

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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! During the summer months, children of all ages are welcome to stay during worship in the sanctuary. (Nursery Care will resume on Sunday, September 6, and Sunday School on September 13). To occupy little hands, there are bags with activities for kids at the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to grab one and be creative!

PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Deacon Sharon Jiorle & Elder Sharon Smith, Community Mission Committee

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 107, excerpts)

Deacon Sue Dalrymple, Liturgist

O give thanks to the LORD, who is good; whose steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those God redeemed from trouble.

They cried to the LORD in their trouble, and God brought them out from their distress;

God made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Then they were glad because they had quiet, and God brought them to their desired haven.

Let them thank the LORD for steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind!

*OPENING HYMN

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 430

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Compassionate God, help us. When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not slow and real healing, help us. Merciful God, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have been mean, when we have closed our ears to the cries of the vulnerable, forgive us. Grant us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace and hear your call in Christ. It is in his name we pray these things.

*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 THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Samantha Hillier

*HYMN

"Near to the Heart of God"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 527 vv. 1 & 2

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, through your Spirit, give us humble, teachable, and listening hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. It is in Jesus we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Galatians 3:23-28

New Testament, p. 189

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING - Romans 15:1-13

New Testament, p. 163

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Welcome"

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 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, we give you thanks that you are a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God; and that you invite us to do the same. We pray that you would bless every one of us so that we may serve as you serve, welcome as you welcome, and love as you love. Send now our gifts into the world in Jesus' name, Amen.

"CLOSING HYMN

"When God Restored Our Common Life"

Sing the Faith # 2182

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, August 23, 2026**, we celebrate the 13th Sunday after Pentecost at our 10 AM online worship service with the 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: August 23, Team 5; August 30, Team 6

Join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments today in Memorial Hall! Fellowship goodies are provided by Deacons Gretchen A, Sue B and Leslie S. Next week, August 30, you're all invited to come to the annual church picnic for fellowship!

KIDS CORNER

NURSERY CARE FOR BABIES THROUGH PRE-K STARTS AGAIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6! To help families relax and fully enjoy worship with peace of mind, we provide a safe, loving environment downstairs in **Room 14**. Our nursery is staffed by fully vetted caregivers, with at least two care-givers present at all times. If you plan on using our nursery care, please arrive by **10:20 AM**. Not sure where to go? Simply ask an usher—they'll be happy to guide you!

KIDS CHOIR TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 13 - A dedicated children's choir starts Sunday, September 13th after worship (11:20 - 11:40) in the choir room. All children from Kindergarten through Middle School are invited to join us for this fun and encouraging time of singing together. Singing in a choir helps children build confidence, learn to use their voices and experience the joy of making music together. We hope your child will join us as we lift our voices! Directed by Tom DiGiovanni. Questions? Reach out to Tom at digtom@hotmail.com.

CHANCEL CHOIR BEGINS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3! We are excited to kick off our season of singing in worship this fall! Anyone interested in learning to sing and be a part of a fun group, come join us on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9pm in the Sanctuary with our new director, Gabriele Hingelberg. You can also come simply to observe, if you want! First worship service with Chancel Choir will be Sunday September 13th. We will meet at 9am to rehearse for the 10am service. Come make a joyful noise with us! Reach out to Gabriele at SingANewSong07@gmail.com with any questions!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN/ FALL RETREAT NOVEMBER 7, 2026 9 AM - 4 PM at the SHRINE OF ST JOSEPH, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ - Something's Coming! Led by Colleen Duffy What's coming? Maybe Thanksgiving, maybe Advent, maybe a surprise. Come, spend a day in a tranquil place, with tranquil sisters, before the "crazy" season is upon us. Coffee, lunch provided. Please RSVP to Jane MacDonald @ jkmac3536@gmail.com or 973-383-4166 by October 15 Cost: \$50 - Send a (non-refundable) check-payable PW in the Presbytery of the Highlands to:

Jane MacDonald

35 Hillside Ave, Newton NJ 07860

Scholarships are available upon request - send to jkmac3536@gmail.com for form

WE ARE EXCITED TO BE HOSTING AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND CANDLELIGHT WITH LUMOS

EXPERIENCES ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026. An unforgettable candlelit concert experience will fill our sanctuary with beautiful music and warm light, an experience for the whole community. Two seatings

are available, **6:30 PM and 8:30 PM**. Get your tickets here: <https://fatso.ma/f2b9f>. Use code WELCOME15 for a discount on gold level tickets. See the website for details about ticket price, music and seating. Mark your calendars and invite friends and neighbors to join us for this special evening at Old Greenwich!

