

*Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church*

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



8th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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 anyone has a prayer request, there is room on the reverse of the card to enter them. Please place the cards in the Offering Plate.

PRELUDE

"The Lord's My Shepherd"

Celtic Psalms

"Sing to the Lord"

Congregation sings: **Sing to the Lord, to the Lord, a new song
Sing to the Lord, sing all the earth**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 103:1-5)

The Rev. Kiran Young Wimberly

Please stand, as you are able, and join in the Call to Worship which is prayed responsively.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits -

Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

Who redeems your life from the Pit,

Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Who satisfies you with good as long as you live

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

*OPENING HYMN

"Praise the Lord, All the Earth"

Congregation sings: **Praise the Lord, all the Earth**

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Please remain standing for our prayer of confession. God loves us more than we can fathom, but so often, we stray from God's amazing and un-earned love. Let us confess some of the ways we sin and fall short:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God Who Loves, we want to do your will. But we confess that we are limited by our own sinfulness, failing to respond to your grace and compassion. Have mercy on us. Empty us of our selves and replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. We pray this in Christ's Name.

*SILENT CONFESSION with *"Amen"* played

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"

Congregation sings: **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and bless God's holy name**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Don Hannis

SONG

"Rock of Refuge"

Congregation sings: **Rock of refuge, rock of refuge,
rock of refuge, when I am afraid**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit. Come, gentle breath. We invite you in. Silence in us any voice but your own. Give us the courage to hear and to act. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Genesis 28:10-19a

Declan McGrath

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place - and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So, Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG

"Their Delight"

Congregation sings: **Their delight is in the love of God**

SERMON

"God In Between"

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Love and Mercy"

Congregation sings: **For love and mercy shall evermore meet
And justice and peace shall greet with a kiss
From the ground shall spring kindness
Goodness will shine from the sky
and God will bring healing and the people will sing**

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

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Congregational sings: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise the healer of our souls
Earth and moon and stars above
Sing praise to you, O God of love**

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Gracious God, we give you thanks because you meet us in the in-between times, claiming us and calling us for life that is full and free. Along with our gratitude, we offer you these gifts. Take them and use them for your purpose. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

"Hallelujah"

**Hallelujah, I will praise the Lord as long as I live
I will sing praise to God with all of my being**

I will trust not in rulers, they will pass into dust
But I will hope in the Lord our God, the one who will help!

**Hallelujah, I will praise the Lord as long as I live
I will sing praise to God with all of my being**

Happy are those who hope in the God who redeems
The heavens, earth and seas belong to the Maker of all things!

**Hallelujah, I will praise the Lord as long as I live
I will sing praise to God with all of my being**

To the poor God brings justice, to the hungry, a feast
sets the prisoners free, meets the refugee, sing praise to the Lord!

**Hallelujah, I will praise the Lord as long as I live
I will sing praise to God with all of my being**

The Lord lifts the lowly, to the stranger shows care
The widow and the orphan, God will never forsake!

[instrumental]

**Hallelujah, I will praise the Lord as long as I live
I will sing praise to God with all of my being**

God's goodness and mercy never come to an end
Our God will reign forever, hallelujah, Amen!

Hallelujah, I will praise the Lord
Hallelujah, I will praise the Lord
Hallelujah, I will praise the Lord, Hallelujah, Amen!

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

"Peace Be with Jerusalem"

"May We Rise"

Congregation sings: **Alleluia, praise our Maker
Alleluia, one and all
May God fill our lives with pleasures
May we rise and never fall**

All are welcome to join for fellowship and refreshments following the worship service.



Today, **Sunday, July 23**, we celebrate **the 8th Sunday after Pentecost** at a 10 am worship service with guest musical group, Celtic Psalms, and preacher, **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.

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: July 23 – Team 2; July 30 – Team 3

OUTDOOR WORSHIP IS BACK! July 30 - Blessing of Animals; **August 20** and **August 27**.



CELTIC PSALMS is with us again for worship **today, July 23**, and we couldn't be more thrilled! Celtic Psalms (Kiran Young Wimberly, leader, vocals; Declan McGrath, vocals and guitar; Kelly and Chloe McGrath, vocals) is from Northern Ireland and will be traveling through the Northeast US and Canada this summer, celebrating 10 years of doing music together and launching "Celtic Pilgrims."

