



Old Greenwich

Presbyterian Church

VOL. MMXXIII, ISSUE 8

“And Here Is Your Lanyard”

During worship on July 23, we heard the story of Jacob’s dream (Genesis 28). Jacob – on the run, afraid for his life – dreams there is a ladder extending up to the heavens, with angels scrambling up and down upon it. God appears to Jacob in his dream, and through the curtains of that dark night, God makes covenant with Jacob. God promises never to leave him, never to forsake him. God promises to be his God, forever.

When Jacob wakes up, he takes the stone he had been sleeping on, sets it up as a pillar, and pours oil all over it. He calls the place “Bethel,” which means “House of God.” That day, Jacob makes a promise back to God: “All that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you.”

You know... I don’t know what motivates Jacob to pour oil on that rock, or promise to give one-tenth of his stuff to God. And sometimes, I have to wonder if it’s simply because... he just doesn’t know what else to do. Jacob senses God’s presence, and is grateful to God – or as grateful as he can be – so he decides to spill some oil onto his rocky pillow as his act of giving back. He doesn’t really need that old rock anymore, anyway. Maybe God could use it.

One of my favorite poems is “The Lanyard,” by the American Poet Laureate, Billy Collins:

The other day as I was ricocheting slowly off the blue walls of this room
 bouncing from typewriter to piano, from bookshelf to an envelope lying on the floor,
 I found myself in the "L" section of the dictionary where my eyes fell upon the word, Lanyard.
 No cookie nibbled by a French novelist could send one more suddenly into the past.
 A past where I sat at a workbench, at a camp by a deep Adirondack lake,
 learning how to braid thin plastic strips into a lanyard.
 A gift for my mother.
 I had never seen anyone use a lanyard.
 Or wear one, if that’s what you did with them.
 But that did not keep me from crossing strand over strand again and again
 until I had made a boxy, red and white lanyard for my mother.
 She gave me life and milk from her breasts, and I gave her a lanyard.
 She nursed me in many a sick room, lifted teaspoons of medicine to my lips,
 set cold facecloths on my forehead, then led me out into the airy light
 and taught me to walk and swim and I in turn presented her with a lanyard.
 "Here are thousands of meals" she said, "and here is clothing and a good education."
 "And here is your lanyard," I replied, "which I made with a little help from a counselor."
 "Here is a breathing body and a beating heart,
 strong legs, bones and teeth and two clear eyes to read the world." she whispered.
 "And here," I said, "is the lanyard I made at camp."
 "And here," I wish to say to her now, "is a smaller gift. Not the archaic truth, that you can never repay your mother,
 but the rueful admission that when she took the two-toned lanyard from my hands,
 I was as sure as a boy could be that this useless, worthless thing I wove out of boredom would be enough to make us
 even."

Jacob, from our story today, takes an old rock, and pours oil all over it.

Here you go, God.

It’s sweet and all, but... he might as well have given God a lanyard.

You want to hear a dirty little secret? God doesn’t actually need us. God doesn’t need our lanyards or our greasy old rocks, our prayers or our promises, our worship or our treasures. God doesn’t need them, *but we need to give them to God*. We need to give.

We need to give back to God – with worship and song and poetry and time and tithes and treasures – not because God needs that stuff, but because giving to God *will change us*.

See you in church!

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Mary Beth

David and the entire Jones Family wish to thank the good folks of Greenwich Church for all their thoughts, calls, cards and prayers of support during this time of sadness for them. "Our Dad had a special fondness for Old Greenwich. Before he became unable to travel, he visited with us on numerous occasions, and had several enjoyable conversations with members of the congregation. May God bless you all and your active ministries in what our Mom and Dad called, 'Nice New Jersey.'"

PRAYER ROOM IS OPEN FOR YOU.

Be still and know that I am God.

