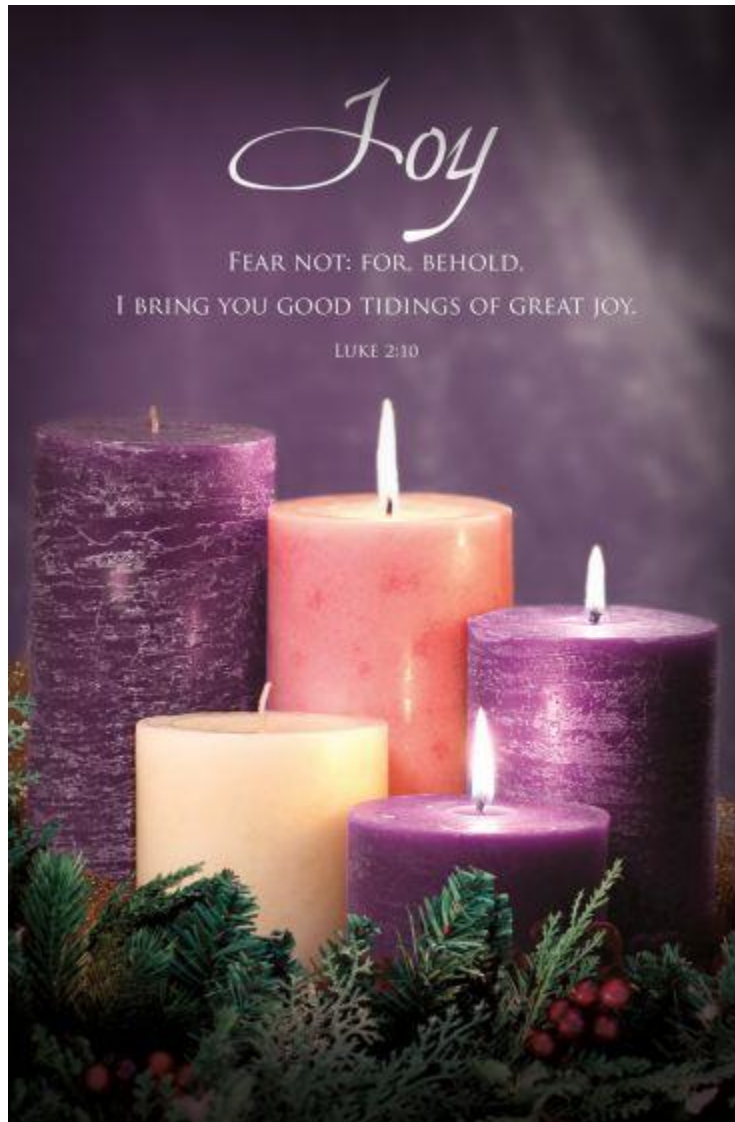


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



Third Sunday in Advent

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

Today's service will begin with caroling, beginning at 9:40 am. Please see separate attachment with lyrics.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

"The King of Glory Comes"

2091, vs 1

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Mia Ahart DiGiovanni, Ellie Mardis-LeCroy, Jacqueline Miller

The things we got *for* Christmas will not last as long as the things we get *from* Christmas. We will finish our Christmas treats, get bored with our Christmas toys and grow out of our Christmas clothes. But the things we get from Christ this Christmas and always- hope, peace, joy and love- will go with us all our life.

Why do we light the Advent candles?

The first Advent candle is the candle of hope. Jesus is our hope. He died on the cross to save us and give us everlasting life. "The light of hope shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out."

We light this candle for Hope.

The second candle is the candle of Peace. Jesus is our peace. His peace is deep within us, reaches out to friends and strangers and brings justice to our world.

We light this Candle for Peace.

The third candle is the candle of Joy. The miracle of Christmas is that even though there is so much sadness in the world, the joy of Christ deep within us can help us reach out to the sad, the suffering and the lonely.

We light this candle for Joy.

*ADVENT PRAYER (in unison)

Please stand, and let us join together in our advent prayer, found in your bulletin:

Dear God, thank you that through you, we can always find Joy to help us to bring light to our world by loving others the way you taught us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"Canticle of the Turning"

- see insert

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Lay Reader

Gracious God, Emmanuel, hear our prayer of confession this day:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Lay Reader

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We confess that we ignore your promised justice. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your peace. In your great mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

*SILENT CONFESSION with "Amen" played

*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

Lay Reader

Alleluia! God hears our cries. And God gives us a peace that endures, but a peace that we cannot cling to for ourselves. With joy, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another! May the peace of Christ be with you!

Please sign and pass the pew pads, located on the inside end of each pew.

*HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

9, vs 3

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Please join in saying the Prayer for Illumination together:

Lay Reader

Eternal God, you are preparing the way for the coming of your Son. Grant us wisdom to see and seek your purposes, and openness to hear what you speak to us today, so that we, too, may prepare the way for Christ. Through the life-giving Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 139:1-14

Lay Reader

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night', even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Christmas is Coming"

- J. Raney / Orchestra Bells, Frances Rienzo

SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Wait for the Lord..."

