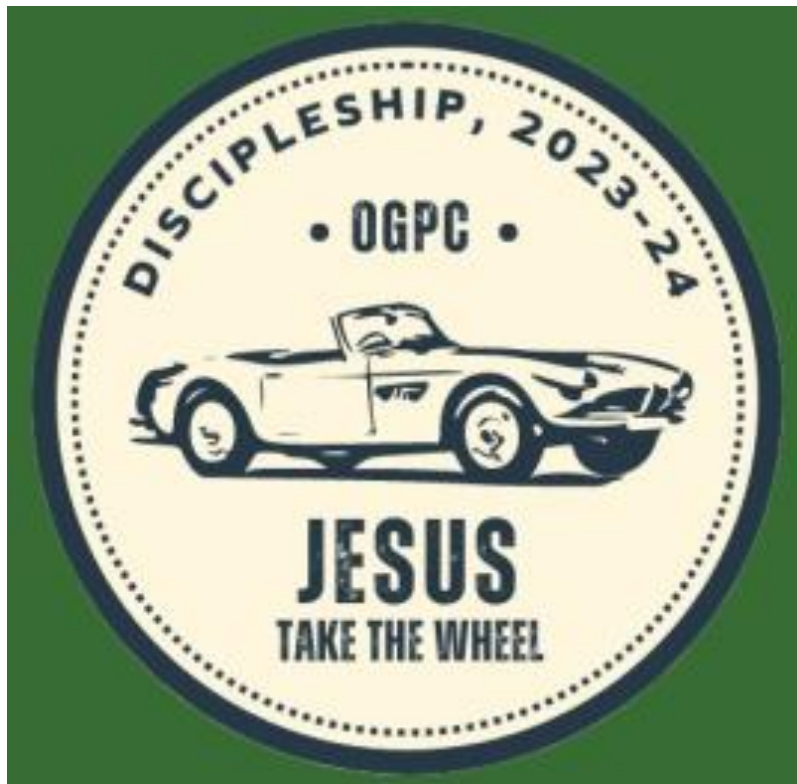


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



**18th 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 it. Please place the cards in the Offering Plate later in the service.

PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF

Elder Al Marino

INTROIT

"How Majestic is Your Name"

2023

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 46, excerpts)

Sunday School Children & Youth, Lay Readers

God is our refuge and strength, a very 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 its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; God speaks, the earth melts.

"Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*OPENING HYMN

"Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show"

481

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Hear our prayers, O God. When we are weak, we need your strength; when we are confused, we need your teachings; when we are sinful, we need your forgiveness and your healing. Hear our prayers, O God. In you and with you, we can do all things. In Jesus we pray these things.

*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

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Lisa Kolterjahn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit. Come, gentle breath. Silence in us any voice but your own. As we hear your Living Word, give us the courage not only to hear, but to act. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING –Mark 10:46-52

Jesus and the disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaueus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So, throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has

made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *"Holy, Holy, Holy"* - Heber/Drennan

SERMON *"Your Faith Has Made You Well"* The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION Tom DiGiovanni

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

*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 want to surrender to you! We want you to take the wheel! Thank you that you are interested in *every part* of our lives, from our pocketbooks to our prayers. Thank you that *nothing* is outside of your embrace; that you hold everything, everything, everything. Take now these gifts we give back, that they may bless all of creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"God, Bless Your Church with Strength"

418

*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Song of Hope"

432

POSTLUDE

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

The word "Announcements" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'A' and 'n'. The word is centered horizontally and appears to be part of a larger graphic or header.

Today, **Sunday, October 1, 2023** we celebrate the **18th 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: October 1 - Team 4; October 1 - Team 1



TODAY KICKS OFF OUR OFFICIAL 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN! We are excited to share that the theme of this year's campaign is "Jesus Take the Wheel."

We are all on some sort of journey, and if you sometimes feel like you are losing your way, discouraged, or just simply don't fit in, OGPC will always be there to help you find yourself again. God's vessel always has room, and you are invited to join us for the ride!

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Will you help us along the journey? We are all on this journey and we want you with us. Financially, together, we can ensure that the church remains a vessel for God's love through supporting the mission of OGPC.

- Have you never made an annual pledge amount to our church? No? This is a great time to start!
- Do you already pledge? If so, Thank you! Would you consider increasing your pledge to support all the beautiful things our church is involved in, through the grace of God?

Here are some ways you can continue to support the work God is doing at OGPC:

- Email your pledge amount to the church Treasurer at treasurer@ogpc.org;
- Make your pledge online at www.ogpc.org;
- Look for information and a pledge card to arrive in the mail and submit your pledge card to the church office or drop in the Offering Plate at Sunday worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES: This year, we are thrilled to offer two different age-group Sunday Schools: (1) Pre-K-Elementary School, (2) Middle and High School. For the Pre-K-Elem group, Sunday School is held **every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month)**. Families will bring their children to worship in the sanctuary at **10 am**, and right after Time with the Young Church (around 10:15 am), the children will be dismissed to their classrooms. For the middle and high group, Elder Jen Miller and Pastor Mary Beth are co-teaching a class on "welcome" the **2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, from 9 - 9:40 am**, in Room 22, next door to the Pastor's office. Please see Pastor Mary Beth pastormarybeth@gmail.com or Elder Jen Miller njimillers@msn.com with any questions you may have.



CALLING ALL YOUTH!! (Middle and High Schoolers!) Our church is once again partnering with College Hill Presbyterian Church in Easton for the "**Fish 'n Chyps**" evening youth program, and we'd love to see you there! The next gathering is **this evening, Sunday, October 1, 6 - 7:30 pm**. This group always meets at College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead St, Easton, PA. If you need a ride, let Pastor Mary Beth know, and we can carpool. We will meet **every 1st and 3rd Sunday evening** (Oct 1, Oct 15, Nov 5, Nov 19, Dec 3, and Dec 17). See you there!

SOMETHING "OLD" IS "NEW" AGAIN

There's now something "new" in the narthex, the entryway to the sanctuary... a Memorial Book. This book is a record of people who have been remembered by friends and family with a memorial gift to Old Greenwich.

In years past, the Memorial Book was open and each Sunday a page was turned to reveal a person to be remembered in prayer that Sunday. Throughout the year, there were many people we remembered, some family members, others church members from the past. Thanks to a suggestion by Deacon Carl Guthardt, we are "re-instating" the tradition of the Memorial Book.

If you wish to have a person's name added to the Memorial Book, you may send a donation in their memory to the church, with check notation "in memory of" and the person's name. You will receive an acknowledgement of your donation.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY: The group will meet **this month on October 24, at noon**, in the Prayer Room (behind Memorial Hall) at the church. Finishing last two chapters of the Ten Commandments. Will begin an advent study in November (evening - more details to follow).

PRESBYTERIAN WEEKLY ZOOM BOOK GROUP: All women are invited to a weekly one-hour zoom book/spirituality group on **Thursdays at noon**. We're using "Chicken Scratch-Lessons on Living Creatively from a Flock of Hens," by Ann Byle. Chapter one is continuing 9/21. It's not necessary to purchase the book, but helpful. For zoom invite, text/call Lisa Gray 973-476-4720.

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT AT CAMP JOHNSONBURG: Presbyterian Women are joining in on Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center women's retreat being held **October 27 - 29**. Word has it only spots for Saturday, the one-day option, are still available. Leaders are Lorelei Oelschlager and Amy Clarkson. They have led many day retreats for PW and they are a dynamic duo. The theme is "A Fruitful Life: Abiding in God's Grace Across the Seasons." One day registration is \$45. Register directly on the J'burg website, www.campjburg.org. For carpooling, call or text Lisa Gray 973-476-4720.



WE READ BANNED BOOKS... and that's no lie!! The fall season of the OGPC Book Club has begun but it's not too late to join... every week is a stand-alone session, meeting **at 6 pm on Thursdays through Nov. 2**. 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.

Rev. Mark Elsdon lives and works at the intersection of money and meaning as an entrepreneur, nonprofit executive, author, and speaker. He is the author of *We Aren't Broke*, a book about the use of faith-based property and investments for social enterprise and impact investing. (For more on Mark, go to <https://www.melsdon.com>. Mark's work is pretty extraordinary; and our presbytery just happens to be hosting a (free!) zoom conversation with him on **Thursday, October 5, at 7 pm**. Let Pastor Mary Beth know if you are interested, and she will sign you up!

If you're 65 years of age or older, you're invited to the **DEACONS' SENIOR DINNER**: Come and enjoy a delicious meatloaf dinner, wonderful fellowship and musical entertainment.



Date: Saturday, October 14

Time: 5 - 7:30 pm

Place: Old Greenwich Presby. Church

Please **RSVP no later than Oct. 5** to 908-479-4449 Please leave message if you get voicemail with your name and number attending or email the same to oldgreenwich@ogpc.org. Transportation is available, if needed.

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! Our wonderful community of artists that meet every Tuesday for watercolor and fellowship are displaying some of their work in the Trinity Wing (right next to the pastor's office). The works that are displayed change regularly and some pieces are for sale. 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 pastormarybeth@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: **Ava Hixon, who had major surgery on 9/28; Susan Jones, at home healing from pneumonia, and Pastor David Jones, as he cares for her; Sue Tintle's caregiver Karen, who was in a car accident and is healing from a few broken bones; the family and friends of long-time member, Don Metz, who died on 9/24; the family and loved ones of Larry Marino as they grieve; Bob Luzietti, who had a fall and is in Kirkland Village rehab; the family of Bob Frey, who died on 9/12; John Oakes, who was hospitalized the week of 9/8, and his wife, Linda; the people of Libya dealing with devastating floods and the people of Morocco, reeling from a devastating earthquake. Prayers for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, those who still are searching for loved ones, those who are injured, those who are afraid. Come quickly, Lord, with aid on every level; *Christine Lee and her co-workers, who are navigating major change in their journalism work; Dottie Davidson and her brother, Lee. Lee was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer; Stephen Toman; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine; 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; Comm. & Marketing Dir.

Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Gr'wich Ringers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers

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Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session

Cole Hosbach, Media/Comm. Ass't.

Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*