

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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

"Invocation"

Rollo Dilworth

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 31, excerpts)

Deacon Sharon Jiorle, Liturgist

In you, O God,

I seek refuge;

do not let me ever be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me;

rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,

a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock

and my fortress;

for your name's sake

lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net

that is hidden for me,

for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me,

O God, O faithful God.

Let your face shine upon your servant;

save me in your steadfast love.

*OPENING HYMN

"Celebrate with Joy and Singing"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 107

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Creator, one of our greatest desires is to do your will. But we humbly confess that we are limited by our own sinfulness, failing to respond to your higher law of grace and compassion. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Empty us of our selves and replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. We want to receive the gift of your grace and the fruits of your Spirit. 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 Kathleen Gooley

***HYMN**

"How Lovely, Lord"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 207

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. By your Holy Spirit, make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Christ, the bread of heaven, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Peter 2:2-10

New Testament, p. 233

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Standing on the Promises"

-arr. Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE READING - John 14:1-14

New Testament, p. 108

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Way, the Truth, the Life?"

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

GATHERING AT THE TABLE OF OUR LORD

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & Prayers of the People (with Lord's Prayer)

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.

Blessing the Bread and the Cup & Communion of the People

All (and we mean ALL) are welcome at this Table! You may stay in your pews, where you will be served bread and a cup of grape juice. You may eat the bread and drink the cup once you receive them, or you may wait - either way is just fine. All ages (including children and tots and babies) are welcome to eat the bread and drink the cups (all filled with grape juice) if the family chooses.

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

Thank you, Jesus, that you are our companion on the journey. Thank you that we have you to show us the way. Now bless these gifts we give back, that they may bless this whole world in the wideness of your mercy. It is in your name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"He is Exalted"

Sing the Faith # 2070 (2x)

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"God Be with You Til We Meet Again"

-arr. Joseph Martin

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, May 3, 2026**, we celebrate the fifth 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: May 3, Team 1; May 10, Team 2

JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP FOR FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS IN MEMORIAL HALL! This week hosted by: Mike Lemons; next week hosted by Cathy Ahart, and we'll have some refreshments to honor Betsy Gaston's last day. 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!!

Second training for visiting ministries to be offered at OGPC! Back by popular demand... College Hill Presbyterian Church and Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church are joining forces once again to provide a training for anyone who might be interested in becoming a part of a community that visits members and friends of the church, including shut-ins. All are welcome to join Pastor Mary Beth and Pastor Matt at OGPC (Prayer Room) on **Wednesday May 27 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm** (You can come even if you're not sure you want to be involved in the ministry!) Questions? Email pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

Greenwich Cemetery Remembrance Services All are welcome to join us for an afternoon of reflection, prayer, and comfort as we remember loved ones laid to rest at Greenwich Cemetery. **Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 2:00 PM and Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 2:00 PM** led by our very own **Pastor Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy** Location: Greenwich Cemetery, 15 Greenwich Church Rd., Stewartsville, NJ 08886. Come as you are and join us in remembrance.

Raritan River Music Festival, May 9, 7:30 - 9:30 PM at Old Greenwich: *American Mycelium: Explorations of the New World. Music by Shostakovich, Haydn, Esmail & Shaw* (violin, cello, piano). The dynamic young Trio Ondata (violin, cello, piano) comes for the first time to Raritan River Music Festival from New Haven, where they formed as graduate students at Yale University School of Music. Winner of awards at the 2022 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, the trio strives to cultivate spaces of close, intimate listening in a busy and noisy world.

WILDFLOWER WELLNESS is offering Spring classes 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! See their website for more information: wildflowersflourish.com.

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).

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. 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!)

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 sजारrelli@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! **Please note that there is no yoga May 18 or May 25 (Memorial Day).**

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 hopeld5@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: Tim and Sue Gardner; Emma Bazylewicz, Katie Rienzo's niece, having surgery related to epilepsy in May; Al Marino, 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.

