

# *Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church*

**The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township**

The Lord your God is  
with you wherever  
you go.



**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Blessing of the Animals  
Outdoor Worship Service**

**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! For this special service, if you have brought ashes or another remembrance of a beloved animal who has died, please place them on the Table on the hay wagon.

PRELUDE

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 148 excerpts)

Tom DiGiovanni, Lay Reader

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise the Lord in the heights!

**Praise the Lord, all you angels; praise the Lord, heavenly hosts!**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars!

**Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost!**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

God's glory is above earth and heaven!

**Praise the Lord!**

\*OPENING HYMN

*"The Whole World Is in God's Hands"*

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, for all the ways we hurt your creation: the pollutants we put in your air and the poisons in your ground, Wake us up:

**Help us change.**

For the creatures of the seas we have overfished; for the creatures of land and farm that have been neglected and abused for our convenience, Wake us up:

**Help us change.**

For the times we may have hurt or ignored the animals in our homes or forgotten to feed or care for them as they need, Wake us up:

**Help us change.**

For all the times we have taken the beauty of your creation for granted or failed to notice the miracle of flower, sky, creature or breath, Wake us up:

**Help us change.**

Forgive us, God, and give us the strength and compassion to be faithful stewards, caregivers and companions on your good earth.

\*SILENT CONFESSION with *"Amen"* played

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL (Taize hymn)

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads us into life.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Come, Holy Spirit, Holy Breath, Holy Life. Come, open your Word. We are listening to you in everything, all around us. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 139 (excerpts)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"The Runaway Bunny" by Margaret Wise Brown

Tom DiGiovanni

REMEMBERING ANIMAL SAINTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**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

*"Darkness and Light"*

\*Doxology (tune: *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)

**God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as our kin, all animals as our partners on Earth, all beings as unique expressions of your mysterious design. Take these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless this whole wide world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

- Alexander / Monk / McPhee

*Refrain:* All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all  
  
Each little flower that opens  
Each little bird that sings  
God made their glowing colors  
And made their tiny wings *Refrain*  
  
God gave us eyes to see them  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God almighty,  
Who has made all things well *Refrain*

\*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

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

# Announcements

Today, **Sunday, July 30**, we celebrate the **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** and **Blessing of the Animals** at a 10 am **outdoor** worship service with 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](http://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 30 – Team 3; August 6 – Team 4

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

**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** to elect one Ruling Elder to the class of 2023.

**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We will be working on a variety of things from cooking to music, stories, and crafts. We will meet after TWTYC most weeks. 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 Jennifer Miller at 908-329-5079.

*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.

**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:** 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](mailto: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 be 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 / [lkolterjahn88@gmail.com](mailto:lkolterjahn88@gmail.com)

The Church Care and Kinship Committee is 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!

**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](http://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](http://www.campjburg.org/summer-camp)

**LAY READERS:** There are dates available through the end of the year. You can sign up at [ogpc.org](http://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](mailto:lkolterjahn88@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!) They are displaying some of their 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](mailto: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](mailto:ML12504@gmail.com) or Pastor Mary Beth at [astormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto: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: Newal Duncan and those from Stewartville PC who left on 7/22 for their mission trip to Puerto Rico;** Don Metz, who was in a car accident on 7/13, had major surgery on his leg 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 denocarcinoma 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](http://www.ogpc.org)**

Church Office e-mail address: [oldgreenwich@ogpc.org](mailto:oldgreenwich@ogpc.org)

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Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons

Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist

Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir.

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session

Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Fin. Secy

Francis Rienzo, Media/Comm Dir.

Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Gr'wich Ringers*    Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers