

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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. And 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 BOOK CLUB

Elder George Bradlau

INTROIT

"Awake my Soul and with the Sun"

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 105:1-6)

Deacon Fritz Hamlin, Liturgist

O give thanks to God, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

Seek God's strength; seek the presence of the Holy One continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done, God's miracles, and the judgments uttered,

O offspring of God's servants Abraham and Sarah, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones!

*OPENING HYMN

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

Sing the Faith # 2051

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Creator, we have sinned against you, through our own fault - in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Love, forgive us all our offenses; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your 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 – **Joseph Dowling Kelly V**, son of Emily Brown Kelly and Joseph Kelly IV

***Affirmation of Faith:**

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (*abridged*, from the Presbyterian Church's *Book of Confessions*)

In life and in death we belong to God.

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,**

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit! Amen.

Questions to the Parents

Questions to the Godparents

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, **Joseph Dowling Kelly** 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

Joseph Dowling Kelly 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 Sunday School!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. By your Spirit, speak to us through your Holy Scriptures, so that we may receive the grace we need to shine Christ's love to the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Exodus 16:2-8

Old Testament, p. 62

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Living Hope"

- arr. David Wise

SCRIPTURE READING - Exodus 16:9-15

Old Testament, p. 63

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Telephone"

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, you have made us in your very image, and want to draw so very near to us. Help us to know how deeply you love us, and to not be afraid to draw near to you. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless this broken world, so in need of your intimate love. In Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"When in the Night I Meditate"

The Presbyterian Hymnal #165 vv. 1-3, 5

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Amen"

POSTLUDE

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

The flowers today are in celebration of the baptism of JD Kelly V, in memory of Al Brown (Poppy) and in memory of Carol Elting (Grandma) from the Brown and Kelly families.

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, September 20, 2026**, we celebrate the 17th 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 20, Team 3; September 27, Team 4

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED! Fellowship after church is a wonderful opportunity to build community and connection, but we need volunteers to make it run. Sign up for a Sunday in Memorial Hall. Hosting is not hard; contact Barb Grimm at 908 578 1273 with questions.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BEING PART OF OLD GREENWICH? Join the New Member Class **TODAY AND NEXT WEEK, 9/27** after worship (11:15 to 12:30). 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)

KIDS & YOUTH CORNER

6th-12th Grade Youth Sunday School. Our youth Sunday School class meets from 9:00am to 9:40am 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.

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. 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 meets in the choir room after worship each Sunday. 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 TODAY!**

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 for our season of singing in worship this fall! Anyone interested in learning to sing and be a part of a fun group, 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!

COMMUNITY MISSION EVENTS:

We will be making a meal for Safe Harbor after worship on Sunday, October 4.

Use the QR code to sign up to donate food or help prepare the meal. Food donations can be brought to the church kitchen Friday October 2, through Sunday, October 4. Please clearly label donation with "Safe Harbor Meal". Contact Sharon Smith at sharonwsmith.08@gmail.com with any questions.



BEST PIZZA in Town - Saturday October 17 5 PM to 7 PM. Who has the best pizza in town, Bella Mia, Casola's, Franco's, Jack's, Nicolosi's or Rocco's? Taste and cast your vote at this event to benefit the Helping Hand Fund. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at these pizzerias, from Sharon Smith, or from the office.

Volunteer Opportunity: Meals at Home Program. The Warren County Division of Aging is looking for volunteers to support its Meals at Home Program, which provides hot, nutritious meals to homebound seniors who are unable to grocery shop or prepare meals for themselves. Volunteers deliver meals directly to seniors in their homes. Each delivery route takes approximately one hour.

We are hoping to gather five volunteers to commit to delivering one route for one week each month. This is similar to the Meals on Wheels program and is a wonderful way to make a meaningful difference in the lives of seniors in our community. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Sharon Smith at sharonwsmith.08@gmail.com. A little time can make a big difference to someone in our community!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

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

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 23 (not the 26th, that's a Saturday, apologies!) 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 lmetz2159@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 6:00 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

Don't miss an exciting evening of music and candlelight with Lumos Experiences. Two dates are available, Saturday, September 26, featuring the music of Elton John and Queen, and Saturday, October 3, featuring the music of ABBA. Two seatings available for each show, **6:30 and 8:30 PM**. 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/>.

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.

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: Bill Mose, friend of Carol Lee Doeringer, who is battling cancer; prayers for Kalyna, friend of Carol Lee, to know that God is with her; for the Frinzis as they grieve the death of Charlie's brother Joe, and for Joe's family and wife Gloria; Sue Helms, dear friend of the Bradlaus, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer; Betsy and Bruce Gaston, healing for Bruce; Carol Lee Doeringer, for healing; Ron Czhakowski, 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; 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

pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681

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Leslie Strozeski, Financial Secretary

Gabriele Hingelberg, Assistant Music Dir. & Choir Director

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