

Jesus, Keep Us Near the Cross...

VOL. MMXXI, ISSUE 4

Holy Week and Easter are the church's highest holy days. And I am so grateful to be spending ours together. Here is what Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church's Holy Week and Easter will look like:

On **Palm Sunday (March 28 at 10 am)**, our children and youth will lead us in a joyful celebration in a pre-recorded worship service, which will be found both on the new Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church YouTube Channel (and live there long term) *and* on Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church's

Facebook page. To help celebrate, you are invited to come pick up Palm Branches for you and your family anytime, starting on Wednesday, March 24, through Sunday, March 28. The palms will be outside the church, in front of the Green Room. Wave those palms along with us during the service!

The week deepens. During our **Maundy Thursday worship service (6:30 pm April 1, Facebook Live)**, we will participate in Jesus' love poured out: first, with the ritual of hand-washing (symbolic of Jesus' final commandment, to love one another, as he washed the feet of his disciples), and then, as we celebrate the Last Supper together. The mood turns darker on **Good Friday (April 2)**, as we remember that our Savior was nailed to a Roman cross. Join us on Facebook Live again at **6:30 pm**, as we listen to Jesus' last words from the cross, and sing and hear mournful songs to express our grief.

But then, on Sunday, we will witness that he is not here! He has been raised! Join us at **10 am in-person, outdoors (weather permitting!) on Sunday, April 4, for our joyful Easter resurrection service**, complete with singing, praying, rejoicing, and communion. Along with communion elements, you are invited to bring flowers or plants from your yards or gardens to place on our cross that day. Resurrection life!

What a week this will be! So full, so rich. As we journey together, I am struck with all the different emotions we might experience during Holy Week and Easter: from the festive celebration of Palm Sunday; to the sobering love Jesus pours upon us on Thursday; to the grief and darkness of Friday; to the silence of Saturday; to the Resurrection Hope of Sunday.

As we continue to trudge (and, sometimes, even trot!) this holy road, may Jesus keep us near the cross... and near to the life that lies beyond.

Thanks be to God!

Recap: Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Join us in worship for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them. (Matt. 18:20).

Sunday, March 28, 10 am on You Tube and Facebook – Youth-Led Palm Sunday service

This joyful service will be hosted on the new Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church YouTube Channel (and live there long term) and the link to the YouTube service will also be posted on Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church's Facebook page.

Thursday, April 1, 6:30 pm on Facebook Live – Maundy Thursday service

Love poured out. This service will include music, scripture, praying, hand-washing and the Last Supper (Holy Communion).

Friday, April 2, 6:30 pm on Facebook Live – Good Friday service

Jesus is crucified. This contemplative service will include Jesus' seven last words from the cross, music, praying and tenebrae (the slow extinguishing of the light).

Sunday, April 4, 10 am outside, in person! (Weather permitting) – Easter service

A joyful service outside! In person! (with communion). Please bring flowers from your yards or gardens to place in our cross, symbolizing life overcoming death.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary Beth

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ *Update on gatherings*
- ◆ *Holy Week & Easter schedule*
- ◆ *Media Administrator position to be filled*

UPDATE ON OLD GREENWICH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GATHERINGS

On Monday, March 15, the Session of Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church decided that we will resume outside, in-person worship services again (weather permitting!), beginning on Easter Sunday, April 4. Please continue to wear masks and remain socially distanced during outside worship.

Furthermore, Session has set a goal to have in-person worship again in the sanctuary by Memorial Day weekend, if the weather does not permit for outdoor services- meaning we will worship together no matter the weather, be it at the hay wagon or in the sanctuary. While we monitor for changes in COVID spread and regulations, we will let you know if that safety goal needs to be adjusted.

Finally, Session approved small groups and committee meetings (up to 25 people) in person at the church (masked and appropriately socially distanced), beginning on Friday, March 19.

Questions? Please contact Lisa Gray at lisa_a_gray@outlook.com, Jen Miller at njmillers@msn.com or Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com

The service will also be live-streamed on Facebook which you can access from our website at www.ogpc.org at the top of the homepage or go to our Facebook page, which is **Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church**. If you have any questions, or need assistance with live-streaming, please contact Tim Newbrough tnewbro@yahoo.com or Melody Leeper melody@leeper.us

PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERINGS

“The Special Offerings are celebrations of specific ways God has been made known to us. Each is connected to a season of the church year and mandated by the General Assembly (ruling body of the denomination) to help the whole church join together in response to God’s grace. They represent the largest, collective way Presbyterians come together to work for a BETTER WORLD.”

One Great Hour of Sharing supports: HUNGER, DISASTER, DEVELOPMENT.

32% is for rebuilding hope through the PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

It works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation or human-caused disasters.

36% is for growing food security the PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

It takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

32% is partnering in progress the SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

It invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

This is above and beyond your regular offering to our congregation. It serves our world mission. If you were blessed enough to receive your government relief check and have a stable income by still being employed or a continuing pension, please consider a tithe which is 10% in thanksgiving.

