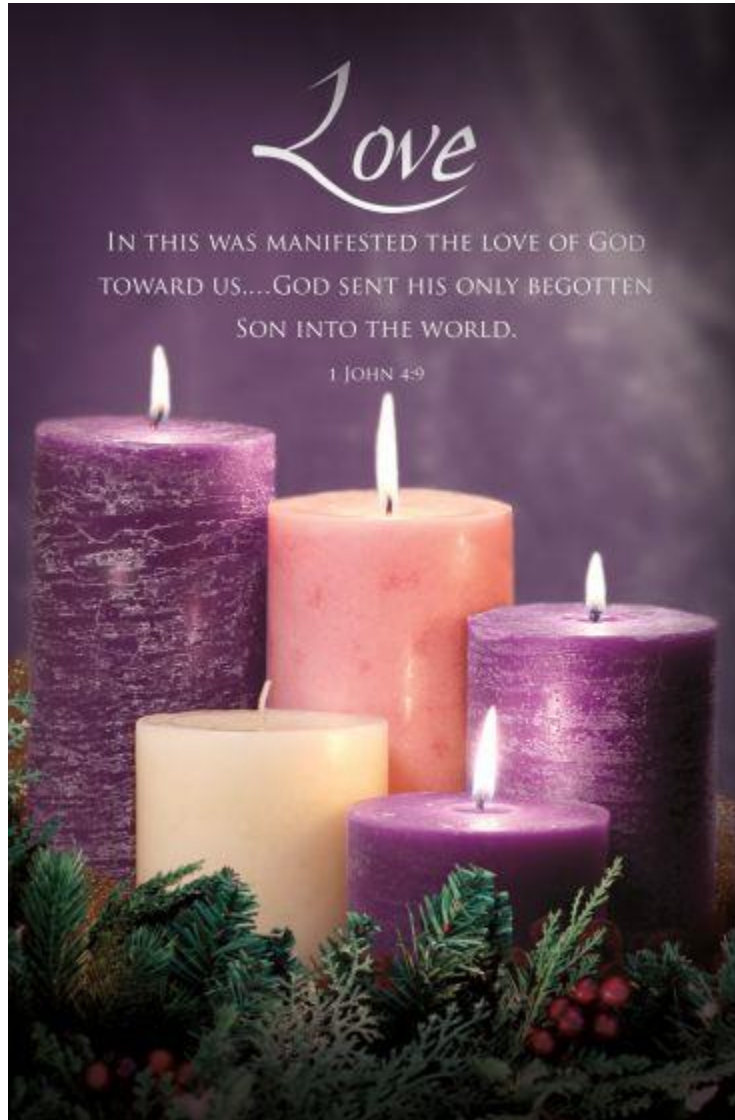


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



**Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sunday School Pageant**

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

THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISMON

Chrismons are “monograms of Christ.” At OGPC, we have been placing Chrismons on our trees for many years. These monograms became more popular on a Christmas tree after Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA took the concept to decorate the sanctuary in 1957. The first Chrismons were made of leftover wrapping paper and each year she added more.

The Chrismon tree is highly symbolic, conveying the Life of Christ and the meaning of Christmas through commonly found items and easily understood symbols borrowed or modified from other sources. The tree is an Evergreen, representing eternal life and decorated with traditional and modified ancient Christian symbols called Chrismons. The word Christmas comes from a combination of Christ's monograms. Chrismons are normally made by members of local congregations in colors of white and gold.

Today the Sunday School children will “school” you in the symbolism and meanings of various Chrismons which will then be placed on our Christmas tree.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Leni Vorhees, Dorothy Purdy and Elena, Caleigh,
Jeffrey, Elijah and Julianna Kantz

The things we get *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. Jesus is our joy. 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.

The fourth candle is the candle of love. Jesus is our love. He is with us always and loves us unconditionally through all the events in our lives - in birth and death, in joy and sorrow.

We light this candle for Love.

*ADVENT PRAYER (in unison)

Dear God, thank you that you love us so much even when we turn away from you. Thank you for sending us your son Jesus to show us how to live lives of Love. Help us to be aware of your love and share it with others always. Amen

*OPENING HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

8

The Holy Trinity

This is the symbol for the Holy Trinity. God is one God, but there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We know there are three persons in the Trinity from God's word in Matthew 28:19: “Go and make disciples of all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” All three sides joined together to form one figure. This shows the unity of the Trinity.

The Creator Star

This is called the Creator Star. God the Father created the world in six days. That is why the star has six points. The star is born by joining two triangles together. All three persons of the Trinity were present at the creation of the world, even though it was the work of God the Father to create it. Some have also used the six points of the star refer to the six attributes of God the Father - power, wisdom, majesty, love, mercy, and justice.

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Our lives are busy and full of so many things pulling us in all different directions, let us take this moment to confess our sins to God in unison.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Father of all, you have given us a chance each and every time no matter what our circumstances are. We talk to you and share our shortcomings - when we are quick to judge, fast to speak, and hasty to act. We know that our hearts are not always pure and our actions are not as you wish. Hear our confessions as we bring them to you.

*SILENT CONFESSION with "Amen" played

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Because we are children of light, we know that we are not perfect. We also know that God loves us. Indeed, Jesus lived, died, and has risen so that we might know that God forgives us. When we admit our sins, God promises to forgive us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI *"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

The Chi-Rho- Christ

Symbols that point us to Jesus. One of the most common symbols is the Chi- Rho, the letters join together to form a monogram like we talked about earlier. They are the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ- Christos. The Greek letters are pronounced Chi row. Now every time I see this symbol, I know that it stands for Christ.

