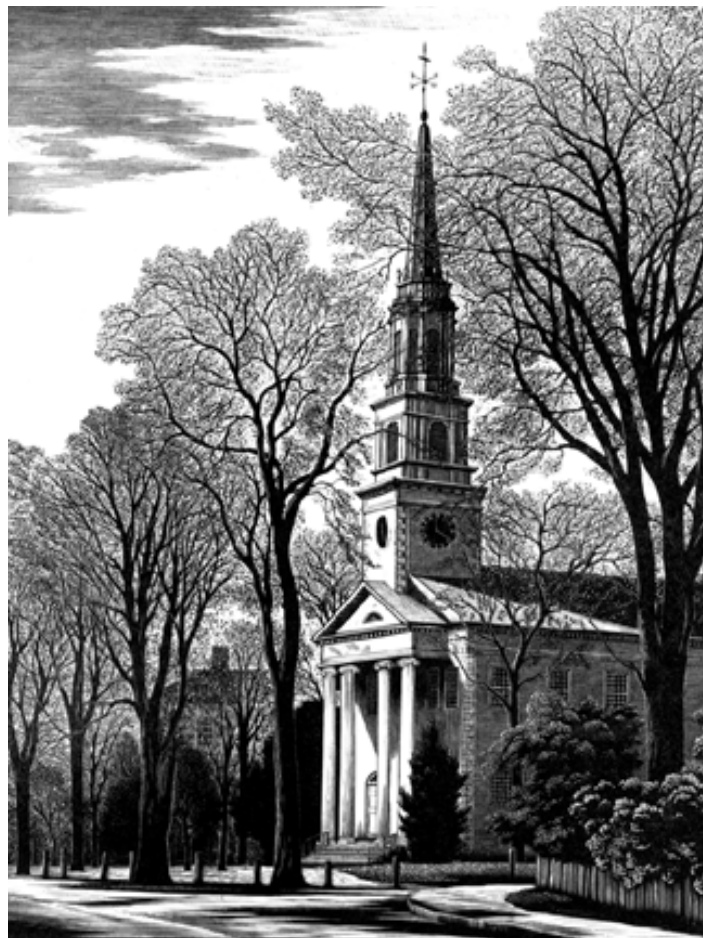


**ADULT ENRICHMENT  
PROGRAMS  
FALL 2009**



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF OLD LYME**

# **Mind and Spirit**

***Adult Programs FCCOL  
2009-2010***

## **Fall Schedule**

*Times may be shifted depending upon interest. Additional programs may be added in future newsletters and in the Sunday bulletins as well as online. Spring Schedule to follow around Christmas.*

***Save these dates:***

## **Fall Retreat**

***October 2nd Vespers (evening) and October 3rd (day)*** *A workshop on the ancient sacred practice of walking the labyrinth, with Rev. Dr. Duncan Newcomer and Barrie Carter Gibby. Details to follow!*

## **Tree of Life Conference at FCCOL**

*November 7 & 8, 2009*

## **Tree of Life Journey to**

**Israel & Palestine**

*March 4, 2010*

## **Bible Study**

**Book of Acts and the Early Christian Church  
Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 am,  
beginning October 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Led by Becky.**

This fall we will study the early Christian church through The Acts of the Apostles and other early Christian writings such as the 'Didache' (the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles) and portions of the First letter of Clement and the First Apology of Justin, the Martyr. Each of these writings will support our study of the Book of Acts and give us a better understanding of the struggles of the early church as she attempts to define herself and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

All are welcome. Please bring a Bible, and if you don't have one, we will supply you with one! We will have copies of the additional readings.

**The Parable of the Prodigal Son,  
Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 pm, October 22, 29, November 5  
Led by Eileen.**

We will read the parable several times, explore "parable" and commentaries on this one, and consider its application in our own lives.

