THE BREEZEWAY JANUARY 2024



SOME THOUGHTS ON LEAVING...

I had this little list of requirements when I started looking for a new part-time job in 2006:

No more than 15 - 20 minute commute

Hours from 9 am - 1 or 2 pm

Specific salary requirement

Working with people who respect and appreciate each other

Start date 9/11/2006

When I told friends of my list, they told me, "Everyone wants that job! It'll never happen." But I believed it would and I put it out to the universe and to God with thanks as if it was already mine. I wrote "start new job" on my calendar on Monday, September 11, 2006.

I started at Old Greenwich on Monday, September 11, 2006. It was a 10 minute commute from my home in Lopatcong. I worked from 9 am - 2 pm, Monday - Friday. I started at the salary I asked for, and I found that the people I worked with and for respected and appreciated each other...and me! Beginning in January of 2007, I not only had two weeks vacation per year, but also had federal holidays and personal days off! I received all I asked for and more! I just love telling this story of how belief manifests as reality through God! (Mark 11:24 "So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.")

In my time at this church, I've worked under three installed pastors, two interim pastors, and at times, with no pastor. I've gotten to know life-time members and sooooo many new members. I've been here through 165 baptisms, 106 deaths and 26 weddings... hard to imagine, right?! My husband, Steve, and I participated in a few Choral Concerts, traveled with the choir to Scotland, singing in a number of historic churches there, and have been to many fabulous Deacons' roast beef dinners. In short, Old Greenwich became part of our lives.

So many people of Old Greenwich have shown me kindness and love. I answer the office phone most days and hear the voices of many who have become friends, friends whom I will surely miss seeing.

This is not only a letter of remembrance and good-bye, but one of thanks - to all of you and to God. Thank you for being so welcoming and so kind. Thank you for helping to make coming to work something I looked forward to every day. I will miss the wonderful people I work with more than they know and I will keep them and the Old Greenwich church family in my prayers and in my heart.

Kathleen

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at Old Greenwich on quite a service... Christmas all. I am so thankful and carols were sung, new grateful to all the members members joined the of Old Greenwich. They congregation, Greenwich "Christmas honored for her 17+ years gifts and cards and so of service to the church.

Kathleen this morning and asked her how she felt to be leaving OGPC in a few

know and love so many Sunday, 12/10/23, was people and will miss them imp the welcomed me into their rela Ringers church family and made performed the hymn coming to work a joy. And beh Bell on Sunday... oh, my ofa Rejoicing," and Kathleen goodnesss! I was Scala was celebrated and overwhelmed by their exp in I many well-wishes! I want beh to thank each and every caught up with one of them They have made me feel so loved and appreciated."

PASSING THE TORCH TO KATIE RIENZO

Katie Rienzo will move from the Financial Secretary's office at the end of the hall, up to the church office as of January 1, 2024.

Katie, has been a member of Old Greenwich and the choir for about 12 years, and is often joined at church by her husband, Justin, and children, Francis and Mimi. Katie has served as Financial Officer and Treasurer since January 2021, as well as Social Media Director for the past few months. She will now move into the position of OGPC Administrative Assistant with the new title of Office Manager and Director of Communications.

Katie has filled in for Kathleen over the past few years, preparing the service bulletins for worship. She will now assume all Administrative duties.

Dear church,

We are writing with some wonderful news! Lori Metz's aunt, Rosemaur Leonardo (partner to Erma Metz, sister-inlaw to Don Metz) has left Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church a beautiful donation. In her will, she gifted our church \$150,000 to be used towards the building of a permanent outdoor worship space.

We could not be more grateful to God for the generosity of the Metz family in general, and for the generosity of "Aunt Rose" in particular.

The Session is appointing a team to work on this exciting project. We can't wait to keep you posted!

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL **BLESSINGS FLOW!!**



Pastor Mary Beth



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LET'S GO BOWLING! All children and their families (Pre-K through elementary age) are welcome to join the Greenwich Nursery School and Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church for a bowling outing!!

Date: Monday, January 15

Location: Oakwood Lanes (Washington, NJ)

Time: 10 am-12 pm

Cost: \$12/child

Please RSVP by emailing Amy Anderson at <u>director@greenwichnursery.com</u>. You may also register by filling out the form below, or pick one up in the narthex on Sunday, and turn it in to Pastor Mary Beth. Hope to see you there!



