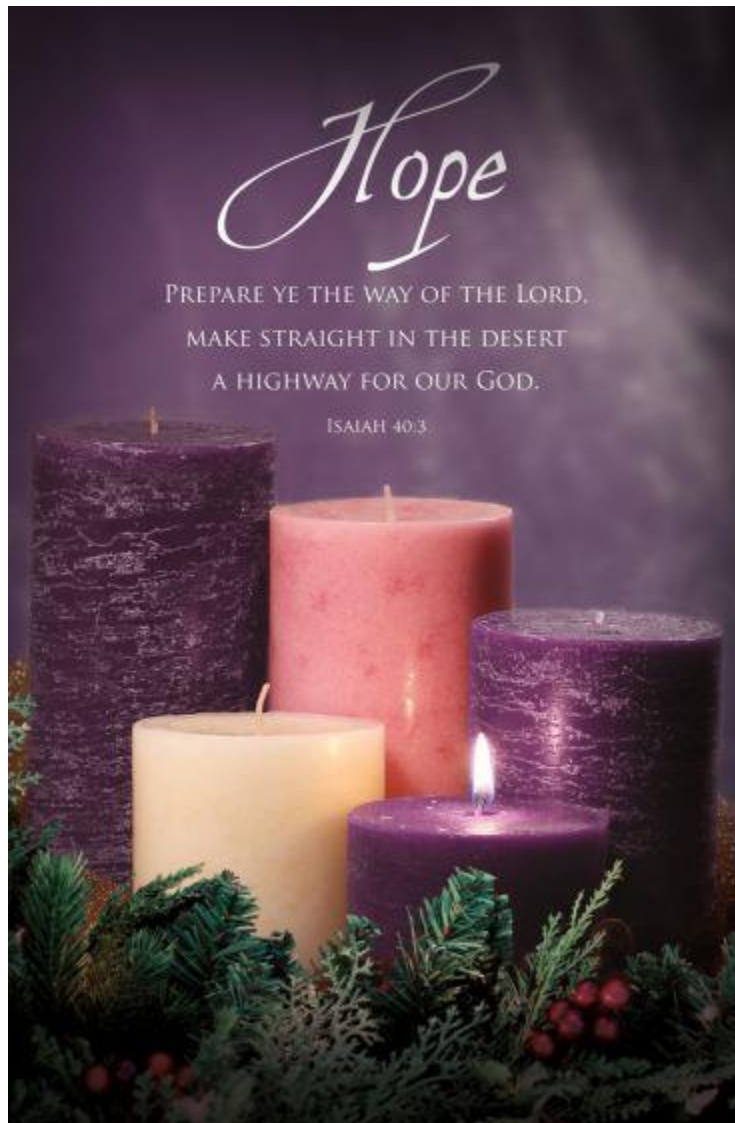


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



First Sunday in Advent

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

INTROIT *"Breath of Heaven"* - Grant/Eaton/Emerson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light this candle for hope.

Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Holy Christ! As you dwell among us, dwell in your Word, that we may hear only your voice, full of grace and truth. In your Name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Advent Music

Newman & Oltman, guitars

SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said: "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"White Elephant"

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

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

Prelude: "*Es ist ein' Ros'entsprungen*" ("*Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*"), Op. 122

- Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

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*Doxology

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)

Gracious God, as we wait, as we watch, and as we hope, we pray that you would prepare us for your coming. Turn this world upside down, O God! Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may do your work of love in the whole world. In Christ we pray, Amen.

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



On **Sunday, November 27, 2022**, we celebrate **First Sunday in Advent** at a 10 am worship service with preacher, **The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy**. 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."

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 27 - Team 1; December 4 - Team 2

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PART I

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting - Part I of the Congregation and Religious Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township, in the County of Warren, will be held on **Sunday, December 4, 2022**, immediately following the 10 am Service of Worship. The purpose of this meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to vote on said report. Nominees for the office of Elder and Deacon will be presented.

Attest:

Lisa Gray, Clerk of Session

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Pastor – Moderator

TODAY'S MUSIC IS performed by The Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo.

We are partnering with River of Life church and **COLLECTING CHILDREN'S PAJAMAS!** We will collect them beginning **this Sunday, November 27, through Sunday December 11**. Please bring your donations of pj's to church (new please!) and place in the bin in the Green Room!



