

VOL. MMXXII, ISSUE 1

Dear Old Greenwich family,

Happy 2022! It's now the New Year, and I continue to be blown away at seeing how God is working in our church.

God was so very present during our Advent and Christmas season; I felt it, and I think you did, too. On Wednesday nights, Lisa Gray and I led a study and prayer group ("Bread for the Journey,") grounding ourselves in Christ through conversation, prayer, silence, and singing. It was truly a holy experience.

God was present, too, at our Blue Christmas service (thanks to Lisa Gray and Tom DiGiovanni for their outstanding leadership there!), where we got to name, and sing, these hard truths: that though Christmas is, in many ways, such a joyful season, there is often much grief and pain during this season as well.

And finally, even in the midst of rising Covid numbers, our Christmas Eve services were full to the brim with God's peace, presence, and comfort. (I even felt it through the livestream waves on my TV!).

"Be still," I keep hearing God say to us, "Know that I am God." As a church, we very much lived into those words during our Advent and Christmas season.

...And we continue to live into these words. Even, and maybe especially, in these uncertain times, God keeps speaking these words to us, "Be still. Know that I am God." There is an invitation here – an invitation to let go, even just a little, of what we *think* we need or *should* do. "Be still," God says, "Know that I am God."

With the Holy Spirit grounding and guiding us, I invite you to keep watching for what God has in store for Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church.

Mostly, I invite us all to be still, and to know that God is God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary Beth

***SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:***

- ◆ *Annual Congr. Mtg. -
1/30*
- ◆ *Closing the Books*

Welcome to worship at Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church!

We are so glad you are worshipping with us – whether in-person or online!
(We will continue to offer online services even as we gather in person).

As our children under 12 and some adults are not able to be vaccinated at this time, we are committed to keeping our whole community safe and thriving. As such, if you are worshipping with us in person, the following are required:

PROTOCOLS FOR INSIDE/SANCTUARY WORSHIP:

Masks must be worn at all times inside the building;

Please enter through the Green Room, which is also handicapped accessible, at the beginning of worship. You may exit through any of our doors after worship;

Social distance is to be maintained between non-family members;

Please sign in (one of our ushers will help with that);

An usher will hand you a printed bulletin if you choose to use one. Please deposit the bulletin in a waste can as you leave;

There will be no singing or spoken liturgical responses (such as the Lord's Prayer);

We will not pass offering plates. Please drop off your offering as you exit the sanctuary

During Communion Sundays (first Sundays of the month), you may either bring your own bread/juice, or obtain a pre-packaged wafer/cup from an usher;

If you use the restrooms, please follow the instructions (posted in all bathrooms) by either using ProKure and/or Clorox wipes (provided in all bathrooms);

When fellowship is offered, you may pick up food and/or drinks in Memorial Hall, but we encourage you to go outside for eating and fellowshiping;

As we want to keep the air moving and ventilated as much as possible (which will include some open doors and windows), keeping that in mind as you dress for worship;

If you are feeling ill in any way, please join us virtually.

Prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Session of Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church
Date: 6/30/2021

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be **no classes** on January 2 and January 9.

Pre-K through Grade 3 meet **immediately following Time With the Young Church**, except on Communion Sundays, which is the first Sunday of each month.

Grades 4 through 7 meet at **9 - 9:45 am, in Classroom 22**. These students will also be able to attend the worship service on Sundays as part of their Christian enrichment.

Questions? Contact Melissa Hixon, CE Committee, mhixon868@yahoo.com / 862-812-9636.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

- Teachers: Pastor Mary Beth and Mike Lemons
- Theme: Big God, Big Questions
- Class will meet every other Sunday at 9 - 9:45 am in the Technology Room
- 15 sessions in total
- Confirmands will be invited to join the church on June 5, 2022 (Pentecost Sunday)

Questions? Contact Pastor Mary Beth at 515-979-9681 or pastormarybeth@gmail.com



HELPING HAND FUND UPDATE

The Old Greenwich Helping Hand Fund has been very active these past few months, providing support for many local families through difficult situations. It is our continued hope to support members of our communities who need to feel the love of our compassionate Loving God when times become difficult and options are few.

Our thanks to those who continue to support this mission. We welcome any monies you feel you can contribute, knowing it is making a difference. Donations can be placed in the offering plate with the notation "Helping Hand Fund" or mailed to the church, Att: Deacons.

If YOU know of a struggling family, please reach out to Pastor Mary Beth or any Deacon in the church.

Happy New Year 2022 and may we continue to further the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sharon Jiorle
Chairperson

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PART II

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting - Part II of the Congregation and Religious Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich Township, in the County of Warren, will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022, immediately following the worship service.

The following will be presented:

- Reports of the Session Committees
- Budget for the year 2022
- Financial Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Audit Committee Report

Attest: Lisa A Gray, Clerk of Session

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Moderator

HOME COMMUNION

If you would like to receive home communion, or know of someone who would like to receive home communion, please contact Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY:

03	Anna Freer	19	Adeline Jones
05	Susan Beacht		Anita Campbell
06	Wil Mardis-LaCroy		Caleb Frey
	Michael Viscel	20	Lily Pritchard
	Karen Savacool	21	Joan Parker
07	Dorothy Davidson		Eli Mallory
08	Ralph Wolverton	22	Jay Rutan
09	William Hart	23	Linda McCusker
	Evan Cichone		Randy Bartholomew
11	A. Diana Mallory		Jaelene Slaven
	Alexa MacKinnon	24	Gail Dugan
12	Ernest Maso		Nora Garvey
	Jeffrey Long	26	Barbara Grimm
13	Tim Newbrough	28	Addison Fell
14	Bruce Frey	30	Sue Rutan
18	Virginia Guthardt		Hudson Bakros
	Cecelia Lemons		



*Children are in bold.

**CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES
IN JANUARY:**

01/08/1977	Lynn & Robert Szczeck
01/13/1990	Paul & Jeanne Stahlecker
01/22/2000	Katie & Justin Rienzo
01/23/1999	J. Brett & Jacqueline Morrow



Please hold in prayer: Gretchen, Jackie and Tom Alencewicz and family on the death of their husband and father, Stephen; Yael, friend of Marcia Taylor's daughter, who was in a car accident and is in critical condition; Rosemaur Leonardo, member of the Metz family, who has been diagnosed with aggressive leukemia; friends of Carol Lee Doeringer, Danny & Patricia Reardon; Lori Metz's friend, Sharon Dachisen, whose brother, Denny, died on Nov. 30; Ernie Maso's cousin, Tim Drasher, who is hospitalized with Covid; Eli Slack, who has been diagnosed with COVID; the Marino family, especially for Cooper, Charlotte and Tricia, who have been diagnosed with Covid; Eric Nagy, who had Achilles' tendon surgery on Dec. 21; Ralph & Sharon Jiorle's daughter, Kristin, and their families; Kathleen Scala's son-in-law, Chris, and grandchildren, Logan and McKenzie, diagnosed with Covid; Zachary Adams (traumatic brain injury); Joan Pursel's sister, Karen (cancer); Harry Pursel; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; those affected by the Corona virus and their families, around the world.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes have not arrived yet. An email will be sent out announcing their arrival and when they can be picked up at the church.

CLOSING THE BOOKS

The financial books for the year 2021 will be closed as of **Sunday, January 9, 2022.**

All offerings towards church pledges for 2021 must be received by this date.

Please be sure notation on check states that it is for 2021 offering and the envelopes are clearly marked as 2021 offering.



All offerings received after Sunday, January 9, 2022 will be credited to 2022.

Giving statements for the year 2021 will be mailed some time in February.

Questions? Please contact Kimberly Mrotek at 908-642-5354 or kmrotek@ptd.net.

