome!

Annual Haitian Dinner on Sunday, May 19th from 5:00-7:30 pm:

The Ladies Benevolent Society will once again sponsor a Haitian dinner to benefit the work of The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education. Becky Crosby, co-founder of The Crosby Fund, will offer a 'PowerPoint' presentation on their on-going work in Haiti with a special focus on the work in the Education Center. Vaudy Jean Baptiste, our Program Director in Haiti, and Fednor Sidort, our Program Administrator, will join us again for this festive occasion. The presentation will offer several short videos to give you a glimpse of the activities at the Center.

Sandra's Next Generation, a fabulous Cajun-Creole restaurant from New Haven, CT will once again provide the delicious Haitian meal!

Suggested cost per person is \$10.00 (donations are gratefully received!). All proceeds benefit The Crosby Fund. Doors will open at 5 pm for purchasing Haitian art and hand-made items from the Ladies Who Stitch. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm, followed by the presentation. Call the church office (860-434-8686) for reservations.

Weddings

Megan Irene Shettle and Joel Daniel Weisel, April 13, 2019

Kayla McGlew and Bo Cook, April 26, 2019

Baptisms

*Tessa Elyse Hildner, daughter of Kaitlin and Michael Hildner,
and granddaughter of Emily and Tim Hildner, April 7, 2019*

Memorials

*Irene Avery
Anne Kinsella
Ron Swanson
Barbara Traskos*

Church News

Jazz Musician Donald Harrison, Jr.

Here's a good way to spend Mother's Day, May 12th: Come to FCCOL that morning and hear renowned jazz musician Donald Harrison, Jr. perform in our morning services. Harrison will be performing at the Side Door Cafe on Friday and Saturday nights of that weekend, and has agreed to extend his residency to be with us.

A saxophonist and ensemble leader, a teacher and mentor, and the Big Chief of the Guardians of the Flame Mardi Gras Indian Tribe, Harrison is an exemplary interpreter of the musical traditions that have shaped American life for more than a century. It will be an honor to welcome him to FCCOL!

New Members It is our custom to receive new members twice a year – in May and again next fall. If you have been attending, or visiting, and would like to talk about membership (or any question you might have), Steve, Laura or Carleen would love the opportunity to sit down over a cup of coffee and chat! Please call any one of us and let's set up a time and place. ***Our May date for receiving new members is May 19th.*** The new members orientation meeting will be *Thursday, May 16th, at 7:00 pm* in the Sheffield Auditorium. There will be a New Members luncheon on *May 19th at 12:00 pm*.

LBS May Luncheon Please join us for a delicious May Luncheon orchestrated by gourmet cook and LBS stalwart, Nathalie Fogg, at **NOON on May 14** (always second Tuesday of the month). A program follows the Luncheon, featuring Barbara Rayel who demonstrates how to create arrangements from the flowers suddenly appearing in your yards and all around us. Four of her arrangements will be raffled off. The cost is \$5 with a contribution of canned goods or a gently used dish towel. (Our kitchen towels are a bit worn these days.) The Ladies Who Stitch will display their creations with us so you may enjoy perusing their crafts, including flowery projects destined for Haiti. Be a flower and not just a roadside weed, dazzled only by the whizz of traffic passing you by! Join us, women AND men; **all** are welcome. Just please, please make reservations by calling the church

office at 860-434-8686 so that Nathalie and her team know how much food to prepare.

Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries After a series of mixed communications, the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries has renewed its commitment to maintaining FCCOL as a location for food distribution on Saturday mornings. While Shoreline is committed to scaling back its operation on our site, concentrating solely on residents of the 11 town region in their catchment area, FCCOL will be working to insure that guests coming from outside of that catchment area will continue to receive food. As of this newsletter, we don't know precisely what form that will take. The ministers and a small task force are currently working with Shoreline to build a system that will allow their mandate to be met (feeding those in the 11 town region) as well as ours (feeding those who come to us, regardless of their zip code). We're confident that we can achieve that goal. Furthermore, we're confident that the long standing partnership between FCCOL and Shoreline can continue to function well as we both seek to address the food insecurity that exists in our region.

