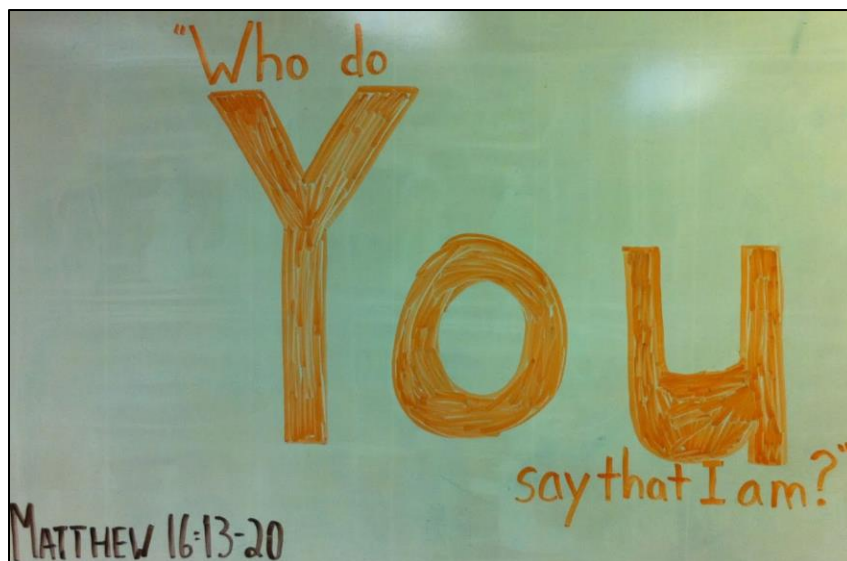


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



**13th Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Worship Service**

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

August 27, 2023

10 am

PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

ORDINATION and INSTALLATION of OFFICER The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy & Elder Lisa Kolterjahn
 INVITATION 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 27

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good. Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Elder: Representing the one holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the Session of Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church now ordains and installs for active service, **Richard Theurer**, as an Elder.

Pastor: Ordination calls the whole Church to renewed commitment and reminds us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of baptism. Let us, therefore, reaffirm our baptismal vows, renouncing all that opposes God and God's rule and affirming the faith of the holy catholic church.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed (in unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

TO THE OFFICER

TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, the members of the church, accept Richard as an Elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION PRAYER AND WELCOME TO MINISTRY

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 71:1-6)

In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you!

*OPENING HYMN

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

2088

Lord, I lift Your name on high

Lord, I love to sing Your praises

I'm so glad You're in my life

I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth

To show the way

From the earth to the cross

My debt to pay

From the cross to the grave

From the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy God, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we forget that all life comes from you; and that to you, all life returns. We confess that we have not loved as Christ loves us. In your mercy, forgive us, heal us and make us whole. Set us free and restore to us the joy of your salvation now and forever.

*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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit, and give light to your Word, and to your people. Help us to hear, to not be afraid, and to act in love. In Jesus we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Who Do You Say That I Am?”

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)

O Christ, Holy One, God-With-Us, we dare to name you as the One who gathers us together in this place to strengthen us for the journey ahead. Give us boldness as we answer your call,

together, both here and in the world. We pray that you would bless these gifts we give back now, so that they may be a blessing to this whole wide world. In your name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

473 vv 1, 2, 4

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

Refrain: Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light, *Refrain*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, *Refrain*

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

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



Today, **Sunday, August 27**, we celebrate the **13th Sunday after Pentecost** 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, and scrolling down on the home page to "Watch a Service." To find prior live streams, click on the "Live" tab in YouTube.

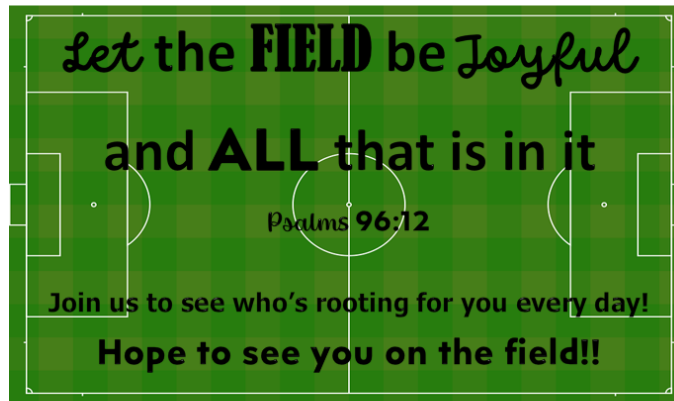
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The Pastor or the Administrative Ass't, or both, will be in the church Monday through Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm. Offices are closed on Fridays.

USHER TEAM SCHEDULE: August 27 – Team 3; September 3– Team 4

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL! VBS is being 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.

The Community Outreach Committee **THANKS ALL WHO DONATED** to the **Back-to-School Supplies and Granola & Breakfast Bars Drive**. The supplies were delivered to River of Life PC last week.

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!

MIDDLE AND HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, "WELCOME ALL" Elder Jennifer Miller and Pastor Mary Beth are thrilled to be co-teaching a Sunday School class this year aimed at middle and high schoolers!! Classes will **begin Sunday, September 10**, and will be held on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, before worship from 9:00 to 9:40 am**. All lessons will be centered around the deep spiritual practice of welcome and feature stories rooted in hospitality, from both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. What does it mean to welcome one another, to **truly** welcome one another? How does this change who we are? How does this change how we see God? Let Pastor Mary Beth or Elder Jennifer njmillers@msn.com know if you have questions... Did we mention... ALL ARE WELCOME?? ♥ See you there!

"DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT" on the church lawn! Folks and families of all ages are welcome to join us on **Friday, September 15**, 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 Todd at 908-235-9322.



WE READ BANNED BOOKS... and that's no lie!! The fall season of the OGPC Book Club starts **Thursday, September 28**. Our selection for this round is *"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"* by Mark Twain. Lauded by literary experts as the foundation of authentic American literature, this beloved novel remains controversial to this day. We will read and review this classic story together and explore what Mark Twain wanted to tell us about American life and culture in the 1850's and what current truths it may illuminate in our time. No experience necessary! All welcome. See Pastor Mary Beth or Elder George Bradlau for more information.

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@greenwichnursery.com or let Pastor Mary Beth know you are interested.

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: Richard Healy, recovering from surgery, and his wife, Cynthia; the family of Harry Hager, Sandy Hamlin's brother, who died on 8/19; Don Metz, who has contracted an infection while in rehab following a car accident, and his family; the family of Trudy Frey who died on 8/16; Sandy Frey's father, Glen Stalder, grieving the loss of his good friend of 10 years, Nancy, who died on 8/11; Bill Schisler and his wife, Sue – Bill had mini strokes the week of 8/7 and will be having surgery on 8/22; the victims of wildfires in Maui and their families and friends; 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 had hip replacement surgery; 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;* 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. Ass't

Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons

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

Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Fin. Sec'y

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

Cole Hosbach, Media/Comm. Ass't.

Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers