



Old Greenwich

Presbyterian Church

VOL. MMXXIII, ISSUE 5

“Chosen”

At the end of the Gospel according to John, Jesus says to his disciples: “You did not choose me, but I chose you.” You did not choose me, but I chose you. Wow. What a powerful promise!

A beautiful, and moving, way we recently saw this promise played out was through the baptism of Esperanza Jane Ahart on Sunday, April 23. Esperanza was too young to make the decision to be baptized herself, and so it was her family who brought her to the waters at the font, reminding all of us that even when we have *no idea* as to what is going on, God claims us anyway, and seals the promise that God will *always* love us: “You did not choose me but I chose you.” So says God to Esperanza; so says God to us.

At the end of May, we will celebrate God working and moving in the lives of our confirmands – Mia DiGiovanni, Ellie Mardis-LeCroy, Jackie Miller, Maddie Wayne, Adam Wolfe and Connor Wolfe. We will remind them (and keep reminding them, as many times as it takes!) that no matter where they go, God goes with them. No matter what, God is always there, loving them, calling them home: “You did not choose me but I chose you.” So says God to our confirmands; so says God to us.

Many of us have gone through times in our lives when we’ve wondered where God has been, when we’ve wondered if God has been really present at all. Many of us have gone through times when we’ve cried out, more or less in the words of Psalm 22: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Even in our life together at Greenwich, it has sometimes been difficult to know exactly how God has been at work, how God has been leading the church. But Jesus’ words come to us, sometimes faintly, sometimes in that still, small voice, “You did not choose me, but I chose you.”

We are chosen of God. Even when we don’t understand it, even when we forget it, even when we stray from it, *we are chosen of God*. Chosen to love each other as God loves us. Chosen to serve each other, and our community. Chosen to see and proclaim new life in a world that tells us we are foolish to see and say such things.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you.” What a powerful promise! What an awesome responsibility. What an amazing grace.

Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary Beth

No firearms of any kind are allowed on OGPC property except for police and security personnel. This policy covers the building (Sanctuary, Memorial Hall, Trinity Wing, etc.) and all OGPC owned land around it. The NO GUN POLICY statement, adopted by Session reads:

OGPC GUN FREE POLICY

On January 16, 2023 at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Session of Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to establish the land and facility of Old Greenwich Church to be a gun free zone. From thenceforth, it is the determination of the Session that NO FIREARMS of any kind will be allowed anywhere on church property at any time except as carried, maintained or under the control of active duty police and qualified and permitted retired police or designated security guards. This policy applies to all people who enter upon the property of the church including but not limited to church staff, members and friends, all guests, private contractors and delivery people, and all who use the church facility for authorized purposes including but not limited to Greenwich Nursery School, Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and any other persons, groups, or organizations who may use church land or facilities for their own purposes whether or not authorized by the church.

Violators of this policy will be subject to removal and/or arrest by the police.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Our youth (middle and high schoolers) ministry partnership with College Hill Presbyterian Church will be having it's last meeting on Sunday, **May 7**.

Come prepared for anything, because **what we'll be doing is a mystery!**

We meet at College Hill Presby. Church, 501 Brodhead St, Easton PA.

Questions? Please see Pastor Mary Beth or email her at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

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.

SUNDAY FLORAL DEDICATIONS

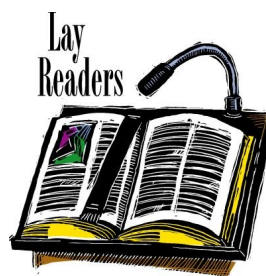
The cost to purchase arrangements for the altar is **\$20 each**.

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 Sunday bulletin.



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 have everything to go over in advance. Questions? Please see Lisa Kolterjahn or email her at lkolterjahn88@gmail.com.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

05/02	Daniel Hixon	05/15	Deborah Epstein
	Jillian Miller	05/16	Jacqueline Miller
05/04	James Savacool	05/18	Sherri Ann Wolfe
	Jeffrey Miller	05/20	Alan Smith
05/04	Wyatt Williams	05/22	Catherine Ahart
05/05	Michael Todd		Christine Lee
	Ethan Garvey	05/23	Eleanor Bradlau
05/06	Dorothy Mitchell	05/24	Ava Hixon
	Jeanne Stahlecker	05/25	Maria Hannis
05/10	Suzanne Newbrough		Carolyn Brown
05/12	Quinn Bakros	05/27	Sally Reinhard
05/13	Kurt Grimm	05/28	Grace Slack
05/14	Jack Taylor		Nora Budd

*Children are in bold.

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY:

05/25/1985	Lori Metz & Michael Cecere
05/24/2014	Jodie & Tom Garvey
05/18/1991	Cheryl & John Garcia
05/14/2005	Donald & Kim Mrotek
05/26/1979	James & Karen Savacool
05/25/1997	Michael & Jaelene Slaven



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Chimes! Do you want to play the chimes? All are welcome, no matter your age! We will rehearse in Memorial Hall on **April 30** from **9:30 to 9:50 am**, and will perform in worship on May 14. See Tom DiGiovanni for more info.



to: **Gretchen Alencewicz** for help with weeding and church grounds clean-up; **Ernie Maso**, for mowing at the church; **Ellen Viscel**, for sprucing up the bulletin boards throughout the building;



Coming soon! Information about the annual choral festival on October 7th featuring Patti Drennan from Oklahoma and Emily Drennan from New York.



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. **We meet at 6 pm to 7:25 pm** on Thursdays, in the Resource Room. Come on in and see what the buzz is all about. All are welcome. ?'s - see Pastor Mary Beth or Elder George Bradlau.



It was a beautiful day for a baptism! Esperanza Jane Ahart, daughter of Ed and Dani, and grand-daughter of Ed & Cathy Ahart and Mariano Escamilla & Paulina Gonzalez, was welcomed into our community of faith on the same day as a Baptism Outfit Show and luncheon, hosted by the Congregational Care & Kinship Committee.

Lots of fun was had at the April children's event hosted jointly by Greenwich Nursery School and Old Greenwich.



Old Greenwich and Greenwich Nursery School are hosting an old fashioned Ice Cream Social on Friday, May 12, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

You can RSVP for the event at:

<https://forms.gle/rGHvW7Hw8agKVWH3A>

(Reservations are appreciated, but not required.)

Rain date for the event is
Saturday, May 13, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Celebrating Moms with Ice Cream & Music

A Fundraiser to help support our Kids Club Summer Program.

Friday, May 12th from 5:30pm-7:30pm

KIDS \$5 & ADULTS \$8
FOR ICE CREAM! (DAIRY-FREE AVAILABLE)

More details of the event on our website:
www.greenwichnursery.com

Bring a blanket or chairs!

COME EAT ICE CREAM AT OUR SUNDAE BAR!

MUSIC FOR THE KIDS
WE WILL BRING OUT A FEW MUSICIANS TO SHARE THEIR TALENT WITH THE KIDS.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL!

- WE WILL HAVE MUSIC PLAYING
- CRAFTS FOR THE KIDS TO MAKE
- BUBBLE MACHINE
- PLAYGROUND WILL BE OPEN!

Sign up for a free kids music Session with Mr. Ludwig

SPONSORED BY GREENWICH NURSERY SCHOOL
AND OLD GREENWICH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEACON SCHOLARSHIPS

The Deacons are accepting applications for this year's Richard B. Gibbons Post Secondary Scholarships and Camp Scholarships. The amount awarded depends on the number of applications received and the funds available. In 2022, we awarded three camping and three college scholarships for a combined total of \$2,734. (For information on Camp Johnsonburg programs for children grades 1 - 12, visit www.campjburg.org/summer-camp)

You can pick up an application form in the Resource Room from the Scholarships mail slot or on our website at <https://www.ogpc.org/our-deacons/>

Give completed application to Ernie Maso or Al Brown. Questions? Contact Ernie Maso at ernie.maso@gmail.com



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women meet monthly on the **third Tuesday of each month** at the church in the room behind the pastor's office **at NOON**. We are using *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*, written by The Rev. Eugenia Gamble. 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.

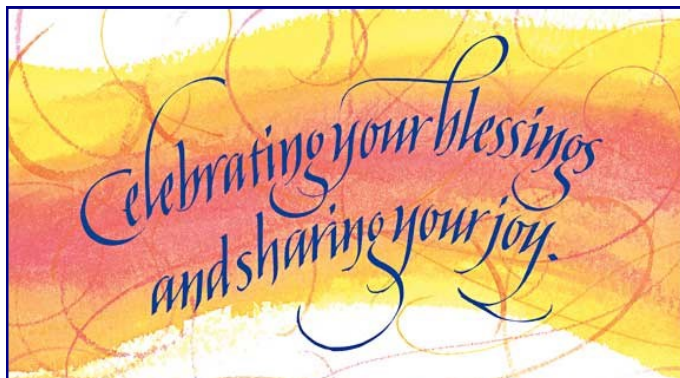
HELPING HANDS FUND

Many thanks for the continued financial support of this Deacon mission. Your generosity has allowed our church to help out families beyond our immediate church community with a variety of needs. Please consider referring those you know who are struggling as we endeavor to represent the love of our Lord to a lost and hurting world. Email Joan Holloway jhollow@ptd.net for more information.