More Church News

June 22nd - June 29th / Cheyenne River Reservation, SD / Join us! Join our annual journey to the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. This year, as we visit our friends in the small community of Green Grass, we will learn to reconnect with nature and gain a deeper understanding of Native American Spirituality and its role in the environment. Please stop by the church Library at 12:30pm on Sunday, April 7th, to learn more. If you are interested in coming but can't make the meeting, please email Stephanie Kenny at stephanieckenny@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Ladies Who Stitch We meet most Mondays through early June in the Sheffield Auditorium from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - sewing and knitting things to donate and to sell. Our entire inventory will be on sale during the May 12th coffee hours and the May 14th LBS luncheon. Our new beach bags and some Easter and summer home decor items will be available. We also welcome visitors and shoppers during our Monday working hours. Donations of quality fabrics, yarn, vintage linens, and sewing notions are appreciated and can be dropped off in the back of the Sheffield Auditorium. Reusable grocery shopping bags for the Shoreline Food Pantry continue to be collected. Occasionally we are able to handle special requests such as mending and minor alterations. Questions: Contact Eunice Taylor via email at eunicetaylor@me.com.

Memorial Garden As you might know, we have a lovely Memorial Garden at the side of the church, to the left of the front steps. The Memorial Garden is available to church Members and Friends for the interment of the cremated remains of loved ones. The fee for interment is \$250.00. We display a brass plaque for every person interred in the Memorial Garden as well as a page in our Memorial Book, located in a cabinet in the vestibule. If you would like more information about the Memorial Garden, we have a brochure "*The Funeral or Memorial Service and The Memorial Garden*," which is available in the office, or you can contact Joanie May at joanmay@fccol.org.

News from the Homeless Hospitality Center:

The Homeless Hospitality Center is going green! Cathy Zall has just embarked on a mission to reduce the carbon footprint of the HHC, and she has asked us to walk with her on this path. The first steps will be replacing disposable ware with reusable ware (silverware, plates and cups), adding a dishwasher, and improving the center's recycling system. Stay tuned for more information as it develops. It is our collective commitment to the environment that led Cathy to seek our support and council, so thank you, thank you, for being beacons of hope and possibility for our friends and neighbors at Homeless Hospitality Center.

Our Caregiver Group meets the last Friday of every month, **May 31st** from 10:00 -11:00 am in the Hoag Parlor. All are welcome!

Edward Good Veterans House One of our staff members (Mirca Reyes) was honored yesterday by the Association of the United States Navy for her work with veterans. I am so proud of the work she is doing. I wanted to let you know, however, that this work has been made hugely easier by the help that FCCOL offered when you funded the house on Steward Street in honor of David Good's father Edward Good, who served as a major in the US Army. For a significant number of the 38 veterans that Mirca helped house, Steward Street was their first stop. Steward Street provided a first apartment on their own for quite a few people who no longer needed our transitional living program. Having quality, low-cost housing at Steward Street as a first step helped these vets on their journey. Thank you for all the church has done to support our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Cathy

On Environment

Recent news and views — Committee on the Environment

Climate-friendly eating. Americans' consumption of beef, chicken, and pork is three times the global average and has a huge effect on carbon emissions. Meat production requires large amounts of water, land, and feed, which is heavily fertilized, and fertilizer application releases nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas. And methane—another greenhouse gas—is emitted by cattle. But according to recent analyses, achieving a more environmentally sustainable path doesn't require that we all become vegetarians. Adopting certain alternatives would help: reducing meat intake somewhat could reduce global food-related emissions by nearly a third, while moving to a "flexitarian diet" would reduce these emissions by at least a half. A flexitarian diet focuses on protein from plants instead of animals; it consists of occasional meat and animal products but mainly legumes, whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. *Healthy for humans as well as the environment!*

Reducing plastic waste. Many of us are cutting down on our use of non-compostable plastics by saying no to plastic straws and plastic bags in restaurants and stores. A recent report lists other ways to reduce our impact on the environment: (1) substituting lids, cloth coverings, and zip-shut silicon baggies for cling wrap or single-use bags, (2) buying in bulk, (3) patronizing dry cleaners that offer reusable clothing bags, (4) reusing, over and over, items like travel mugs, and not buying new ones, (5) identifying reusable products that we own or are handed down, and (6) engaging in mindful shopping—thinking about what we're buying, and *making plastic avoidance a part of our mindset.*

Loving the earth. On the subject of mindsets, here's a powerful statement from *Losing Earth*, the new book by Nathaniel Rich: "Everything is changing about the natural world and everything must change about the way we conduct our lives.... [t]here is one thing that each of us can do ourselves.... We can call the threats to our future what they are.... We can call... ourselves complicit.... And we can understand that when we speak about things like fuel-efficiency standards or gasoline taxes or methane flaring, we are speaking about nothing less than *all we love and all we are.*"

Message from the Climate Change Task Force — The Challenge, One Response

Our climate is changing, the changes are measureable, the reasons are understood. Fossil fuels are being converted to a gas that retains heat. The chemistry is basic...our home (the planet) is warming and that is a (big) problem. So, what do we do?