If you haven’t donated yet IT’S NOT TOO LATE. There’s an envelope in your Offering Envelopes packet which you can mail into the church, or mail a check with OGHS on the memo line, or you can do online giving on OGPC or PCUSA.org websites.

MORE ON ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

As we approach Easter, where life overcomes death, we invite you to give towards the wider church’s “One Great Hour of Sharing” special offering. This is an offering that goes above and beyond our contributions and gifts towards our own church, to the whole world. One Great Hour of Sharing offerings provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. If you have an Offering Envelopes packet, you will find an envelope for One Great Hour of Sharing in that packet. You may use this envelope to mail in your gift (or bring by the church office). But if you don’t have the packet, or have lost it, you can simply write a check to “Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church” and then write “One Great Hour of Sharing” in the memo line. As we work and pray for resurrection and hope in this broken world, please consider giving to the wider church’s One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! And new life blossoms!



Holy Week at OGPC

Youth-Led Palm Sunday-
Service will be on Youtube and Facebook at 10am March 28- Pick up your palms Wed-Sun (Mar 24-28) outside the church



Find us at OGPC.org
or on our Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church Facebook page

Mauddy Thursday Service April 1- FB Live @6:30



Good Friday Service April 2- FB Live @ 6:30



Easter Service @ OGPC Hay Wagon April 4th 10am
Bring Your own Communion



Easter Egg Hunt To Go Bags
Available Easter Sunday





Social Media Administrator

OGPC is looking for assistance with our social media platform to maintain a positive presence in the surrounding community.

This will be a volunteer position with the potential opportunity to become a part-time staff position.

Key duties include: solicit/create/monitor digital content for website, Facebook, Instagram; produce live stream for Sunday worship services and report any issues and feedback

If you are tech-savvy, creative and willing to help OGPC in this new and exciting role, please contact Don Hannis (sleepyhollowfarmsnj@yahoo.com) or Tim Newbrough (tnewbro@yahoo.com) for more details.

Applicants please submit resume on or before April 16, 2021

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL:

01	Sharon Jiorle Sara Slack	17	Walter Campbell Brandon Bogyos
02	Charlie Wojcik		Katy Lynn Leeper
03	Kim Mrotek	19	Donald Hannis
04	John Repko		Amy Perkins
05	Weston Newbrough		Ella Snyder
08	David Brown Shelley Nazario	20 21	Jacob Miller Cora Bishop
09	Sandra Stutzman Elizabeth Metz	24 25	T. Hunter Simonds Melissa Mauricio
12	Gregory Bouton Conor Freer	26	Elizabeth Buckwalter Kyle Long
13	Susan Tintle Emma Mallory Nora Ronan	27 29 30	Angela Donnelly Edward Cichone Sharon Smith
16	Harry Pursel II		



*Children are in bold.

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL:

Al & Tricia Marino, Jr.	04/14/2012
John & Barbara Repko	04/19/1965
Tim & Suzanne Newbrough	04/22/1990
Janice & Wayne Kosa	04/26/1975
David & Christine Brown	04/29/1995



Please hold in prayer: **Karen Savacool and her brothers, David Salvesen and Stephen Salvesen; the family of John, neighbor of Sandie Stutzman;** Stephanie & Paul Welwood; Karen, Joan Pursel's sister; Phil Millon; Jeanne Stahlecker and family; Ginny Guthardt; the family of Larry Grube, friend of the Rutans; Bruce Gaston's brother and sister-in-law, Doug & Edna Gaston; Kellie M., friend, and Jessica Drennan, cousin of Kathleen Scala; the Campbell's daughter, Heather Waterman, and her mother-in-law, Gerri Waterman; Trish Millon; Mike Viscel; Jack Keiderling, friend of Ernie Maso; John Repko; Nancy Hummer, friend of the Freys; Phyllis Raskin; Patty Caldari and family, Kathleen Scala's cousin; our nation and the world; Barbara Cappelletti; Debbie Mowery; Carol Lee Doeringer; those affected by the Corona virus and their families, especially health-care workers; Cecelia Lemons; Tony Procita; Harry Pursel; Jim & Heather Todd; Sandy Stutzman; Sharon Smith; Doris Luziatti; Bob Heater; Deb Wilson; Sue Snyder; Geraldine Ihrie; Jack Reinhard; Phyllis Dietz; Shelly Papp & family; those serving in our Armed Forces: Will Rimmler

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

CAMP J'BURG

Please look over this list of our upcoming events. There are many options for all ages to experience God's presence at Johnsonburg.

Go to <https://campjburg.campbrainregistration.com/> to register. We hope to see you soon!

Spring Spruce-Up - April 17

The weather is warming up! It's time to help Johnsonburg get ready for the new season! Bring your work gloves and sturdy shoes to Spring Spruce-UP. All ages are welcome - we have something for everyone to do! Lunch included!

61st Anniversary - May 28-30

Help us celebrate our 61st Anniversary with this all-inclusive Friday through Sunday camp getaway - or just come out for a day! This program offers the opportunity to explore nature, enjoy s'mores, eat great food, boat in the lake, and spend time among the woods, meadows and lake.

