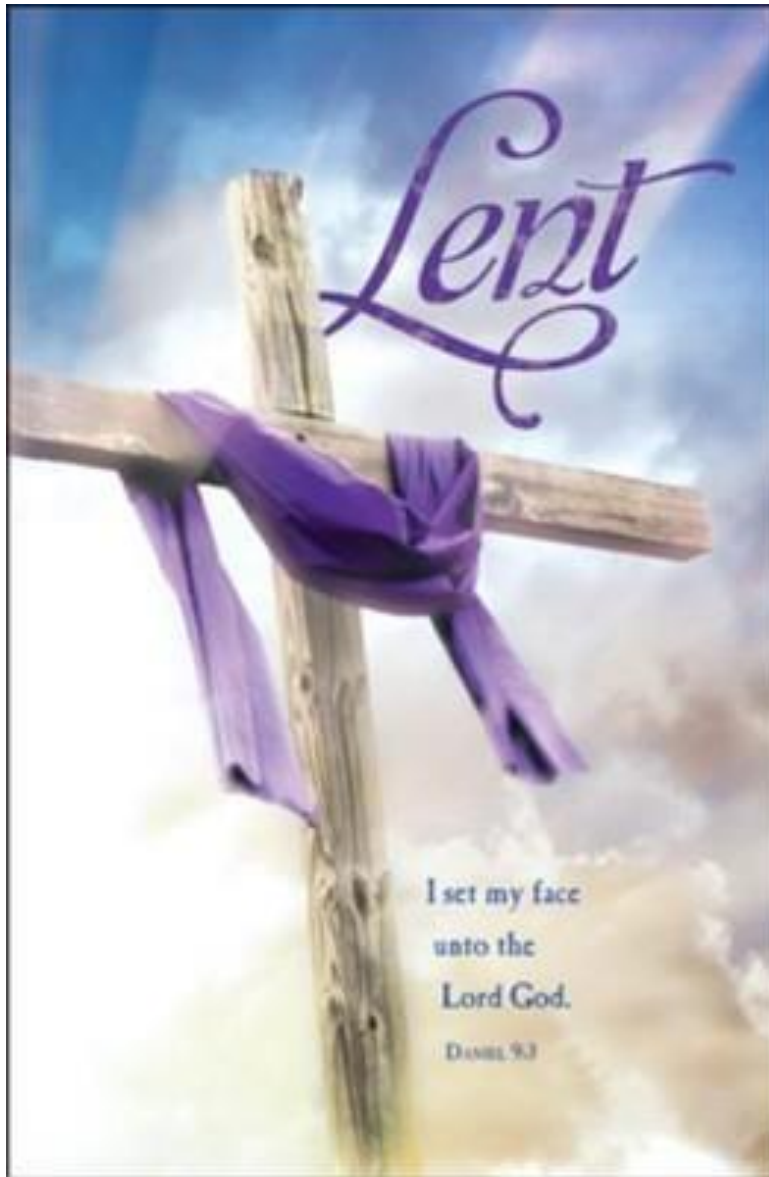


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



4th Sunday in Lent

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

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10 am

Every Sunday during Lent from 9:45 am to a little before 10:00 am, 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

"Lovebirds"

- Abe Frey

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 46:10)

Elder Christina "Tina" Schulman, Lay Reader

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

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

OPENING SILENCE

Children and/or dancers, when the pastor invites you up, 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.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Forgive us; turn us around.

We hurt the people who love us. So, we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

We hurt ourselves. 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 Clean Heart"

- Benjamin Harlan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit. Open up your Word to your people. Open up our hearts to hear. Open up our hands to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING— 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

"Beautiful"

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

"Hold on to Your Hats"

*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)

Loving God, thank you that, in you, we are beautiful. Made in your image, help us to give up thinking anything less of ourselves. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless the whole world in your great mercy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Lamb of God"

2113

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

"So it Goes"

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



On **Sunday, March 19, 2023**, we celebrate the **4th 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

GREENWICH ARTS SERIES: Abe Frey and Jazz Comes (back) to Church!

We are so excited to present two special music services as part of our Greenwich Arts Series 2023! First, **TODAY**, our very own Abe Frey is leading us in worship. Abe is a singer-songwriter from Phillipsburg, NJ who grew up singing at Old Greenwich and considers our church a part of his musical heritage. Abe writes and performs catchy folk tunes that reflect the struggles and triumphs of everyday life and spirituality. He currently resides in South Philadelphia.

Second, join us for a rousing Palm Sunday celebration on **Sunday, April 2**, as New York City-based jazz musicians Hannah Marks (bass), Danielle Wertz (voice), Roy Ben Bashat (guitar) and Evan Hyde (drums) lead

us in worship and song! As Abe's will do today, our jazz musicians will lead our worship service on Palm Sunday at 10am. Come join us! Tell your friends and neighbors!

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 choose something to stick to. The Discipleship Committee invites 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)).

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

"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 tonight, Sunday, March 19** 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN meet monthly on the third Tuesday at the church in the room behind the pastor's office **at NOON**. 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.

EASTER FLOWERS! EASTER FLOWERS! It's not too early to purchase an Easter flower or two to flood Old Greenwich's beautiful sanctuary with signs of NEW LIFE on Easter Sunday (April 9!). You can use your smart phone with this QR code to purchase! (Just open your photo app and hover over the image). Dedications will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

Old Greenwich Presbyterian
Church Easter Flower Form



GLOW EASTER EGG HUNT is the next joint activity with Greenwich Nursery School: on **Friday, March 31, at 6**

pm (rain date: Saturday, April 1, 6 pm)! For children ages 0 to 10 (or thereabouts). In addition to hunting for eggs, we will also play bingo, decorate eggs, stack cups, and go on a scavenger hunt! To give back to our community, we are also **collecting diapers and feminine hygiene products**, which you may **bring in anytime up until March 31**, to donate to our friends at the River of Life Church in P'burg. The cost is \$5 per child. Please RSVP to Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com by March 24 if you want to be part of the fun! See you there!

The Church Care and Kinship Committee will be hosting a **BAPTISMAL OUTFIT SHOW** on **April 23** following the service. To ensure that we have enough outfits to make the show worthwhile, will you please **drop this tear off sign-up sheet in the offering plate** to allow us to exhibit your baptismal outfits. Looking forward to celebrating our history and this important milestone in the life of our church families! Any questions, please contact Lori Metz, 610-972-7900.

Name _____

Phone _____ Number of Baptismal outfits to display _____

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.

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 - 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: Want 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: **Rob Todd's mother Noi Todd, who has Parkinson's; Al Marino, having knee surgery again on 3/ 21;** 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 Susan Bradlau, who is entering hospice due to congestive heart failure and bone marrow leukemia and for Paul's wife, Judy; Marie Makis Reph and her son Gavin, who was in a head on motorcycle accident 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 and her family and her father, Ralph Seifert, who has been struggling with health issues; *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; 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	