



# Old Greenwich

## Presbyterian Church

VOL. MMXXIII, ISSUE 12

# ADVENT

Happy New Year! Happy *CHURCH* New Year, that is. On Sunday, December 3, the church year starts over with the season of Advent, a season of mystery, depth, darkness, and hope.

I've always loved the season of Advent. Growing up, my sister and I used to play with a nativity set for hours. We would march Mary and Joseph, the wise men, shepherds, animals, and even Baby Jesus all around our house from the kitchen to our bedrooms to the bathroom. They went on quite a journey!

As an adult, I realize that my sister and I understood something about the nature of Advent, even before we had the words to articulate it: Advent is all about movement. Advent is all about motion. Advent is all about God coming into this world – *breaking* into this world, really – as a small, helpless baby named Jesus.

During Advent, like those wise men, shepherds, and even animals, we are invited to go on a journey, too. Like them, we, too, are invited to *move* – to move into a deeper, more mysterious union with God. During Advent, we are invited to move past shallowness, materialism, and complacency, into the joy and wonder of worshipping our God-made-flesh, who comes to us as the vulnerable Christ child.

Towards that end of moving into the mysteries of the season, Elders Lisa Gray and Lisa Kolterjahn are leading an Advent study this season, open to the whole community. It will be held in the Prayer Room, at 7 pm each Wednesday, through December 20. The group will explore the book "*Stay a While - Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality*," written by Kara Eidson. Each session stands alone, so even if you miss a few, you are still welcome to join in!

Our church is also offering a Longest Night (Blue Christmas) service for the journey, which will be held on Wednesday, December 20, at 7:30 pm. The whole community is welcome to this service, where we will honestly acknowledge our grief during this time of the year, all the while pointing to the hope we have in God. Please tell anyone you know who might be struggling at this time of year about this service, as we do not all feel "happy-clappy" during this season.

We are looking forward to meeting you at this holy, tender, and often difficult time, as we draw closer and closer to the Christ child, our God-made-flesh.

And, during this season of Advent, may God bless us as we move, deepen, grieve, wonder, and grow.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mary Beth



OLD GREENWICH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# *Christmas Eve Services*

DECEMBER 24, 2023

## **10 AM INTERGENERATIONAL PAGEANT**

A heartwarming service for families. Children and adults alike will come together to tell the story of the first Christmas, with costumes, songs, and lots of joy.

## **8 PM READINGS AND CAROLS**

The perfect way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with beautiful music and powerful messages to inspire and delight.

## **11 PM CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION**

Anticipate the birth of Jesus with stillness, hope and love. As the candles flicker we will be reminded of the light that Jesus brings into the world.

[www.ogpc.org](http://www.ogpc.org)

17 GREENWICH CHURCH ROAD  
STEWARTSVILLE, NJ 08886



Old Greenwich  
Presbyterian Church





### ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Join us in the Prayer Room on four successive **Wednesdays, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13 and 12/20, 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.



### LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE - Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30 pm

Not all of us feel happy-clappy this time of year. All are welcome to this service, where we will honestly acknowledge our grief during this time of the year, all the while pointing to the hope we have in God. Please invite anyone you know who might be struggling with grief or loss.



OGPC is partnering with River of Life Church to help 25 families in need during the holidays. Please prayerfully consider signing up to donate. All donations should be **dropped off by Sunday, December 17**, in the Green Room. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Smith at 908-875-6784.

[www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)



Pictured are the latest fabulous folks joining our church! They will be officially welcomed into our congregation during the worship service on December 10.

**Gary & Samantha Hillier** live in Stewartsville with their two daughters, Abigail, 4, and Emily, 6. Gary is an Engineer and Samantha is a teacher.

**Liz Kane** is a K - Grade 4 music teacher, who lives in Stewartsville with her husband, John, and two children.

**Bill & Sue Schisler**, are both retired and live in Stewartsville. Bill's interests include music and books. Bill & Sue have three grown children.

**Lisa Zukowski** is a Home Health Aide/Executive Ass't. who likes working out and reading. She lives in Lopatcong.

**Lizzy & John Columbus** live in Stewartsville with their daughter, 9 year old, Chloe. Lizzy loves music.

Pastor Mary Beth, Gary Hillier, Samantha Hillier, Liz Kane, Bill Schisler, Sue Schisler, Lisa Zukowski, Lizzy Columbus.  
Not pictured: John Columbus

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a new monthly Bible study with a new date of meeting. Books are available for any interested women at the study or ask Lisa Gray to get one to you - text/call 973-476-4720. It will be held the **second Tuesday of the month** in the Prayer Room at the church. We will be doing the first chapter of *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir on November 12th.

### 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.

### MIDDLE AND HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - "WELCOME ALL"

Elder Jennifer Miller and Pastor Mary Beth are thrilled to be co-teaching a Sunday School class this year aimed at middle and high schoolers!! The class will be held on **the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, before worship from 9 - 9:40 am**. All lessons will be centered around the deep spiritual practice of welcome. See you there!

### 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 908-235-9322 / [Robert\\_Todd@icloud.com](mailto:Robert_Todd@icloud.com) to place an order and arrange dedication.

Orders should be placed *one week to two weeks in advance only* prior to the service date which you would like the dedication to appear in the Sunday bulletin.

### HOME COMMUNION

If you would like to receive home Communion, or know of someone who would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Pastor Mary Beth at [pastormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarybeth@gmail.com).



To all who helped make the Roast Beef Dinner a huge success!



Please pray for: Betsy Gaston's dear friend Charles (Chip) Custer, who had a stroke; Dottie Davidson and family, mourning the loss of her brother, Lee, who died on 11/24; Don Reinhard, recently in the hospital with cardiac issues, and his family, Sally, Andrew and Jack; Marcia Taylor's sister and B-I-L, Patty & Lex and family as they grieve the loss of Lex's mother, Carol Wilkinson, on 11/15; Leni Voorhees, as she heals from cataract and glaucoma surgery on 11/16; Ernie Maso's mom, Clara, who had Covid last week in Country Arch Care Ctr.; Fritz Hamlin, as he continues to recover from heart valve surgery, and his wife, Sandy; Sandy & Fritz Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin, who has cancer; Carol Lee Doering; Stephen Toman; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine; the citizens of Israel and Palestine

### 2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias are purchased by the congregation to decorate the church at the price of \$12 each. They are then taken to our Special People, members who are ill or homebound. Once that need is met, you may take the ones you purchased.

# of plants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12 = \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased by: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give \_\_\_\_ plants to our Special People.

#### **LAST DAY TO ORDER – Sunday, December 20**

A list will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, noting the purchaser and who is being remembered, honored, etc. Please help decorate the church and also make the holidays festive for our Special People.

Please make checks payable to “OGPC Deacons.” **Dedications should be emailed** to Rob Todd at [ogpcflowers@gmail.com](mailto:ogpcflowers@gmail.com), **or call Rob** at 908-235-9322 if you do not have internet access.

Scan the QR Code to electronically send dedication. (Payment may be placed in Offering Plate or mailed, with “Poinsettia” as notation.) Forms with payment may be placed in the box outside the sanctuary, in Offering Plate, or mailed to:

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church  
Att; Flower Coordinator  
17 Greenwich Church Road  
Stewartville, NJ 08886



Some of the staff and a whole bunch of artists got to wish Pastor Mary Beth a happy birthday on November 28th!

**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER:**

|       |                     |       |                           |
|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 12/01 | <b>Kinsley Fell</b> | 12/20 | Lynn Szczeck              |
| 12/02 | Adrianne Carbin     |       | Philip Millon             |
|       | Patricia Walker     |       | Martha Grazul             |
| 12/04 | Christofer Hart     |       | Timothy Garcia            |
| 12/06 | Frank Bogyos        | 12/21 | Joshua Miller             |
|       | John Reinhard       | 12/27 | Karen Hart                |
| 12/07 | Madison Wayne       | 12/30 | Darrin Carbin             |
| 12/08 | Patricia Millon     |       | <b>Jocelyn Schatzabel</b> |
| 12/10 | <b>Owen Budd</b>    | 12/31 | Thomas Beacht             |
| 12/14 | Lisa Gray           |       |                           |
|       | Holly Ahart         |       |                           |
|       | Deborah Mowrey      |       |                           |
| 12/18 | Joan Pursel         |       |                           |
|       | Emily Holloway      |       |                           |

Children are in **bold**.

**CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES  
IN DECEMBER:**

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Daniel & Melissa Hixon  | 12/11/1999 |
| Janet & Donald Morrow   | 12/23/1961 |
| John & Penny Torcivia   | 12/27/1980 |
| Roxane & Mario Campello | 12/27/1986 |

Betty Metz has moved to:

Moravian Hall Square  
Apt. 213  
175 W. North Street  
Nazareth PA 18064

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PART II  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting - Part II of the Congregation and Religious Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township, in the County of Warren, will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024, immediately following the 10 am service of worship.

The following will be presented:

Reports of the Session Committees  
Financial Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Audit Committee's Report  
The Budget for the year 2024

Any other business which comes before the Congregation may be transacted at this meeting.