GNS Bowling Registration Form

Date: Monday, January 15, 2024

Time: 10 am-12 pm

Where: Oakwood Lanes 234 NJ-31, Washington, NJ 07882

Registration form and payment due by Tuesday, January 9th

Non-GNS students are welcome to attend. Please invite friends/family that have children when like to participate. An adult must stay to supervise the child(ren).	o would			
I give my permission for my child(ren)to	attend			
and participate in the bowling event that is being held at the Oakwood Lanes on Monday,				
January 15, 2024.				
A telephone number that I can be reached in case of an emergency if my child(ren) is att with another adult	ending			
Please check one:				
I will be attending the event and supervising my own child				
Parent's Name				
My child will be attending the event and be supervised by Name of person				
# Of adults attending (only kids are bowling)				
# Of students/siblings bowling (\$12 per child) \$ Amount end	closed			
How will you be paying? (Check)				
Cash Check Brightwheel (GNS families only)				
Please place your permission slip and money in an envelope with your child's name	ne on it.			
The method of payments we accept will be cash (exact change only), checks made paya	ble to			
"Greenwich Nursery School" or online payments through Brightwheel will be accepted (current				
GNS families only for credit card).				
I understand no refunds are given if I decide not to attend the day of the event.				
Parent Signature Date				

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, "Sacred Encounters," will be back on schedule meeting the THIRD week in **January, the 16th, at noon**, in the Prayer Room. We'll be looking at "A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ," chapter three. No book? Join us anyway, the sessions stand alone, you won't be lost if you jump in anytime.

The PW Thursday weekly ZOOM lunch study **will resume Jan 18**. We are beginning a NEW BOOK - "A is for Alabaster," 52 reflections on the stories of scripture. It contains Old and New Testament with some names you've never heard of, like B is for Balaam, R is for Rhoda. It also does words like M is for memory and P is for poet. It can be ordered on (PCUSA.org) Presbyterian Store, or other online sites. For an invitation, call or text Lisa Gray 973-476-4720.

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! Our next lesson will be on Sunday, January 14th.

SUNDAY FLORAL DEDICATIONS

The cost to purchase floral 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 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.



to: **Gretchen Alencewicz** for help with leaf clean-up; **Ellen Viscel** for decorating Memorial Hall for Christmas; **Ed Gardner** and **Bill Lee** for fixing one of the plexiglass window covers in the courtyard.



Please pray for: friends of Dottie Davidson, Jack Adams, who is in the hospital, and his family; those struggling with mental illness and their families; those who struggle with addictions and their families; Anita Campbell, having foot surgery on 1/9; Walt & Anita Campbell's son-in-law 's mother, Geraldine Waterman; Lori Metz, Sharon Dachisen and Marcia Taylor, all recovering from surgeries; the family of Robin Glosser's friend, Douglas Risley, who died 12/19 after years of battling heart disease; John Oakes, who had surgery on his knee the week of 12/15; Susan Jones, and her husband, David; Jennifer

Miller, who was in a car accident and thankfully was not injured; Sandy & Fritz Hamlin's daughter- in-law, Robin, who has cancer; Carol Lee Doeringer; Stephen Toman; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine; the citizens of Israel and Palestine Prayers

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NEW YEAR, NEW ENVELOPES!

Offering envelopes are available in the Green Room for pickup. Just find your name on the label and start using them beginning Sunday, January 7, 2024.

If you would like envelopes and don't see your name on the table, just email Katie Rienzo at treasurer@ogpc.org and we'll get you set up. Thank you so much for your pledges and donations!

ARE YOU A HOCKEY FAN?

The Lehigh Valley Phantoms Ice Hockey Organization in Allentown would like to have members of our congregation out to a game for a group night. They pride themselves on being a family friendly environment for bonding and a place to connect outside of the typical church setting. They are planning a Faith Night on Sunday March 3rd. It will be possible to connect with other churches in the area as well as having one of the players meet with the churches in attendance to talk about their faith. Ticket prices are \$20-\$30. Transportation will be on your own. If anyone is interested please sign up in Memorial Hall by the end of January. More information to follow if there is any interest. Call or text 908-343-1144 or email frinzi3@msn.com Barb Frinzi if you have any questions.





