

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



16th 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 it. Please place the cards in the Offering Plate later in the service.

PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION - Memorial Book

Elder Carl Guthardt

INTROIT

"How Majestic is Your Name"

2023

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 103, excerpts)

Elder Anita Campbell, Lay Reader

Please stand, as you are able, and join in the Call to Worship which is prayed responsively.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul and do not forget all God's benefits —

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

As a father and mother have compassion for their children, so God has compassion for those who fear God.

*OPENING HYMN

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

347

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Merciful God, we are afraid of what it means to follow your Way. Forgive us. Help us to forgive our neighbors as we forgive ourselves. Restore in us the confidence to be disciples of the One who leads us to the cross, and beyond.

*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! With joy, let us pass that peace of Christ to one another. May the peace of Christ be with you!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Lisa Kolterjahn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Holy, life-giving Spirit, come now, and illumine your Word for your people. Quiet our inner turmoil so we can hear what you are saying, and then act. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 18:21-27

Then Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times."

"For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So, the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Soul On Fire"

- Brown/Powell/Anderson/ Lee/Carr/Maher; arr.Hamby

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 18:28-35

"But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So, my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Forgive Us Our Debts"

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

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 God, you have told us, again and again, that as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is your love for us. But we fail to believe that. Help us believe that. Help us believe that your extravagant forgiveness extends even to us. And then, help us forgive, too. Take these gifts we give back to you now, that they may bless this broken world, so in need of your overflowing mercy. In Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness"

317

*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Song of Hope"

432

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, September 17, 2023** we celebrate the **16th 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: September 17 - Team 2; September 24 - Team 3

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES HAS BEGUN! 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 njmillers@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 first gathering is **this evening, September 17, 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 first and third Sunday evening** (Sept 17, Oct 1, Oct 15, Nov 5, Nov 19, Dec 3, and Dec 17). See you there!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY will begin meeting **this Tuesday, September 19**, and will meet **monthly on the third Tuesday** at noon, in the Prayer Room (behind Memorial Hall) at the church. We will try to finish "Love Carved in Stone" (a fresh look at the commandments), by Eugenia Gamble, in two meetings. We'll look at lesson 6 & 7 this month - the 7th "word" about adultery as pain caused by superficial and exploitive relationships and the 8th stealing as taking the easy way to get what we want at the expense of others. Don't worry about not having the book!

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.

"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.



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!

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! 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: **Bob Luzietti, who had a fall on 9/13; the family of Bob Frey, who died on 9/12; Don Metz, in St. Luke's Fountain Hill; Betty Metz, who is now at home; 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; Maria Hannis and family on the death of her mother, Helen Koehler Carol Lee 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; the victims of wildfires in Maui and their families and friends; Stephen Toman; Skip Adams' son, Zachary; 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

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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