Summer Camp Work Day - June 5

Help us prepare for a fantastic summer season on June 5th! Spend the day clearing trails, prepping cabins, and helping out with all sorts of other activities. Bring work

Congregants may sign up for dedicated flower arrangements on Sundays, beginning on Easter Sunday.

Please contact Trish Millon via cell: 908-319-5061 or email: trishbrad00@aol.com to place an order and arrange dedication. Orders should be placed two weeks or more prior to the service date which you would like the dedication to appear in the bulletin.



to **Don Metz** for fixing an electrical outlet in the Resource



GREENWICH NURSERY SCHOOL will be enrolling students for the 2021-2022 school year in the 2+, 3, and 4-5 year old programs starting in February. Please contact Diana Mallory at 908-479-6886 or email gnsdirector@gmail.com for information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Deborah Bible Study Circle plans to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am live in Trinity Wing. We will not eat (or take off masks) until we've all been vaccinated. We will meet in the room behind the pastor's office and socially distance. We will be on Lesson four in April. Although the lessons are themed on Psalms of Lament Into the Light, finding hope through prayers of lament by Lynn Miller, they don't build on each other. You won't be lost if you join us now! Each stands on its own. We will hear the introductory words on a DVD by the author, review the Psalm, look at the art from the lesson which contains a "carrier vessel" and teardrops, and listen to some "sad songs." Come join us for some in person conversations!

The Presbyterian Women (new name) of the Highlands Presbytery **invites all women** to their **Spring Gathering via Zoom** April 10th at 10 am. *Although the pandemic has closed many doors, Presbyterian Women opens ours. We especially are looking forward to meeting with women from the twenty-something NEW congregations that are among us.* Theme: **OPEN DOORS**. The Keynote Speaker is a woman who is devoted to Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality Network) in the Presbytery of Geneva, NY. She went beyond making meals and helping to house homeless families at her home church and **WROTE** a GRANT to be used for the renovation of the Day House, which is where families find social services, laundry, showers, a place for children to play and, most important, an address to be able to receive mail and put out job applications. It was awarded \$22,500 for that project from Presbyterian Women **THANK OFFERING**.

Many of our churches participate in this ministry. It will be an opportunity to discuss with others joys and problems of doing this work. OR ask Linda how she wrote her grant in such a way that it was chosen. What might you/we want to get money for? How exciting that our Synod received this from the donations of PW nationwide. For an invite email

Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com or text 973-476-4720



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH

OGPC has been remembered by Marian Curry in her will. Upon the death of her beneficiaries the principal will be held in trust with its annual net income to be paid out one third to Old Greenwich. This may amount to as much as \$67,000 per year, unrestricted. Although this is not in the foreseeable future, it gives hope of our congregation surviving and thriving beyond current congregants' gifts and pledges.

April is grounds clean-up month. Watch for opportunities you can help with.

New engaging activities to minister to members and reach out to the community were encouraged for thought and further discussion.

A volunteer(s) is being sought to share skills (or gain new ones/experience) in a social media and creative content ministry. The Facebook Live (service-video) with new multiple cameras set-up, Web-site updating and upkeep, current and up-to-date FB posting and youth directed site postings are a few ways your gifts of art, creative writing, communications and technology can be used to manage and keep this outreach fresh and interesting. Perhaps just one part? Call the office and you'll be put in touch with Elders/Pastor involved for more information or just say "here I am Lord!"

A motion was approved that outdoor services to be planned for Easter Sunday, April 4, (weather permitting- Facebook Live) with the goal of opening indoor worship by Memorial Day. (Note: outdoor worship plans for good weather will continue and will be decided on by the Worship & Music Team and Pastor Mary Beth)

Newton Presbytery became The Highlands Presbytery of New Jersey as of March 1, 2021. OGPC now has THREE voting representatives to their meetings. If any (not currently serving on Session) Elders would like to attend, via Zoom, please let the Pastor or Clerk of Session know and you could be the delegate.

APRIL, 2021

				1 Maundy Thurs. Svc. - 6:30 pm Facebook Live	2 Good Friday Svc. - 6:30 pm Facebook Live ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	3
4 Easter Communion Outdoor - In Person! Worship Svc. - 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	5 AA Meeting 7:30 pm Deacon Meeting 7:30 pm via Zoom	6 Personnel 7 pm Via Zoom AA Meeting 7:30 pm	7 Christian Ed. 7:30 pm	8 Worsh., Music & Spirituality 7:30 pm Via Zoom	9 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	10
11 Worship Svc. - 10 am via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	12 AA Meeting 7:30 pm Session Meeting 7:30 pm via Zoom	13 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	14	15	16 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	17
18 Worship Svc. - 10 am via Facebook AA Meeting - 3 pm	19 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	20 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	21	22 May Breezeway articles due	23 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	24
25 Worship Svc. - 10 am via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	26 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	27 Deacon Mtg. 7:30 pm via Zoom AA Meeting 7:30 pm	28	29	30	

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church
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Dated Material

Address Service Requested

The Breezeway



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WE'RE ON
THE WEB!
www.ogpc.org