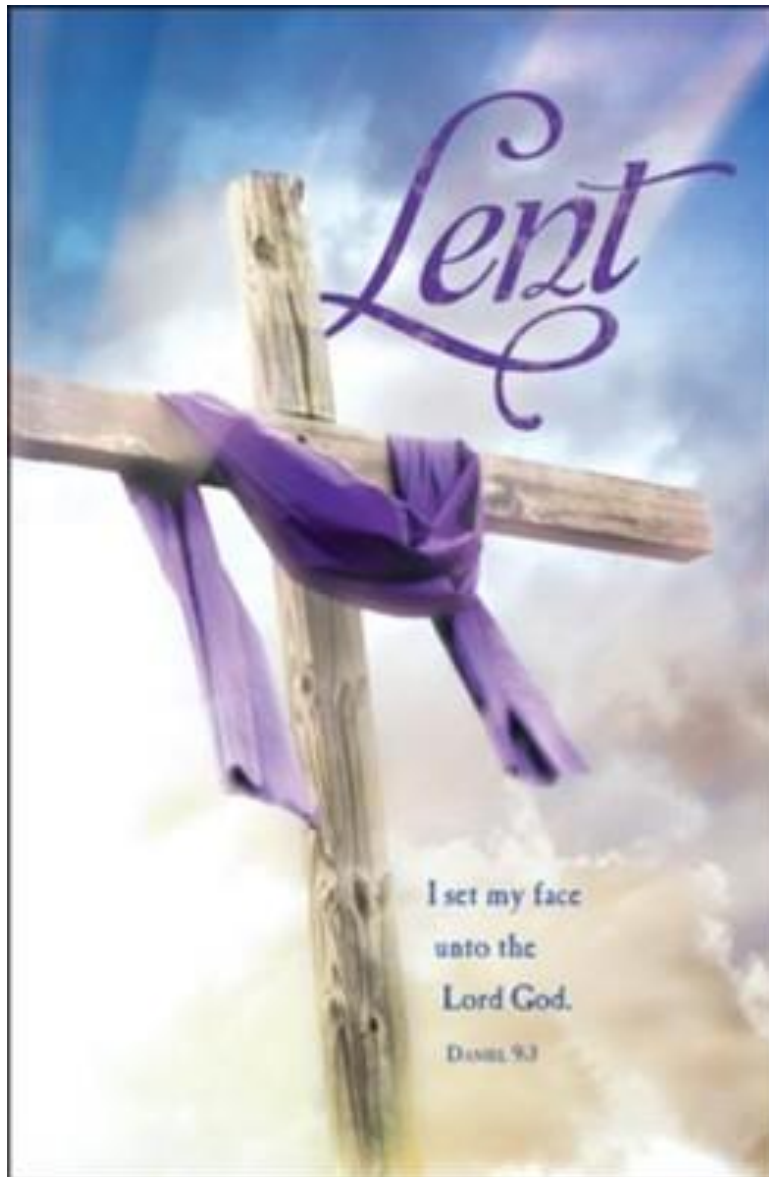


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



3rd Sunday in Lent

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

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

10 am

Every Sunday during Lent from 9:45am to a little before 10:00am, everyone is 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 10:00am, 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 (Based on Is. 55:1-3)

Deacon Anita Campbell, Lay Reader

Please join in the Call to Worship, which is prayed responsively.

Come to the water, all you who thirst,

Come drink deeply from the river of life.

Come to the water, all you who are weary,

Come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.

Come to the water, all you who long for justice,

Come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

God is here among us, washing us clean!

Together, 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.

* 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. When you hear me say, "So we pray," please respond, "Forgive us; turn us around."

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Forgive us; turn us around.

