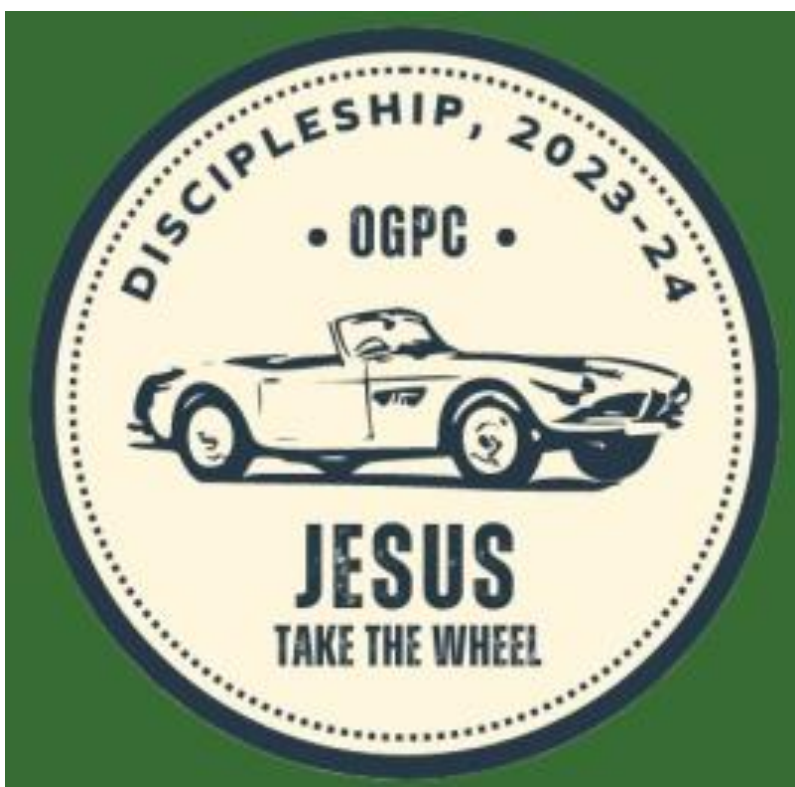


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



22nd 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

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Elder Abbie Conlon

INTROIT

"How Majestic is Your Name"

2023

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 90:1-5)

Sandy Friedman, Lay Reader

O God, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,

Like grass that is renewed in the morning.

*OPENING HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

142, vv. 1, 2, 4

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, you freely pardon all who repent and turn to you. We pray that you would fulfill in every heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins and cleansing us from all our hurtful deeds; through the perfect love of Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light for the whole wide world.

*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

Deacon Kathleen Gooley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Generous God, you come near to us with healing for all of creation. Let your light shine now upon your Holy Word, bringing forth what you would have us hear, and do, this day. Through your Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not

profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Take Root in My Heart"

- Fromback/V.T. Courtney

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So, they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A Trick Question"

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)

Loving God, you are good and you bring forth good. Surrendering to you, help us to become the generous people you call us to be. Take now the gifts we give back to you, that they may bless this whole world in the wideness of your mercy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

403

*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Song of Hope"

432

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, October 29, 2023**, we celebrate the **22nd 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." (Facebook account is needed to access the Facebook Live feed.)

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: Oct. 29 - Team 4; Nov. 5* – Team 1 (*Daylight Saving Time ends! Clocks back!)

PERSONNEL CHANGE: We said good-bye to Cole Hosbach last week, and hello to Joshua Miller. As of 10/17, **Josh is our new Media Assistant!** As some of you might know, Josh already has some experience running the Vmix live stream, as he has filled in several times. Josh's first Sunday on the job is today and we are thrilled to welcome him aboard! If you see Josh, be sure to welcome him as the newest OGPC staff member!



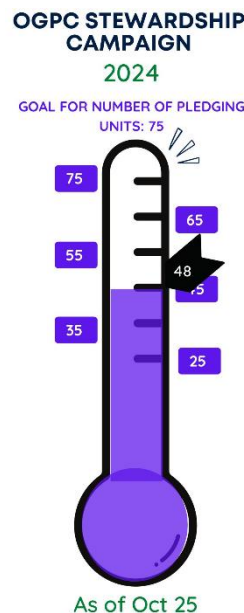
OUR OFFICIAL 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS STILL GOING STRONG! We are excited to share that the theme of this year's campaign is "Jesus Take the Wheel."

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;
- Pick up Pledge Card in narthex and place in Offering Plate.



UPCOMING NEW MEMBER CLASS: Are you ready to make it official and learn more about what it means to be a member here? Lucky you! Old Greenwich is offering a New Member Class on **Sunday, Nov. 12, 11:15 am to 12:30 pm**. Childcare provided. Contact Barb Frinzi at frinzi3@msn.com or Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com to sign up or with any questions you may have.