Since 2013 Celtic Psalms has arranged Biblical Psalms to Irish and Scottish airs. In the past decade they have recorded four albums, sung at concerts in sacred and secular venues across Ireland, performed live on BBC and RTE national television and radio, traveled to the US on four tours, shared their music at international conferences, and were published by the global sacred music publisher GIA. This tour also celebrates the start of something new: Celtic Pilgrims, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting

communities through music. The purpose of Celtic Psalms has always been to create sacred music in the traditional style and bring people together across community divides, in Northern Ireland and beyond, and Celtic Pilgrims Nonprofit will continue this work by intentionally hosting music events that are welcoming to all communities. To learn more about Celtic Psalms music, visit www.celticpsalms.com

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Congregation and Religious Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich Township, in the County of Warren, will be held on **Sunday, August 6, 2023, immediately following the worship service.** The purpose of the meeting is to elect one Ruling Elder to the class of 2023

Be still and know that I am God.

- Psalm 46:10

Did you know that we now have 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: The PW Bible study group will not meet in July and August. The group, and any women who'd like to join us, will be having a potluck picnic **this Tuesday, July 25, at 12:30 pm**. Bring your bathing suit if you want to cool off in the pool. Please bring a dish to share. 352 Hamilton Dr, Stewartsville. RSVP to lisa_a_gray@outlook.com or text/call 908-476-4720. The Bible study group will resume meeting at noon in September.

TECH PERSON needed HIRED: The Personnel Committee has hired Cole Hosbach, who will be stepping in to fill Francis' shoes, as Francis will be leaving in August to attend Georgetown! Cole is a rising senior at PHS, with experience in live-streaming, video editing and much more! For the next month or so, Cole will overlap with Francis as part of his onboarding process. He will be shadowing Francis over this next month. Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to our new media/communications specialist!

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SUMMER KIDS CLUB CO-HOSTED BY GNS AND OGPC! This program is partially subsidized by Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church and Greenwich Nursery School to make it accessible to all. Reserve your spot today as our max is 25 kids per session.

Dates: July 25 – donkey; August 1 – cow; August 8 – "baby unicorn"

Time: 10 am - 12 pm

Ages: 2-8 years old

NOTE: Parent/guardian should plan to stay on-site for the program. If you have more than one child, volunteers will be available, as needed. ?'s - director@greenwichnursery.com / 908-479-6886

PICNIC TIME!: 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 is posted in Memorial Hall. 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 hayride!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held **Monday, August 7 - Thursday, August 10, 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! If you are interested in volunteering or participating, please contact Lisa Kolterjahn at 973-809-2991 / kolterjahn88@gmail.com

The Church Care and Kinship Committee is also planning a **POTLUCK LUNCHEON** on Rally Day, **Sunday, September 10!** Bring the kids - we will have a tailgate theme for that day! We would like to do something special for the men of the congregation, so we are asking for donations to make gift baskets for them. They must be present to win. Please give donations to Barb Frinzi or leave in the plastic bin on the bench in the Green Room. You may also make a basket to donate. Donations for baskets should be in by 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"	OGPC baseball hat or shirt
Handheld igniter	Beer or wine
Bottle of hot sauce or marinade	Tools
Camp chair (for outdoor services)	Home Depot gift card
Nerf Football	Anything creative!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: The CE committee would love to continue to give our children an opportunity to continue learning throughout the summer. We will be working on a variety of things from cooking to music, stories, and crafts. We will meet after TWTYC each week. Each Sunday we'll announce what we will be up to. We are also looking for interested leaders for a few open Sundays. Please contact to Jennifer Miller at 908-329-5079 if interested.

THE PRAYER CHAIN continues to grow! Please feel free to add to the prayer chain - instructions and paper for chain links are in the back of the sanctuary. New links will be added weekly, so please put your completed chain links in the bucket located at the entrance to the sanctuary!



You've packed your sunscreen and that 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 continue offering the many wonderful things we have planned over the summer, including our vibrant outdoor services, blessing of the animals, special music and Vacation Bible School just to name a few!

SUMMER CAMP AT JOHNSONBURG REGISTERING NOW! There are still overnight sessions for kids in 1st-12th grades through August. For more information, visit www.campjburg.org/summer-camp

LAY READERS: There are still dates available through the end of the year. You can sign up at 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 kolterjahn88@gmail.com.

COME SEE BEAUTIFUL ART... right down the hall! Did you know that we have a watercolor art group that meets every Tuesday? (Anyone can join!) And did you know that they have begun displaying some of their breathtaking work in Trinity Wing (right next to the pastor's office)? Come check it out! It's our mini art gallery!

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.

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 astormarybeth@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 or call the church office.

Please pray for: 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, who is recovering from a hospital stay, and for Debbie and her brother also; prayers of thanksgiving 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

"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

WE ARE A GUN-FREE CHURCH – BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

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

Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Gr'wich Ringers*

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.

Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers