

*Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church*

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION:
*To celebrate the love of God
in all we say and do.*

PRELUDE

Betsy Gaston

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Jennifer Miller

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 4, adapted) and OPENING PRAYER

Deacon Ellen Viscel, Lay Reader

Answer us when we call, O God!

You give us room when we are in distress.

Be gracious to us and hear our prayer.

We know that you listen deeply.

When we are disturbed and scared, hold us in your care.

And judge us mercifully in the fullness of your grace.

For you we yearn all our days long.

And with you, we know we are destined to rest.

People of God, together, let us pray:

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us – all of us – into your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

267

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we now come to God in confidence. In faith and gratitude, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts. Sometimes fear makes us small. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness. Loving and Living Christ, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near and in and through us. Help us to see you in the friend, the stranger, even the enemy. We pray all these things in your name.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI

579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:****World without end! Amen! Amen!**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Christ is among us and is our peace, but we cannot keep this peace to ourselves. With joy, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another!

Please sign and pass the black pew pads, found on the inside of each pew.

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Jennifer Miller

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Breath. Enliven and enlighten your Word today. We are opening ourselves to you. We are listening. In Christ we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 11:28-30

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon

you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Thank You, Jesus"

- Deacon Mike Viscel

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 7:7-8

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"I Know What I Know"

Deacon Mike Viscel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (with the Lord's Prayer)

Elder Jennifer Miller

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Offertory

*Doxology

592

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

280

*THE SENDING

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace, now and forever, Amen and Amen!

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to join for fellowship (coffee, tea, juice) in Memorial Hall following the worship service.

Announcements

On **Sunday, November 13, 2022**, we celebrate the **23rd Sunday after Pentecost** at a 10 am worship service with **guest preacher, Deacon Mike Viscel**. The service will be streamed on our Facebook Live feed at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." (You need a Facebook account to access our Facebook Live feed.)

To view past worship services, please visit our YouTube page at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." You can also find our YouTube page services by visiting our website at www.ogpc.org, and scrolling down on the home page to "Watch a Service."

On June 15, 2022, Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church's Session (board of elders) updated our worship schedule and protocols to be:

- ♦ Masks are recommended indoors, but are optional for worship leaders, congregation, and small groups;
- ♦ Social distancing, as much as possible, is recommended in the sanctuary and other indoor spaces;
- ♦ Further, we strongly recommend:
 - ⇒ Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
 - ⇒ Get tested if you have symptoms

(Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness.) While we remain a mask-optional church campus, the CDC recommends wearing masks as a precautionary measure while indoors while rates in our region remain high. We will have hand sanitizer and masks available to those who feel more comfortable wearing one. Anyone not feeling well should avoid large gatherings and remain at home to care for their own well-being. The health and safety of our church community are the responsibility of all.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The Pastor or the Administrative Ass't, or both, will be in the church Monday through Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm. Offices are closed on Fridays.

USHER TEAM SCHEDULE: November 13 - Team 3; November 20 - Team 4

TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER is **Deacon Mike Viscel**. Mike joined OGPC in 2001 with his wife, Ellen and daughter, Maria. Mike is currently on the Board of Deacons and is a member of the Helping Hands Fund and Special Projects committee. Mike always loved to sing and at age 42 decided he wanted to learn to play the guitar. Mike performs at local restaurants all over Hunterdon and Ocean counties. He has sung in church choirs for 30 years and he especially loves being part of the OGPC Choir and all the musical events which take place here.

TODAY'S LAY READER is **Deacon Ellen Viscel**. Ellen and her husband, Mike, joined OGPC in 2001. Ellen sat on the Board of Deacons, was Deacon moderator, a member of the Budget & Finance Committee and has taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. OGPC welcomed Ellen, Mike their daughter Maria so long ago. Ellen feels it's a warm, welcoming place to come and worship and she's loving all the vibrant activity going on here now! A favorite memory associated with OGPC is traveling with the choir to Austria, and Rome, and Paris and Scotland. Ellen and Mike have four children, and five grandkids... the last granddaughter is a *wee 7 weeks old!* Her greatest times are those spent with all her kids and grandkids. Ellen also LOVES walking the beach with her feet in the surf! To her that's pure serenity!