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

# DECEMBER 2023

| Sun.   | Mon.   | Tue.   | Wed.  | Thurs.   | Fri.   | Sat.  |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |   |  | 1<br>Office Closed<br>ACOA - 7 pm<br>AA - 7:30 pm  | 2<br>Sight &<br>Sound<br>Theatre<br>trip                |
| 3<br>Communion<br>Worship Svc. - 10 am<br>Youth Group - 6 pm<br>AA Meeting - 3 pm<br>AA Women's Mtg.<br>7 pm                                       | 4<br>Boy Sc. Tr.<br>Council - 6 pm<br>Boy Sc. - 7 pm<br>AA Meeting<br>7:30 | 5<br>Art Group -10<br>AA Meeting - 7:30  | 6<br>Music<br>Together<br>9:15 & 10:15<br>GNS Music<br>12 - 2:30 pm<br>Christian Ed.<br>7:30 pm         | 7<br>PW Zoom Book<br>Group - 12<br>GNS Play Time<br>12 - 2:30 pm<br>Choir - 7 pm   | 8<br>Office Closed<br>Giving Tree<br>gift drop-off<br>& Santa<br>4 - 6 pm<br>ACOA - 7 pm<br>AA - 7:30 pm | 9   |
| 10<br>Worship Svc. - 10 am<br>AA Meeting - 3 pm<br>AA Women's Mtg.<br>7 pm   | 11<br>Boy Sc. - 7 pm<br>AA Meeting<br>7:30 pm                              | 12<br>Art Group -10<br>Personnel - 4:30<br>Deacons - 7:30<br>AA Meeting - 7:30 | 13<br>Music<br>Together<br>9:15 & 10:15<br>GNS Music<br>12 - 2:30 pm                                    | 14<br>PW Zoom Book<br>Group - 12<br>GNS Play Time<br>12 - 2:30 pm<br>Choir - 7 pm  | 15<br>Office Closed<br>ACOA - 7 pm<br>AA - 7:30 pm   | 16<br>DAR<br>Wreaths<br>Girl Sc.<br>PJ Party<br>5:30 pm |
| 17<br>Worship Svc. - 10 am<br>Youth Group - 6 pm<br>AA Meeting - 3 pm<br>AA Women's Mtg.<br>7 pm   | 18<br>Boy Sc. - 7 pm<br>Session - 7:30<br>AA Meeting<br>7:30 pm            | 19<br>Art Group - 10<br>Women's Bible<br>Study - noon<br>AA Meeting<br>7:30 pm | 20<br>Music<br>Together<br>9:15 & 10:15<br>GNS Music<br>12 - 2:30 pm<br>Longest Night<br>Svc. - 7:30 pm | 21<br>PW Zoom Book<br>Group - 12<br>GNS Play Time<br>12 - 2:30 pm<br>Discipleship<br>Comm. - 5 pm<br>Girl Scouts<br>5 pm<br>Choir - 7 pm | 22<br>Office Closed<br>ACOA - 7 pm<br>AA - 7:30 pm   | 23  |
| 24<br>Worship Svc. - 10 am<br>& via Facebook Live<br>Trad. Svc. - 8 pm<br>Candlelight Svc. - 11 pm<br>AA Meeting - 3 pm<br>AA Women's Mtg.<br>7 pm | 25<br>Office Closed<br>Christmas Day<br>AA Meeting<br>7:30 pm              | 26<br>Art Group - 10<br>AA Meeting<br>7:30 pm                                  | 27<br>GNS Music<br>12 - 2:30 pm   | 28<br>PW Zoom Book<br>Group - 12<br>GNS Play Time<br>12 - 2:30 pm<br>Choir - 7 pm  | 29<br>Office Closed<br>ACOA - 7 pm<br>AA - 7:30 pm   | 30  |
| 31<br>New Year's Eve<br>Worship Svc. - 10 am<br>& via Facebook Live<br>AA Meeting - 3 pm<br>AA Women's Mtg.<br>7 pm                                |  |  |   |  |  |   |

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church  
17 Greenwich Church Road  
Stewartsville, NJ 08886-2515

## **Dated Material**

Address Service Requested

## ***The Breezeway***

*"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"*

WE ARE A GUN-FREE CHURCH AND CHURCH GROUNDS.



*The Breezeway* is published monthly by:

**Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church  
17 Greenwich Church Road  
Stewartsville, New Jersey 08886-2515**

**Contributions deadline is the 25th of each month**

**WE'RE ON  
THE WEB!  
[www.ogpc.org](http://www.ogpc.org)**