

The Breezeway

JULY 2026

'You Did Not Choose Me But I Chose You'

...So says Jesus to his disciples at the end of the Gospel of John. "You did not choose me but I chose you." What a powerful promise! Although Presbyterians baptize a person at any age, we really see this promise at work in our infant baptisms, when children are too young to make the decision to be baptized themselves. In infant baptism, it is the children's families who bring them to the waters of the font, reminding all of us that even when we have *no idea* as to what is going on, God claims us anyway, and seals the promise that God will always love us: "You did not choose me but I chose you."

At graduation season, we celebrate the ways in which God has been working in the life of our graduating seniors, reminding them that no matter where they go, God is always with them. No matter what, God is waiting for them, loving them, calling them to their true home, which is always in God: "You did not choose me but I chose you."

Many of us have gone through times in our lives when we've wondered where God has been, when we've wondered if God has been really present at all. Many of us have gone through times when we've cried out, in the words of Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Even in our life together at OGPC, it has sometimes been difficult to know exactly how God has been at work, how God has been leading the church. But Jesus' words come to us, sometimes faintly, in that still, small voice, "You did not choose me but I chose you."

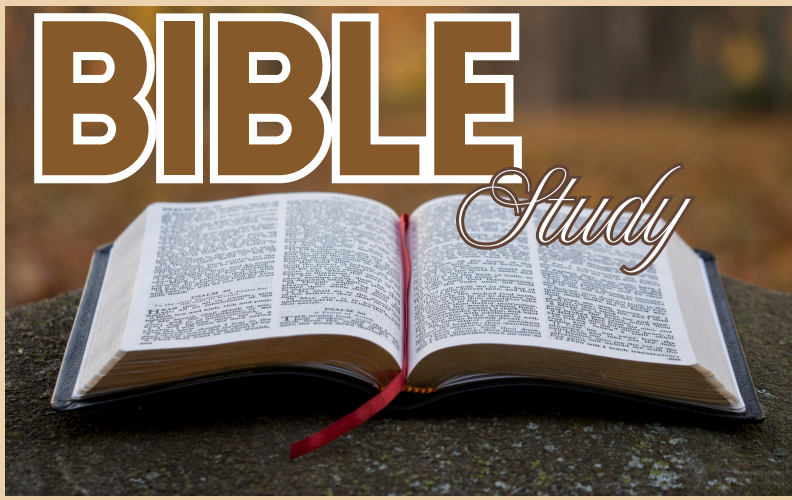
We are chosen of God. Even when we don't understand it, even when we forget it, even when we stray from it, we *are chosen of God*. Chosen to love each other as God loves us. Chosen to serve each other, and our community. Chosen to see and proclaim new life in a world that tells us we are foolish to see and say such things.

"You did not choose me but I chose you." What a powerful promise! What an awesome responsibility. What amazing grace.

Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Mary Beth





Fact or Fantasy: An 8-Week Study on Challenging Biblical Subjects

Led by Rev. Bill Cotte

**WEDNESDAYS STARTING JULY 8
6:30 PM to 8 PM in the Zoom Room**

If you find it challenging to understand what God is saying through Scripture, these sessions may help clarify and deepen your understanding of biblical teaching. The group will wrestle with questions like: What IS our authority? Is Genesis history? What does Biblical prophecy mean in today's world? Are there ways to God other than biblical Christianity? And others! Bring your questions with you! Starts on July 8 for 8 weeks at 6:30 PM. Meets in the Zoom Room.



ALL CHURCH PICNIC!



Sunday, August 30

Sign up in Memorial Hall, bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers provided. Bring a lawn chair!



A message from Betsy Gaston!

Many thanks to my OGPC family for the cards, well-wishes, and gifts I have received on my recent retirement as your choir director and assistant director of music. I have always appreciated the love and support that made my music ministry so professionally and spiritually fulfilling—and joyful!

With sincere blessings and gratitude,

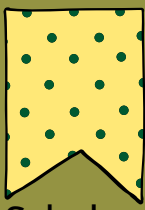
Betsy

TAKE A DAY CRUISE WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

All women are invited to cruise with PW Thursday, July 9 on Lake Hopatcong aboard the *Miss Lotta*. 2 hour cruise includes lunch. Tickets \$55, see Lisa Gray for details! 973-476-4720



Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and connection aboard the Miss Lotta on Lake Hopatcong. See Lisa Gray for details - Thursday July 9.



DEACON'S CORNER

Scholarships were awarded on June 14 to 6 recipients totaling \$5500. Recipients included 4 scholarships for Camp Johnsonburg: Julia and Emily Kolterjahn, Erilyn Garnett and Chloe Columbus as well as two college scholarships to Jillian and Joshua Miller. God bless all our recipients! Your generous patronage to our Deacon fundraisers support our Scholarship and Helping Hand funds. Your generosity makes a difference. Thank You!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Over on Facebook, we celebrated America's 250th birthday with some information on Old Greenwich's part in that history, here's an excerpt:

Did you know that Greenwich had as many as 20 soldiers who fought for our freedom in the Revolutionary War? Many of those soldiers worshipped at Old Greenwich and are buried in Greenwich Cemetery including Brigadier General William Maxwell—commander of New Jersey troops from 1777-1781 and a veteran of Princeton, Trenton, Monmouth, Brandywine, and Valley Forge. We are so grateful for the heroes—past and present—who have given so much in service to this country.

In 1775, ground was broken for the stone church, located where our current church stands, replacing the original log church, about a mile from our current location. Ground was broken on the same day as the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. How amazing that the early patriots were laying a foundation for America at the same time the ancestors of this congregation were laying a foundation that would sustain so many for so many years. Thanks be to God for both.



replica of the stone church by John Oakes!

Pictures from June!



VBS hosted more than 20 children on a Tropical Trek!





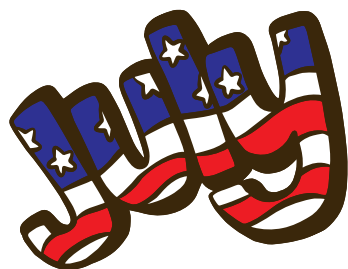
Chair yoga strikes a pose. Join them Mondays 1:30 PM



George and Susan Bradlau host a summer party for Book Club!



Deacons present scholarships for camp and post-secondary education!



Birthdays



Edward W. Ahart	July 02	Christopher Gorzsas	July 14
Marissa Winter	July 03	Edward Gardner	July 16
Debora Smith	July 08	Robert Bouton	July 19
Amanda Mowrey	July 08	Linda Oakes	July 22
Christina Schulman	July 10	Robert Donnelly	July 23
Michael Jagiello	July 12	Charles Frinzi	July 26
		Michael Cecere	July 31



Anniversaries

Don & Sally Reinhard	July 2	JoAnna & Steve Murphy	July 19
Tina & Richard Schulman	July 3	Deborah & Henry Mowrey	July 20
Mary & Todd Pritchard	July 4	Bill and Barb Cotte	July 23
Rob & Kristen Todd	July 4	Sharon & Ralph Jiorle	July 23
Robert & Angela Donnelly	July 10	Ernie & Kathy Maso	July 23
Bonnie & Julius Phillips	July 15	Susan & Ed Gardner	July 28
Bruce & Sandy Frey	July 16	John & Lisa MacKinnon	July 28
		Kristen & Matthew Prall	July 31



Prayers

Please pray for: Susan Bradlau, grieving the death of her sister, as well as the O'Neill family, including husband Mike, and sons Bryan and Scott; Ed Gardner, recovering from surgery; Anne Wallace, recovering from a fall; Cathy Ahart and her family as they grieve the death of Cathy's mother, June; Sandy Friedman's mother, in the hospital for severe leg pain and unsteadiness, along with a lesion on her lung; Carol Lee Doeringer, as she grieves the death of her sister Eileen; Peter Dachisen, recovering from Covid; Bill Schisler, recovering from a procedure; Howard Bell; the family of Sally Reinhard's Aunt Margaret Trebat, who passed away, and Sally's mother, recovering from a stroke; Emily and Joe Kelly, and new baby JD; the people of Venezuela dealing with the devastation of earthquakes; the people of Lebanon, displaced and afraid; for all the Gulf Countries; the citizens of Iran and surrounding countries; for Sudan; for Ukraine; 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; 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.



See our calendar with live updates at ogpc.org >> Calendar!

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.



Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church

www.ogpc.org