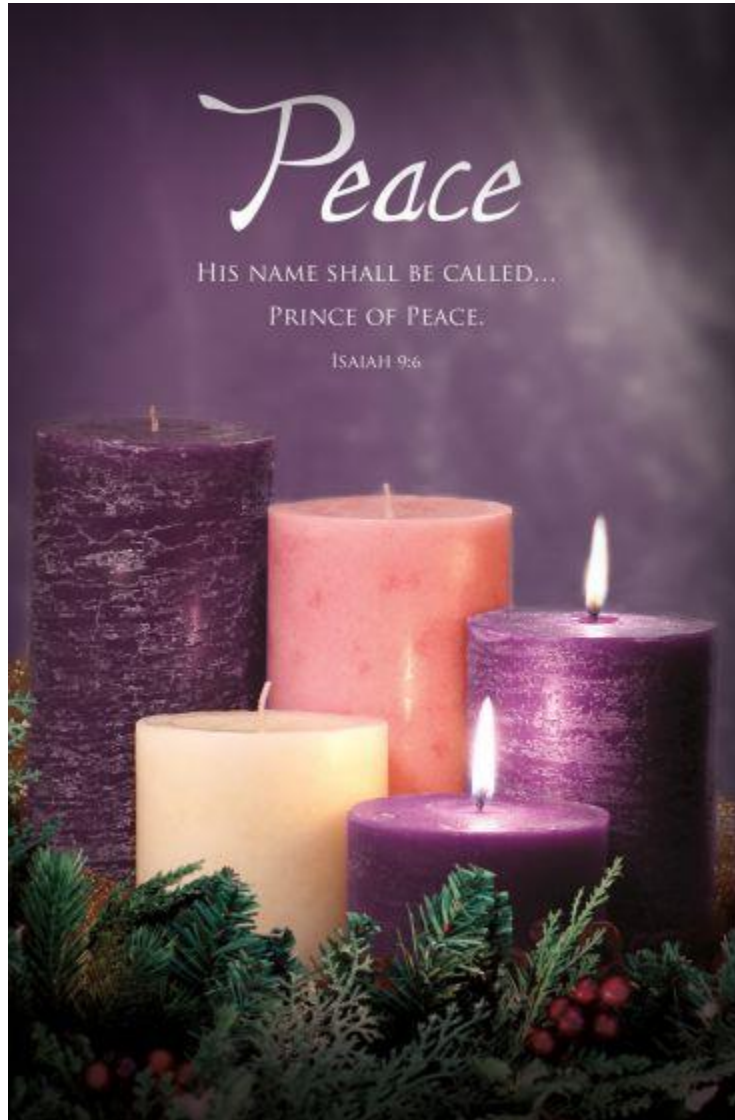


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



**Second Sunday in Advent
Communion Sunday**

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

"The King of Glory Comes"

2091, vs 1

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Betsy Gaston

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 John the Baptist who remembered Isaiah's prophecy of Peace. "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting father, Prince 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.

*ADVENT PRAYER (in unison)

Dear God, thank you that even though there is no special star in the sky or angels singing, there is a real sense of your peace within us at Christmas time. Thank you that you are always with us, sharing in our good and bad times and giving us your peace. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"People, Look East"

12, vs 1, 3, 4

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Al Marino and Cooper Marino, Lay Readers

People of God, let us remain standing, and together, confess our sin to God:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, repent, and turn to you; that we may receive forgiveness through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*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

With hope, 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 aisle end of each pew.

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Jennifer Miller

*HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

9, vs 2

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit, Holy Hope, Holy Peace. Speak to us through your Word this morning. Help us hear, and help us do. In Christ we pray, Emmanuel, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Every Valley"

- Martin/Adams

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Getting Ready"

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

GATHERING AT THE TABLE OF OUR LORD

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (with 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.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND THE CUP & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

Stewardship & Sharing Testimonies

Elder Al Marino

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)

Please join in saying the Prayer of Dedication together:

Generous God, we hand over to you our time and our talents and our dollars because we know that we belong fully to you. As we await your presence among us, bless these gifts so that in the meantime we will serve the poor, tend to the suffering, and stand for justice. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

20

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

Please stay for our Congregational Meeting - Part I, directly following our worship service!

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



On **Sunday, December 4, 2022**, we celebrate **Second Sunday in Advent** and **Communion Sunday** 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 4 - Team 2; December 11 - Team 3

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 **today, 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 FLOWERS are from Sandy and Fritz Hamlin In loving memory of Sandy's mother, Evelyn Gyarmaty.

We are partnering with River of Life church and **COLLECTING CHILDREN'S PAJAMAS!** We will collect them, **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 **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.

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.

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 classes will be held the second and third Wednesdays of Advent (**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.

This Wednesday, December 7, we will be reading the story of Mary's call from the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38), asking questions such as:

- If you were the teenager Mary, how might you respond to the angel's message that you would be the parent of the Christ child?

- Is there anything you sense God is calling you to right now? What might God desire to "give birth" to in your life that would make a difference in the world?

- What do you hear when Mary finally says, "Let it be?" What does this phrase mean to you today?

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

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!

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 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 Park Center** (290 Red School Lane, Phillipsburg). Invite your friends! We hope to see you there!

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!

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 eve. 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 <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: **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 Rimmier, Bill Rimmier'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; *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

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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>	