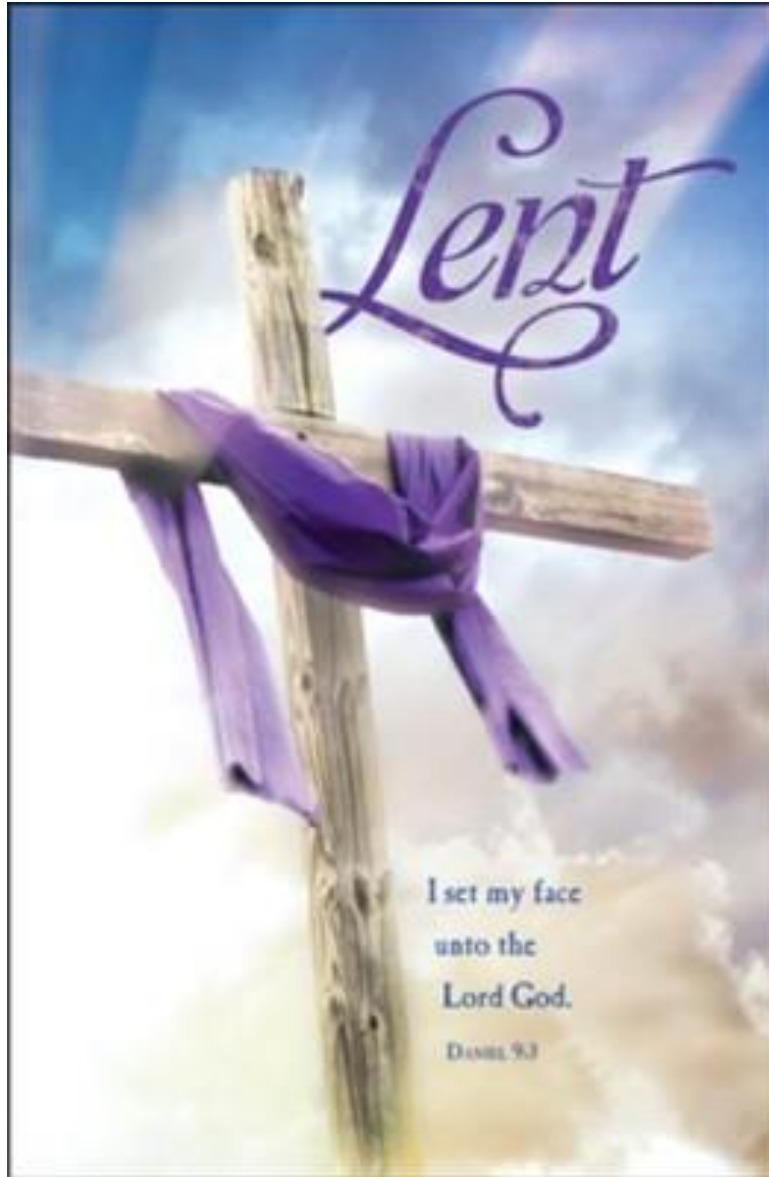


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



1st Sunday in Lent

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

Every Sunday during Lent, from 9:45 am to a little before 10:00 am, you are welcome to join us in the Prayer Room (right next to the Choir Room) for a short prayer service. The participants from this service will process into the sanctuary at 10:00 am, singing our Opening Prayer Song (see below). When you hear the singing, please join in!

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER SONG (please join in the singing)

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

WELCOME & OPENING SILENCE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 50, excerpts)

Ellen Viscel, Lay Reader

God speaks, summoning the earth,

summoning the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Our God comes and does not keep silence.

God calls to the heavens above the earth,

God brings justice to all the people.

Come, let us worship God!

Children and/or dancers, please join the other leaders in the front, and stay up front through the Assurance of Forgiveness.

*OPENING SONG

"I Believe"

-Mark Miller

I believe in the sun

I believe in the sun even when
even when it's not shining

I believe in love

I believe in love even when
even when I don't feel it

I believe in God

I believe in God even when
even when God is silent

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Please remain standing, and together, let us confess our sin to God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we forget how much you love us. So we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

We do not know how to love one another. So we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

We do not know how to love you. So we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

Only you, O God, can give us the healing and forgiveness we need. So we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*MUSICAL AMEN

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA

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*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, gloria. Amen, Amen.*

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

If you are new or visiting, we welcome you to Old Greenwich! If you would like the pastor to contact you, please fill out the Welcome Card found in the pew holders. If you have a prayer request, there is room on the reverse of the card for you to enter your requests. Please place the cards in the offering plate later in the service.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

- Linda Cable Shute

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

God of all light, show us your Word as we read the words of Scripture today, so that your way will illumine our paths. In Jesus we pray, and through the Holy Spirit, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

"Into the Wilderness"

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 (tune: #94, "O Waly Waly")

**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)

God, you are with us in our wilderness places: speaking peace, presence and comfort. Open our hearts to hear you, to know you are near. Now take what we give back, that our offerings may help heal this world, so in need of your love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" & "Amazing Grace" #404 & #280 v.4

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

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



On **Sunday, February 26, 2023**, we celebrate the **1st Sunday in Lent** at a 10 am worship service with preacher, **The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis Le-Croy**. The service will be streamed on our Facebook Live feed at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." (You need a Facebook account to access the 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."

On January 16, 2023, the Session (leadership board) of Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to establish **our church's land and facilities to be a gun free zone**. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.ogpc.org/we-are-a-gun-free-church/>

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: Feb. 26 - Team 1; March 5 – Team 2

MAKING ROOM FOR GOD: During the Sundays in Lent (February 26 - March 26), you may notice that our Sunday 10 am service looks and feels a little different: a little less talking, a little more music, and a little more silence. In addition to a bit more spacious Sunday morning service, we are also offering a **prayer time from 9:45 to 10:00** (also February 26 - March 26), in the old youth room right next to the sanctuary. All are welcome to this sacred space, where for 15 minutes or so, we will sing simple music, listen to the Word, and sit in silence together.

The **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING** supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all of which work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Go to <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/> for more info. This Special Offering will be received on Palm Sunday.

And... for more information on the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** program, especially in light of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, please go to <https://highlandspresbytery.org/2023/02/09/prayer-for-earthquake-victims-in-syria-and-turkey/>

Do you want to learn more about us and what it means to be a member here? Lucky you! We are offering a class **today, February 26, from 11:15 am to 12:45 pm**. Just come to the class if you are interested in becoming a member. If you cannot attend on Feb. 26, please contact Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com or Barb Frinzi at frinzi3@msn.com.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! All folks of all ages are welcome to join our intergenerational drumming group *Rejoicing Rhythms*, led by Betsy Gaston... AND/OR our intergenerational chimes group, *The Greenwich Ringers*, led by Tom DiGiovanni. See schedule below! Each session **meets right before worship, 9:30 - 9:50 am**. This is a great way to make a joyful noise, no matter your age or musical experience! Questions? Please see Tom DiGiovanni, Betsy Gaston, or Pastor Mary Beth!

Chimes: March 5 & 19, April 16, April 30 + performance

Drumming: May 7 & 21, June 4 + performance

"FISH 'N CHYPS" YOUTH ACTIVITIES (middle and high school) Our youth ministry partnership with College Hill Presbyterian Church will meet every first and third Sunday, from 6 – 7:30 pm, until May 7. **We meet next on Sunday, March 5**, and will be making soft pretzels. Meetings are held at College Hill Presbyterian (501 Brodhead St, Easton PA). Note that in 2023, there will be no dinner provided. Questions? Please see Pastor Mary Beth or email her at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY PAINTING GROUP: Do you prefer images over words? If so, there's a place for you! Our watercolor painting group meets **every Tuesday at 10 am** in the Resource Room (next to Kathleen's office). We have experts to beginners... all are welcome, church and community members alike!! Want to learn more? Please email the church office at oldgreenwich@ogpc.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN meet **monthly on the third Tuesday** at the church in the room behind the pastor's office **at NOON (note time change)**. The study is for beginners who want to know more about the bible and those of us seeking a better understanding in the company of other women. We will be using *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, written by The Rev. Eugenia Gamble. You don't have to attend every meeting... come when you can. The study can be ordered at Presbyterianwomen.org or call/text Lisa Gray to get it - 973-476-4720 or email her at Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com.

PW LENTEN BOOK STUDY: If you're looking for a way to deepen your Lenten journey with other women, using a book study called *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Fohr... here's how. It meets on **Thursdays at noon** and will be a one-hour meeting on Zoom, through the season of Lent. This group was formed originally from women who attended the PW Bible Study Workshop held at Stony Point Center and is open to any interested women. Email / text Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com / 973-476-4720 to be sent the Zoom link.