**Essex Meadows Bible Study  
Three Parables  
Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00 pm, September 22, 29, October 6  
Led by Eileen at Essex Meadows.**

## **FCCOL Monthly Book Group**

Emily Dickinson said, “There is no frigate like a book.” Reading these books together this year will, we hope, help all of us travel into ever-widening seas, expanding our knowledge, deepening our sympathy, galvanizing our will—and increasing our fellowship and love for one another in ways that small groups can.

This is a book group you can enter and leave as you wish—but we hope you will want to stay! *Please order the books well in advance. We will also have a copy available in our library for anyone who wishes to borrow the book.*

***Middlemarch, George Eliot***  
**Tuesday, September 22, 4:30-5:45 pm**  
**Led by Eileen.**

One of the greatest novels of all time, this novel portrays the complex web of relationships in a fictitious midlands town in England on the eve of the First Reform Bill in the 1830s. It’s a novel about love and marriage, about doctoring, about politics, about religion. It’s a whopper of a novel, but if you give it a good try, I guarantee it will be with you always as a warm and loving friend inside.

***Year of Wonders*, Geraldine Brooks,  
Tuesday, October 20, 7:00-8:15 pm  
Led by Carleen.**

This novel, based on a true story, tells of a village in England that closed itself off from the rest of the world during the 17th century bubonic plague. There are some interesting historical reflections on the role of the village minister as the story unfolds. The character development is very well done. The story, as one can imagine, is quite sad.

***Home*, Marilynne Robinson,  
Tuesday, November 17, 7:00-8:15 pm  
Led by Eileen.**

This is Marilynne Robinson's third novel, a follow-up, though not a sequel, to her Pulitzer Prize winning *Gilead*. Both novels portray life in a mid-western town in the 1950s among two friends and their families. Both friends, now aged, are retired Presbyterian ministers and both seek to live out the gospel in daily life. In *Home* this living out is challenged when the prodigal son, Jack, returns. The novel is rich in the details of simple home life of another era; yet the stresses and strains of a prodigal's return on the family, a man who has been an alcoholic and a renegade, are all the more visible, for this is timeless.

**Reading Aloud Group**  
**Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm**

A group of us who love and have studied literature have been getting together weekly for the past six months or so (with a summer break). This fall we will share the reading of two great long poems, Tennyson's In Memoriam and then the first books of Wordsworth's The Prelude. We spend a little over an hour reading aloud in turn, then reflect on what we've read. The group welcomes all who want to know these poems and hear and participate in lively and knowledgeable, yet accessible, discussion about them. Come! As one person said last year, "When I first started to read this poem, I had no idea what was going on, but after being here I came away feeling I understood it a whole lot more!"

**Writing From the Spirit**

This group welcomes all poets and other writers who want to workshop their work in a friendly, supportive group. Since some of us attend the "Reading Aloud Group," we will use portions of that reading to stimulate our own writing—though it's not necessary for you to attend the Reading Aloud Group to come. Wednesdays, 3:00-4:15, Sept. 16, 23, 30. We may add additional meetings later in the fall.

## **Monthly Film Series**

This year we'll dedicate some LAST Fridays of the month to a film in Sheffield, beginning at 7:00 pm.

**September 25:** "The Lemon Tree" (2008). A Palestinian widow (Hiam Abbass) fights to keep her lemon grove from being uprooted when Israeli security forces declare it a threat to the Israeli defense minister living next door (Doron Tavori) in this foreign-language drama based on a true story. Teaming with a young lawyer (Ali Suliman), the widow takes her case to the Israeli Supreme Court; but in the process of seeking justice, she's forced to hide the forbidden bond growing between them.

**October 30:** to be announced (and possibly one the last Friday in November).

## **Who am I? What is the purpose of my life?**

**Led by Ruth Robins.**

Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 am (Hoag room), ongoing class beginning Sept. 10th. Newcomers welcome!

This group meets for meditation and open dialogue to help us consciously choose a more spiritually-centered life. It is based on the work of Dr. Thomas Hora and focuses on finding peace, assurance, gratitude, and love (PAGL) in our everyday lives.

Call Ruth to sign up (860-434-2999) or email <Robinspagl@aol.com> with questions.



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