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BEING PART OF OLD GREENWICH? Join the New Member Class after worship (11:15 to 12:30) **Sunday, September 20 and 27**. This two-part class will cover what it means to be a Presbyterian and part of the PC(USA) as well as our church history what it means to be part of this church. All are welcome, even if you just want to learn more (joining the church is not obligatory!). Elders and Deacons willing to share their experience being part of this life-giving community are invited to come to the sessions to share. If interested in the class, please contact Elder Hope Duncan ([hopeld5@yahoo.com](mailto:hoped5@yahoo.com))

We are looking for lay readers during the summer and fall! There are lots of spots available. Please consider sharing your gifts at Sunday services! Sign up at ogpc.org >> Worship and Music >> Sign up to be a lay reader.

From the Community Mission committee: OGPC has been active in the community this summer! Here are some highlights:

- 18 large garbage bags of your donations were delivered to Operation Hope Trek. These donations help people affected by hurricanes in North Carolina.
- Volunteers helped deliver 94 pizzas from Rocco's Pizzeria and 14 meals from La Bella Via over 7 weeks that helped the Firth Youth Center feed hundreds of youth in the Phillipsburg area this summer.
- 2 carloads of your donations of nonperishable food were delivered to the United Presbyterian Church of Alpha's Food Pantry.
- 600 spiral notebooks, 4,000 pencils, and 1,800 pens were donated to the Firth Youth Center in support of their upcoming Hooray Day at the end of the month. These school supplies will help more than 150 students start the new school year with the tools they need for success.

Thank you for all of your support!! Mark your calendar for these upcoming Community Mission dates:

Tuesday, September 1: Community Mission meeting at 7 pm in the zoom room (all are welcome!)

Sunday, October 4: Meal for Safe Harbor

Saturday, October 17: Best Pizza in Town

Saturday, November 21: Santaville Fair from 10 - 2

Saturday, December 12: Breakfast with Santa from 9-11

SUPPORT THE DEACONS WITH A FLOWER ORDER! Remember the days when the congregation would order flowers for the communion table? Usually dedicated to a loved one for a special occasion? You are invited to bring flowers/greens from your garden any Sunday but if you don't have a green thumb, the Deacons are happy to order flowers for \$30 from a local florist for your special person or event. Order forms are available at the QR code or email ogpcflowers@gmail.com. Dedications will be printed in the bulletin. After service you can take your flowers home or donate to someone on the prayer list. The Deacons will happily deliver them if we know in advance.



Busy Bags for kids! 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).

There is still time to SIGN UP FOR OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC Sunday AUGUST 30! Sign up in Memorial Hall to bring a side dish or dessert and bring a lawn chair on the day of the picnic. We'll have hamburgers and hotdogs, yummy goodies, live music and fellowship!

"Wee" Connect Playgroup for families with kids PreK and under. This class, filled with activities, songs and connection, is in partnership with the Greenwich Nursery school. Offered each week on Tuesday from 10:00 to 11:00 AM, **note that the time changes to 9:00 to 10:00 AM starting September 1.** Questions? Please contact Joan Holloway at jhollow@ptd.net or Sue Zarrelli at sjarrelli@gmail.com.

SUMMER IS A WONDERFUL TIME TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS WITH YOUR CHILDREN! Wildflower Wellness, located on the grounds of OGPC, offers nature-based classes for children ages 1-8, either with a caregiver or as a drop-off program. As you pass their space, you can see the many engaging activities designed to help little ones grow and thrive. Check their website for class times and details: www.wildflowersflourish.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!

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: Mike Golden, whose mother, Marylou Golden, passed away this week, Mike is a friend of Mike Lemons; anonymous, for complete healing from cancer. Every cancerous cell be destroyed, and every affected part of the body be restored; friends of Barb Grimm, Karen and Debi, both are going through tests for health concerns; those affected by the earthquake in Colombia; the family and loved ones of Carl Guthardt, who passed away; friend of the Masos, Hazel Chase, having serious health issues; Angie Peardon's father, Sid Norris, in the hospital with pneumonia and congestive heart failure; Ayden Huff's friend's mom who is having surgery; Barb and Charlie Frinzi, for Barb's continued healing; Lisa and Ray Gray, for strength and healing as Ray faces health challenges; friends of Angie Peardon, Anita Murphy, who has stage 4 lung cancer, and friend and co-worker Katie Mangano, diagnosed with cancer, prayers for their families as well; the people of Venezuela; 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; 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.



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

Melissa Hixon, Clerk of Session

pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681

oldgreenwich@ogpc.org/908-479-4449

Leslie Strozeski, Financial Secretary

Gabriele Hingelberg, Assistant Music Dir. & Choir Director

Julie Raffety, Bookkeeper

Joshua Miller, Media/Communication Assistant