- Psalm 46:10

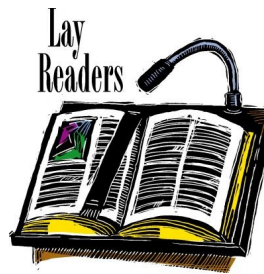
Did you know that our church has opened up a Prayer Room? During Lent this year, we used the room for our prayer services before our 10 am worship, and since then, we have kept the room open for prayer and quiet. This world is so busy and loud and overwhelming sometimes. If any of you (member or not) ever need a quiet space to just "be still and know," and the office or church is open, the Prayer Room is available for you. It is located behind Memorial Hall, right next to the choir room. God in stillness waits there.

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 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.

HOME COMMUNION

If you would like to receive home communion, or know of someone who would like to receive communion at home, please contact Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.



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 AUGUST:

08/01	William Proehl	08/17	Amy Ahart
	Missy Lemons		Ellie Mardis-LeCroy
08/03	James Shook	08/18	James Todd
08/05	Karen Kane	08/20	William Lee
08/06	Marlin Quick		Zachary Bishop
08/07	Jason Kolterjahn	08/24	Debra-Ann Merritt
	Lisa Kolterjahn		Melissa Hixon
08/09	Mary Pritchard	08/27	Tara Stahlecker
	Jayden Schatzabel	08/28	Diane Bouton
08/10	Leah Riewerts		Paul Stahlecker
08/11	Victoria Nagy	08/29	Evan Newbrough
	Jeremy Slaven	08/30	Dorothy Purdy
08/13	Emily Slack		Barbara Heater
08/14	Lane Wolfe	08/31	Kristen Prall
08/16	Caleb Pritchard		

YOU SAY GOOD-BYE AND I SAY HELLO

Francis Rienzo became the OGPC Media/Communications Ass't. in June of 2021. His role involved overseeing the Live Streaming of Sunday worship services and troubleshooting any audio/video quirks in the process, as well as overseeing OGPC social media. Francis handled all this while a senior at PHS. Well, Francis is off to Georgetown University in mid-August and we will be celebrating, thanking and saying good-bye to him at worship on **Sunday, August 6.**

The Personnel Committee met with Cole Hosbach last month and was quite impressed with him, recommended to Session that we hire him, Session agreed, and Cole said YES! He will be stepping in the media/communications role, replacing Francis when he leaves for college in mid-August. Until then, Cole will be shadowing Francis on Sunday mornings.

Cole is a rising senior at PHS, with experience in live-streaming, video editing and much more! Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to our new media/communications assistant!

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST:

08/01/2009	Shannon & Steven Bakros
08/03/1957	Don & Elizabeth Metz
08/04/1979	Deborah & Kenneth Wilson
08/04/2001	Jennifer & Jeffrey Miller
08/07/1971	William & Karen Lee
08/13/1966	Jack & Judy Felch
08/17/1975	Joan & Brad Holloway
08/21/1971	Ed & Cathy Ahart

- In Memoriam -

Virginia M. "Jinny" Guthardt
January 18, 1936 – July 12, 2023

A Celebration of Life service will be held for Jinny at Old Greenwich on Saturday, August 12, 2023.

Visitation is from 10 to 11 am and service is at 11 am with a repast in Memorial Hall following the service. All are welcome.



to: **Ernie Maso, Jeff Miller, Josh Miller** and **Gretchen Alencewicz** for helping and doing various needed tasks in and around the church and grounds.

RALLY DAY POTLUCK AND MEN'S BASKET GIVE-AWAY

The Church Care & Kinship Committee is planning a Potluck Luncheon on Rally Day, **September 10!** Bring the kids! It will be a tailgate theme and we would like to do something special for the men of the congregation, so we are asking for donations to make gift baskets, which they will have a chance to win. Winner must be present to claim basket.

Please give donations to Barb Frinzi or leave on the bench in the Green Room. You may also make a basket to donate! Donation items for baskets should be at the church or to Barb by Sunday, September 3.

Here are some ideas for donations:

Picnic grill basket	Deck of cards
Movie/game night at home & treats	Grill brush
Spaghetti dinner basket	Bug spray
Small cooler to use as a "basket" filled with ???	OGPC baseball hat or shirt
Hand-held igniter	Beer or wine
Bottles of hot sauce or marinade	Tools
Camp chair (for outdoor services)	Home Depot gift card
Nerf football	Or anything your creative mind comes up with!

Please plan on coming to the picnic and potluck luncheon and support OGPC! Both events will be lots of fun!



Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce Patti Drennan as guest clinician at their 13th Annual Choral Festival on October 7, 2023.

Patti Drennan
from Norman, OK

This will be Patti's third visit and she is back by popular demand! Read more about her accomplishments at her web site: www.pattidrennan.com

Individual singers, church choirs, and high school and college singers/choruses are encouraged to sign-up for what always proves to be a fun and inspirational day of learning the clinician's music and then performing in a public concert that evening.

Registration for the festival, including dinner, is \$40 (\$35 if received by 9/1/23). Register as a group or with friends and save - four regular registrations and the

fifth registration is free. High school and college student registrations are \$10.

Additional cost for music will be determined as Ms. Drennan selects the music for the day.

Please share this invitation! For further registration information or if you have questions, contact Tom DiGiovanni, OGPC Music Director, at digtom@gmail.com

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

The Church Care & Kinship Committee is organizing the Annual Church Picnic for **Sunday, August 6** (rain date Sunday, August 13) following the worship service.

Sign-up sheet for food will be posted in Memorial Hall beginning July 2.

Please sign up to bring food (side-dish, salad, dessert) and note the number of people in your party so we know how many hot dogs and hamburgers to order.

There will be an ice cream truck and the musical entertainment will be organized by Pastor Mary Beth!

There may even be a hay ride!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP!

We will be worshipping outside on **August 20**, and **August 27**.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held **Monday, August 7, through Thursday, August 10 from 5:30 – 8 pm, with dinner included!!** Our theme this year is *Stellar*, where we will launch on a cosmic quest, shining Jesus' light to the world! Please sign up your children or grandchildren using the QR code. And tell your neighbors and friends. There is no charge and all are welcome, as always.

In order to make VBS a huge success, we need volunteers in multiple capacities... we need people to help set-up for the week, help with break-down when the week is ended, and people to help during the four days of VBS.

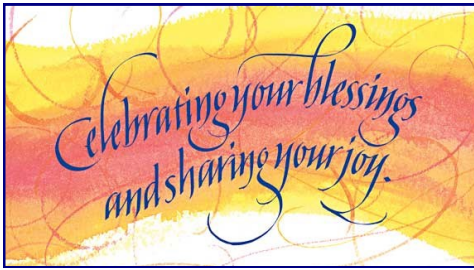
You can also sign-up to volunteer using the QR code or contact Lisa Kolterjahn at 973-809-2991 or lkolterjahn88@gmail.com.



SUMMER

LOADING...

You've packed your sunscreen and the new book you've been looking forward to reading... there's just one more thing... As you head off into your summer adventures, please continue to support the mission and outreach of Old Greenwich by sending in your offering, even if you're out of town. If you'll be missing a service or two, you can donate before you leave, donate for the month with one check, mail your offering to the church, give online through ogpc.org or automate your payments through your financial institution. Your offering helps us to stay on track with our financial commitments and helps OGPC to support the many wonderful things we are offering this summer, including our vibrant outdoor services, blessing of the animals, special music and Vacation Bible School just to name a few!



JOY CORNER

Debbie Smith has a new granddaughter! Annalyse Nicole Smith was born on July 13th. Praise God for new life!

Praise God for our new Media and Communications Assistant, Cole Hosbach!

Thanks be to God for the beautiful music of Celtic Psalms who ledc us on worship on July 23.



