

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



24th 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

INTROIT

"Give Thanks"

2036, vs. 1,2,4

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 62 exc.)

Elder George Bradlau, Lay Reader

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from God.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God, who is a refuge for us.

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O God.

*OPENING HYMN

"Shine, Jesus Shine"

2170, vs. 1, 3

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Compassionate Saving Lord, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way. We are sorry for our wanderings. Forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit, help us to live for you, to love you more and more, and to trust that in you, we can be courageous disciples, wherever you may lead us. In Christ we pray.

*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)

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. By your Holy Spirit, make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Christ, the bread of heaven, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 78:1-7

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his

commandments;
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"And the Father Will Dance"

- Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE READING –

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again, he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so, the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Weddings and the Kingdom of Heaven"

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 debtor 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)

God of celebration, the Kingdom of Heaven is breaking in – right now! You have invited all people to rejoice in the goodness of your justice and joy. Help us to say "Yes!" to the invitation. We pray that our "yes" and these gifts we give back to you now, will be a blessing to the world. In Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

564

*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Go Ye, Go Ye, Into the World"

2239

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, November 12, 2023**, we celebrate the **24th 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: Nov. 12 - Team 2; Nov. 19 – Team 3

A JOY! The men from a spiritual retreat for recovery (recently hosted at our church) have graciously donated **\$430** to our Deacons' *Helping Hands Fund*. This is our church's ministry for outreach and assistance for anyone with a one-time need (e.g., we help pay rent, help with medications and groceries, etc). We are so grateful!!

NEW MEMBER CLASS: Are you ready to make it official and learn more about what it means to be a member here? A New Member Class is being held **today, November 12, 11:15 am to 12:30 pm** in the room next to the Pastor's office. Childcare provided.

"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. **Today, 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.

SHARING OUR THANKS: We will be collecting non-perishable Thanksgiving type food (boxed stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, canned yams, canned corn, etc.) **through November 15**. Bins will be in the Green Room this week. All collections will be donated to River of Life food pantry in Phillipsburg on Friday, November 17, for distribution on Saturday, November 18.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PART I

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting - Part I of the Congregation and Religious Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township, in the County of Warren, will be held **next Sunday, November 19, 2023**, immediately following the 10 am service of worship. The purpose of this meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to vote on said report. Nominees for the office of Elder and Deacon will be presented.

Attest: Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session
The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Pastor - Moderator

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! We meet **every 1st and 3rd Sunday evening**. The next gathering is **next Sunday, November 19, 6 - 7:30 pm**.

This group 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. (Nov 19, Dec 3, and Dec 17).

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES: We have two different age-group Sunday Schools: (1) Pre-K /

Elementary School, (2) Middle / High School. The Pre-K / Elem group, Sunday School is held **every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month)**. Families should 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 / High School 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 or Elder Jen Miller njmillers@msn.com with any questions you may have.

GIVING TREE 2023: Greenwich Nursery School and Old Greenwich Church are co-sponsoring a Giving Tree event for Christmas this year! On **Sunday, November 19, and Sunday, November 26**, you will be able to take a tag off the tree in the Green Room and follow the instructions on how to purchase a gift. (Elder Melissa Hixon will also be there to explain how it all works). There is also an event on **Friday, December 8**, which will include a hot cocoa bar with Santa himself in attendance, where you will be able to drop off your gifts. Questions? See Melissa Hixon or Pastor Mary Beth.

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

SUPPORT GREENWICH NURSERY SCHOOL by dining out at Panera in P'burg on **Monday, November 20**, between **4 and 8 pm** using code FUND4U. Profits will fund the purchase and installation of new playground equipment.

The General William A. Maxwell Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be honoring veterans who are buried in Greenwich Cemetery by participating in the nationwide **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** event on **December 16**. If you are interested in sponsoring a wreath for a veteran's grave, go to: www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/NJ0234P. **Cutoff date for ordering is November 30.**

ADVENT BOOK STUDY: Join us in the Prayer Room **each Wednesday in Advent, starting November 29, at 7 pm**, as we explore the book "Stay A While - Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality," written by Kara Eidson. Think of something special you set your Christmas table with and bring it along if it is not too big. See Lisa Kolterjahn or Lisa Gray if you are interested and to receive a copy of the book.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY ZOOM BOOK GROUP: If you cannot make the in-person Advent Study on Wednesday evenings at the church, using "Stay Awhile - Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality" by Kara Eidson, you can attend a **Thursday Zoom study from noon - 1 pm** on this book by asking Lisa Gray for an invite. Chapter one "INVITE" will be on November 30, just before Advent begins. Copies available at church. Think of something special you set your Christmas table with! Can't make it? Read Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36 and be there in spirit.

OLD GREENWICH CHANCEL CHOIR: Come sing with us for the joyous Advent and Christmas seasons! 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. **(No practice 11/16 - switched to Wed., 11/15 and no practice on Thanksgiving, 11/23.)**

THERE'S JUST ONE DATE REMAINING... that needs a Lay Reader! Visit www.ogpc.org, hover on the "Worship & Music" tab and click on "Sign up to be a Lay Reader" to see if you're able to fill the one date available. Or call the church office if you do not have access to the internet. 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 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.

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: **Fritz Hamlin, as he continues to recover from heart valve surgery, and his wife, Sandy; Al Brown, who was in hospital recently for trouble breathing, and for his wife, Lorraine; Walt Campbell's grand-niece, Caleigh Loveless, who had surgery for a broken tibia and fibula and is recovering at home; Edna Gaston, Betsy Gaston's sister-in-law, who was in a car crash; 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; 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*

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*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers