

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

10 AM

Welcome to worship at Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Children of ALL ages are welcome to stay for the entire service, but, if you choose, we offer nursery care on Sundays during worship 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. Also! There are little bags in the back of the sanctuary filled with all sorts of fun crafts for kids of all ages! Feel free to grab one and be creative!

PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

CHORAL INTROIT

"Christ Has Risen"

Sing the Faith # 2115 v. 2

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 25, excerpts)

Elder Al Marino, Liturgist

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.

For you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,

For they have been from of old.

*OPENING HYMN

"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 451 vv. 1, 2, 4

All of the hymns today were chosen because they are some of Betsy Gaston's favorites!

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God Who Loves, we confess that we are limited by our own sinfulness, failing to respond to your grace and compassion. Have mercy on us. Empty us of our selves and replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. We pray this in Christ's Name.

***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 OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Lisa Kolterjahn

After Time with the Young Church, all children PreK-Elementary school are invited to go with their teachers into the Resource Room for an engaging, and fun, Sunday School class!

*HYMN

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 446

UNITING WITH THE CONGREGATION - JoAnn Murray, Holly Luberto

Through baptism, we enter the covenant God has established. In that covenant God gives us new life; in that covenant, we are guarded from evil and nurtured by the love of God and God's people!

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do, with God's help.**

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*WELCOME

As your new family, we welcome you to the ministry and mission of this part of the body of Christ! From this day forward, may the bonds of Christian love between us be strengthened and deepened, and may we stir one another up to love and good works, that together we may fulfill the purposes to which God has called us.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. By your Spirit, speak to us through your Holy Scriptures, so that we may receive the grace we need to shine Christ's love to the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Acts 2:42-47

New Testament, p. 120

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Sometimes a Light Surprises"

arr. Mark Hill

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Simple, but Not Easy”

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Many Presbyterians (though not all!) pray the following prayer saying "debts and debtors," but you are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer/Our Father any way you know it and love it best! (debts/ trespasses/ sins/ etc!)

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.

OFFERING

Call to Offering

Offering

God loves us so much. As a response to God's love, we are invited to give back. If you'd like to give to God through the mission of this church here and in the world, use the QR code to donate, or use the Welcome Envelopes in the pews.

*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

Gracious God, give us the courage to do your work in the world, to live out your vision, and to find you at work in it all. Take these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless the whole creation. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Hail Thee Festival Day"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 120

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *"At the Door, We Are Commissioned"*

Sing the Faith # 2114 v. 4

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to join us for refreshments! Follow the crowds and the smell of coffee!!

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, April 26, 2026**, we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Easter at our 10 AM online worship service with Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy. The service will be streamed on our Facebook Live feed at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." You can also find live streams, past services and other content on our YouTube channel (search Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church).

USHER TEAM SCHEDULE: April 26, Team 6; May 3, Team 1

JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP FOR FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS IN MEMORIAL HALL! This week hosted by: Melissa Hixon; next week hosted by Mike Lemons. If you'd like to host, sign up in Memorial Hall or contact Barb Grimm at 908 578 1273. Barb will happily answer questions about hosting fellowship!

Poet, preacher and songwriter Donovan McAbee is preaching at OGPC! You won't want to miss it! **Sunday June 21 at 10AM**, followed by a discussion/poetry reading of his new book in Memorial Hall. Donovan's work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *TIME* magazine, *The Hudson Review*, etc. Donovan grew up in a small town in South Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary (where he and Pastor MB lived on the same hall their first year!), and a PhD in Creative Writing and Contemporary Poetry from the University of St Andrews in Scotland. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee with his wife and their two children. His poetry collection *Holy the Body* was published by Texas Review Press in March 2026. Invite your friends and neighbors!!

WILDFLOWER WELLNESS is offering Spring classes on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 PM and Thursdays 8:30 - 9:30 AM for children ages 1 - 8 and their caregivers. These welcoming, nature-inspired classes encourage children of all abilities and ages to explore, learn, and play in an immersive outdoor setting. Pop up classes available - **Tuesday, April 28 from 4 to 5 PM** will feature a reading and book signing of "*Count Your Chickens Before It Rains!*" by local mom and author Kristyn Gentile. And real chickens! Visit wildflowersflourish.com to sign up!

We will be celebrating Betsy Gaston's four decades of faithful leadership, wonderful music and unwavering commitment to OGPC on her last day of choir directing, Sunday, May 10th. Join us in worship and after in Memorial Hall to share memories and **cake!**

PENTECOST/JAZZ GOES TO CHURCH! Jazz Goes to Church with NYC-based musicians Hannah Marks and her band! Join us for joyful worship! **All are welcome!** Pentecost Sunday, May 24 2026, 10 AM.

Bags for kids in the back! Feel free to grab a bag in the back of the sanctuary! For kids of all ages... coloring, etc! Be creative! (Ask an usher to help you locate one if need be).

COMMUNITY MISSION - The Easton Rotary Club is organizing a "Pack the Purse" project for the Third Street Alliance in early May, and OGPC is partnering in this effort. We are collecting the following items: New and used purses, Deodorant, Band-aids, Sanitary napkins, Toothbrushes/toothpaste, Chapstick, Pens, Lotion, Mints, Tissue packets, Travel size items, Gift cards (\$5), Wrapped snacks, Hand wipes-individually wrapped. Please drop your donations off in the green room by Sunday, May 3. Contact Sharon Smith (sharonwsmith.08@gmail.com) with any questions.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - the Presbytery of Highlands is offering some Spring Events:

- May 23 @ 10:30 AM at Well-Swept Herb Farm Port Murray NJ "A Morning of Learning" PW will cover the fee and. Bring your own lunch for a picnic.
- May 30 @ 9 AM (program begins 9:30 AM)"The PWP Spring Gathering "Dimensions of Women's Wellness" Contact Lisa Gray for details to carpool.
- June 18-20 @ 4PM Stony Point Conference Center Thursday - Saturday, New PW Bible Study Training (retreat) for Leaders (or anyone) "United through Christ, Bound to Each Other." Scholarships are available, more info on church bulletin board. Email jkmac3536@gmail.com for room info, registration \$400-\$600

Contact Lisa Gray for more info or carpooling 973-476-4720 Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com

How can we care for you? "Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them" (Matt 18:20). Would you, or would someone you know, like a visit from a church member or our pastor? Would you, or

someone you know, like to take holy communion at your home? Are you struggling with something you'd like to talk and pray about? Do you simply need a ride to church? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, we are here for you! Please reach out to Elder Lisa Gray at Lisa_a_gray@outlook.com for home communion. Reach out to Deacon Sharon Jiorle at sjiorle1@verizon.net if you would like a general, or even regular, visit from someone at the church, or if you would like a ride to church. And contact Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com for anything else... Let us care for you and the people you love!

DEACON SCHOLARSHIPS - The Reverend Richard B. Gibbins Scholarships provide financial assistance to members of Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church. Scholarships are available to members who have been accepted to a college, university, trade school, or other post-secondary institution, as well as to members/youth wishing to attend Johnsonburg as campers or counselors.

Paper applications are available at the back of church. Online applications can be found on our website under Who We Are > Deacons. Applications are due **May 18th**.

The CCK Committee (church care and kinship committee) is reorganizing and looking for volunteers who enjoy planning and implementing fun events and entertainment for church members. This group traditionally has planned the church picnic, potlucks, and outings to promote fellowship through fun activities. If this sounds like something you would enjoy being a part of, please contact Sue Schisler @ 908-763-0886. (Previous CCK members and new members are all welcome!)

COMMUNITY EVENT - Fireworks at Coca-Cola Park! Coca-Cola Park is offering a 250th drone/fireworks celebration on Friday, July 3. ALL seats - club level (\$23.50) and downstairs field level (\$19.26) are available for purchase. See this website for more: <https://www.milb.com/lehigh-valley>. (Note: There is NO baseball game on the 3rd; it's just the drone/fireworks).

The whole community is invited to... a Health & Wellness Field Day, hosted by the Warren County Department of Human Services. This free event will be held at Warren County Technical High School on Friday May 1 from 6pm-9pm. It will include informational booths and resources on all sorts of health (mental, spiritual, physical) PLUS food, music, games, raffles and prizes, and a volleyball tournament! ALL are welcome!! See the bright posters around the church for more information.

SUPPORT THE CHOIR WHILE YOU SHOP! Our Chancel Choir has been doing a gift card fundraiser for many years that is easy and ongoing. **We are inviting you to join us!** We purchase gift cards for our favorite stores and brands, and a company we work with gives a percentage of what we purchase back to the choir. The gift cards never expire, and you get the full amount of the card purchased. For example: You purchase a \$100 ShopRite gift card. You receive a non-expiring Shop Rite gift card for \$100, the choir immediately receives \$4. (That's 4%!) Many brands give 10-15% back to the choir! Scan the QR code for a full list of brands. See Tom DiGiovanni to sign up, or email: digtom@hotmail.com.



MEDITATION GROUP - All are welcome to join the Meditation group that meets here at OGPC in Room 22 on Saturdays at 10 am. Enjoy a soothing guided healing meditation session designed to help you relax and connect with your inner higher self. In this approximately one-hour gathering you will have the opportunity to center your mind and access the healing power within, nurturing your physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. All are welcome!

ANNUAL BASEBALL GAME OUTING! Tickets are now available for **Saturday, August 15, 2026** at 6:35 p.m. between the Iron Pigs (Phillies AAA team) and the Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders (Yankees AAA

team) at CocaCola Park in Allentown, PA. We have reserved 75 seats this year. Small groups - get your order in early. We sold out early last year! We need a minimum of 25 PAID orders for this event to happen.

