

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 139, excerpts)

Elder Anita Campbell, Liturgist

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

*OPENING HYMN

"Since Jesus Came into My Heart"

Sing the Faith # 2140 vv. 1, 2 & 3

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we come before you with humble hearts, confessing that we have fallen short of your Way. We have spoken when we should have listened, acted when we should have waited, and chosen our own path instead of yours. Forgive us for the pride that blinds us, and the fear that holds us back. Renew our spirits, and guide us to walk in your truth with courage and love. Amen.

*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 Lisa Kolterjahn

***HYMN**

"Amazing Grace"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 280 vv. 1 & 2

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, amidst all the words that bombard us daily, speak your eternal Word that gives life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds, that in the hearing of your Scriptures, we may see your truth, trust your promise, and follow Christ our Lord. In his name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 85:8-13

Old Testament, p. 543

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 18:21-35

New Testament, p. 20

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Forgiven and Forgiving"

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*

Generous God, you have poured out your grace upon us without measure, forgiving our debts and offering us life anew. Accept now these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Transform our hearts, that we may hold back nothing in our love for others—extending the same boundless mercy, patience, and forgiveness that we have so freely received in Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is in his name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 280 vv. 3, 4 & 5

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"God Be With You Til We Meet Again"

- W. Tomer

God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:
Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

*Join us after worship for a brief congregational meeting in the sanctuary,
then follow the crowd for some refreshments and coffee!*

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, August 9, 2026**, we celebrate the 11th 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 9, Team 3; August 16, Team 4

Join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments today in the kitchen! Fellowship goodies are provided by Lori Metz and family this week, next week, Bill and Sue Schisler will host. There's a sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall if you'd like to participate! Contact Barb Grimm at 908 578 1273 with any questions.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the Congregation and Religious Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township, in the County of Warren, will be held **today, Sunday, August 9, 2026**, immediately following the 10 am service of worship. The following will be presented: Vote to elect Susan Zarrelli to Session, Class of 2028. Attest: Melissa Hixon, Clerk of Session, Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Pastor, Moderator.

Nursery Care Resumes on Sunday, September 6! We are excited to welcome back our nursery care for babies through Pre-K starting Sunday, September 6! To help families relax and fully enjoy worship with peace of mind, we provide a safe, loving environment downstairs in **Room 22**. 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!

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)

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.



Bible Study led by Rev. Bill Cotte Wednesdays in July and August, 6:30 PM to 8 PM. "Fact or Fantasy: An 8-Week Study on Challenging Biblical Subjects". Meets in the Zoom Room. During the study, 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! See Rev. Cotte or email Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com for details!

REMINDER for those with tickets to the Iron Pigs game: Saturday, August 15 is the day of the event at Coca Cola Park. Locate those tickets and read the cover letter that came with them. If you have any questions, please let either Walt or Anita Campbell know at 908-479-4737.

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).

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 to 11. Questions? Please contact Joan Holloway at jhollow@ptd.net or Sue Zarrelli at sjzarrelli@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: 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; Gretchen Alencewicz's brother, Brad, healing from surgery; for Carl and family, friends of Charlotte Pickell, on the passing of his wife Debbie; Charlotte Pickell's mother Patricia; Audra Frank's sister Shirley; 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
Joshua Miller, Media/Communication Assistant

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Leslie Strozeski, Financial Secretary
Melissa Hixon, Clerk of Session
Julie Raffety, Bookkeeper