First and foremost, we can work toward reducing our consumption of fossil fuels: gasoline, diesel, coal, natural gas, kerosene (plane fuel) and heating fuels whenever possible. Secondly, we can purchase carbon offsets as recently discussed at the April 7th Adult Forum. Each of us can purchase certified carbon offsets to counterbalance unavoidable fossil fuel usage. These purchased offsets can be used for reforestation, methane recovery systems at landfills, the building of solar systems in isolated villages and many more options. A variety of choices are available; pick your preference. All such actions are offsets.

For example, if you plan to fly to a vacation destination this year, here are several ways to fold in mitigating options. Reduce your baggage weight; every pound counts. Fly non-stop when possible because takeoffs and landings, depending on the distance, can consume half the total fuel of the trip. Purchase offsets. In our congregation, Mariette and Dave Brown recently bought offsets for their flights last year. The cost was \$40.00 to offset trips to London and California. After reviewing several approaches, they purchased the offsets from the Gold Standard (Goldstandard.org). For your convenience, we posted this resource and others on the bulletin board near the fellowship hall.

When you return, perhaps begin to explore additional options for other environmentally friendly travel choices, e.g., increased car pooling. Even consider transitioning to an electric car; greatly expanded model and price choices will soon be available. Soon, we will witness, and be part of, an expanding global movement to address this climate change challenge.



SENIOR CHOIR



May schedule for the Senior Choir:

Wednesday, May 1	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 5	Singing at 9:00 am service with a rehearsal at 8:15 am
Wednesday, May 8	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 12	Singing at 11:00 am with a rehearsal at 10:15 am
Wednesday, May 15	Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 19	Singing at 9:00 am with a rehearsal at 8:15 am
Wednesday, May 22	NO REHEARSAL

Many thanks, Simon

White Elephant Sale 2019

Volunteers Needed

This year's sale dates are **Friday 7/12 and Saturday 7/13** - from 9:00 to 2:00 and 8:00 to 12:00 respectively. A detail calendar is included in the newsletter with intake dates.

With such a large organization, there is a turnover each year with folks 'retiring' after years of work, moving, etc. For the White Elephant Sale to continue, we need help in all departments, and developing new department heads is essential. Below is a list of areas in need.

Children's clothing	co-chair
Lamps	co-chair
Large Furniture	co-chair
Men's clothing	co-chair
Package Check [sale days]	co-chair
Publicity	co-chair
Women's Accessories	lead person (part of Women's Clothing)
Worker refreshment [sale days]	co-chair

Last year more than 200 folks helped in some way or another sorting, organizing, outside setup, selling or cleanup after the sale. Even a few hours of your time will be greatly appreciated. You'll have a great time, meet new friends and have a rewarding experience.

For those of you that would just like to help out -- please call one of the department heads listed in the Organization chart and volunteer to work in an area that interests you or just show up during intake days and give us a few hours in any area you like. Thank you in advance.

White Elephant Sale 2019 Organizational Chart

WES Chairman Bob Davis 434-7813/884-7568 (c) 239-774-7093 FI

STAFF & Support Departments

Barn/Clean-up	Mike Gentry	434-1587/ 608-3223(c)
Facilities	Roxie Gallagher	227-4649[c]
LBS president	Jane Marolda	859-2497/608-0257[c]
LBS Treasurer	Marianne Baez	443-2422

Package Checking

Parking & Road Signs	Sean McCarty	860-215-1740
HH coordinator	Henry May	767-7467
Posters/Banner	Connie Hurtt	434-8445
Publicity/	Olwen Logan	460-4176
WES Sale Treasurer	Don Gonci	434-0198
Worker's Lunches	Cathy Mathis	399-7714
	Nathalie Fogg	451-8460

Worker Refreshments - Sale Days

Sat Set-up inside and Corner Signs	Nick Westbrook	514-9069
Sat Set-up inside	Dave Roberts	203-624-1618

IN TAKE

Area Coordinator

Intake Staffing	Bob Davis	434-7813
Boxing Christmas intake	Judy Downs	434-2484
	Jane Marolda	859-2497/608-0257[c]
Drive way Intake & Barns	Scott Mahon	949-5422
	Charlie Tatelbaum	965-7777
	Jerome Doherty	802-299-6836
	Mo Antcil ???	598-9094
Recycling unsold items	Deb Heminway	434-9417
Sexton	Mark Testori	203-213-5892

SALES – Sheffield Auditorium, Narthax and Library

Area Coordinator

Art Work & Frames	Roxie Gallagher	227-4649
Jewelry	Mary Ann Besier	434-1803
	Alexandria Eadie-Friedmann	713-205-3939
	Hildegard Rennhard	434-7484
Women's Clothes & Accessories	Joanie May	767-7467
	Vicki Bush	434-3534
	Roxie Gallagher	227-4649[c]

SALES – Fellowship Hall -- 1st floor

Area Coordinator

Linens	Nathalie Fogg	451-8460
	Frani Ross	434-3647
	Angie Falstrom	434-3194
	Sue Lardner	767-8200
Luxury	Jane Piro	767-1722
	Diane Thompson	434-6766
Kitchenware	Judy Winkler	767-8691
	Eunice Mahler	203-824-2820
Knick Knacks	Cheryl Sorensen	434-2025
	Susan Beeman	860-367-4044

White Elephant Sale 2019

SALES – Fellowship Hall -- Basement

Area Coordinator

Appliances

Anita Allen

227-6850(c)

Matt Winkler

767-8691

Will Froggatt

227-5043

Books

Arthur & Esther Pope

510-0896

Children's Books

Liz & Bob Edmonstone

434-1760

Children's Clothing

Sarah Christensen & Family

443-3554

Electronics

Ted Crosby

434-8054/575-5539[c]

Lamps

Don Male

526-9451

Men's Clothing

Charlie & Lynn Hosley

434-8538

Pots and Pans [kitchen]

Anita Allen

227-6850(c)

Mark Terwilliger

SALES – Outside Area 1

Area Coordinator

Baked Goods

Roxie Gallagher

227-4649[c]

Chris Seelig

598-9409

Faye Richardson

434-3349

Donuts & Coffee

Mary Tomassetti

391-5384

Flowers & Baskets

Carson Shook

885-4984

Food / Soda

Larry & Sylvia Peterson

434-5598/304-9533[c]

Food Court setup/take down

Nina Bazinet

287-2450

Carolyn Cook

434-9428

SALES – Outside Area 2

Area Coordinator

Large Furniture

Bob Davis

434-7813

Allison Hine

304-1909

Small Furniture

Bruce Noyes

434-5613

Kotzan Family

434-7496

Sporting Goods

Bob & Ellen Davis

434-7813

Dave Roberts

388-2588

Toys

Sharon Howell

339-5947(c)

Rick Strickhart

860-304-4132


Haley Stevens

860-434-1863 [287-4456 c]

2019**83rd White Elephant Sale****June**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21 <u>Pre SET-UP</u> <u>INSIDE</u> [hang signs move tables, etc.]	22 <u>SET-UP</u> <u>INSIDE</u> [9:00 am – 12:00]
23	24	25	26	27 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	28 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00 <u>Workers</u> <u>Lunch</u>	29 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00

July

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
30	1 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00	2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED	4 HOLIDAY 	5 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00 <u>Workers</u> <u>Lunch</u>	6 INTAKE 9:00 - 2:00
7	8 CLOSED Sort & Price Finalize inside setup for sale	9 During Day Big Tents & Sport Goods 6-8 pm <u>Outside</u> <u>tables</u> , plant Baked Good Coffee Tents Go up	10 CLOSED Sort & Price Finalize any rem'g outside Set-up	11 SET-UP OUTSIDE 8:00 AM --> <u>Workers</u> <u>Lunch</u>	12 SALE 9:00 – 2:00	13 SALE 8:00 – 12:00 <u>CLEANUP</u> <u>& Snacks</u> 12:00 -->

God's Neighborhood' Sunday School

Welcome to God's Neighborhood

The school year is coming to a close for God's Neighborhood! This year we learned about Isaiah 11:6, Noah's Ark, Hebrews 13:2, Psalms, celebrating Christmas around the world and the Christian attributes we can learn from each, having epiphanies and making resolutions, caring for creation, and stories from Luke about meals shared. We also learned about how to use the gifts each of us have to share our faith, love, and kindness around the world!

On **May 5 and 12** we will be remembering the stories we learned this year and working on our projects and singing our songs.

On **May 19 at the 9 am service** we will celebrate Children's Day by hearing from the children and youth about which stories touched them in meaningful ways.

May 26 - Intergenerational Service at 10 a.m.

June 2- Blessing of the Bicycles



Justice Stories: Voices from the Road News

Justice Stories: Voices from the Road

Dr. Martin Luther King made famous the quote, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” This month we're featuring stories from the road written by travelers (you!) who have returned from journeys near and far. Stories shape who we are and who we hope to become. They can open our eyes and crack upon our hearts. Whether you've walked across the bridge at Selma, witnessed proceedings in a Boston courtroom or shared a cup of coffee with a neighbor at our Saturday morning soup kitchen, stories can help us build common ground-- and even change the world.



The trip to the south was truly eye opening for me, being so young I hadn't known much about our country's history. But, in those few days I took in so much information and emotion it was almost unbearable. It was extremely difficult to see firsthand everything that happened, and even worse to know that hatred continues. People my age only hear that blacks were treated unfairly, but they do not learn details about how badly they were treated. It was sickening for me to see what my brothers and sisters of the past have done to each other. I thank the church for giving me this opportunity and I will work to share my new knowledge with others so that we can continue the march towards justice and truth. *Elliot Bjornburg, 12*

On the trip I learned so much about our countries history of civil rights. The part that was the most moving for me, was seeing the Lynching Memorial in Montgomery. This was particularly moving because I was able to see truly how many people were killed for doing nothing wrong. My favorite part of the trip was going back to the house after our trips each day. I liked this part because we got to play pool at the amazing house we stayed at. It was fun to see many prospectives in our nightly meetings every day. It was a good time to reflect on our eye opening trip. *-Leland Hine, 13*

Immigration Committee Update

I was at Immigration court this past Tuesday in Boston with Glenn Formica. Glenn is the attorney working on Malik and Zahida's case as well as the Glenda Caballero Cardenas case (wife of Miguel Torres). The Boston court is responsible for seeing all detained immigrant cases in our region, Glenn was representing a gentleman from Norwalk who has been in detention for many months.

My first impression walking into the court room was visceral despair. Four humans, three men and one woman, were seated on the bench. All were in prison clothes, some in orange jumpsuits, others in gray two piece attire. All were shackled with chains, both feet and hands. A prison guard was sitting close by, ensuring they wouldn't get away. My heart was broken and my reasoning confused, how can our government incarcerate human beings for trying to seek asylum?

In efficient bureaucratic fashion, the proceedings began. A young man requesting cancellation of removal was fortunate to have a legal team. Two student lawyers with a supervising immigration attorney clearly had worked many months to find a way to help this man. Their diligence was rewarded and a successful outcome was achieved. I clearly understood what we have been told; proper legal representation is the key!

The second man, originally from El Salvador, did not have representation. Obviously, this was not the first time he had appeared in this court house. With the help of an interpreter, the judge asked if he had found a lawyer; "No" was the answer. The gentleman had been given an asylum application at his last visit, which he had completed on his own, while imprisoned. The judge instructed him again to try and find legal representation. The judge also noted a litany of items and documents that would be helpful for the gentleman to obtain. A daunting task for a young man who doesn't have any support and who doesn't speak English. What this man needed to gather and research in support of his asylum application is exactly what we help with! We do country conditions research, we help get letters of support, we help to gather supporting documents. How much better this man would fare if he only had a support team!

The third person, a young woman likely from Brazil, was next. As the judge asked her to come forward, she hobbled as best she could with shackles at her feet. Her attorney followed. She sat down, and an interpreter was called via a phone interpretation service. The woman was then sworn in. She was asked to raise her right hand, to the best of her ability, like all of the rest before her, difficult when your wrists are shackled closely together and in chains. As the proceedings commenced, the judge realized that this was a very sensitive and, I assume, very horrific asylum case. We were asked to leave the court room to allow a session which was closed to the public.

At last, Glenn's case was next. The gentleman, from Norwalk, has been in the United States for over a decade. He has been in detention for many months and was previously denied bail. Glenn was hoping the judge would reconsider granting bail due to material changes in the case. Since detainment, this gentleman's family has completely crumbled. Their financial well being has been devastated, they have lost their apartment and now live in a homeless shelter, their daughter has increased medical issues. Detention has also caused significant medical issues to this gentleman, which were not being adequately addressed in prison. For these reasons and many others addressed by Glenn, the judge overruled the last judge's ruling and granted bail! I can't tell you how incredible it was to hear those words. There were no dry eyes among the family and other Connecticut advocates who were there to support the family.

If I didn't already believe a community of many could make a difference before this day, I would be sold after this experience. We are thankful for attorneys like Glenn who take pro bono cases. We are thankful for community organizers and leaders working on the front lines and bringing these cases to our attention. We are thankful for immigrant bail funds who can post bail for those who are able to be freed from immigration prison. We are thankful for community volunteers who support and assist in this immigration work. Together we can make a difference. Lina Tuck

CHURCH BUSINESS NEWS

Uses of Life Insurance for Planned Giving

Planned Giving is about giving the Church assets that it can use at some later point. Many of the articles I have written previously have described how you can make a gift to the Church and yet receive an income for your lifetime first before the Church receives the donation.

Life Insurance could work similarly, but the most common use is to give the Church the gift of the premium for a policy on your life. Note the table below for a gift of a \$100,000 policy to the Church:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Annual Premium</u>
40	\$803
50	\$1032
60	\$1685
70	\$2822
80	\$5607

You get to deduct 100% of the gift of premium to the Church and the Church will receive the \$100,000. What a meaningful gift for a small amount of money! Of course, various methods of paying the policy over shorter time frames and your health affect the actual premium that is charged, but in most circumstances this is a great way to give to the Church in a meaningful way.

Perhaps you have a policy that already exists. That policy could be gifted to the Church and you can receive an income for life based upon the cash value of the policy. If the policy is a term insurance policy, it might be able to be sold. The sale price could be given to the Church and you could receive a deduction for a percentage of the gift.

So there are many ways to make a Planned Gift with life insurance. Please feel free to contact Tom Grant at 860-598-9419 or tcgrant9215@gmail.com should you have questions about this topic.

WHEN MAKING A GIFT OF STOCK

Please notify the church of your gift, including the designated use, at the time you request your broker to make the transfer. It is most often the case that the donor's name does not come through to us through the brokerage transfer system, so we don't know whom to credit for the contribution! We can provide you with an instruction sheet with the account information for your broker. In addition, at the turn of the calendar year, we also need to know for which year you intend the gift.

If you have any questions or need further information please feel free to call Teri Gedrys or me at the church office 860-434-8686. We appreciate your help.

In that regard, please call if you donated 12 shares of Union Pacific Corporation!

Bob McCracken, Treasurer

WHEN SENDING A CHECK

Please be sure to note on the check where the offering is to be credited (e.g. pledge, food pantry, donation, Habitat, etc.). We want to make sure your contribution goes to the right place! Thanks again.

Tree of Life News

A few days into this year's Journey, we arrived in Jerusalem. As we were walking into the Old City, an older Muslim woman, noticing the large number of hijabs in our group, asked in Arabic where we were from. One of our scholarship students, Elaf, answered her "Amreeka!" She squealed in delight, threw up her hands and gave Elaf hugs and kisses.

I watched this same scenario play out several times in different locations with both Elaf and our TOL board president Ghoufran, both of whom were able to engage in conversations in Arabic with women interested in learning about who we were and where we were from.

Watching the reactions of joy and appreciation from ordinary Palestinian women grateful for our diverse group, and for our mission to bear witness to the injustices occurring in their lives, was heartwarming. It became clearer to me just how unusual and unique our Tree of Life journeys are, and I recognized that a large group of tourists that included many Muslim women is a rare occurrence today in the Holy Land, which makes our continued mission of interfaith witness journeys even more precious and important.

Sadly, we also heard from several of our Palestinian friends that there is a growing despair among Palestinians in the occupied territories. Where before there was still a spark of hope that eventually the peace process would result in an independent Palestinian state, today there is a growing recognition that the two state solution is dead, and that the apartheid system of control over their lives is growing stronger, and becoming more violent, every day.

My hope continues to lie in the growing awareness among Americans that Palestinians are suffering grave injustices, and in the growing recognition that opposition to Zionism does not equal anti-Semitism. We are beginning to see the conversation on Israel/Palestine shift in the U.S., and it is our duty at Tree of Life to do all we can to add to that shift through our ongoing efforts to educate others.

Thank you to our FCCOL congregation for your continuing support of our mission.

In Solidarity,



Ann F. Perry
Executive Director
Tree of Life Educational Fund

Photos:

Ahed Tamimi at her home in Nabi Saleh West Bank March Journey 2019

Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway March Journey 2019

Tree of Life News



Adult Enrichment Programs

BOOK GROUP

Robin Diangelo's new book, *White Fragility*. Join us in the Hoag Parlor on *Tuesday, April 30th* at 10:30 and May 21st at 11:00 am for our final discussion. *White Fragility* is a non-fiction book which addresses the role and dimensions of white privilege and racism in our society. Join us as we learn together how to develop racial awareness and challenge our own assumptions.

BIBLE STUDY

In May we will continue our study of the book of Psalms. The Psalms are a collection of prayers and songs composed through Israel's history from the time of David to the post-exilic period (roughly 1000 to 500 BCE). We will study the different Psalm types and their historical significance and meaning. We will also spend time exploring how they are helpful in our lives today. Led by Becky Crosby. Bring your Bible, but if you don't have one, we have one for you! All are welcome! **Classes are scheduled in the Library at 10:45 am for May 9, 16, 23. Bible Study will resume in September.**

WRITING FROM THE SPIRIT

The writing group meets on alternate Wednesdays *at 4:00 pm, May 8 and 22* in the Hoag Room. Led by Vicky Murphy. All are welcome!

