

Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



14th Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday

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

"Prelude and Allegro"

- Corelli

Betsy Gaston, piano; Bruce Gaston, violin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 40-1-3, 50)

Deacon Kathleen Gooley, Lay Reader

I waited patiently for the LORD, who inclined to me and heard my cry.

God drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

God put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted!

*OPENING HYMN

"As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"

414, vs 1, 3

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God Who Loves, 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

*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

Christ is among us and is our peace, but we cannot keep this peace to ourselves! Let us pass the peace of Christ to one another. May the peace of Christ be with you!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

God, you are our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. O God, open yourself, and your holy Word, to us this day. In Jesus we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it

is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Hallelujah"

- Cohen

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Dumb as a Rock"

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

GATHERING AT THE TABLE OF OUR LORD

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (with 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.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND THE CUP & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

Offertory

"Sarabande"

- Handel

*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)

Gracious God, we are imperfect, flawed, and messy; but by your grace, you love us anyway. Help us to hear your 'yes' among all the other voices in our heads; give us the courage to say 'yes' back to you. We pray that you would now bless these gifts we give back, so that they may bless our broken, messy world, aching for you. In Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

364 vs 1, 3

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

"Allegro"

- Dall'Abaco

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

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, September 3, 2023** we celebrate the **14th Sunday after Pentecost** and **Communion Sunday** 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: September 3 -Team 4; September 10 - Team 1

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL! VBS is being held **every Sunday through today, from 10 - 11:30 am.**

Outreach event with Greenwich Nursery School! All are welcome to volunteer at **AMERICA'S GROW-A-ROW** on **Thursday, September 7, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm.** Scan QR code to RSVP. We will send out the exact location once you register. ?'s Email director@geenwicznursery.com.



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, **next 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 today.**

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.

"MUSIC TOGETHER" is now being offered at our church! This wonderful learning-music program is open for kids 0 – 5 years old. The program begins on **Wednesday, Sept. 20**, and goes for 10 weeks. There are two sessions to choose from: (1) 9:15 am - 10 am and (2) 10:15 am - 11 am. Our church members and friends will receive a \$20 discount! For more information, email Lydia Maggio musictogetherwarrencounty@gmail.com.



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 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!) 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: **the family of Helen Koehler, Marie Hannis' mother, who died on 8/16; Don & Betty Metz, who are both at Moravian Hall Square with health concerns; Carol Doeringer, scheduled for testing for heart issues and her twin sister, Cathleen Collett, being treated for blocked arteries, and her friend, John Steele;**

Tim Gardner, who had back surgery on 8/28; Marcia Taylor, now home from the hospital for recent health concerns; Richard Healy, recovering from surgery, and his wife, Cynthia; the family of Harry Hager, Sandy Hamlin's brother, who died on 8/19; 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 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;* Bob Frey; Stephen Toman; Skip Adams' son, Zachary; Bob 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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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. Sec'y

Cole Hosbach, Media/Comm. Ass't.

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

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers