THE BREEZEWAY June 2023



# Old Greenwich

VOL. MMXXIII, ISSUE 6

Presbyterian Church

One of our church members, Tina Schulman, sent me this reflection by writer, Steve Garnass-Holmes, a few weeks ago, and, since then, I haven't been able to get it out of my heart.

I invite you to prayerfully read the reflection below. Read it a few times, at least once out loud. And then, wonder with me: what would it mean if we believed this, **really** believed it? That God, more than anything else, is pure, unadulterated joy? That God is wild dancer, compassionate listener and tear-wiper, grinning million-instrument-player? If we started to believe this, how might we start to live differently? Treat each other and ourselves differently? What might we start to know?

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mary Beth

"What If God Is Joy?"

- Steve Garnaas-Holmes

What if God is joy?

What if the Father is bliss and the Son is gratitude

and the Holy Spirit is gleeful wonder?

What if creating is God's play,

and the big bang was an outburst of happiness

and the galaxies are spun from pure delight?

What if gravity, that holds the universe together,

is simply the pleasure of harmony,

and every created thing's ecstatic desire for one another?

What if earth is God's great celebration,

spinning and dancing and making music and beauty

and inviting everyone in to feast and wonder?

What if being itself is such a miracle

that God gets endless enjoyment out of it?

What if God doesn't own a throne (most uncomfortable)

and has never handled a gavel,

but has a million musical instruments?

What if God goes to hell every weekend

with a load of tissues and listens to everybody

who's locked themselves up in there

until they've cried out all their sorrows,

and they come out laughing and dancing?

What if what it means to come to God

is to enter into God's joy?

What if the work of justice

is to enable everyone to truly know joy?

(And would that not mean that cruelty and injustice

are most heinously sinful?)

What if even in our grief and our despair

the root of our being is joy,

and resurrection means passing through our sorrow

into God's delight?

What if salvation means

being rescued from our inability to rejoice?

Why not? Why not? Do you think you can convince me

that God is all somber and serious?

What if even now, as you consider this,

and think it's kind of silly,

God is laughing... and waiting?

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#### 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.

## 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 while contributing to the mission of maintaining this historic, yet active cemetery.

Please contact Cathy Ahart at the cemetery office - 908-479-0144 or email her at <u>greenwichcemetery@gmail.com</u>.

#### **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. (For information on Camp Johnsonburg programs for children grades 1 - 12, visit <a href="www.campjburg.org/summer-camp">www.campjburg.org/summer-camp</a>)

Applications are in the Resource Room in the Scholarships mail slot or on our website at: <a href="https://www.ogpc.org/our-deacons/">https://www.ogpc.org/our-deacons/</a>

Give completed application to Ernie Maso or Al Brown. Questions? Contact Ernie Maso at <a href="mailto:ernie.maso@gmail.com">ernie.maso@gmail.com</a>

#### **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 <a href="mailto:pastormarybeth@gmail.com">pastormarybeth@gmail.com</a>.

### 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.

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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 <a href="mailto:lkolterjahn88@gmail.com">lkolterjahn88@gmail.com</a>.

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### **CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE:**

06/01	Eliana Hixon	06/10	Jackson Bradlau
	Jillian MacKinnon	06/11	Amanda Mrotek
06/02	Brenda Schofield	06/14	Robert Winter
06/03	Steve Gooley	06/17	Elijah Mauricio
06/04	Abbie Conlon	06/19	Kristen Todd
06/06	Bridget Beacht	06/20	Glenn Snyder, Sr.
06/08	George Bradlau	06/23	Sue Moore
06/09	Barbara Repko	06/24	Henry Riewerts
	Eric Nagy	06/26	Joan Holloway
	Maya Slaven		Abraham Frey

\*Children are in bold.

