

THE BREEZEWAY

January 2026

Issue 1



The following is excerpted from Mary Beth's sermon delivered on January 4 2026.

Welcome to the season of Epiphany! Even though Epiphany is one of the lesser known seasons of the liturgical year, I think we ought to reclaim the season. Why? Because I believe that the message of Epiphany is absolutely crucial to who we are, and who we are called to be.

One pretty good definition of the word itself is "a moment of revelation and insight." An epiphany is a light-bulb moment, a moment of clarity, a moment of illumination.

So what, then, is *our* Epiphany, right here in the church? What is *our* light-bulb moment?

Maybe the wise men can show us the way.

In the book of Matthew, we read one of the most familiar stories in the Bible. It's the story of the wise men, or Magi - those strange, wandering, regal folk that hail from someplace way out there in the East, somewhere, far, far, far from here.

In the mind and hearts of the first folks to live, and then hear, this story, what was most significant about the magi was that they were *foreigners*. They weren't *Jewish*, not at all. They didn't keep kosher, or observe the Sabbath, or do any of the things that a good Jew would do. They were strangers, in other words, outsiders, aliens, *goyim*, *those people*.

They were, and are, in other words, *not like us*.

And, as it turns out, the arrival of the wise men - the non-Jews, the foreigners, the strangers, *those people* - into Bethlehem is all a part of the divine plan, an accomplishment of promises made long ago.

Remember an "epiphany" is a moment of revelation. Well, this story is all about *the* moment of revelation - revelation, that is, to the gentiles, which is the New Testament's way of saying *everybody*. *This* epiphany, *this* revelation, is amazing, radical, and world-altering: this Jesus of Nazareth, this God-made-flesh, is not just for one kind of people.. No; *this* Jesus is for the whole wide world, for the stranger, the alien, the foreigner, the other, the outsider, the enemy... *this* Jesus is for *those* people, too.

So, what does all of this mean for us, for Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church, in 2026?

We finished up our House Meetings a few months ago, and our Session - our leadership board - is still sorting through everything we heard from you. One of the questions we asked was why you came to this church in the first place, and why do you stay. What we heard, overwhelmingly, is that you have come here, and you stay here, *because of the warmth in this place*. Because of the welcome, in how it feels to be here: embraced, accepted, loved, held, forgiven, part-of, no-longer-alone.

Here's what I'm getting at, Old Greenwich: I think you *already* see the light, and responding to God's call, you, *we*, are continuing to build our very identity on it, on what Epiphany is all about: welcoming the other, opening up to the outsider, loving the stranger.

One more word about strangers.

You know what I've found about strangers? So often, they come bearing gifts. It may not be gold, or frankincense or myrrh. It may not be anything that we even think we *want*, at first... but it's always something that we need: a new perspective, new insight, voices other than our own. Strangers have so much to show us, and so many gifts to give, if we have the eyes to see.

But you already know this.

So here's my Epiphany prayer for us, Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church in 2026: May God continue to send us strangers - to surprise us, to sustain us, to show us again and again the amazing grace of our God that belongs to the whole wide world.

Thanks be to God! Pastor Mary Beth

Community Spotlight - New Members

We are thrilled to announce new members to Old Greenwich! Angela Peardon, and her daughters Stella Bywater and Nichole Peardon.

Angela works for Argent Associates. Stella, married to Corey, is a stay at home mom with 3 kids (a 6 year old and 2 year old twins). Stella is in school full time to be a nurse, Corey is a corrections officer. Nichole works for Catholic Charities of Allentown.

Their families loved the welcoming nature of Old Greenwich and the kids loved their Sunday School classes. They are all thrilled to be joining the OGPC family. Join us in welcoming these wonderful new members!

Nursery Open

We are excited to offer nursery care during Sunday worship! Children of ALL ages are welcome to stay for the entire worship service, but, if you choose, we offer nursery care for kids age 4 and under (downstairs, Room 14 - ask an usher if you are unsure where to go! Please arrive before 10:20am). We also offer Sunday School during worship, after the Time with the Young Church (except on 1st Sundays), for PreK-5th grade.

Community Mission

The Community Mission committee is asking for donations and help making a meal for Safe Harbor on January 20 at noon. Use the QR code to sign up to donate food or to help prepare the meal!



New year new you?

If you're looking for a new community activity or hobby in the new year:

- Chair yoga for 60 and over continues in Memorial Hall at 1:30 PM, small donation requested
- "Wee" Connect playgroup for 3 and up (suggested, but all ages welcome) continues on Tuesdays from 9 to 10 AM
- Watercolor Fellowship continues on Tuesdays starting at 10 AM. All experiences welcome to this fun painting fellowship group



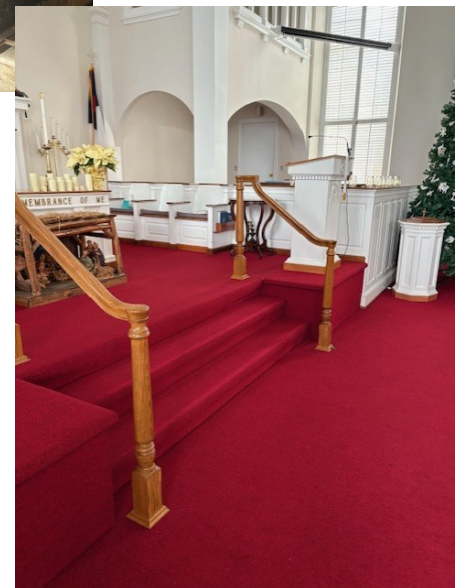
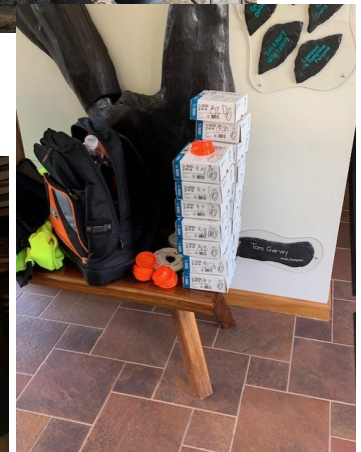
Youth Group
6th through 12th grade
1st and 3rd Sundays

Time: 6:00-7:30

January 4th:	New Year and Nilla Pudding
January 18th:	Hot Chocolate and Skits
February 1st:	"Mafia" or something similar
February 15th:	Cake Decorating
March 1st:	Make Soft Pretzels
March 15th:	Irish Tea Party
April 5th:	Ice Cream Check-In
April 19th:	Campfire
May 3rd:	Walk to Wawa
May 17th:	Retreat Planning
May 29th and 30th	Retreat

Enjoy these pictures from last year!

There was lots of activity in the building in 2025. Art groups, chair yoga and many other groups use our space weekly. There were also improvements made to the courtyard, new fire alarms installed and new railings!



All ages had fun at the Christmas pageant in December. Thanks to all who participated and put it together!!



JANUARY

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Susan Beacht 01/05	Caleb Frey 01/19
Karen Savacool 01/06	Anita Campbell 01/19
Michael Viscel 01/06	Olivia Hart 01/21
Dottie Davidson 01/07	Eli Mallory 01/21
Ralph Wolverton 01/08	Linda McCusker 01/23
Alexa MacKinnon 01/11	Barbara Grimm 01/26
A. Diana Mallory 01/11	Brenda Bright 01/30
Ernie Maso 01/12	
Bruce Frey 01/14	

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

Lynn & Robert Szczeck 01/08
Katie & Justin Rienzo 01/22



PRAYERS

Please pray for: Melissa Hixon's brother-in-law, Michael, had a brain bleed seizure/stroke, and is in the hospital, healing prayers for him and for his wife Judy; Walt Campbell's niece's husband, Mark Scrivanich, who is having surgery to fix an aneurysm; the family and loved ones of Jyneda Freeman, who passed away; for Debbie, a friend of Charlotte Pickell, who is struggling with brain cancer. Prayers for Debbie's loved ones; Betty Metz, who is back in the hospital, continued prayers for healing; Rob Brunk, who is having heart issues; Lisa Kolterjahn, recovering from surgery; Steve Katz, Walt Campbell's grand niece's husband, searching for relief from multiple medical issues; Adam Huff's friend AJ who was in a car accident; Gwen Johnson, recovering from surgery; prayers for strength and healing for Barb Frinzi; Andrew Stetler, for Annie his mother, and for their whole family; for Karen Savacool, facing health issues; for Gaza, especially for the children who are facing extreme food insecurity; for Sudan; for India and Pakistan, that they may find a way to peace; the people who have been displaced in Congo; the people of Haiti; for those struggling with mental illness and those who struggle with addictions and their families; continue to pray for our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine and the citizens of Israel and Palestine.

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy new year!	2 Office Closed 7 PM ACoA 7:30 PM AA	3
4 9 AM Youth Sunday School 9:50 Nursery 10 Worship 3 PM AA 6 PM Fish & CHYPS	5 1:30 PM Fit Where you Sit 6 PM Boy Sc Tr Mtg 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 AA	6 9 AM "Wee" Connect 10 AM Art Group 7 PM ACoA 7 PM Community Mission 7:30 AA	7	8 5:30 pm GS Troop 90830	9 Office Closed 5 PM Girl Scout tr 92321 7 PM ACoA 7:30 PM AA	10
11 9:50 Nursery care 10 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Ed 3 PM AA	12 1:30 PM Fit Where you Sit 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 AA	13 9 AM "Wee" Connect 10 AM Art Group 7 PM ACoA 7:30 AA	14	15	16 Office Closed 7 PM ACoA 7:30 PM AA	17
18 9 AM Youth Sunday School 9:50 Nursery care 10 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Ed 3 PM AA 6 PM Fish & CHYPS	19 MLK Jr Day 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM AA 7:30 PM Session Mtg	20 9 AM "Wee" Connect 10 AM Art Group 12 PM Women's Bible Study 12 PM Safe Harbor Meal 7 PM ACoA 7:30 AA	21	22	23 Office Closed 5 PM Girl Scout tr 92321 7 PM ACoA 7:30 PM AA	24
25 9:50 Nursery care 10 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Ed 3 PM AA	26 1:30 PM Fit Where you Sit 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 AA	27 9 AM "Wee" Connect 10 AM Art Group 7 PM ACoA 7:30 PM AA 7:30 PM Deacons	28	29	30 Office Closed 5 PM Girl Scout tr 92321 7 PM ACoA 7:30 PM AA	31 5 PM Best Pizza in Town Competition

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Dated Material

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The Breezeway

"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

WE ARE A GUN-FREE CHURCH AND CHURCH GROUNDS.



Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church

The Breezeway is published monthly by:

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

www.ogpc.org