

“You Did Not Choose Me, But I Chose You”

...So says Jesus to his disciples at the end of the Gospel of John. “You did not choose me, but I chose you.” What a powerful promise!

One of the ways we get to see this promise play out is in our baptism. In the Presbyterian Church, we baptize people of all ages, but our historical (and probably most common) practice is infant baptism. When we are babies, we are too young to make the decision to be baptized for ourselves, so it is our families who bring us to the waters at the font, reminding the whole community that even when we have *no idea* what is going on, God claims us anyway, and seals God’s promise that we are *always* loved, always chosen. “You did not choose me but I chose you.”

- ◆ *New Member Class to be scheduled*
- ◆ *VBS is back! 8/16 - 20/21*
- ◆ *Women’s Bible Study - 5/18*

This time of year is also when many of us who are parents or grandparents start to let go, even more, of our children – either in their graduating, moving out of our homes, or beginning their work out in the world. Like in our baptism, we are reminded here, too, that no matter where they go, God is *always* with them. No matter what, God is waiting for them, loving them, calling them home – even when “home” means being away from us. “You did not choose me but I chose you.”

Many of us have gone through times in our lives when we’ve wondered where God has been, when we’ve wondered if God has been really present at all. Many of us have gone through times when we’ve cried out, in the words of Psalm 22: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Even in our life together here at Old Greenwich, it has sometimes been difficult to know exactly how God has been at work, how God has been leading the church, maybe especially during the pandemic of the last year – the pandemic that continues on even still. But Jesus’ words come to us, sometimes faintly, in that still, small voice, “You did not choose me but I chose you.”

We are chosen of God. Even when we don’t understand it, even when we forget it, even when we stray from it, *we are chosen of God*. Chosen to love each other as God loves us. Chosen to serve each other, and our community. Chosen to see and proclaim new life in a world that tells us we are foolish to see and say such things.

“You did not choose me but I chose you.” What a powerful promise! What an awesome responsibility. What amazing grace.

Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary Beth

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, Jennifer Miller at njjmillers@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

HELPING HANDS FUND



The Deacons are pleased to announce the creation of the *Helping Hands Fund*. This fund is designed to provide financial assistance for those struggling with an unexpected or unmanageable expense. Any monies donated will be used at the discretion of the Deacons, the Helping Hands Committee and the pastor, while maintaining the privacy of the recipients. Help us to build this mission by donating today.

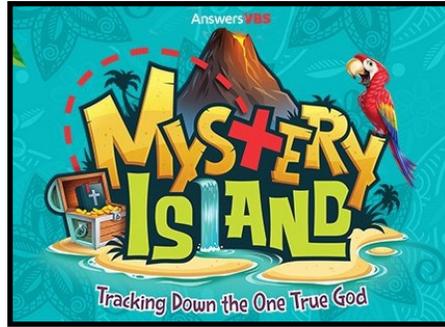
Checks can be made out to OGPC Deacons with a notation that it is to go to the Helping Hands Fund. Let's make a difference in the life of someone in need.

NEW MEMBER CLASS TO BEGIN!

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church is planning on holding a new member class very soon! (Dates have yet to be set, but it will be sometime this summer). The class will be conducted via Zoom.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the church and/or becoming a member, please email Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.





**OGPC is excited to announce Vacation Bible School
is back this summer!
August 16-20, 2021**

We cannot wait to see all the kids again and continue their journey of learning about God's Love. This year our theme will be *Mystery Island*, where we will go on a treasure hunt throughout the week to track down One True God! We are planning a week full of fun activities all while learning lessons from the Bible.

We are working to determine what VBS will look like this year and would love for anyone who is interested in participating or volunteering to help VBS to please fill out the brief surveys that were sent out this week by email. We ask that you fill out the survey by May 15th.

Thank you so much in advance and we cannot wait to have a fun-filled week with the kids this summer!