Please hold in prayer: Newal Duncan and those from Stewartsville PC who left 7/22 for their mission trip to Puerto Rico; Don Metz, who was in a car accident on 7/13. He had major surgery on his leg that day and is recovering and in rehab at Fountain Hill in Bethlehem. Prayers also for Betty, Lori, Randy and Jeffrey; Debbie Smith's mother, Bernice Seifert, recovering from a hospital stay, and for Debbie and brother, Mark; prayers of thanks for the birth of Annalyse Nicole Smith, born 7/13, granddaughter of Debbie Smith; Carl Guthardt and family on the death of his wife, Jinny, on 7/12; friends of Barb Grimm, the Quinn family, who lost their daughter, Sarah, on 7/7; Sandie Stutzman's neighbor and friend, Charlie, diagnosed with cancer and his wife, Darlene; P'burg police officer Brett Marino and his family (his children attend Greenwich Elementary School). Brett has been diagnosed with metastatic mucinous adenocarcinoma cancer; the family of Robert Rutan, brother of Jay Rutan, who died 6/27; Sonja & Greg Gaertner and family on the death of their son, Eric. Sonja is the office administrator for Highlands Presby.; Dave Slack and family on the death of his father, John, on 7/1; prayers of healing for Carol Lee Doeringer, who has heart issues; Fritz & Sandy Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin Schnell, prayers for healing and comfort; 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

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church Hosts:

KIDS CLUB
WITH BARNES YARD PETTING ZOO

Co-Sponsored by Greenwich Nursery School

DATES

	June 13 Rabbits
	June 27 Sheep
	July 11 Llama
	July 25 Donkey
	August 1 Cow
	August 8 "Baby Unicorn"

Sign up in advance to save your spot! Max of 25 kids per session.

Each session will include a story time, craft, games, science experiment, and other activities. The kids will get to pet the animals and learn all about them. Parents stay with their child the entire time.

All events will happen at Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church except on August 1st we will meet at the Warren County Fairgrounds.

Animals and activities provided by Barnes Yard Petting Zoo.

Program Details:
Location: Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church- Memorial Hall
17 Greenwich Church Rd, Stewartsville NJ 08886
Time: 10am-12pm
Cost: \$12 per child (Ages 2-8)
(This program is being partially subsidized by Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church and Greenwich Nursery School)

For more information and registration form:
Call 908-479-6886 or email director@greenwichnursery.com

AUGUST 2023

Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat.

		1 Art Group -10 am Barnyard Day 10 am	2 Christian Ed. 7:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Communion Worship Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live Special Congr. Mtg. 11:15 am Church Picnic - 11:30 AA Meeting - 3 pm	7 Vaca. Bible Sch. 5:30 - 8 pm Boy Sc. Tr. Council Mtg. 6 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Mtg 7:30	8 Vaca. Bible Sch. 5:30 - 8 pm Art Group -10 am Barnyard Day 10 am Personnel - 4:30 Deacons - 7:30 AA Mtg - 7:30	9 Vaca. Bible Sch. 5:30 - 8 pm	10 Vaca. Bible Sch. 5:30 - 8 pm Staff Lunch noon	11 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	12 Jinny Guthardt Visitation 10 am Funeral 11 am
13 Worship Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live Nomin. Comm. 11:15 am picnic rain date AA Mtg. - 3 pm	14 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm <--Pastor - Out-	15 Art Group -10 am AA Mtg. - 7:30 _____	16 _____	17 Discipleship Comm. 5 pm _____	18 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm _____	19 _____
20 OUTDOOR Worship Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm Pastor - Out——>	21 Boy Scouts 7 pm Session - 7:30 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	22 Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	23	24 Staff Mtg. - 4:30	25 Office Closed ACOA Mtg. 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	26
27 OUTDOOR Worship Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	28 Boy Scouts 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	29 Art Group 10 am AA Meeting 7:30 pm	30	31		

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.

The Breezeway is published monthly by:

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**WE'RE ON
THE WEB!
www.ogpc.org**



Contributions deadline is the 25th of each month