FLOWER COORDINATOR NEEDED: The Deacons are looking for someone to act as Flower Coordinator. This is a volunteer position and anyone from the congregation is welcome to step up. It involves receiving floral dedications and payments and disseminating information to the church Administrative Assistant and the florist so that arrangements are ordered and info is printed in the bulletin. The coordinator also orders Easter flowers and Christmas poinsettias. If you are interested, please contact Walt Campbell, Deacon Moderator, at campbellw47@yahoo.com, or speak to any Deacon.

ADVENT WREATH-MAKING FOR ALL AGES! ALL are welcome to join us for an all-church Advent wreath-making event **next Sunday, November 20** (right after the worship service)! All ages are welcome to join in the fun. If you are going to attend, please let Barb Frinzi know. You may email Barb at frinzi3@msn.com, or Cathy Ahart at cahart6@msn.com or you may tear off the sign-up sheet (below), and place in the offering plate.

___ **YES!** I will attend the **Advent Wreath-Making** all ages event on **Sunday, November 20.**

How many adults? ___ How many children? ___



If you have a child or grandchild in middle or high school, tell them that there is some amazing **SHARED YOUTH MINISTRY** happening here at Old Greenwich!

All middle and high school kids (and their friends and neighbors!) are invited to join with College Hill Presbyterian Church (501 Brodhead St, Easton) every first and third Sunday. We meet **next Sunday, November 20**, from **6:00 - 7:30 pm** for dinner, prayer, and games!

If you have questions, or would like to carpool, please contact Pastor Mary Beth.

THE GREENWICH RINGERS: Are you between the ages of 5 and 105? Would you like to make some music with the incredible Tom DiGiovanni? If so, consider being part of the *The Greenwich Ringers*!! This inter-generational group of amateur musicians will be ringing their chimes at rehearsals **every first and third Sunday**. All ages, all abilities (or none!!) welcome! Intrigued? Please see Tom or email him at digtom@hotmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Synod of the Northeast hosts a **ZOOM BOOK/BIBLE STUDY** on **Thursdays at noon**. They will begin an Advent Study on **December 1** and it would be a great time for you to join in. The book is "Advent in Plain Sight - A Devotion through Ten Objects," by The Rev. Jill Duffield. Themes are gates, tears, belts, trees, cloth, light, heart, gold, stars, and water (on the Baptism of Jesus week). If you don't want to buy the book, the scriptures can be emailed to you to read along with the weekly Zoom invite. It's a friendly group, always looking to invite new women in! For Zoom invite, text your email address to 973-476-4720 or email it to Lisa_a_gray@outlook.com.

REJOICING RHYTHMS DRUMMING GROUP: Do you like to make noise? Do you like to make a *joyful* noise? Are you between the ages of 3 and 103? If so, please consider joining in the drumming fun! Our *Rejoicing Rhythms* all-age drumming group meets **every third Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7 pm** in Memorial Hall. Please see the incredible Betsy Gaston for more information! Pass the word around!

OGPC BOOK CLUB IS BACK! Everyone is invited to join Elder George Bradlau and Pastor Mary Beth for an interesting conversation about Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. The group meets **at 6 pm on Thursday evenings** (ending on 11/17) to share thoughts and ideas about this important book and what it has to tell us about life in America today. Please contact George Bradlau (gbradlau@thebradlaugroup.com) or Pastor Mary Beth (pastormarybeth@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE! The **ANNUAL IRON PIGS BASEBALL OUTING** will happen again on **Saturday, July 29, 2023, at 6:35 pm**. A block of 50 seats has been reserved. This year (2022) we had 49 tix purchased. There are three changes: (1) We will be on the Club level (which will have access to air conditioning) instead of the field level of previous outings; (2) the price of a ticket will be \$17/person (children two and under - free); (3) the Pigs will be playing against the **Syracuse Mets** instead of the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders. More details to follow throughout the coming year. Any questions, please contact Anita Campbell or Walt Campbell at 908-479-4737 (landline) or email them at souptime2222@gmail.com or campbellw47@yahoo.com.