#### - In Memoriam -

Mary Grances Bortz-Graham July 3, 1952 - May 20, 2023

## CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE:

06/01/1985	Martha & John Grazul
06/05/1971	Jack & Marcia Taylor
06/09/2001	Tom DiGiovanni & Amy Ahart
06/10/1972	Charles & Barbara Frinzi
06/10/1989	Bruce & Betsy Gaston
06/10/2000	Philip & Trish Millon
06/12/1994	Eric & Candace Nagy
06/17/1995	Sandra & Steve Friedman
06/20/????	Richard & Wendy Theurer
06/20/1970	George & Susan Bradlau
06/20/1982	Don & Maria Hannis
06/20/2014	Micha & Jamie Fell
06/22/1963	Alfred & Lorraine Brown
06/24/1978	Debora & Jerry Smith
06/24/2000	Mike & Missy Lemons
06/25/1960	Glenn & Mabel Snyder, Sr.
06/26/1971	Fritz & Sandy Hamlin
06/27/1981	Leslie & Tom Strozeski
06/27/2009	Alison & Shaw Williams
06/30/1962	John & Linda Oakes, Jr.

### HELPING HANDS FUND UPDATE



Many thanks for the continued financial support of this Deacon mission. Your generosity has allowed our church to help out two families in April.

Do not underestimate the impact this mission can offer to those who are facing homelessness, hunger, inability to buy medication or food, or just struggling to make ends meet. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. May God Bless you as we help bless others in His Holy name.

Helping Hands Committee Sharon Jiorle, Joan Holloway and Mike Viscel



to: **Gretchen Alencewicz** for help with weeding and church grounds clean-up; **Ernie Maso**, for mowing at the church; **Robin Glosser** for disposing of old copier and unwanted materials.

Coming soon! Information about the annual Choral Festival on October 7, featuring Patti Drennan from Oklahoma and Emily Drennan from New York.



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### JOY CORNER

On May 22, Session welcomed soon-to-be-confirmed Mia Ahart DiGiovanni, Ellie Mardis-LeCroy, Jacqueline Miller, Madison Wayne, Adam Wolfe and Connor Wolfe as members of Old Greenwich and the greater Presbyterian Church.

On May 28, they were Confirmed in the presence of the congregation of Old Greenwich church and shared their statement of faith in the worship service.



Please hold in prayer: our 2023 Confirmands, Mia Ahart DiGiovanni, Ellie Mardis-LeCroy, Jacqueline Miller, Madison Wayne, Adam Wolfe and Connor Wolfe and their families; the family of Mary Frances Bortz-Graham, who died on 5/20; the family of Robert Jones, Rev. David Jones' father, who died on 5/22; Pastor Mary Beth's cousin John, who was in a car accident and has much healing ahead of him and

for Holly, his mother, and their whole family; Derard Sanchez, who is having complications following recent eye surgery; the family of former GNS teacher, Barbara Purcell, who died recently; the family of Lane Michael Claypool, who died on 5/6; healing for Melissa Hixon's family, Melissa's cousin Karen died of cancer on 4/28; healing prayers for Fritz Hamlin; prayers of healing for Carol Lee Doeringer, who has been in the hospital with heart issues; Fritz & Sandy Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin Schnell, prayers for healing and comfort; Carl & Ginny Guthardt; Bob & Trudy Frey; Stephen Toman; Skip Adams' son, Zachary; Bob and Trudy Frey's friends, Nancy Hummer and Ian Arnot; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine; those affected by the Corona virus and their families; all experiencing the effects of extreme weather conditions around the world



Blessed are the peacemakers.

We are a gun free church and grounds.

## **JUNE 2023**

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	3
4 Handbell rehearsal 9:30 am Communion Wor. Svc 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	Boy Sc. Tr. Council Mtg. 6 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	Election Day 6 am - 8 pm Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	7 Christian Ed. 7:30 pm	8	9 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	10
Children's Day Worship Svc 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Mtg 3 pm	Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	Art Group -10 am  Barnyard Day 10 am  Personnel - 4:30 pm Deacons - 7:30 pm AA Mtg 7:30 pm	14 Flag Day Inno 14 Long may she wave	Disciple- ship Comm. 5 pm	16 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	17
Father's Day Wor. Svc 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	Boy Scouts 7 pm Session Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	20 Art Group 10 am Women's Bible Study - noon AA Meeting 7:30 pm	21	22	23 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	24 Verna Farr Memorial 10 am Piano Recital 1:30 pm
25 OUTDOOR Worship Svc 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	26 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	Art Group 10 am Barnyard Day 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	28	29	30 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 5:45 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	
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Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church 17 Greenwich Church Road Stewartsville, NJ 08886-2515

### **Dated Material**

Address Service Requested

### The Breezeway

# "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS" WE ARE A GUN-FREE CHURCH AND CHURCH GROUNDS.



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