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. - Proverbs 11:25



Please hold in prayer: friend of Kathleen Scala, David Kokinda, recovering from spinal surgery; Cynthia Healy's goddaughter, MaryBeth & her daughter, Melanie, for healing; Carol Lee Doeringer's heart health; Fritz & Sandy Hamlin's grandchildren, Crystal & Greg, on the passing of their grandmother, Ann Stone; friend of Carol Doeringer, Millie Miller, who is recovering from eye surgery and facing a second eye surgery; Gail, Diane and Josie, all who died recently, and their families; friends of Dottie Davidson, Anna, whose brother died on 4/8, and Sami, who recently lost her husband; Howard Bell's wife, Sharon, who is in Abington Manor; Tricia Marino's mother, Margaret Matthews, as she recovers from surgery; the family of Jeff Brown, Al & Lorraine Brown's son, who died on 4/2 - especially for Jeff's sons, Liam and Ryan, for comfort and a peace beyond understanding; the victims and families of the Covenant School shooting in Nashville, TN; continued healing for John Oakes, who was hospitalized the week of 3/20, but is now home; gratitude for Leni Voorhees and Dorothy Purdy being unharmed by their car hydroplaning on 3/23; Carl & Ginny 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; all experiencing the effects of extreme weather conditions around the world



JOY CORNER

Jill Miller has exciting news! She has verbally committed to play field hockey at Stonehill College in Easton, MA.

What a joy it was to baptize Esperanza Jane Ahart (daughter of Ed & Dani Ahart) on 4/23! May God's blessings continue to rest upon her, and her whole family.

Our partnership with Greenwich Nursery School continues to be a joy and blessing. We had a wonderful time together at our April event, creating birdhouses, gratitude rocks, bird

feeders, and other things.

The choir's music brings joy and the baptismal display, lunch, and the JOYFUL and LIVELY fellowship after church on April 23 was SUCH A JOY!

Joy to the world!!

Mimi Rienzo is going to be attending SUNY Cortland and Francis Rienzo will be attending Georgetown University.

COMMUNITY WATERCOLOR 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 the church office).

Experts to beginners... all are welcome, church and community members alike.

Want to learn more? Please email the church office at oldgreenwich@ogpc.org.

Also, be sure to come see some of the paintings from the group which are hanging on the wall outside the Pastor's office in Trinity Wing.



IS YOUR GREEN THUMB ITCHING TO GET DIRTY??

The Greenwich Cemetery was established in 1740 and has been well maintained and tended since its earliest beginnings. Within its expansive grounds are numerous small gardens and memorials which require detailed care. A volunteer group is being formed to help maintain and enhance these individual small areas. Equipment, supplies, and guidance will be provided for anyone who would like to spend an hour or two a week, or bi-weekly, in a beautiful and serene setting, exercising their green thumb and while contributing to the mission of maintaining this historic, yet active cemetery.

If you are interested, please contact Cathy Ahart at the cemetery office - 908-479-0144 or email her at greenwichcemetery@gmail.com.

MAY 2023

Sun.

Mon.

Tue.

Wed.

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat.

	1 Boy Sc. Tr. Council Mtg. 6 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm <Admin - Out	2 _____	3 Christian Ed. 7:30 pm _____	4 Book Club 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm _____	5 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm AA Dance 9 pm _____	6 _____
7 Communion & Jazz Goes to Church Wor. Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	8 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm <Admin—Out	9 Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm _____	10 _____	11 Book Club 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm _____	12 Office Closed Ice Cream Social - 5:30 ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm _____	13 Rain date for Ice Cream Social - 5:30
14 Confirmation Class 9 am Worship Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Mtg. - 3 pm	13 Memorial Day Office closed Boy Scouts 7 pm Session Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm <--Pastor out-	16 Art Group 10 am Personnel 4:30 pm Deacons 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm _____	17 _____	18 Discipleship Comm. 10 am Book Club 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm _____	19 Office Closed Jr. Girl Scouts 4:45 pm ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm _____	20 Raritan River Concert 7:30 pm
21 Wor. Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm _____ Pastor out _____>	22 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	23 Art Group 10 am Women's Bible Study - noon AA Meeting 7:30 pm	24 _____	25 Book Club 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	26 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	27 _____
28 Confirmation & Pentecost Sunday Worship Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	29 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	30 Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	31 _____			

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church
17 Greenwich Church Road
Stewartsville, NJ 08886-2515

Dated Material

Address Service Requested

The Breezeway



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THE WEB!
www.ogpc.org**