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

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

*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)

Lay Reader

Loving Christ, we give you thanks that you are our light in the darkness, our hope in the deepest part of the night. And though the night may be long, we give you thanks that joy always comes in the morning. As we wait, as we watch, and as we hope, we pray that you would prepare us for your coming. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may show forth your love to the whole world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

2

*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Great Amen"

2257d

POSTLUDE

Thank you to our confirmation class for leading worship this morning!! Mia Ahart DiGiovanni, Ellie Mardis-LeCroy, Jacqueline Miller (lay readers); Madison Wayne, Adam Wolfe, Connor Wolfe (greeters/ushers).

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



On **Sunday, December 11, 2022**, we celebrate **Third 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: December 11 - Team 3; December 18 - Team 4

We are partnering with River of Life church and **COLLECTING CHILDREN'S PAJAMAS!** We will collect them, **through today, 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 Sunday, December 18**, from **6:00 – 8 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? 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 DiGiovanni or email him at digitom@hotmail.com.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT OFFERINGS: All are welcome to join Pastor Mary Beth and Elder Lisa Kolterjahn for an 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 remaining class will be held on Wed., **Dec. 14, 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.

This Wednesday, December 14, we will be reading the story of the angel appearing to Joseph (Matt. 1:18-25), asking questions such as:

- Putting yourself in Joseph's position (receiving news that your fiancé is pregnant), what do you think his concerns might have been? What might yours have been if you were in his shoes?
- Do you believe it is possible that an angel would appear to you in some way other than physical form? How might you respond?
- What angels in your life have brought you protection?

Remember, each class stands alone, so even if you missed the first one, come on! See you this Wednesday!

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:

Old Greenwich
Att: Flower Coordinator
17 Greenwich Church Road
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Synod of the Northeast hosts a **ZOOM BOOK/BIBLE STUDY** on **Thursdays at noon**. 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, scriptures to read can be sent with the weekly Zoom invite. For Zoom invite, text your email address to 973-476-4720 or email Lisa_a_gray@outlook.com.

HERE WE GO A CAROLING! Come and spread some joy by singing Christmas carols, **December 11, at 2 pm**. ALL are welcome to **Levy Park Center** (290 Red School Lane, Phillipsburg). Invite your friends! We hope



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!

NJ CONSERVATORY PRESENTS HANDEL'S MESSIAH: NJ Conservatory Symphonic Chorus accompanied by its Baroque Orchestra performs at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 246 Woodport Rd., Sparta, NJ **next Sunday, December 18, at 4 pm.** Call 973-402-2004 for tickets. Prices: \$45, \$40, \$35. Student discount 30%. No children under 8 years old.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT OLD GREENWICH: All are welcome to join us for our candlelight Christmas Eve services on **December 24** here at Old Greenwich.

We are offering two services: one at **5 pm** that will feature an Irish musical duo and will include scripture, hymn singing, a short reflection and prayers; and a second service at **8 pm** which will include the OGPC choir, traditional music, scripture, hymn singing, a sermon and prayers. We cannot wait to meet the Christ child together on this most holy of nights. See you there!

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL GUESTS: Two of the three members of *Poor Man's Gambit* (sans Federico Betti) will be performing the music at the 5 pm Christmas Eve service. Their musical talents are sure to make it a memorable service.

Corey Purcell's musical talents began developing when he was 16 and started teaching himself tunes on the Irish style button accordion which he bought himself for his birthday. Progressing quickly, he was soon studying under 7-time All-Ireland Champion, John Whelan, and began honing his technique under John's tutelage. Corey found his true calling in traditional Irish music, and rapidly branched into other instruments including cittern, guitar, bodhran, and voice.

Deirdre Lockman (fiddle, vocals, dance) has been pursuing her passion for Irish music and dance since the age of four when she was first introduced to the fiddle. Born into a musical family, she was soon performing with her family band, in addition to numerous orchestras and ensembles including the Junior String Philharmonic, and the Lehigh University Philharmonic Orchestra. A quick study, Deirdre began competing in fiddle competitions at an early age and holds several regional fiddle titles.

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, with music by Tom DiGiovanni on Christmas day. ALL are welcome to join as we celebrate Christmas -- in community!

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 <http://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 souptime222@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 apprx. \$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: **Anita Campbell; Joanne, Sharon Smith's sister, and her husband, Tom, and son, Jason; Mimi Rienzo, recently diagnosed with diabetes, and her family; Al & Tricia Marino's friends and family: Sarah (friend), diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma, Jenna R (cousin), diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma and Jenna S & family (friend), as they grieve the unexpected passing of her father; Al Marino, with Covid; Carol Lee Doeringer's sister, Eileen, who is going through radiation treatments; friends of Carol Lee Doeringer, Jakob and Nikolas for spiritual & physical healing, Desiree for relationship healing and Becky & Harry Limons;** George Bradlau, who is having hip replacement surgery on 12/6; friend of the Guthardts, brother-in-law of their daughter Katie, Kevin Boyle, who suffered a stroke; 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 and Sue; 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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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>	