We forget how much you love this whole world. So we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

We so often live numbed-out, accepting oppression and poverty and despair as “just the way it is.” So we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

Only you, O God, can give us the healing 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

“A Song Unending”

- Rojahn/Dengler
Bruce Gaston, violin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Please join saying the Prayer for Illumination together:

Come, Holy Spirit, and speak through your living Word. Open our hearts to you. Open our hands to the world. We pray this in Christ’s name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING John 4:3-30, 39

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

“The (Other) Good Samaritan”

Rev. 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)

Please join in saying the Prayer of Dedication together:

God of all life, shower us in your living water, bringing us to new life, fresh and clean. Walk with us as we share the knowledge of your living water with others, so that *all* might live. Now take our offerings, which we give back to you. May they bless this broken world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

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*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

Flowers this morning are donated by Peter and Sharon Dachisen as a "Thank You" and sign of appreciation to Pastor Mary Beth, Betsy, Tom and the entire Church Choir for the inspiration they bring each and every Sunday. The musical talent, the spiritual sounds and words are a blessing to this church community!

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



On **Sunday, March 12, 2023**, we celebrate the **3rd Sunday in Lent** at a 10 am worship service with **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 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 by visiting our website at www.ogpc.org, and scrolling down on the home page to "Watch a Service." To find prior live streams, click on the "Live" tab in YouTube.

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: March 19 – Team 4; March 26 - Team 1

LENTEN PER CAPITA INVITATION by Elder Abbie Conlon

If you are like me, you often struggle during Lent to come up with something to give up. Whether it be sweets or morning coffees, it can be difficult to go choose something to stick to. The Discipleship Committee would like to invite you to join us in a Lenten Per Capita challenge. For the 40 days of Lent, we would like you to consider "giving up" a dollar a day to go towards your per capita pledge. (As a reminder, the per capita is the price per head our church pays towards our wider denomination). The total amount per person is \$42.50, so by putting \$40 away throughout Lent, you will have basically fulfilled your per capita amount. Last year, our church raised around \$3,000 in per capita pledges; but no matter how much we raise, we are committed to paying the full amount because we believe our connections to one another and to the wider church are holy, necessary and good!

Let's come together this Lenten season to help our church to thrive with the full support of our per capita pledges (which is around \$13,000). There are countdown calendars located in the back of the sanctuary (Narthex) for you to put on your fridge to track your progress through Lent. This could also be a fun family event to open avenues of communication on thoughtful giving in church. Please see anyone on the Discipleship Committee with any questions (Al Marino, Abbie Conlon, Charlie Frinzi, Rob Todd, Katie Rienzo (ex officio), Pastor MB (ex officio). Thank you!

SIGN UP ONLINE TO BE A LAY READER: Great news! You can now 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.

"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, 6 – 7:30 pm, until May 7. **We meet next Sunday, March 19.** We meet 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.

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 19, April 16, April 30 + performance

Drumming: May 7 & 21, June 4 + performance

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will be meeting 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. We will be delving into it as if you haven't read the chapter, so you can come anytime. 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.

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 (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.

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 is a one-hour Zoom meeting on Thursdays at noon. Email / text Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com / 973-476-4720 to be sent the Zoom link.

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: MaryWills LeCroy, prayers for healing from grief, and for peace that passes all understanding; Sandy Frey's father, Glen Stalder, for Connie Prye, Sandy's sister, and for David Jamison, Sandy's brother-in-law; Prayers of thanksgiving and continued healing for Caleb Frey whose tumor has reduced by 60%; Paul Dineen, brother-in-law of the Bradlaus, who is entering hospice due to congestive heart failure and bone marrow leukemia; Marie Makis Reph and her son Gavin. Gavin was in a head on motorcycle accident with a tractor trailer and is in ICU; Carol Lee Doeringer's friend Donald who is struggling with forgiveness, Desiree who is undergoing chemotherapy and her son Julian who needs pancreatic surgery to survive; prayers for Debbie Smith's father, Ralph Seifert, who has been struggling with health issues, prayers for Debbie and her family; 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;* 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	pastor@ogpc.org / 515-979-9681
Kathleen Scala, Admin. Asst.	oldgreenwich@ogpc.org / 908-479-4449
Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons	Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist
Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir.	Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session
Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Fin. Secy	Francis Rienzo, Media/Comm. Dir.
Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, <i>Sonshine Singers & Greenwich Ringers</i>	
Betsy Gaston, Leader, <i>Rejoicing Rhythms</i> drummers	