



Old Greenwich

Presbyterian Church

VOL. MMXXIII, ISSUE 1

We See the Light!

Contrary to popular belief, Christmas is not just one day – it’s twelve days! It’s a season, actually, from December 25 to the Day of Epiphany (which means “light”), and it always falls on January 6 (which also just happens to be my son Wil’s birthday!).

Did you know that, in the early church, the day of Epiphany was even more important than Christmas day itself? That’s hard to imagine, isn’t it? But it’s true. Historically-speaking, Epiphany has always been an important day in the church – one of *the* most important.

So, what, exactly, is *our* “epiphany?” What is our light? **The church’s epiphany is that, in Christ, God is intent on saving *all* of creation.** Jesus of Nazareth, God-in-the-flesh, is not just for us, not just for the so-called “chosen ones.” No; Jesus is for the whole world –for the stranger, the alien, the foreigner, the other, the outsider. *Jesus is for all of creation.* God, in Christ, has a plan - not just for us, but for all the world.

...And that means evangelism. Yes, the “e” word! I know that word may make a lot of us nervous. But let’s be clear: I’m not talking about bullying and blustering and harassing people into the kingdom of God. There is another way, the way that Jesus shared the Good News with others. Jesus never bullied or intimidated or begged people to believe. He just came alongside them in their suffering and said, “I have some good news. God loves you, and wants to make you well. Yes, even you.”

The church could do that. We at Old Greenwich could do that. This world is such a broken place. Even in our local communities, there are so many broken people, so many hurting and lost people. Addictions. Depression. Hopelessness. Fear. Grief. Loneliness. We all know that all of this is out there, and not so very far away. We probably all know people for whom these things are an every-day reality.

So, what if we started telling our friends and our neighbors: “Our God loves you and wants to make you well. Yes, even you.” We could seek out the suffering and the outcast, the least and the lost, and tell them, “Our God and our Gospel is for you. Yes, even you.” The church could say, again and again, to every single person, “This is for you. This good news is for *you!* So, come practice it with us. Come *live it* with us. You are welcome here!”

What if we could do that? What if we could share our epiphany with the world?

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mary Beth

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PART II Sunday, January 29, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting - Part II of the Congregation and Religious Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township, in the County of Warren, will be held on **Sunday, January 29, 2023**, immediately following the 10 am Service of Worship.

The following will be presented:

- Reports of the Session Committees
- Budget for the year 2023
- Financial Secretary / Treasurer's Report
- Audit Committee Report

Attest:

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session
The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Pastor - Moderator



to: **Dave Slack** for getting the tree for in the sanctuary; **Sue Tintle** for sharing her beautiful angel topper for the tree; **Rob Todd** for taking charge of poinsettia orders; **Skip Adams, Bill Lee, Ed Gardner, Rob Todd and his son, Peyton, and Harry and Joan Pursel** for helping with poinsettia delivery and care; **Lisa Kolterjohn** and **Gretchen Alencewicz** for decorating the sanctuary; **Ellen Viscel** for enthusiastically decorating Memorial Hall. Thanks also to **the volunteers** who helped with the luminarias on Christmas Eve and with bagging poinsettias to be taken to Brakeley Care Center on Christmas Day. And another thank you to **Rob Todd** for trimming large tree branches that were down on the church grounds.

SUNDAY FLORAL DEDICATIONS

The cost to purchase arrangements for the altar is **\$20 each**.

You may sign up for dedicated flower arrangements to honor or remember loved ones. Please contact Robert Todd at 908-235-9322 / Robert_Todd@icloud.com to place an order and arrange dedication.

Orders should be placed *one week to two weeks in advance only* prior to the service date which you would like the dedication to appear in the bulletin.

HOME COMMUNION

If you would like to receive home communion, or know of someone who would like to receive home communion, please contact Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW invites you to our lunchtime bible study which begins at **11:30 on the third Tuesday of each month (January 17)** in the classroom next to the Pastor's office. You are invited to bring your lunch and we'll have some fellowship and prayer time around that.



The last day to sign up for the **SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE** for the **2023 CHRISTMAS SHOW** will be **Sunday, January 8**. Reservations will be made and information on the exact ticket payment totals will be in the bulletin by January 15. Please make checks payable to Barbara Frinzi or Venmo her (@Barbara-Frinzi) by January 31. Please give checks to Cathy Ahart or Jen Miller who will forward to Barb.