Lisa Kolterjahn

YOUTH AND CHILDREN: LOOKING FOR DANCERS

We are looking for dancers (!!) for our Pentecost service on **Sunday, May 23, at 10 am.**

If you are interested, please email Lisa Kolterjahn at lkolterjahn88@gmail.com, Jennifer Miller at njjmilers@msn.com, or Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH DRUMMING!

Calling all children of ALL ages! We are looking to form an inter-generational drumming group, led by Betsy Gaston, sometime in the near future! This is a very exciting opportunity to learn, not just about music, but what it means to listen to one another, and find our place in our community. Interested in learning more? Please email Betsy Gaston at betsygaston212@aol.com or Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MAY:

05/01	Gabriel Visone	05/16	Jacqueline Miller
05/02	Daniel Hixon Jillian Miller	05/17	William Hart
05/03	Noah Long	05/18	Sherri Ann Wolfe
05/04	James Savacool Jeffrey Miller	05/20	Adalena Fornaciari Hannah Fornaciari Alan Smith
05/05	Michael Todd	05/22	Catherine Ahart Christine Lee
05/06	Jeanne Stahlecker Dorothy Mitchell	05/23	Eleanor Bradlau
05/07	Payton Hawk	05/24	Ava Hixon Michelle Fornaciari
05/08	Jolene Visone	05/25	Carolyn Brown Maria Hannis
05/10	Suzanne Newbrough	05/26	Kelly Dalrymple
05/12	Quinn Bakros	05/27	Sally Reinhard
05/13	Jennifer Long Kurt Grimm Joseph Nazario III	05/28	Mason Hawk Grace Slack
05/14	Jack Taylor III		
05/15	Deborah Epstein		



*Children are in bold.

**CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES
IN MAY:**

05/03/1987	Gretchen & Stephen Alencewicz
05/10/1980	Dennis & Susan Petras
05/14/2005	Donald & Kim Mrotek
05/18/1991	Cheryl & John Garcia
05/24/2002	Pete & Laurie Werfel
05/24/2014	Jodie & Tom Garvey
05/25/1985	Lori Metz & Michael Cecere
05/25/1997	Michael & Jaelene Slaven
05/26/1979	James & Karen Savacool
05/27/2007	Stacey & Jason Coe
05/30/1998	Michelle & Mark Fornaciari



Please hold in prayer: Al Brown (eye surgery) friend of the Campbell's; Trish Millon's friend Elaine Brennan (death of mother); Mike Viscel's Aunt Angela (Covid); Sandie Stuzman (Eastwood rehab); Joan Pursel's sister, Karen (cancer); Harry Pursel; Phil Millon (recovery from surgery) & Trish; Julia Deemer's daughter; Judy (eye surgery), Debbie and Jerry Smith (Covid); Karen Savacool and her brothers, David Salvesen and Stephen Salvesen (both have cancer); Paul Welwood (cancer) & wife, Stephanie; Jeanne Stahlecker (grieving mother's death) and family; the family of Larry Grube, friend of the Rutans; Bruce Gaston's brother and sister-in-law, Doug & Edna Gaston; Nancy Hummer, friend of the Freys; Barbara Cappelletti; Debbie Mowery; Carol Lee Doeringer; Tony Procita; Sharon Smith; Shelly Papp & family; our homebound members Doris Luzietti, Sue Snyder, Geraldine Ihrie and Phyllis Dietz; those serving in our Armed Forces - Will Rimmler; those affected by the Corona virus and their families, especially health-care workers :

CAMP J'BURG

Please look over this list of 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!

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

MODERA VACCINE AT TARGET CVS IN P'BURG

If you or someone you know wants to receive the Modera vaccine, please consider calling the CVS at Target in Phillipsburg, **908-213-1869**, especially between the hours of 5 and 6 pm. (This is when they often have extra vials). Questions? Please contact Sue Dalrymple at sdalrymple50@gmail.com.

Congregants may sign up for dedicated flower arrangements on Sundays.

