

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

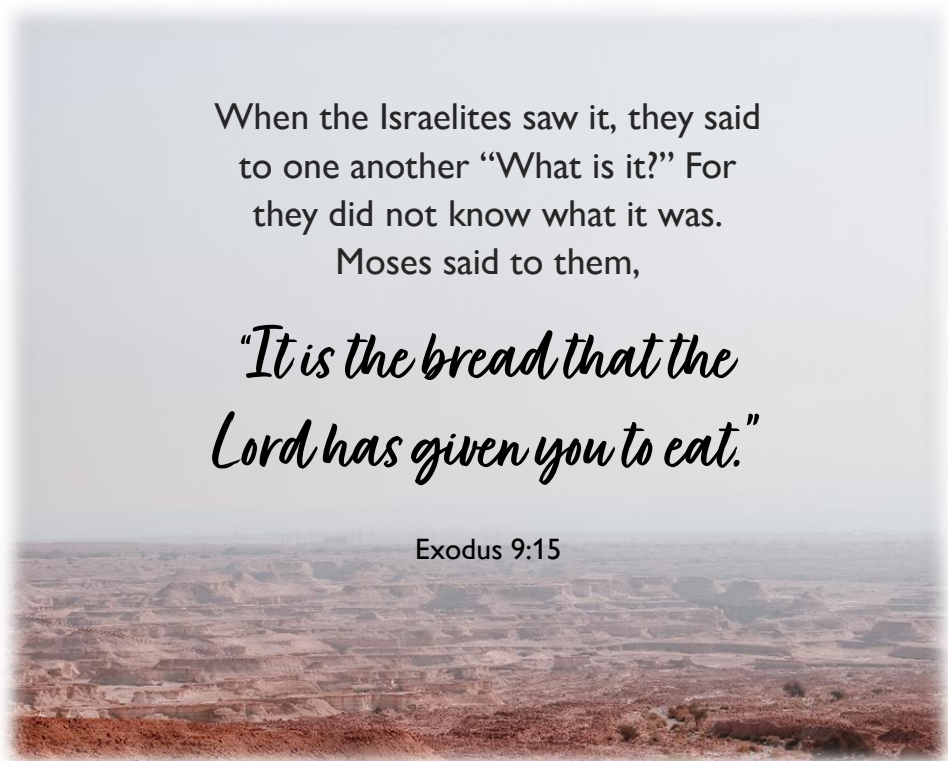
The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township

When the Israelites saw it, they said
to one another “What is it?” For
they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them,

*“It is the bread that the
Lord has given you to eat.”*

Exodus 9:15



17th Sunday after Pentecost

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION:

**To celebrate the love of
God in all we say and do.**

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

10 am

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

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

INTROIT

"How Majestic Is Your Name"

2023

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 105:1-6)

Justin Rienzo, Lay Reader

O give thanks to God, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

Seek God and God's strength; seek the presence of the Holy One continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done, God's miracles, and the judgments uttered,

O offspring of God's servants Abraham and Sarah, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones!

*OPENING HYMN

"I Am Your Mother"

2059

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, our heavenly Creator, we have sinned against you, through our own fault – in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us all our offenses; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your Holy 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

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Jennifer Miller

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. By your Spirit, speak to us through your Holy Scriptures, so that we may receive the grace we need to shine Christ's love to the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Exodus 16:2-8

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go

out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him - what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"God and Only God"

- Stratton/Drennan

SCRIPTURE READING – Exodus 16:9-15

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Reach Out and Touch Someone"

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)

Gracious God, you have made us in your very image, and want to draw so very near to us. Help us to know how deeply you love us, and to not be afraid to draw near to you. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless this broken world, so in need of your intimate love. In Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"O For a World"

386

*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Song of Hope"

432

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to join for fellowship (coffee, tea, juice) in Memorial Hall following the worship service.

The fall decorations of mums in front of the Green Room are to Celebrate the Life of David Starnes (passed away September 15, 2023) and also in honor of Anna and Howard Hamlen, given by Ruth Anne Hamlen Starnes.

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, September 24, 2023** we celebrate the **17th 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 24 - Team 3; October 1 - Team 4

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 next gathering is **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!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY the group meets **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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN are joining in on Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Centers women's retreat October 27-29. Word has it only spots for Saturday left, the one day option are still available. The leaders are Lorelei Oelschlager and Amy Clarkson. They have led many day retreats for PWP 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 Camp website. For carpooling call or text 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 began **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 **this week, 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 victims of wildfires in Maui and their families and friends;* 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. and Marketing Dir.

Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Gr'wich Ringers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers

pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681

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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*