The Fish (Jesus our Savior)

Most ancient symbol for our Lord and was used as an easily recognized secret sign by the early Christians. The Greek word for fish, Exos, is formed by using the first letter of each of the words in Greek which stands for Jesus Christ, Son of God, savior. The image of the fish offered protection from persecution. In the catacombs, fish were drawn on the walls to direct worshippers to meeting places. Seeing the symbol today we can remember a time when Christians were routinely persecuted for their beliefs and how they succeeded and spreading the gospel, despite all these obstacles

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Jesus is our peace. His peace is deep within us, reaches out to friends and strangers and brings justice to our world.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Please sign and pass the pew pads which are located on the inside of each pew.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit, and illumine Your Word for us this day. Open our hearts to hear, and our whole selves to obey. In Christ we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 2:1-5

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Angel

When it was time for Jesus to be born, God sent someone to tell Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus. Do you know who told Mary that she would be Jesus' mother? What words do you think the angel said to Mary? How do you think Mary felt? Were there any other angels in the Christmas story? What did the angel say to the shepherds? Then many, many angels appeared in the sky. What did they do? What words did they sing? Do you think you can sing like the angels?

MUSIC

"Angels We have Heard on High"

The Greenwich Ringers

The Manger

Jesus was born. What a wonderful day! God sent us a savior to take away our sins and give us eternal life. What a gift! Can you tell us where Jesus was born? Yes, he was born in a manger in Bethlehem. This is the symbol we use for the manger. Do you know what a manger is used for? Why do you suppose God had Jesus born here? Jesus became a baby just like you and me. He wasn't proud. He knows all about us because he became a man for us. Do you see the circle on top of the manger? Do you know what it means? Yes, it stands for Jesus. It's called a nimbus. Can you say that? It means that Jesus is Holy. He never does anything wrong. He never sins. That's how Jesus is different than we are and that's what makes him God. He had to be perfect to take away our sins. Do you know any songs about baby Jesus in the manger? Could you sing one to him now?

Song

"Away in a Manger"

Children

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

The Cross

What is the greatest symbol of the Christian Church? Without Jesus's death on the cross, we would be forever lost. The cross carries such great significance - over 400 forms of the Cross have been designed. Of these, about 50 have been used in Christian symbolism. You will see many different crosses on our tree.

The Crown

The crown symbolizes Jesus as our King. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He rules over the heavens and the earth. The crown also reminds us that someday we will also receive the Crown of Life when we go to heaven. Revelation 2:10 says: "Be faithful even to the point of death and I will give you the Crown of Life."

The Dove and the Flame

The dove reminds us that our souls go to heaven, just as Jesus did when he left the earth. It is also a symbol of peace, befitting the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit, which descended when Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, is also represented by the dove. When the dove came, the voice of God from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," as the Holy Spirit descended on Christ in the form of a dove.

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)

Loving Christ, thank you! Thank you for your children, and how they remind us of what Christmas is all about. May we follow your command, and become like them: wide-eyed, waiting, and watching. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless your whole world. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

The Word - The Lamp and Candle

God's holy word is depicted in several ways. Many times, it is symbolized with an open book. Sometimes, it is also symbolized by the lamp. The symbolism stems from the words of Psalm 119 which says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." The candle also symbolizes the word as it lights our way and shows us the true path.

The Shell - Our Baptism

We are brought to faith through our baptism. The shell is a symbol for baptism since it reminds us of the water used when we are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The miracle of God making us his children through this holy sacrament.

The Chalice - Communion

The usual symbol for the Lord's Supper is a chalice with a host or wafer rising out of it. Sometimes the letters I. N. R. I. or I. H. C. are imprinted on the wafer. This symbolizes Jesus saying "Take, eat, this is my body. Take, drink, this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."

*CLOSING HYMN

"The King of Glory Comes"

2091

*SENDING

*BENEDICTION

The Chrismons summarize our Christian Life. What blessings we have received from our Lord and Savior! We can only respond with hearts of joy and thankfulness!

POSTLUDE

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



On **Sunday, December 18, 2022**, we celebrate **Fourth Sunday in Advent** and our **Sunday School Pageant** at a 10 am worship service with the Sunday School children of Old Greenwich. 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:

Dec. 18 - Team 4; Dec. 24 – 5 pm - Team 1; Dec. 24 – 8 pm – Team 2; Dec. 25 – Team 3

A FUNERAL SERVICE for Joella Marie Rush will be held on **Saturday, January 14, at 12 pm** with **visitation at 11 am**, in the sanctuary. Burial service will follow at Greenwich Cemetery.



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 **tonight 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.

All are welcome to join in a **LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 pm**. This is 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.

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** which will feature an Irish musical duo and will include scripture, hymn singing, a short reflection and prayers; and a second service, at **8 pm**, 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!

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 digtom@hotmail.com.

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.

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. Questions? Don't hesitate to contact Katie Rienzo at khrienzo@yahoo.com <https://smile.amazon.com/ch22-1613653>

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK: All are welcome to come to an all-church potluck dinner on **Saturday, February 11, from 5 – 7 pm** (snow date, Sunday, February 12, after worship, from 11:15 am to 1 pm). What a wonderful way to fellowship, eat and laugh together! Tell everyone! Stay tuned for sign-ups, etc. Questions? Email Barb Frinzi at frinzi3@msn.com

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 / 908-235-9322 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: **Charlie & Barb Frinzi, who have Covid; the family of Alan Hartzell, Kathleen Gooley's father, who died on 12/7; the family of Marie "Joella" Rush, who died on 12/9; the Frinzi's granddaughter, Giada Ippoldo, recovering from shoulder surgery;** George Bradlau, who had 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 Rimmler, Bill Rimmler's mother, who died in Nov.; 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 continues to have 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

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Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Financial Secretary	Francis Rienzo, Media/Comm. Dir
Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, <i>Sonshine Singers</i>	