THE GREENWICH RINGERS: Westminster Presbyterian Church in P'tburg has gifted us their beautiful set of handbells and we hope to make a joyful noise with them! Won't you join us? We rehearse after our service on **Sundays, from 11:15 - 11:45 am** on the stage in Memorial Hall, **beginning today, October 29**, and perform during the December 11th worship service. Open to all ages, and the only experience necessary is the ability to navigate a piece of music (and count to four, over and over and over again, somewhat steadily). 😊

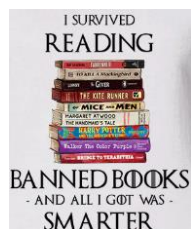
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES: This year, we are thrilled to offer two different age-group Sunday Schools: (1) Pre-K / Elementary School, (2) Middle / High School. For the Pre-K / Elem group, Sunday School is held **every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month)**. Families will bring their children to worship in the sanctuary at **10 am**, and right after Time with the Young Church (10:15ish), 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 nijmillers@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, November 5, 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** (Nov 5, Nov 19, Dec 3, and Dec 17).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY: The group meets **the third Tuesday of the month, at noon**, in the Prayer Room (behind Memorial Hall) at the church. We'll begin an advent study in November (evening - more details to follow).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY ZOOM BOOK GROUP: All women are invited to a weekly one-hour zoom book/spirituality group on **Thursdays at noon**. For zoom invite, text/call 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.

Come one, come all to the **DEACONS' ANNUAL ROAST BEEF DINNER! Saturday, November 11, 4 - 7 pm**. Pick-up or dine-in! Call Kathleen at 908-479-4449 (you can leave a message) OR sign up with Deacon Mike Lemons to make a reservation. Invite your friends and neighbors!! Also: **are you willing to contribute a dessert?** If so, please let Deacon Mike or Kathleen know!

OLD GREENWICH CHANCEL CHOIR: Come sing with us for the joyous Advent and Christmas season! You owe it to yourself to have a great time by diving a little deeper into the music that makes this season so special. No prior choir experience needed. Training wheels are installed for any new members who needs them! We meet on **Thursday nights, 7:30 - 9 pm**, in the sanctuary.

NIGHTS OF PRAISE, MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP at Simply Grace Church, 61 Church St, Bloomsbury, on **Friday, November 10 and Friday, December 8, at 7 pm**.

“BRIDGES OF HOPE” is a program designed to bring awareness about mental illness to people of faith and to equip them with tools to become strong safety nets of welcoming communities for persons affected by mental disorders and their families. On **Sunday, November 12, from 1 – 3 pm**, Pilgrim Presbyterian Church, 750 Belvidere Rd, P-burg, is co-hosting an event with NAMI Warren County to further equip and inform the community about suicide prevention. All are welcome to attend this timely and crucial workshop. For more information, please contact Pastor Rich Gelson at revup2015@gmail.com.

Tickets for the **SIGHT & SOUND MIRACLE of CHRISTMAS SHOW** on Saturday, December 2, will be available for **pick-up on Sunday, November 19 and Sunday, November 26**, after worship. See Barb Frinzi for tickets. Information regarding transportation to the show will be announced in November.

SAVE THE DATE! The **8th Annual Iron Pigs Baseball Group Outing** is set for **Saturday, July 20, 2024** at the CLUB LEVEL again (**access to AIR CONDITIONING!**). Ticket prices remain \$17/person; children 2 and under are free if they sit on a parent's/guardian's lap. The Pigs (AAA affiliate of the Phillies) are scheduled to play against the WooSocks (AAA affiliate of the Red Socks). More info to follow. Contact Anita or Walt Campbell with any questions at 908-479-4737 or souptime2222@gmail.com.

LAY READERS: There are a few dates still 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 Trinity Wing (right next to the pastor’s office). The works that are displayed change regularly and some pieces are for sale. Check out 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: **Leni Voorhees, as she heals from cataracts and glaucoma surgery on 10/23; Pastor Doug's son, headed home at the end of the week, praise God! He still has some disabilities to overcome, so we continue to pray for him: come, Jesus, with healing;** Edith Slamp, recovering from pneumonia; Cathy Ahart’s mother, June, recovering from pneumonia; Charlotte Pickell’s friend Donna, whose husband died unexpectedly; the people of Israel and Palestine - any life lost is a life you grieve, O God. We grieve, also, and pray for you to come quickly for an end to violence at every level; Julia Deemer, for healing from basal cell surgery; Marcia Taylor’s cousins, Lori Frankenfield and JoAnn August, who both recently suffered heart attacks; Al Brown, for healing from a heart procedure on 10/5, and for his wife, Lorraine; *Carla Davidson and mother Marie Burga, who’s had a stroke, and her husband Carlos and their family;* Sandy & Fritz Hamlin’s daughter-in-law, Robin, who has cancer; Carol Lee Doeringer; Dottie Davidson and her brother, Lee, diagnosed with Stage IV cancer; Stephen Toman; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine.

“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

pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681

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Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session

Josh Miller, Media/Comm. Ass't.

Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*