Poinsettias are available for pickup. Brighten your home for the remainder of the Christmas season with a poinsettia. If you ordered a poinsettia for Christmas Eve, they are available for you to take home or bring to a friend!

Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas Eve services such a beautiful and holy time of celebration. Thank you to all of the musicians: Mia DiGiovanni, for her handbell solo, Bruce Gaston, for his beautiful violin accompaniment, Michaela Madeio, for her flute solo and to all of the choir members and choir directors!

A special thanks to the participants of the intergenerational pageant who told the story of Jesus's birth. Everyone looked their part in their costume.

Thank you to the Christian Ed committee members for coordinating and organizing the pageant. No small feat! And thank you to Pastor Mary Beth and the worship leaders for making it such a special time of worship for everyone! Check our Facebook page for pictures!



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CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY:

01/05	Susan Beacht	01/19	Anita Campbell
01/06	Michael Viscel		Caleb Frey
	Karen Savacool	01/20	Lily Pritchard
01/07	Dorothy Davidson	01/21	Olivia Hart
01/08	Ralph Wolverton		Eli Mallory
01/09	Evan Cichone	01/23	Linda McCusker
01/11	A. Diana Mallory		Randy Bartholomew
	Alexa MacKinnon		Jaelene Slaven
01/12	Ernest Maso	01/24	Nora Garvey
01/13	Tim Newbrough	01/26	Barbara Grimm
01/14	Bruce Frey	01/28	Addison Fell
01/16	Wil Mardis-LeCroy	01/29	Lucille Budd
01/18	Cecelia Lemons	01/30	Hudson Bakros

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY:

01/08/1977	Lynn & Robert Szczeck
01/13/1990	Paul & Jeanne Stahlecker
01/22/2000	Katie & Justin Rienzo

Children are in **bold**.

2024 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 2024 Budget

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

JANUARY 2024 Thurs. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed. Fri. Sat. 3 2 Boy Sc. Tr. Christian Ed. Office Closed Council - 6 pm 7:30 pm ACOA - 7 pm Boy Sc. - 7 pm AA - 7:30 pm 13 10 11 12 Communion Boy Sc. - 7 pm Music Office Closed Recital in Art Group -10 **GNS Play Time Together** Sanctuary Worship Svc. - 10 am **AA Meeting** 12 - 2:30 pm ACOA - 7 pm Personnel - 4:30 9:15 & 10:15 2 pm 7:30 Youth Group - 6 pm Choir - 7:30 pm AA - 7:30 pm Deacons - 7:30 **GNS Music** AA Meeting - 3 pm 12 - 2:30 pm AA Meeting - 7:30 AA Women's Mtg. 7 pm 15 16 17 18 20 Worship Svc. - 10 am Boy Sc. - 7 pm Art Group -10 Music PW Zoom Book Office Closed **Together** Group - 12 ACOA - 7 pm AA Meeting - 3 pm **Session - 7:30** Women's Bible 9:15 & 10:15 **GNS Play Time** Study - noon AA Women's Mtg. **AA Meeting** AA - 7:30 pm **GNS Music** 12 - 2:30 pm 7 pm 7:30 pm AA Meeting - 7:30 12 - 2:30 pm Discipleship Comm. - 5 pm **Girl Scouts** Tr. 92521 - 5 pm Choir - 7:30 pm 21 23 24 25 26 27 PW Zoom Book Worship Svc. - 10 am Boy Sc. - 7 pm Art Group - 10 Music Office Closed Together Group - 12 Youth Group - 6 pm **AA Meeting AA Meeting** ACOA - 7 pm 9:15 & 10:15 7:30 pm 7:30 pm **GNS Play Time** AA - 7:30 pm AA Meeting - 3 pm **GNS Music** 12 - 2:30 pm AA Women's Mtg. 12 - 2:30 pm Choir - 7:30 pm 7 pm **AA Meeting GNS Music** Worship Svc. - 10 am Art Group - 10 & via Facebook Live 7:30 pm 12 - 2:30 pm **AA Meeting** AA Meeting - 3 pm 7:30 pm AA Women's Mtg. 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.



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Contributions deadline is the 25th of each month

WE'RE ON THE WEB! www.ogpc.org