Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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

INTROIT "*As We Come Together*"

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 90:1-5, 12) Angie Peardon, Liturgist
O God, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.
You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning.
So teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.

***OPENING HYMN** *"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"* The Presbyterian Hymnal # 285

***INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**
Merciful God, you call us to keep awake, to look up, and to pay attention to your presence within and among us. But we so often move through our days distracted and unaware. We close our eyes to neighbors in need, turn away from opportunities to love, and miss the signs of your grace at work around us. Forgive us when we sleepwalk through your world and ignore your call. By your Spirit, awaken our hearts, open our eyes, and teach us to watch for Christ in every moment.

***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**

CHORAL ANTHEM *"Revelation 19:1"* - Jeffrey LaValley

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH Elder Kathleen Gooley

After Time with the Young Church, all children PreK-Elementary school are invited to go with their teachers into the Resource Room for an engaging, and fun, Sunday School class!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to awaken to you. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord , and in the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 25:1-13 New Testament, p. 28

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 New Testament, p. 205

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Keep Awake" Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION Tom DiGiovanni

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, OR use our Tithe.ly QR code here:

*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

Merciful God, we hear your call for us to 'keep awake,' but with all the anxieties and distractions of this world, it is hard to do. By your grace, give us the courage to open our eyes, to be still, and to notice your presence all around us. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless this world by waking it up to your love. In Christ we pray, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *"I Danced in the Morning"* The Presbyterian Hymnal # 302 vv. 1, 2 & 5

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, November 8, 2026,** we celebrate the 24th 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: November 8, Team 4; November 15, Team 5

Join us after worship for fellowship and refreshments today in the kitchen! This week is hosted by the Deacons. There are open spots for you to sign up! Check the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall. Contact Barb Grimm at 908 578 1273 with any questions.

The Greenwich Nursery School has partnered with Veronica from Honey Forge Photography for family holiday photos. Bookings are available for Saturday 11/7 and Sunday, 11/15. $40 per family for 4 edited photos. All proceeds benefit GNS. See flyer for additional details. Questions? Contact Amy at director@greenwichnursery.com or 908-479-6886.

The 2026 Nativity Worship Service/ Pageant will be held during worship on Sunday Dec 20! ALL are welcome to join in the fun! Rehearsals will be held starting Sun November 15 during Sunday School.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER! 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. Pick up at La Bella Via at 6:00 PM, delivery to Firth Youth Center by 6:20 PM. Sign up using the QR code!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – PART 1, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026 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 on Sunday, November 29, 2026. The meeting will begin immediately following the 10 am worship service.

Meeting Purpose

- Elect officers and members of the audit committee.
- Hear the report of the nominating committee.
- Vote on reducing the number of members in each class of deacons and elders.

Attest: Melissa Hixon, Clerk of Session
Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Pastor, Moderator

JOIN US FOR AN ADVENT BOOK STUDY featuring "*Advent in Plain Sight*" by Jill J. Duffield led by Pastor Mary Beth and Elder Lisa Gray. Discover signs of God's presence in the ordinary things of life this Advent. Join us as we explore the study, using everyday objects from biblical stories to invite reflection on God's

nearness and how we are called to respond. All are welcome! **Begins Sunday, 11/29, 9:00 – 9:45 AM in the Prayer Room.** We'll begin with "Gates" (pages 5–25). Each week stands alone, so join us as your schedule allows. Study continues Sundays through December 20. To get your book: Pick up a copy at church or order online through Amazon or John Knox Press. Questions? Call or text Lisa Gray at 973-476-4720. We hope you'll join us!

SAVE THE DATE! - Saturday, August 7, 2027, has been reserved for the annual baseball group outing at Jefferson Health Park (formerly Coca-Cola Park). The Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Philadelphia Phillies AAA affiliate) are scheduled to play against the Syracuse Mets. Seating will be limited to 65 seats at the Club level. Tickets will go on sale for $18 per person (same as last year) in February 2027. Questions? Contact Anita or Walt Campbell at 908 479 4737 or souptime2222@gmail.com.

SNACK ITEMS REQUESTED FOR SELFLESS SUNDAY SERVICE PROJECT: The Christian Education Committee is collecting individually wrapped snacks for an upcoming service project. The collection will be assembled and distributed to local schools before winter break for students in need. Requested items include: applesauce pouches or cups, pudding cups, crackers, pretzels or chips, fruit snacks, granola bars, cookies, juice boxes and plastic spoons. **Items can be placed in the bin in the Green Room through November 29 . The children and youth will take part in Selfless Sunday December 6, immediately following TWYC.**

GIVING AT OLD GREENWICH! Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church has officially transitioned our online giving platform from PayPal to **Tithe.ly Giving**. Tithe.ly provides a simple and secure way to make both **one-time and recurring gifts**, whether through the Tithe.ly app or directly from the giving page on our church website.

Three Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

- Option 1: Give Through the Tithe.ly App, downloadable from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.
- Option 2: Give Through Our Website: www.ogpc.org >> Give. From there you can make a one-time or recurring gift through Tithe.ly.
- Option 3: Use the QR code: Scan and complete the steps outlined.

GIVE thru Tithe.ly

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE YOUR 2027 PLEDGE THROUGH TITHE.LY! It's not too late to make your pledge for 2027. Scan the QR code to show that you believe in the mission of this church, and want to help carry it forward!

PLEDGE thru Tithe.ly

WELCOME TO OUR FURRY FRIEND, VINCE! Vince is a black lab puppy being raised through the Seeing Eye program. The Millers, members of our church, are raising him for about a year, exposing him to as many sights, sounds, and smells as possible. Then Vince will go to the Seeing Eye program to be trained to be a guide dog for the blind and matched with a companion. As part of Vince's training, OGPC is happy to welcome Vince on Sunday mornings (October 2026-June 2027)! The Miller family will be sitting with him and managing him (if need be) in the back pews. Questions? Please reach out to Elder Sue Z at sjzarrelli@gmail.com.

OGPC'S VISITATION MINISTRY! At its heart, church is about connection—sharing our lives, supporting one another, and making sure no one walks alone. OGPC's Visitation Ministry brings friendship, conversation, and a listening ear directly to members of our community through regular visits. We invite you to support this ministry 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). An open-minded, open-hearted class for youth to explore our faith together. Questions? Email Hope at hopeld5@yahoo.com.

Nursery Care for Babies-PreK each Sunday! Enjoy worship with peace of mind, while your children are tended to by qualified, background checked caregivers. Plan on using nursery care? Please arrive by 10:20 AM - an usher can point you in the right direction.

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

Kids Choir. Meets in the choir room after worship each Sunday. All children K through Middle School are invited to join 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 Presbyterian Church. 6th-12th graders (and their friends and neighbors) join 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 PreK Families meets Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. Join us for fun activities, songs, and community in partnership with the Greenwich Nursery School. For information, contact Joan Holloway or Sue Zarrelli.

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.

COMMUNITY MISSION EVENTS – Thank you to everyone who turned out for the Best Pizza in Town Competition. Nicolosi's took the top prize in a tight competition, **and we raised over $1,000 for the Helping Hands Fund**. 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

There are a few spots open for lay reader before the end of the year! 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! Celebrate an occasion with flowers on the communion table. 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! **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO YOGA MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16.**

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: Vicky Gischel, dear friend of Robin Glosser, who passed away last week, and her family; the community of Bend OR, and the students, teachers and families of Silver Trail Elementary School, reeling from the school shooting; the family and loved ones of Tom Beacht's best childhood friend Ron, who passed away; Barb Grimm's dear, long-time friends Karen and Debi - both facing health challenges; Walt Campbell's sister, Elaine Loveless, following complications after surgery; the family of Ellen Hargrave, David Jones's sister; Ashlee, friend of Sandy Friedman who lost her battle with cancer, prayers her family – husband, 9 year old son and 17 year old daughter, along with all those that loved her; Sharon Smith's father Jim, for health and healing and wholeness and for Sharon's friend, Stacy, just diagnosed with breast cancer; Audra Frank, whose sister Shirley passed away; Crystal Huff's co-worker, who is having a biopsy next month to confirm for cancer; Andrew, friend of Debbie, who is going through serious cancer related medical issues; Jodi Heft, friend of Sue Beacht, who passed away last week from complications from MS; For 16 year old Gabe Kerr-Santos, and his family and friends (including Lorraine Brown and her family). Gabe has been struggling with cancer and has made the decision to stop all life-saving measures and to live his life to the fullest while he's able; 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	pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681
Katie Rienzo, Office Manager & Dir. of Communication	oldgreenwich@ogpc.org/908-479-4449
Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons	Kathleen Gooley, Financial Secretary
Tom DiGiovanni, Music Director & Organist	Gabriele Hingelberg, Assistant Music Dir. & Choir Director
Melissa Hixon, Clerk of Session	Julie Raffety, Bookkeeper

Ayden Huff, Media/Communication Assistant