POETRY READING

The Poetry-reading group meets on Alternate Wednesdays *at 4:00 pm, May 1, 15 and 29* in the Hoag Room. Let by Alan Bradford. All are welcome!

MAY ADULT FORUMS

- 5 Erin Duran (Connecticut College Coordinator of Transgender and LGBTQ Issues)**
- 12 Judith Osborne (Art Appreciation)**

CARE-GIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

"I found it shelter to speak to you." Emily Dickinson

Our Caregivers Group will meet on *Friday morning, May 31, from 10:00 -11:00 am* in the Hoag Parlor. Facilitator: Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager

Employment

Seeking Employment:

Rab Nawaz/KAPPRI PAINTING, LLC Free estimates. Power painting, power washing interior and exterior, gutter cleaning, wallpaper install and removal. 30+ years experience. Satisfaction guaranteed. The church has experience with this company. Kappripainting@gmail.com, 860-857-0326.

Home Health Aid, House Keeping Hope Helwig at 860-514-9623.

Ironing: Yaldiz Hamou, who with the rest of her delightful family continue to settle into life as Old Lyme residents (a welcome change from their previous challenges in Syria), is happy to welcome your ironing needs into her non-smoking home. Please feel free to contact her directly for further details at 860-389-2788.

American Craftsmen need America's help. Let me restore your family heirloom as a furniture maker of 33 years. My work includes restoration of antiques, work on cherished family pieces, and general furniture repair. As well, my passion is designing and building fine furniture: large and small pieces include dining and side tables, beds, benches, and chairs; religious pieces, pet coffins, etc. Please contact Dick Humphreville at 860-442-5003 or www.humphrevillefurniture.com.

Home Designer Design & drawing from concept to construction documents for new homes, additions, and renovations. Servicing home owners, builders, and architects. Other services include drawings to help sell a house, develop & present an idea. Computer aided using DATA CAD 12 - 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional. David S Nelson-Building Design Service 860 434-5526 DSNdesign@comcast.net.

The "Pet Nanny" Carol Giuliano, an Old Lyme resident, will provide loving care for your pets when you are not there. Over forty years experience with all types of animals. Call (203) 738-9932.

Weaving Classes Always wanted to learn to weave? Start by weaving a rag rug on Stephanie Morton's ENORMOUS loom in her Lyme studio. Call her at 860-434-1188 or 917-3429.

Sue Mandeville Transportation and/or accompaniment to professional or medical appointments, outpatient surgeries and home stay following anesthesia. Airport, train or bus transport. Livery license, insured, references and medical training. Call Sue Mandeville 860-908-2310.

Lorelei Mitchell Mediator, Lorelei Mitchell, is available to assist with family dilemmas, landlord-tenant disputes or workplace conflict. Mediation is a better alternative to litigation and can often transform relationships, while giving you a say in the outcome. Call Lorelei Mitchell at (860) 536-0260 or email lmitchell18@comcast.net to schedule a consultation.

Guli Gvelesiani I lived in Old Lyme and worked for 7 years as a live-in caregiver for a church family. I am seeking a new full time, live-in position with a caring family. I can provide references. Please call Guli at 860-391-5691.

We periodically receive requests to post notice of people who can be hired to help transport, help in light housekeeping or help by offering companionship to those who are housebound. We are not able to make recommendations; but their names and number are listed below.

Marilyn Taylor 860-373-1789

Marion Campo 860-865-5447

Driver 203-871-7840

Martha Durfee 860-575-6518

Sissy Stinson 860-308-4756

MAY 2019

Apr 28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
9:00am Sunday Service & Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 12:15pm BVE (H) 2:00pm Yoga Event (Lina)	10:00am LWS (S) 7:00pm AA (L)	10:00am SRJ at PPH 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 2:00pm Book Group (H) 2:30pm Music School (S) 2:30pm AA (L) 7:00pm Adult Ed Mtg (L)	9:30am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Poetry Group (H) 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal (S)	10:45am Bible Study (L) 5:30pm SECVAC Group (F): chairs, podium, mike & screen 7:00pm Endowment Mtg (L)	YOLD Newsletter	5:00pm MM Concert
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00am Sunday Service & Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 3:00pm MM Concert 5:30pm Taco Dinner (F&G)	10:00am LWS (S) 6:30pm UCC Meeting: (MH)(S) 7:00pm AA (L)	1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 2:30pm Music School (S) 2:30pm AA (L)	8:00am ARC Blood Drive (F): Set up 7:15 AM 1:00pm MM Bird Meeting (L) projector 4:00pm Writing Group (H) 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal (S)	9:30am Staff Meeting: (SRJ) 10:45am Bible Study (L) 4:00pm RTP Audubon Society (F) 7:00pm Bird Missions (L)		11:00am Graveside Svc CRG 1:00pm Memorial Service-Vivian McDonald: ??
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Donald Harrison Jr. Jazz MOTHER'S DAY 9:00am Sunday Service & Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service	8:00am Set Up LBS Luncheon 10:00am LWS (S) 7:00pm AA (L) 7:00pm UCC Mtg (S)	12:00pm LBS Luncheon 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 2:30pm Music School (S) 2:30pm AA (L)	9:30am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Poetry Group (H) 6:00pm Cub Scouts (F) 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal (S)	10:45am Bible Study (L) 7:00pm New Members Orientation (S)	4:00pm MM (L)	8:00pm PP/SK
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Children's Day New Members Sunday 9:00am Sunday Service & Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 12:00pm New Member Luncheon (S) 5:00pm Haitian Dinner (F&G)	10:00am LWS (S) 7:00pm AA (L)	1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 2:30pm Music School (S) 2:30pm AA (L) 7:30pm BCS (L) 7:30pm BOT (S)	9:30am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Writing Group (H)	10:45am Bible Study (L)	8:00am JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	8:00pm PP/SK
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
10:00am Summer Service	10:00am LWS (S) 7:00pm AA (L)	10:00am LBS Bird (L) 1:00pm AA Day Mtg (S) 2:30pm Music School (S) 2:30pm AA (L) 7:00pm Deacons (L)	9:30am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Poetry Group (L) 4:00pm RTP Audubon Society (F)	10:45am Bible Study (L) 4:00pm RTP Audubon Society (F) 7:30pm Church Council (L)	10:00am Care Group (H) 5:00pm Workman/Wade Rehearsal	8:00am PP/SK 12:30pm Margaret Hayburton Memorial (M) 3:30pm Workman/Wade Wedding

The First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Steven R. Jungkeit, Senior Minister (860-434-8686)
The Rev. Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager, Senior Associate Minister (860-304-9096)
The Rev. Carleen R. Gerber, Associate Minister (860-434-0058)
Simon D. Holt, Director of Music (860-705-3037)
The Rev. David W. Good, Minister Emeritus
The Rev. Rebecca T. Crosby, Minister for Haitian Outreach
The Rev. Cynthia C. Willauer, In Ministry for The Care of Creation
Rebecca A. Francisco, a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary,
serves as minister to the South Lyme Union Chapel.

Lisa Doggart, Church School Leader
Mary Tomassetti, Assistant to Youth and Family Ministries (860-391-5384)
Lisa Doggart, Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowship Leader
Lisa Feltes, Director of Children's Music (860-691-2226)
Robert McCracken, Church Administrator
Joan Kelley, Church Office Manager
Teri Gedrys, Bookkeeper
Mark Testori, Sexton

Church Office Tel: 860-434-8686
Fax: 860-434-1135
e-mail: fccol@fccol.org
Website: www.fccol.org

Sunday Worship - 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Summer Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. (June 2 to September 1)
South Lyme Union Chapel Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Pastoral Counseling Center Tel: 860-767-0221
Candace E. Wilson-Stanberry, MSN
Counseling and Psychotherapy Tel: 860-434-3813
Cary Walker, LCSW

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

The reproduction of our Meetinghouse on the cover is from a sketch by William Steeves.

*The First Congregational Church
2 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371*

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*The next FCCOL Newsletter will be in June; the deadline will be May 17.
If possible, please send articles by e-mail as a Word document, fccol@fccol.org.
Note: Our next Newsletter will be in September, deadline is August 16th.*

THE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS HELP FROM ALL OF US

Whenever you come to church....worship, church events, meetings, or just to visit....

PLEASE bring some non-perishable food items each time to restock the food pantry.

Please let us know if you have some time to volunteer at the food pantry and/or with food drives.

Please e-mail the church office at [<fccol@fccol.org>](mailto:fccol@fccol.org) if you want to be removed from the newsletter mailing list and read it on the website. Each household that can read the newsletter on (and print from) the website rather than receive it by mail will save the church \$5.17 each and every year. We will ask for your e-mail address so we can alert you when the new issue is available on our website. Thanks for your help!