Transportation details will follow later in the year. We will try to car-pool, but if we can't get enough vehicles, we will rent a bus and that will be an added expense. If you have a van or large SUV and can drive and take a few people, please contact Barb Frinzi at frinzi3@msn.com or 908-343-1144.

The Church Care & Kinship Committee is so excited to organize this trip to Lancaster! It's going to be a great show! Special thanks to everyone on this committee and to Pastor Mary Beth for all of her help!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Our youth (middle and high schoolers) ministry partnership with College Hill Presbyterian Church

will resume on **Sunday, January 15, from 6 to 7:30 pm**, and will continue every first and third Sunday until May 7.

We meet at College Hill Presbyterian (501 Brodhead St, Easton PA). Note that in 2023, there will be no dinner provided (except for February 5). Questions? Please see Pastor Mary Beth or email her at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

Calendar for January through May 2023

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 pm

January 15th:	Brownies & Mafia
February 5th:	Breakfast for Dinner & Minute-to-Win-It
February 19th:	Frozen Hot Chocolate & Pictionary
March 5th:	Make Soft Pretzels
March 19th:	Bake Cookies & Manhunt
April 2nd:	Ice Cream & Golden Ticket Egg Hunt - help make Cascarones for the littles to hand out on Easter Sunday
April 16th:	Campfire & S'mores
May 7th:	It's a Mystery...

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

01/05	Susan Beacht	01/19	Anita Campbell
01/06	Michael Viscel		Caleb Frey
	Karen Savacool	01/20	Lily Pritchard
01/07	Dorothy Davidson	01/21	Eli Mallory
01/08	Ralph Wolverton	01/23	Linda McCusker
01/09	Evan Cichone		Randy Bartholomew
01/11	A. Diana Mallory		Jaelene Slaven
	Alexa MacKinnon	01/24	Nora Garvey
01/12	Ernest Maso	01/26	Barbara Grimm
01/13	Tim Newbrough	01/28	Addison Fell
01/14	Bruce Frey	01/30	Hudson Bakros
01/16	Wil Mardis-LeCroy		
01/18	Virginia Guthardt		
	Cecelia Lemons		

*Children are in bold.

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY:

01/08/1977	Lynn & Robert Szczeck
01/13/1990	Paul & Jeanne Stahlecker
01/22/2000	Katie & Justin Rienzo
01/23/1999	J. Brett & Jacqueline Morrow

CLOSING OF THE BOOKS

The financial books for the year 2022 will be closed as of Sunday, January 8, 2023. All offerings towards church pledges for 2022 must be received by this date. Please be sure notation on check states that it is for your 2022 offering and the envelopes are clearly marked as a 2022 offering.

All offerings received after Sunday, January 8, 2023 will be credited to 2023. Giving statements for the year 2022 will be mailed some time in February. Questions? Please contact Katie Rienzo at treasurer@ogpc.org

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



Please hold in prayer: Bob Tintle, who is receiving hospice care & his wife, Sue; Carl & Virginia Guthardt; Lori Metz's Aunt Rose and her family; 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; Debbie Mowrey's sister, Brenda, who has a wide range of health issues; brother-in-law of Kathleen Scala, Marc Cotton, 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

JANUARY 2023

Sun.

Mon.

Tue.

Wed.

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat.

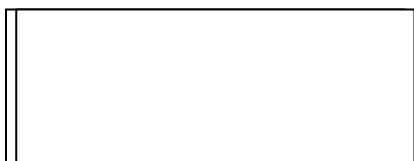
1 Joint Worship Svc. @ College Hill PC 10:30 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	2 Office Closed Boy Sc. Council 6 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	3 Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	4 Christian Ed. 7:30 pm	5 Choir 7:30 pm	6 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	7
8 Conf. Class - 9 am Wor. Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	9 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	10 Art Group 10 am Personnel 4:30 pm Deacons' Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	11	12 Church Care & Kinship 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	14 Joella Rush Visitation 11 am Funeral 12 noon
15 Wor. Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Mtg. - 3 pm	16 Office Closed Boy Scouts 7 pm Session Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	17 Session Comm. Annual Rpts due Art Group 10 am Women's Bible Study - 11:30 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	18	19 Choir 7:30 pm	20 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	21
22 Conf. Class - 9 am Wor. Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	23 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	24 Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	25	26 Choir 7:30 pm	27 Office Closed Jr. Girl Scouts ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	28
29 Wor. Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live Annual Mtg. - Part II 11:15 am AA Meeting - 3 pm	30 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	31 Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm				

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Dated Material

Address Service Requested

The Breezeway



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