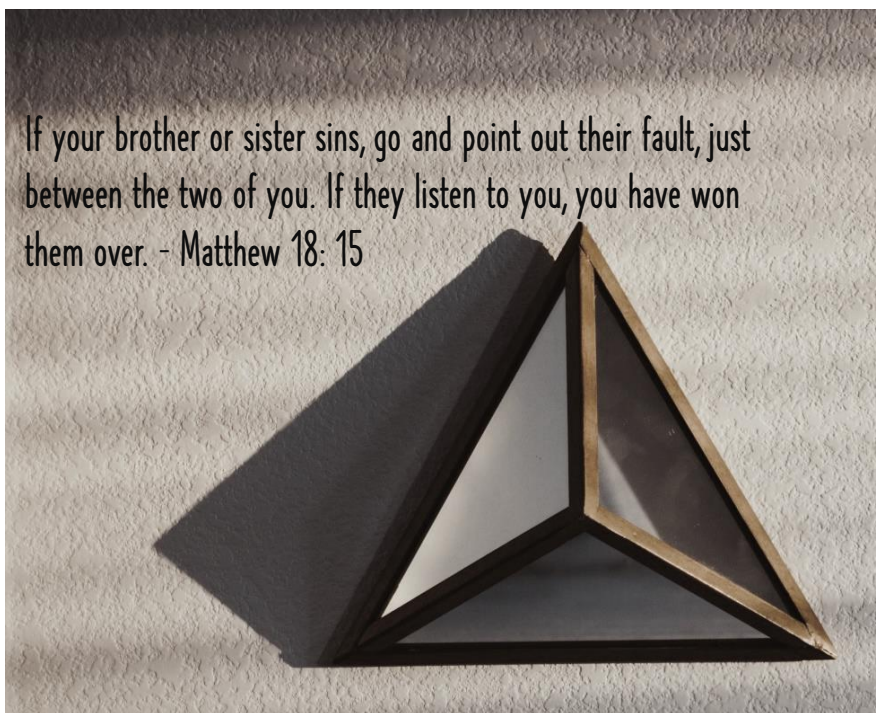


# *Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church*

**The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township**

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. - Matthew 18: 15



**15<sup>th</sup> 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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Deacon Mike Lemons

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 46, excerpts)

Elder Al Marino, Lay Reader

Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb;

**Even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray I will carry you.**

I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

**To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, as though we were alike?**

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like me,

**Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfill my intention."**

\*OPENING HYMNS

"I Love You, Lord" & "All Hail King Jesus"

# 2068 & # 2069

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your Way. We are misled. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to the paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

\*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

"Blessing of the Backpacks"

Elder Jennifer Miller

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

**Come, Holy Spirit, and illumine your Word for your people. We are waiting. We are listening. And we want to act. Through Christ we pray, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING – Romans 12: 1, 9-21

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*"Earth and All Stars"*

composed by David N. Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 18:15-20

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Triangle Trap”

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, as you bind yourself to us, bind us to one another. As we live out our faith together here, make us into the people you intend for us to be. We pray that we would be a blessing to the world, in our lives, and in these gifts we give back to you now. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

“When In Our Music God is Glorified”

# 264 vv 1,2,4 (Choir only sings v 2)

\*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

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



Today, **Sunday, September 10, 2023** we celebrate the **15<sup>th</sup> 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](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:** September 10 - Team 1, September 17 - Team 2

## 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, **today, September 10!** Bring the kids - we will have a tailgate theme for that day! We will be giving out gift baskets to celebrate the men in the congregation, drawings will be done during the picnic. Must be present to win!

**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 **began today, 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](mailto: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 at \$20 discount! For more information, email Lydia Maggio [musictogetherwarrencounty@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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!

**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@greenwicznursery.com](mailto:director@greenwicznursery.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](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! 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](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 [pastormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto: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: **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; Maria Hannis and family on the death of her mother, Helen Koehler; Don & Betty Metz, Betty is at Moravian Hall Square with health concerns, Don is in the hospital; 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](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. Sec'y	Cole Hosbach, Media/Comm. Ass't.
Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, <i>Gr'wich Ringers</i>	Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, <i>Sonshine Singers</i>
Betsy Gaston, Leader, <i>Rejoicing Rhythms</i>	drummers