Please contact Trish Millon at 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 Room; to **Ernie Maso** for volunteering to mow and trim in front of church for the season and to **his son, Steve**, for fixing mower; to **Sue Tintle** for donating and planting flowers at the church. Thanks again to **the Millers** for spreading mulch at the church and manse.



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.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL

The **Highlands Presbytery** (the new name - no longer Newton) has added about twenty three churches/pastors and had to “correct the imbalance” of clergy to laity ratio. Old Greenwich now has **THREE commissioners**, up from two. What is needed is a former Elder who is interested in going to Presbytery meetings which are currently virtual. Session would have to vote for them to be the commissioner. If you have been an Elder (anytime or any church) you could be elected to attend and report on these meetings. This will be an exciting time due to this opportunity to unite the mission and ministries of all the churches.

Currently the meetings are by Zoom. The upcoming one is Tuesday, May 11, at 7 pm. If you would like to join in, let Pastor Mary Beth or Clerk Lisa Gray know and we’ll take a Session e-vote and get you registered. Exciting news of a New Member class being formed and baptisms of three children.

The committee may be looking for current members to be partnered with the new ones, if you’d like to share in that ministry of welcoming (or join if you’re not a member yet) speak to Pastor Mary Beth or Elder Jennifer Miller.

The ever-faithful Buildings and Grounds Team is in the processing of assessing upcoming projects needed to keep the campus in good shape and will hand that over to the Budget and Financing Committee for a financial scheduling of expenses.

Christian Education is looking forward with plans to move towards live education for the young ones, including Vacation Bible Camp, fall Sunday School and Confirmation classes, and participating in the Pentecost Service with dance and art.

Social Media needs has become a hot topic as committees move forward in how to meet and do ministry after Covid. There is a Media Room (in the Trinity Wing) being geared up for ‘hybrid’ meetings or a ‘hub’ where internet can be on a big screen or laptop for those who need that. There will be three cameras for the Facebook Live showing of worship services in the sanctuary which will continue with in-sanctuary worship. The “booth” in the balcony will be needing a “producer” to coordinate the best “shots” when all the technical issues are put into place.

Discipleship is planning a Time, Talents and Treasures Stewardship program for the fall.

Members are currently being asked to donate \$40 per person for Per Capita to be part of the connectional church PCUSA. Money is required from congregations to support Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly (National).

Presbyterian Women

PW Deborah Bible Study Circle plans to meet on the third Tuesday, (May 18) of the month at 11:30 am live in the Trinity Wing. We will not eat (or take off masks) until we’ve all been vaccinated and phase three of the church’s re-entry plan takes effect. We will meet in the room behind the pastor’s office and socially distance. We will be on lesson five in May. 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, so you won’t be lost if you join us now! Each stand on its own, and you’ll be OK without the book. We’ll lament LIFE this month (life in Christ). We are also working through why to say or not say “*there by the grace of God go I.*” Join us for some lively conversation and watching the author’s introductory video.

MAY, 2021

						1
2 Communion Outdoor Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	3 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	4 Personnel 7 pm Via Zoom AA Meeting 7:30 pm	5 Christian Ed. 7:30 pm	6	7 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	8
9 Outdoor Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	10 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	11 Personnel 7 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm	12	13 Worsh., Music & Spirituality 7:30 pm Via Zoom	14 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	15
16 Outdoor Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	17 AA Meeting 7:30 pm Session Meeting 7:30 pm via Zoom	18 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	19	20	21 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	22
23 Outdoor Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	24 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	25 Deacon Mtg. 7:30 pm via Zoom AA Meeting 7:30 pm	26 June Breezeway articles due	27	28	29
30 Outdoor Worship Svc. 10 am & via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	31 AA Meeting 7:30 pm					

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17 Greenwich Church Road
Stewartsville, NJ 08886-2515

Dated Material

Address Service Requested

The Breezeway



The Breezeway is published monthly by:

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church
17 Greenwich Church Road
Stewartsville, New Jersey 08886-2515

Contributions deadline is the 26th of each month

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www.ogpc.org