LENTEN POETRY GROUP: Elders Katie Rienzo and Abbie Conlon, along with Pastor Mary Beth, are thrilled to offer a poetry group for our church and community during the season of Lent. We will explore themes such as grief, love, redemption, doubt/faith, beauty, and identity through poetry. We will meet **every Thursday during March (2, 9, 16, 23 and 30) from 6:30 pm to 7:25 pm**. Each session stands on its own, so come to one, two, or more sessions! This is a class for beginners, so no expertise expected! **OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!** Questions? Please email Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

LAY READERS NEEDED TO SIGN UP!!: We know... you've thought, "Ah, good, I'll sign up for Lay Reader when I get home today." But things got busy, and you never got to it. We understand... Maybe you can bring the bulletin home today with this notice circled as a little reminder to use our website to sign up to be a Sunday morning lay reader! Go to ogpc.org, click on the "Music & Worship" tab, and on the drop-down menu, click on "Sign up to be a Lay Reader." It will bring up Sunday dates and you enter your name for the week you'd like to be lay reader. You will receive a Lay Reader Bulletin via email on the Thursday prior to the Sunday you are scheduled, so you will be able to go over everything in advance. Questions? Please see Lisa Kolterjahn or email her at lkolterjahn88@gmail.com.

SIGHT & SOUND THEATER TICKETS: Reservations have been made for the Miracle of Christmas Show in Lancaster, PA for 12/2/23 at 3 pm. Adults - \$84.55; children - \$39. Please pay Barbara Frinzi, ASAP, by check or Venmo (@Barbara-Frinzi). Please give checks to Cathy Ahart or Jen Miller who will forward to Barb.

You're invited to the **7th ANNUAL IRON PIGS BASEBALL GAME** outing on **Saturday, July 29, 2023, 6:35 pm**, at Coca Cola Park, Allentown, PA. Tickets are \$17 per person (*includes a \$2 credit to be applied toward a food or merchandise purchase within the park*). ALL payments while in the park are cashless, meaning debit or credit cards only. Children ages 2 and under are free if they sit in their parents' lap. There will be access to air conditioning; \$5 per car for parking; park is handicap accessible and very kid-friendly; ample parking with shuttle service from distant lots. (Carpooling is strongly suggested); fireworks featured directly after the game (weather permitting). All OGPC members, their families and friends can attend. Contact Walter or Anita Campbell with any questions. 908-479-4737 / souptime2222@gmail.com
Cash or checks payable to "Anita Campbell" or "Walter Campbell." **PAYMENT DEADLINE** - Sunday, April 30,

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, Mike Lemons, at ML12504@gmail.com or Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@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: **healing prayers for Shelly and Sydney Papp, and their whole family, on the sudden death of Shelly's husband and Sydney's father, Michael; Kevin Boyle, Carl Guthardt's son-in-law's brother; Dennis, struggling and in need of God's guidance, and prayers for his mother, Carol Jean;** Sue Rutan, recovering from knee surgery; Bill Lee, recovering from knee surgery; Charlotte Pickell's mother-in-law, Shirley Parrish, recovering from surgery; victims of the earthquake in Turkey & Syria and their families, as well as rescuers and medical workers; healing for Sue Beacht, recovering from surgery on 2/2, and for husband, Tom, and their daughter, Bridget, as well; Alison Ahart, for healing from surgery; the family of Gerry Ihrie, who died on 2/4; the family of Tom LeCroy, Pastor Mary Beth's Dad, who died on 2/4; Lisa Kolterjahn, recovering from surgery; *the family of Bob Tintle, who died on 1/30; the family of Marcia Taylor's Aunt, Jean Meckley, who died on 1/31; Cooper Marino's Aunt Lourdes, on the sudden death of her husband, Bob; Melissa Hixon's cousin, Karen, recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer;* Carl & Virginia Guthardt; 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; 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

Kathleen Scala, Admin. Asst.

Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons

Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir.

Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Fin. Secy

pastor@ogpc.org / 515-979-9681

oldgreenwich@ogpc.org / 908-479-4449

Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session

Francis Rienzo, Media/Comm. Dir.

Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Sonshine Singers & Greenwich Ringers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers