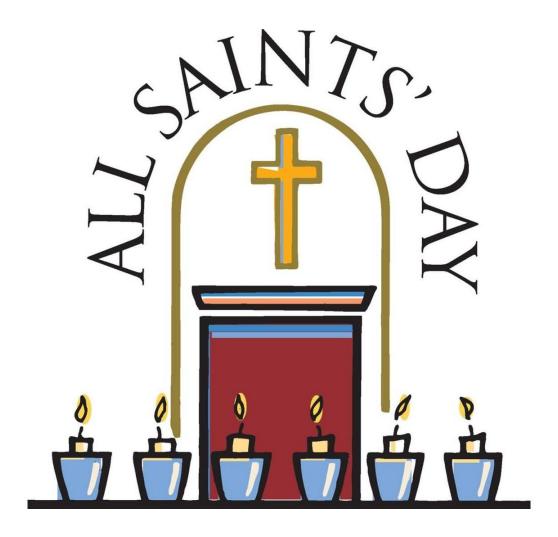
Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



23rd Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints' Day Communion Sunday

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION: To celebrate the love of God in all we say and do. November 5, 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

Elder George Bradlau

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 40-1-3, 50)

God is faithful in every word; and gracious in every deed.

God upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand to all, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

In every way God is just, and kind in every action.

God is near to all who call, to all who call on God in truth.

*OPENING HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

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*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up your people to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your great mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.

*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!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ is among us and is our peace! But we cannot keep this peace to ourselves. Let us pass the peace of Christ to one another! May the peace of Christ be with you!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might! Come, Lord Christ, come, Holy Spirit, and illumine your Word to your people. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out

of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "All Saints' Day" The Rev. Dr. Alex Hendrickson

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MUSICAL REFLECTION Tom DiGiovanni

GATHERING AT THE TABLE OF OUR LORD

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (with 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.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND THE CUP & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

Offertory *Doxoloav

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 and Living God, you cannot be contained! In every place, in every time, through every saint and every sinner, you offer us healing and hope. We pray that we would go and do likewise: that, through our giving, we, too, would be bold and generous and unbridled enough to help bring healing to this hurting world. Make us brave, make us generous, make us holy. We pray it all in Jesus' name, who is all these things for us, Amen. *THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

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



Today, **Sunday, November 5, 2023,** we celebrate the **23rd Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints' Day** and **Communion Sunday** at a 10 am worship service with guest preacher, **The Rev. Dr. Alex Hendrickson**. 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.)

TODAY WE WELCOME back to the pulpit, **The Rev. Dr. Alexandra Hendrickson**. Rev. Alex is the Director of Religious & Spiritual Life and College Chaplain at Lafayette College, Easton, PA. Originally from Arizona, Rev. Alex has served as pastor of PC (USA) congregations in a number of states. She currently lives in Easton with her husband and three children.

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. 5 – Team 1; Oct. 12 - Team 2

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Our official 2024 Stewardship Campaign ran through October, but you can still submit your pledge card if you haven't gotten it in yet. This year's campaign theme is "Jesus Take the Wheel."

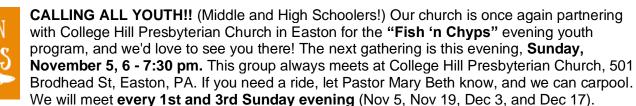
Will you help us along the journey? We are all on this journey and we want you with us. Financially, together, we can ensure that the church remains a vessel for God's love through supporting the mission of OGPC.

- Have you never made an annual pledge amount to our church? No?
- This is a great time to start!
- If you've already submitted your pledge, Thank you!

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 <u>treasurer@ogpc.org</u>;
 - Make your pledge online at <u>www.oqpc.org</u>;
 - Pick up a Pledge Card in narthex and place in Offering Plate.





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. Come one, come all to the

DEACONS' ANNUAL ROAST BEEF DINNER! Next 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!

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 **next Sunday, November 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.

"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. **Next 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.

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 on 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

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.

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 GREENWICH RINGERS: Westminster Presbyterian Church in P'burg gifted us with 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, and we'll 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 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 njimillers@msn.com with any questions you may have.

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.

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.



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 Phillys) 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.

THERE'S JUST ONE DATE OPEN... 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. 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: 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 form 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; 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 pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681 Kathleen Scala, Admin. Ass't oldgreenwich@ogpc.org/908-479-4449

Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir. Katie Rienzo, Treasurer; Comm. & Marketing Dir. Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Gr'wich Ringers*

Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist r./Choir Dir. Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session m. & Marketing Dir. Josh Miller, Media/Comm. Ass't. wich Ringers Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, Sonshine Singers Betsy Gaston, Leader, Rejoicing Rhythms drummers