

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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 FELLOWSHIP

Deacon Rob Todd

INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 66, excerpts)

Elder Al Marino, Liturgist

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

Sing the glory of God's name; give to God glorious praise.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name!"

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of God's praise be heard,

Who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

*OPENING HYMN

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 411

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Creator, one of our greatest desires is to do your will. But we humbly confess that we are limited by our own sinfulness, failing to respond to your higher law of grace and compassion. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Empty us of our selves and replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. We pray this in Christ's 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!

CHORAL ANTHEM

"I Will Sing Praise"

-Joseph Martin

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH : KIDS CHOIR

Tom DiGiovanni

After the song, all children PreK-Elementary school are invited to go with their teachers for Sunday School!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 25:1-9

Old Testament, p. 502

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING - Philippians 2:1-11

New Testament p. 197

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Empty"

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

Loving Lord, empty us. Empty us, not so as to deplete or exhaust us, but so that you can fill us up. Help us to show compassion - to the people around us, to those hurting, to ourselves. Bless what we give now, that our gifts may bless the whole creation. In your name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"O Lord, You Are My God and King"

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 252 vv. 1-2

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Amen"

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, September 27, 2026**, we celebrate the 18th 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 27, Team 4; October 4, Team 5

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** 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)

MARIE CHESTNUTT SENDS HER THANKS FOR THE MANY BIRTHDAY CARDS. She was deeply touched and so grateful to those who sent cards and notes. From her note: "My memories of our years at Old Greenwich are a cherished keepsake of all the shared spiritual experiences, as well as all the good times and fun. Those memories have greatly multiplied the blessings and joys in my life since being there so many years ago. My prayers will continue to be with all of you! Marie Chesnutt"

Help us give our pew cushions a little care! Looking for volunteers with strong arms and/or carpet steamers to assist Joan Pursel and Sue Gardner with cleaning the pew cushions. Days of the week and times are flexible. Please contact the church office if interested in helping oldgreenwich@ogpc.org, 908-479-4449.

FIRTH YOUTH CENTER DINE & DASH PROGRAM - Starting in October, volunteers are needed to pick up meals at La Bella Via and deliver them to the Firth Youth Center on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the school year. Use the QR code to sign up:



INTRODUCING OGPC'S VISITATION MINISTRY! At its heart, church is about connection—sharing our lives, supporting one another, and making sure no one walks alone. And so... we are excited to announce the launch of a new Visitation Ministry at OGPC, designed to bring friendship, conversation, and a listening ear directly to members of our community through regular visits. We need your help to bring this ministry to life in two ways:

- **Know someone who would love a visit?** If you or someone you know—whether homebound, recovering, or simply craving some extra companionship—would welcome a regular visitor, please let us know.
- **Feel called to be a visiting minister?** If you have a heart for listening and a little time to share, we would love to have you join our team of volunteer visitors.
- **To request a visitor or to volunteer, please reach out to pastormarybeth@gmail.com.** We are not alone!

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 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. 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 samanthahillier@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.

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 sjarrelli@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, noon to 1:30 PM in the Zoom Room. This study focuses 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 6:00 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

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: Carol Lee Doeringer, who passed away, prayers for her friends and family; Barb, Ayden's uncle's mother; Bill Mose, battling cancer; Kalyna, to know that God is with her; 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; 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; 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

oldgreenwich@ogpc.org/908-479-4449

Leslie Strozeski, Financial Secretary

Gabriele Hingelberg, Assistant Music Dir. & Choir Director

Julie Raffety, Bookkeeper

Ayden Huff, Media/Communication Assistant