

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



11th 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

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 19:1-4)

Sandy Friedman, Lay Reader

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world!

*OPENING HYMN

"Christ Beside Me"

2166

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, you freely pardon all who repent and turn to you. We pray that you would fulfill in every heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins, and cleansing us from all our hurtful deeds; through the perfect love of Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light for the whole wide world.

*SILENT CONFESSION with *"Amen"* played

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI

579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:

World without end! Amen! Amen!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Holy One, you come near to us with healing for all of creation. Let your light shine now upon your Holy Word, bringing forth what you would have us hear, and do, this day. Through your Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING – Romans 10:5-13

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" ' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?" ' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"I Believe..."

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

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

Offertory

*Doxology

592

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)

Great God, help us to remember that you are God, and we are not. Take now these gifts, that they may bless this whole world with your love and grace. In your Holy Name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"O That I Had a Thousand Voices"

475

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

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

The word "Announcements" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The letters are fluidly connected, with a prominent 'A' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'. The background is a light gray rectangular box.

Today, **Sunday, August 13**, we celebrate the **11th Sunday after Pentecost** at a 10 am 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, 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: August 13 – Team 1; August 20 – Team 2

OUTDOOR WORSHIP: Next Sunday, August 20, and August 27

The CCK committee would like to extend their **THANKS TO EVERYONE** who helped with the picnic last Sunday! So many of you helped to set up, make delicious food, cook and clean up. Thank you also to Dave Slack for donating the hamburgers and hot dogs and to Cathy & Ed Ahart for covering the cost of the ice cream truck! The *No Name Band* provided beautiful music. Thank you Pastor Mary Beth and Tom DiGiovanni for organizing the band! It was a great day!

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL! VBS will now be held every Sunday through September 3, from 10 - 11:30 am. Each week will be a stand-alone session and we are hoping that this will allow more children to be able to attend. Please pass this information to friends and family you think may be interested! Contact Lisa Kolterjahn at (973) 809-2991 or Lkolterjahn88@gmail.com with questions.

BARNYARD MAKE-UP SESSION! The Barnyard Day with the donkey had to be cancelled... it's been re-scheduled to this Tuesday, August 15, from 10 am – 12 noon for 2-8 years olds. 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@greenwichtnursery.com / 908-479-6886

The Community Outreach Committee is hosting a **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND GRANOLA & BREAKFAST BARS DRIVE** along with River of Life PC through August 21. A collection bin marked for School Supplies will be in the Green Room for your donations. As always, thank you for your continued support of these outreach efforts which benefit kids in our local communities. Questions? Contact Sharon Smith at ssmith@nhvweb.net.

DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT on the church lawn! Folks and families of all ages are welcome to join us on **Friday, September 8**, at **7:30 pm** for a family-oriented movie (and popcorn)! Bring lawn chairs, blankets, or sit in your car. Invite your neighbors! Questions? Contact Deacon Rob at 908-235-9322.

OGPC RALLY DAY



Sunday, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 | 10 am in Memorial Hall

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 marked "Men's Basket Donations" 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

Movie/game night at home & treats
Spaghetti dinner basket

Small cooler to use as a "basket"
Handheld igniter
Bottle of hot sauce or marinade
Camp chair (for outdoor services)
Nerf Football
Deck of cards
Grill brush

Bug spray
OGPC baseball hat or shirt
Beer or wine
Tools
Home Depot gift card
Anything creative!

GREENWICH NURSERY SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY is being celebrated this school year. To mark this special milestone, they are looking for a few volunteers to join a 50th Anniversary Planning Committee. The committee will plan and run one or two events during the year which will celebrate the history of the pre-school and the partnership between GNS and OGPC. Please reach out to Amy Andersen at director@greenwichtnursery.com or let Pastor Mary Beth know you are interested.



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!

Did you know that we have a **PRAYER ROOM**? This world is so busy and loud and overwhelming sometimes. If you 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.

LAY READERS: There are 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 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 / 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 is now in Kirkland Village Rehab in Bethlehem; prayers of celebration for the birth of Evren Reese, grandson of Kathleen Scala, born on 8/5; Sandy & Fritz Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin, who has cancer. Prayers of sustenance and strength for Robin, her husband, Brent, and for Sandy & Fritz; Sue Moore, whose house caught on fire last weekend. Thanks be to God that Sue and her dog, Danny, were unharmed; Ava Hixon, whose major surgery has been re-scheduled. We pray for guidance for all the medical staff who will attend to her, for healing, and peace and comfort for Ava and her whole family. Sally Reinhard's mom, Mary Ann Miller, who is having hip replacement surgery on 8/7; Christine Mette's granddaughter,

Jessica, who had surgery on 7/27 to remove a benign mass in her brain; the Maso family: Ernie Maso's mother, Clara, has moved to Country Arch Care Center in Pittstown; Newal Duncan and those from Stewartsville PC who left on 7/22 for their mission trip to Puerto Rico; *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*; 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

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Kathleen Scala, Admin. Asst.

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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 Ass't.

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

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers