

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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 always welcome to stay during worship in the sanctuary, but, if you prefer, Nursery Care is available downstairs in Room 14 for babies-PreK. We also offer Sunday School during worship, after the Time with the Young Church (except on 1st Sundays), for PreK-5th grade. 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 MUSIC: KIDS CHOIR!

Tom DiGiovanni

INTROIT

"Awake my Soul and with the Sun"

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 119, excerpts)

Sandy Friedman, Liturgist

O God, how sweet are your words to my taste,

Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Through your precepts I get understanding;

Therefore I hate every false way.

Your word is a lamp to my feet,

And a light to my path.

*OPENING HYMN

"Gather Us In"

Sing the Faith # 2236 vv. 1 & 2

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart or our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry, and we want to change. Compassionate One, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your way. We pray this in Jesus' 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 THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Wyatt Guinness Todd, son of Robert and Kristen Todd***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)**

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.

Questions to the Child of God**Question to the Congregation**

Do you, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ and this congregation, promise to love, encourage, support and nurture this child, **Wyatt Guinness Todd**, in the faith that we have received, supporting him that he may learn in all times, and sharing with him the good news of the Gospel, in all that you do or say, so helping him to know and follow our Lord Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Blessing over the Water & Baptism**Welcome**

Wyatt Guinness Todd has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized!

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ!

After the baptism, all children PreK-Elementary school are invited to go with their teachers for activities celebrating the start of Sunday School!

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 - Acts 8:26-39

New Testament, p. 127

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Come with Songs of Gladness"

- Patti Drennan

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 146

Old Testament p. 581

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Curved In... Set Free"

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

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

Great God, we thank you for your Word. We thank you for minds and hearts to study it, and communities in which to learn. We pray that your Word would now go forth into the world, along with our gifts, with a blessing for all creation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 387

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

The flowers today are from Sandy Friedman, for all those fighting to remember. #alzheimeraawareness

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, September 13, 2026**, we celebrate the 16th 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: September 13, Team 2; September 20, Team 3

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED! Fellowship after church is a wonderful opportunity to build community and connection. There are lots of spots open in the fall to host! Sign up in Memorial Hall. Hosting is not hard; contact Barb Grimm at 908 578 1273 with questions.

KIDS & YOUTH CORNER

6th-12th Grade Youth Sunday School. Our youth Sunday School class meets from 9:00am to 9:40am, starting today, every 2nd and 4th Sundays, in Room 22 (right next to the pastor's office). Our teachers are

Pastor Mary Beth and Elder Hope Duncan, and they lead an open-minded, open-hearted class where we explore our faith together. Questions? Email Hope at [hopeld5@yahoo.com](mailto:hoped5@yahoo.com).

Nursery Care for Babies-PreK each Sunday! 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 background-checked 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!

PreK-5th Grade Sunday School. Starting **TODAY, September 13**, 5th graders and under, meet during worship for fun activities, prayer, Bible, and games! This class is held every Sunday, right after the Time with the Young Church, during worship (except for the first Sundays of each month). Questions? Contact Elder Samantha at samanthajhillier@gmail.com.

Kids Choir. A dedicated children's choir starts **TODAY, Sept. 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 joyful and confidence-building time of singing together! Directed by Tom DiGiovanni. Questions? Reach out to Tom at digtom@hotmail.com.

Fish 'n CHYPS Joint Youth Group with College Hill and Pilgrim Presbyterian. 6th-12th graders (and their friends and neighbors) are all invited to join with the youth of Pilgrim Presbyterian and 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 (check here to read about specific activities: <https://www.ogpc.org/kids-youth/>). Please contact Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com for more information, or to carpool. **Fall session starts September 20.**

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).

"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 9:00 to 10:00 AM**. Questions? Please contact Joan Holloway at jhollow@ptd.net or Sue Zarrelli at sjzarrelli@gmail.com.

ENJOY ANALOG OUTDOOR PLAY 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.

CHANCEL CHOIR! 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 7:30-9 PM** in the Sanctuary with our new director, Gabriele Hingelberg. You can also come simply to observe, if you want! Come make a joyful noise with us! Reach out to Gabriele at SingANewSong07@gmail.com with any questions!

DEACON SENIOR DINNER, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 5 - 7 PM. Everyone 65 and over is invited with a guest to the Senior Dinner organized by the Deacons. Enjoy a complimentary homemade dinner prepared and served by the Deacons and fellowship with your friends. If needed, transportation can be arranged. **Please RSVP to oldgreenwich@ogpc.org or 908-479-4449 by Monday, October 5.**

BIBLE STUDY LED BY REV. BILL COTTE. Wednesdays, starting September 26, noon to 1:30 PM in the Zoom Room. This six-week study will focus on origins: exploring God's redemptive plan for all of us beginning with Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 and examining that unfolding plan throughout the scriptures. Interested? Join in!

JOB OPENING FOR A FINANCIAL SECRETARY HERE AT Old Greenwich. Looking to work with a dynamic team? Do you have attention to detail? This position requires a small time commitment with flexible hours. If interested, reach out to Lori Metz, Personnel committee chair for more details at llmetz2159@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB resumes with discussion of the book *"The Picture of Dorian Gray"* by Oscar Wilde. Beginning **October 8 and continuing Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 PM** in the Resource Room. The book is described as "a controversial classic on vanity, hedonism and moral decay." There will be lots to discuss with this book, join us! Questions, contact George Bradlau at gbradlau@thebradlaugroup.com. All are welcome, invite your friends and neighbors!

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

Due to popular demand, LUMOS has added another date of music and candlelight here at Old Greenwich featuring the music of ABBA! Two seatings are available on **Saturday, October 3, 6:30 and 8:30 PM**. There are still a few tickets available for Elton John vs Queen on **Saturday, September 26**. Mark your calendars and invite friends and neighbors to join us for this special evening at Old Greenwich! For tickets and information go to Lumos' website at <https://www.lumos-experiences.com/united-states/>.

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 this 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING COMMUNITY MISSION EVENTS:

Sunday, October 4: Meal for Safe Harbor, after worship, sign up to come!

Saturday, October 17: Best Pizza in Town 5 - 7 PM

Saturday, November 21: Santaville Fair from 10 - 2 PM

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

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.



"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: Betsy and Bruce Gaston, healing for Bruce; Carol Lee Doeringer, for her upcoming surgery; Ron Czihakowski, dear friend of the Beachts, in home hospice, suffering from cancer; Ashley, the daughter-in-law of a dear friend of Sandy Friedman, who is battling cancer, prayers for her family as well; Gretchen Alencewicz, whose brother, Brad Keller, passed away, as well as Brad's family; Mike Golden, whose mother, Marylou Golden, passed away this week, Mike is a friend of Mike Lemons; anonymous, for complete healing from cancer; friends of Barb Grimm, Karen and Debi, both are going through tests for health concerns; those affected by the earthquake in Colombia; Barb and Charlie Frinzi, for Barb's continued healing; Lisa and Ray Gray, for strength and healing as Ray faces health challenges; the people of Nepal; the people of Venezuela; the people of Lebanon; 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

Ayden Huff, Media/Communication Assistant

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