The Church Care & Kinship Committee (formerly Congregational Life and Membership committees) is excited to organize a trip to the **SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE** in Lancaster, PA on **Saturday, December 2, 2023!** *The Miracle of Christmas* (live on stage) is returning after a five-year hiatus and is extremely popular. Travel back in time to Bethlehem, as the original Christmas story unfolds all around you. Journey alongside Mary and Joseph, a flock of surprised shepherds, and three wise men, along with their camels! There may be no room at the inn, but God has a lowly stable prepared as the angels announce the coming of the Messiah!

Tickets sell out quickly, so we must book our tickets in January 2023. Adult tickets are appr. \$90 and children's about \$40. We will try to carpool to save money. If we have a large turnout, we may need to rent a bus which would be an additional charge. If interested, please sign up on sheet posted in Memorial Hall or contact Barb Frinzi in person, by email (frinzi3@msn.com) or cell phone (908-343-1144). This will be a great show for all ages!

SUPPORT OGPC WHILE SHOPPING ON AMAZON! OGPC is registered as an Amazon Smile non-profit organization and when you shop through the Amazon smile portal linked below, 0.5% of the sale is donated to OGPC. Use the link below to connect to Old Greenwich using the portal or go to www.amazon.com and search for Old Greenwich (make sure you select the one in New Jersey!). Each time you shop using the www.smile.amazon.com portal, a portion of the sale is donated to OGPC. Do your Amazon shopping and support OGPC at the same time - what could be better? If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Katie Rienzo at khrienzo@yahoo.com <https://smile.amazon.com/ch22-1613653>

SUNDAY FLORAL DEDICATIONS: The cost to purchase arrangements for the communion table 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. Please place order *only one to two weeks prior* to the date which you would like the dedication to appear in the bulletin. (Orders placed months ahead leaves too much chance they will get lost or forgotten!)

HOME COMMUNION: If you would like to receive home communion or know of someone who would, please contact Deacon Moderator, Walt Campbell, at Campbellw47@yahoo.com or Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: The Worship/Music/Spirituality Committee continues to coordinate daily devotionals as they have become such a positive message to us during this pandemic. We invite anyone from the congregation to share their own inspiring devotional. Please send directly to Anita Campbell at souptime2222@gmail.com

NAMES ON THE PRAYER LIST will remain for four weeks. The first week, the names will be **bolded**. The last week, the names will be italicized. If you would like a name to remain longer or would like a name added, please email the church office. If you do not have internet access, please call the office with your request.

Please pray for: **continued prayers for Bob Tintle, now home, and Sue; Dottie Davidson;** healing for Edith Slamp, who fell on 10/27, and prayers for Betsy and Bruce Gaston; friends of the Jiorles, the family of Bill Runco, who died recently; friends of Kathleen Scala, Kathy & Michael Nazzaro and family, who recently lost their son and brother, Thomas; Gretchen Alencewicz, as she recovers from recent surgery; the family of Bill Miller; brother-in-law of Kathleen Scala, Marc Cottone, who is having multiple surgeries on his ankle and foot; Bob & Trudy Frey; Stephen Toman, Christine Lee's boyfriend's uncle, and his sister, Nancy Hetman; Skip Adams' son, Zachary; the citizens of Ukraine; Pastor Mary Beth's parents and family; Bob and Trudy Frey's friends, Nancy Hummer and Ian Arnot; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; those affected by the Corona virus and their families around the world; all experiencing the effects of extreme weather conditions around the world

Visit our Church's Web Site at: www.ogpc.org

Church Office e-mail address: oldgreenwich@ogpc.org

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Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons	Tom DiGiovanni, Music Director /Organist
Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Director	Lisa Gray, Clerk of Session
Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Financial Secretary	Francis Rienzo, Media/Comm. Dir
	Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, <i>Sonshine Singers</i>