- Tickets are \$18/person (children 2 and under are free if they sit on parents' lap). Parking is \$5/car
- OGPC members, their families/friends/neighbors and...friendly strangers welcome
- Contact Anita/Walt Campbell at 908-479-4737 or souptime2222@gmail.com
- Payment accepted: cash, check (payable to Anita Campbell or Walter Campbell) or Venmo. DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT/ORDER: **Sunday, May 24, 2026.**



From Your Worship, Music and Spirituality Committee: Do you feel a call to read scripture and prayers during a worship service? We are inviting anyone who would like to be part of the worship service to sign up to be the liturgist (lay reader) It's easy! You'll be reminded by email a few days before and there will be a script on the lectern with your part highlighted in red. Scripture is also printed there. Go to ogpc.org, and drop down on the "Worship & Music" tab to "Sign up to be a Lay Reader," or use this QR code: Questions? Call or text Lisa Gray 973-476-4720

"Wee" Connect Playgroup Tuesdays from 9 AM to 10 AM! Our church has joined forces with Greenwich Nursery School to offer a weekly playgroup for families with kids PreK and under! "Wee" Connect is **held Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 am**. Tell your friends and family! Questions? Please contact Joan Holloway at jhollow@ptd.net or Sue Zarelli at sजारेल्लि@gmail.com.

"Fit Where You Sit" Chair Yoga! For 60+, in partnership with the Warren County Division of Aging. Meets Mondays from 1:30 to 2:30 PM in Memorial Hall. Suggested donation is \$1 a class (feel free to give more. Donations help the church support the community). ALL 60+ folks are welcome! Tell your friends and neighbors... this is a community offering!

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

PreK-5th Grade Sunday School. All 5th graders and under, meet during worship for fun activities, prayer, Bible, and games! PreK-5th Grade Sunday School is held every Sunday, during worship (except for the first Sundays of each month). We have great teachers, great kids, and are having another great year together! Questions? Please email Elder Lisa at lkolterjahn88@gmail.com or Elder Samantha at samanthajhillier@gmail.com.

6th-12th Grade Youth Sunday School meets from 9:00am to 9:40am, every 2nd and 4th Sundays, in Room 22 (right next to the pastor's office). Our youth Sunday School teachers are Pastor Mary Beth and Elder Hope Duncan. Questions? Email Hope at hoped5@yahoo.com.

Fish 'n Chyps Joint Youth Group with College Hill 6th-12th graders (and their friends and neighbors) are all invited to join with the youth of College Hill Presbyterian Church (501 Brodhead St, Easton PA) every first and third Sunday from 6:00 to 7:30pm for fellowship, prayer, and games/activities!! Please contact Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com for more information, or to carpool.

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAGS! Don't have a nametag? See Katie Rienzo or email oldgreenwich@ogpc.org. Anyone can request a nametag!

OGPC is blessed to host a multitude of recovery meetings throughout the week: AA Monday, Tuesday, Friday 7:30; Sunday 3:00; Tuesday and Friday 7:00 ACoA.

Prayers, Thanksgiving and Contemplation

This week we pray for: Al Marino, who will be having surgery to repair a torn Achilles; Patty, friend and colleague of the Freys, whose mother died suddenly; Sue Beacht's friends Bill and Joyce, and their whole family, as Bill has been

fighting cancer and is now in hospice care.; Adrienne and Debbie Carbin, who are also praying for our church; for Poppy Brown, Grammy, Bodmi and Joe Kelly's Uncle Jeff; Grethen Alencewicz's brother, Brad Keller, struggling with health issues related to diabetes; Sue Millan's sister Betsey Peet, for healing, wholeness and answers; Candi Nagy and her whole family as they grieve the passing of Candi's father; Gwen and Lou Johnson, facing health issues; for David Jones, and his sons Rob and Evan as they grieve Susan Jones' death; the people of Lebanon, displaced and afraid; for all the Gulf Countries; Kahlyn, granddaughter of Barb and Kurt Grimm, prayers for continued healing; for Barb and Kurt Grimm's neighbor TJ, facing a serious health issue; the citizens of Iran and surrounding countries; for decision-makers everywhere; prayers for peace; for Sharon and Craig Smith and their whole family, as Craig faces health challenges; prayers for strength and healing for Barb Frinzi; for Karen and Jim Savacool; the people of Venezuela, for God's justice, mercy, and sustaining presence for those who are suffering and afraid; for Sudan; for Ukraine; 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.



Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church

Our Church's Mission

To celebrate the love of God in all we say and do.

"Blessed are the peacemakers"

We are a gun-free church - buildings and grounds

www.ogpc.org

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy
Katie Rienzo, Office Manager & Dir. of Communication
Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons
Tom DiGiovanni, Music Director/Organist
Betsy Gaston, Assistant Music Director/Choir Director
Julie Raffety, Bookkeeper

pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681
oldgreenwich@ogpc.org/908-479-4449
Leslie Strozeski, Financial Secretary
Melissa Hixon, Clerk of Session
Joshua Miller, Media/Communication Assistant

Use the QR code to donate to Old Greenwich if you have the PayPal app. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant difference. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our community.