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 on **December 4** 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.

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, I send out the scriptures to read with the weekly Zoom invite. It's a friendly group, always looking to invite new women in! For Zoom invite, text 973-476-4720 your email or email address to "Gray, Lisa" Lisa_a_gray@outlook.com.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT OFFERINGS: All are welcome to join Pastor Mary Beth and Elder Lisa Kolterjahn for a three-week Advent study, where, using Susan Robb's *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*, we will discuss different angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus. Through these stories, we will explore God's presence in our lives today. The class will be held the first three Wednesdays of Advent **(Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14) from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.**

Then, on **Wednesday, December 21, at 7:30 pm**, all are welcome to join in a **Longest Night Worship Service**, a service where, through music and the Word, we will name that the seasons of Advent and Christmas can be difficult for many of us, especially for those of us who have experienced losses in our lives.

HERE WE GO A CAROLING! Come and join the choir on **Sunday, December 11, at 2 pm.** ALL are welcome to spread some joy by singing Christmas carols for the folks at **Brakeley Gardens** (225 Red School Ln., Apt A4, Phillipsburg). Invite your friends! We hope to see you there!

2022 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias are purchased by the congregation to decorate the church at the price of \$12 each. They are then taken to our Special People, members who are ill or homebound. Once that need is met, you may take the ones you purchased.

of plants _____ x \$12 = _____

Purchased by: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

Please give _____ plants to our Special People.

-

LAST DAY TO ORDER – Sunday, 12/11/22

A list will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, noting the purchaser and who is being remembered, honored, etc. Please help decorate the church and also make the holidays festive for our Special People.

Please make checks payable to "OGPC Deacons." **Dedications should be emailed** to Trish Millon at trishbrad00@aol.com or Robert Todd at Robert_Todd@icloud.com or **call Trish** at 908-319-5061 if you do not have internet access. Forms with payment may be placed in the box in the sanctuary or mailed to:

Trish Millon
626 Honeybrook Circle
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

FLOWER COORDINATOR: We are so happy to announce that the position has been filled! Robert Todd has volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Flower Coordinator and will jump right in with handling the Christmas poinsettia orders. Thank you, Robert!

INSPIRING GOOD: FAMILY FUN WITH A TWIST! In our partnership w/ Greenwich Nursery School, our next event is Cookies and Cocoa! This will include icing cookies, a hot chocolate station, plus activities, **INCLUDING A VISIT FROM SANTA** (feel free to take your kids pics with Santa!) on **Friday, December 16** from **5 - 6:30 (NOTE TIME CHANGE)** here at the church. Invite your kids and grandkids!! Babies up to all ages!

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS: Joint Christmas Worship Services on December 25 AND January 1! On the Sundays of the Christmas Season, our congregation will hold joint worship services with College Hill Presbyterian Church! Both services will be brief, family-friendly, and full of music. Join us on **Christmas Day here at Old Greenwich at 10 am**. Then, the following **Sunday, January 1, at 10:30 am** (note the time difference!), **come to College Hill Presbyterian Church** (501 Brodhead St, Easton PA). Both services will be led by Pastors Matt and Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy. ALL are welcome to join as we celebrate Christmas -- together, in community!

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.

If you plan on doing any of your shopping on Amazon.com this holiday season, please remember to **SUPPORT OGPC WHILE HOLIDAY SHOPPING ON AMAZON!** OGPC is registered as an Amazon Smile non-profit organization and when you shop through the Amazon smile (portal link 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>

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 in 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!

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 Robert Todd at Robert_Todd@icloud.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: **Ernie Maso's sister-in-law, Doreen Maso, scheduled for upcoming surgeries; Chris Mette, scheduled for upcoming testing; Barb & Charlie Frinzi's granddaughter, Giada Ippoldo, having major surgery on her shoulder next week; Lori Metz's Aunt Rose, whose leukemia is back; the family of Suzanne Rimmmler, Bill Rimmmler's mother, who died last week; Ria, a young woman in need of prayers;** Debbie Mowrey's sister, Brenda, who has a wide range of health issues; 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; 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

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy	pastor@ogpc.org / 515-979-9681
Kathleen Scala, Admin. Asst.	oldgreenwich@ogpc.org / 908-479-4449
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>