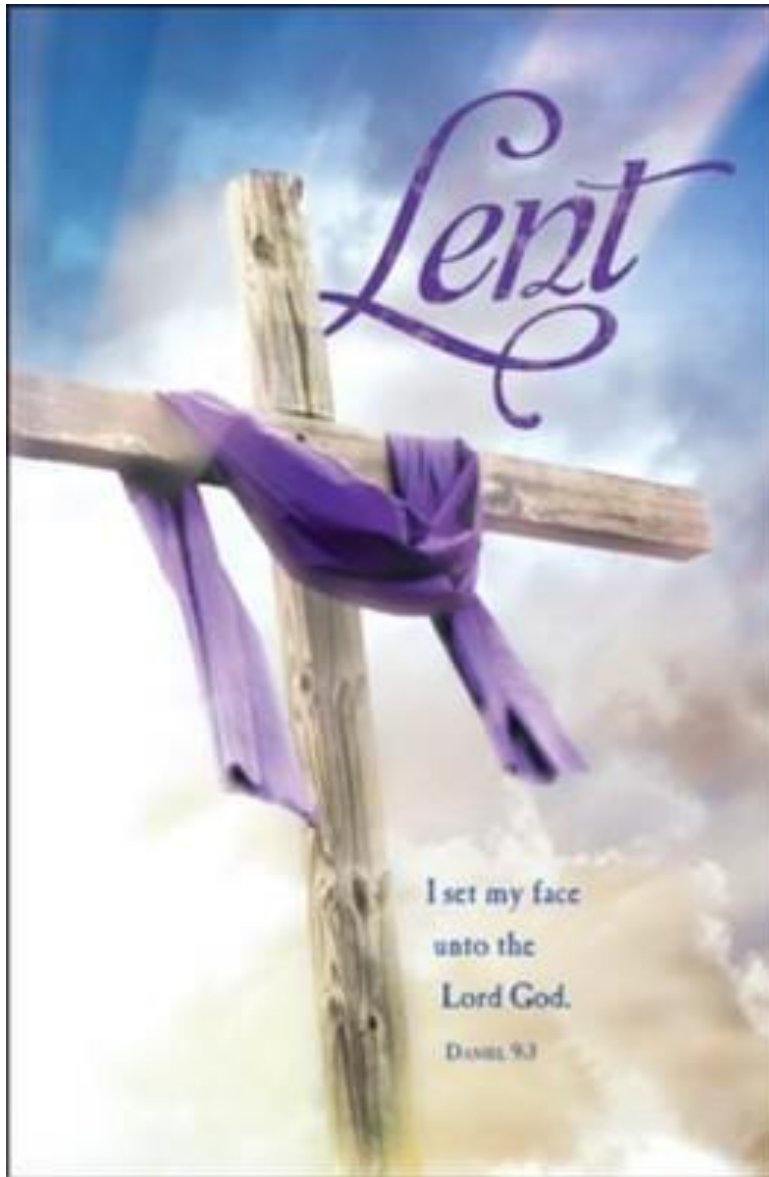


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



5th Sunday in Lent

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

The participants from our final 9:45 am Lenten prayer service will process into the sanctuary at 10 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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 46:10)

Elder George Bradlau, Lay Reader

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Children and/or dancers and/or those young-at-heart, 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

*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 wide broken and beautiful world. So, we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

We so often live numbed-out, accepting oppression, poverty and needless loss of life as the "status quo;"
So, we pray:

Forgive us; turn us around.

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

Forgive us; turn us around.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*MUSICAL AMEN

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

"My Song in the Night"

- Benjamin Harlan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Holy One, your light has dawned upon the world with healing and new life for all of creation. Let that same light shine upon your Holy Word, bringing forth what you would have us hear, and do, this day. Through your Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So, I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore, prophesy, and say to them, "Thus, says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Can These Bones Live?"

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

UNITING WITH THE CONGREGATION – **Sandra Friedman, Karen Hart, Chris Hart, Olivia Hart, Hannah Hart, Leslie Strozeski, Richard Theurer and Wendy Theurer**

Through baptism, we enter the covenant God has established. In that covenant God gives us new life; in that covenant, we are guarded from evil and nurtured by the love of God and God's people!

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do, with God's help.**

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*WELCOME

As your new family, we welcome you to the ministry and mission of this part of the body of Christ! From this day forward, may the bonds of Christian love between us be strengthened and deepened, and may we stir one another up to love and good works, that together we may fulfill the purposes to which God has called us.

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)

Gracious God, we give back to you what is yours. Receive our offering of thanks. May we now go into the world with our hands open, our hearts burning, knowing that you are breathing into us your very life. Can these bones live? Oh Lord, you know; and today, so do we. In Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"My Song is Love Unknown"

#76, vs. 4,5

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

On **Sunday, March 26, 2023**, we celebrate the **5th 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.

OGPC IS GUN FREE: 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 26 - Team 1; April 2 – Team 2

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

Join us for a rousing Palm Sunday celebration **next 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! Invite 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)).

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! **We are also collecting diapers and feminine hygiene products, which can be brought to the dance.** 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!

COLLECTION FOR RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH: To give back to our community, we are **collecting diapers and feminine hygiene products**, which you may **bring to Old Greenwich anytime up until March 31**, to donate to the River of Life Church in P'burg.



MEETS APRIL 20! Join us to share the evening with friends and enjoy interesting and in-depth discussions of Maya Angelou's, *"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."* This candid and poetic memoir is an American classic, banned in places for its honest depiction of a black women's childhood in 1930s-40s America, but beloved by millions of readers. Together, let's find out why the caged bird sings. All are welcome. See Pastor Mary Beth or Elder George Bradlau if you have any questions.

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: Join Elders Katie Rienzo and Abbie Conlon, along with Pastor Mary Beth, for the **final get-together of the Poetry Group this Thursday, March 30, from 6:30 pm to 7:25 pm.**

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.

"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 on Sunday, April 2**, 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.

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. Printed order forms are available from the Ushers.

Deadline for orders is April 3.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

April 6 - Maundy Thursday	7 pm
April 7 - Good Friday	7 pm
April 8 - Holy Saturday	10 am - Children's Holy Week event

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: April 16, April 30 + performance

Drumming: May 7 & 21, June 4 + performance

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 _____

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**

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.

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: **the family of Paul Dineen, especially his wife, Judy, brother-in-law of Susan Bradlau, who died on 3/22; Lisa Gray's brother, Neil, who had spinal surgery on 3/24; Judy Felch, who is healing from a medical procedure;** 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%; 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;; 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