SUNDAY FLORAL DEDICATIONS

The cost to purchase arrangements for the altar is **\$20 each.**

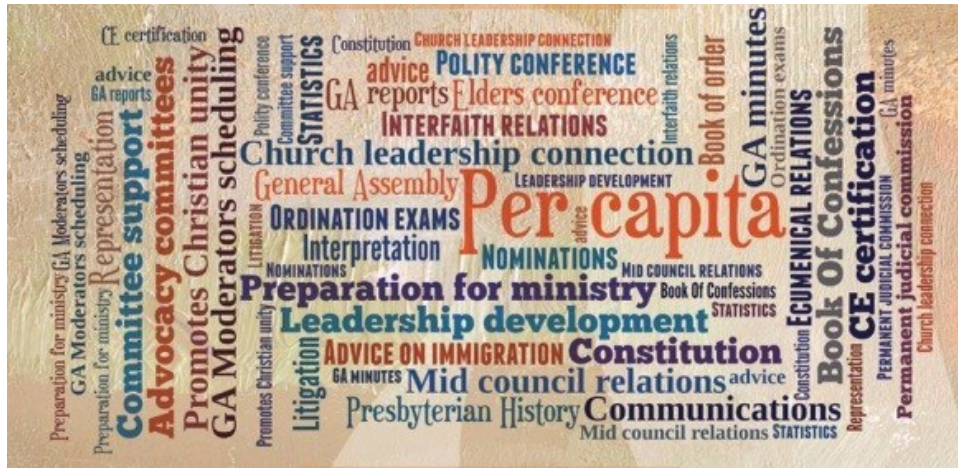
You may sign up for dedicated flower arrangements to honor or remember loved ones. Please contact Trish Millon via cell: 908-319-5061 or email: trishbrad00@aol.com to place an order and arrange dedication.

Orders should be placed two weeks or more prior to the service date which you would like the dedication to appear in the bulletin.



DRUM CIRCLE

There will be NO drumming during the months of January and February. The Drum Circle will **meet again on Wednesday, March 9, at 7 pm.**



PER CAPITA: The 2022 Per Capita amount is \$40.

WHAT IT IS: It's money we pay to PC-USA **PER** each member, which includes confirmed young people. Pay? Yes, we hope each person gives the \$40 in addition to their usual donations or pledge that supports our own congregation. This keeps us connected to the BIGGER PC-USA CHURCH. What have they done for us?

- *The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ is working closely with us in the search for a new pastor process. They also provide educational and spiritual guidance tools to the congregations.*
- *The Synod of the Northeast shepherds the Presbyteries, has biennial trainings and "Come to the Table" educational gatherings. They financially support "Innovation Grants" and College Campus and Ecumenical Ministries.*
- *Presbyterian Church USA just had it's Biennial Meeting of GA (General Assembly) in June of 2020. They administer, among a host of ministries, which include missions and social justice concerns. They run the "match system" that our PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) used to find our new pastor. They have given us counsel and support.*

Old Greenwich has been VERY faithfully paying this every year. **If it is not donated by members, it comes out of the church's general budget funds** which are tightly stretched during this Covid-19 time. So please consider donating, especially if you have been blessed to be able to work from home or are still employed as essential. In fact, consider donating an extra \$40 for someone who has not been fortunate enough to be able cover theirs.



Thank you to: **Jack & Judy Felch** for donating the Christmas tree which decorated our sanctuary; **Bill Lee** and **Ed Gardner** for setting up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary; **Carol Lee Doering** for help with sorting Christmas decorations; **Ernie Maso** for help with leaf clean-up; **Don Metz** for polishing the collection plates.

JANUARY 2022

						1
2 Communion Sunday Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	3 Office Closed Happy New Year AA Meeting 7:30 pm	4 Art Group 10 am Personnel 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	5 Christian Ed. 7:30 pm	6 Choir - Sanct. & Mem. Hall 6 pm	7 Office Closed Brownies 4:45 pm ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	8
9 Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	10 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	11 Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	12	13 Choir - Sanct. & Mem. Hall 6 pm Worship, Music & Spirituality 7:30 pm	14 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	15
15 Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	17 Office Closed ML King Day Session Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	18 Art Group 10 am Women's Bible Study - 11:30 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	19 Drumming Group 7 pm	20 Staff Meeting via Zoom 4:30 pm Choir - Sanct. & Mem. Hall 6 pm	21 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	22
23 Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	24 AA Meeting 7:30 pm February <i>Breezeway</i> articles due	25 Art Group 10 am Deacon Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	26	27 Choir - Sanct. & Mem. Hall 6 pm	28 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	29
30 Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live Annual Congr. Mtg. following worship AA Meeting - 3 pm	31					

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church
17 Greenwich Church Road
Stewartsville, NJ 08886-2515

Dated Material

Address Service Requested

The Breezeway



The Breezeway is published monthly by:

**Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church
17 Greenwich Church Road
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Contributions deadline is the 25th of each month

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THE WEB!
www.ogpc.org**