



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW CANAAN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 22, 2018

* ALL WHO ARE ABLE ARE INVITED TO STAND.

GATHERING

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to Thine eternal kingdom. Amen. --The Gathering at St. Stephen's Wolbrook, England

PRELUDE

"There is a Happy Land"

George Shearing

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird

Minister: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

People: Christ lays down his life for his sheep.

Minister: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

People: Christ knows us, and we belong to him.

Minister: The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

People: Christ speaks, and we listen for his voice.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 111 *"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"*

GELOBT SEI GOTT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION(unison)

Rev. Christopher G. Tate

Merciful God, we are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow toward what you call us to be. When we deprive others of that same opportunity, forgive us. When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are, *forgive us*. When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat, *forgive us*. When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there, *forgive us*. O God, help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected, the lonely and the outcast, and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

---by Moira Laidlaw

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION...

KYRIE ELEISON

James MacMillan

Lord, have mer-cy, Lord have mer-cy. Christ have
mer-cy, Christ have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy, Lord have mer-cy.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

No. 579 *The Gloria Patri*

**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.**

SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Please sign the card and pass it to your neighbor. As you pass it back to the center, take note of who is here so we can become better acquainted. Visitors, please give your address, telephone, and e-mail information.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SUNDAY'S COOL ROTATION

(Please bring your buck and a can offering with you to Sunday's Cool)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Elizabeth Stuart

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen to your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23 (OT page 501)

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"The Lord is My Shepherd"

Bobby McFerrin

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need. She makes me to lie down in green meadows, beside the still waters she will lead. She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs, she leads me in a path of good things, and fills my heart with songs. Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land, there is nothing that can shake me, she has said she won't forsake me, I'm in her hand. She sets a table before me in the presence of my foes, she anoints my head with oil and my cup overflows. Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will live in her house forever, forever and ever. Glory to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the Holy of Holies, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 10:11-18 (NT pages 103-104)

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Easter Shepherd"

Rev. Michael Piazza

RESPONDING

* **HYMN No. 402**

"Now Praise the Hidden God of Love"

DICKINSON COLLEGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray...

LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

“The Old Hundreth Psalm Tune”

R. V. Williams

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice. Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell; Come ye before Him and rejoice. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make; We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take. O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto; Praise, laud, and bless His Name always, For it is seemly so to do. For why? the Lord our God is good; His mercy is forever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure. To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, The God whom heaven and earth adore, From men and from the angel host be praise and glory evermore.

* DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

* HYMN No. 108

“Christ is Alive!”

TRURO

* CHARGE AND BLESSING (Please be seated for the Choral Response & the Ringing of the Church Bell)

CHORAL RESPONSE

“This Joyful Eastertide”

Charles Wood

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

* POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

John Cook

TODAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Welcome to the Service of Worship for the Lord’s Day. Parents of **infants through age four** are encouraged to take their children to the Nursery School classrooms during our services.

Today in Sunday’s Cool, all children ages PreK-7th grade – meet-up at the patio outside the Tate Youth Barn for an outdoor clean-up and games day – Happy Earth Day! Join us as we help beautify God’s Creation and our church home...and have some fun!

Greeters: Evelyn Bergstrom and Lynn Quinn; **Worship Coordinator:** Jim Ely; **Ushers:** Margaret Cooper, Janet Lanaway, John Lanaway, Stephan von Jena; **Cross Bearer:** Calvin Stuart; **Lay Reader:** Elizabeth Stuart; **Musicians:** First Presbyterian Church Choir

Flowers today are in loving memory of Ned Swanberg, from his family.

Memorial Services: **Peter Murphy**, Friday, April 27 at 11am; **Rae Ackerly**, Friday, May 18 at 10am; **Ann Depuy**, Saturday, June 2 at 1pm.

Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers: *New Concerns:* Joe Colella. *Continued concerns:* Grace Chung; Neil Coakley; John Edwards; Graham Harden; Bob Jackson; William Boyd Kegg; Vince Lombardi; Jim Mierendorf; Alanna Ruskowski; The Stricos family (friends of Joe and Diana Ruskowski); Jim Servidea; Betsy Stewart (Jim and Denise Riehl’s niece); Poppy Stewart (Tucker Murphy’s grand-niece); Bob Thomas; Ronald Witt. *The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees):* Khaldoun (father), Khawla Alzob (mother), daughters Hanin and Zain, and sons Yaman and Ahmed.

Flower Memorials: If you wish to have flowers in the sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, or to memorialize a loved family member or friend please call Barbara Wentzel, Flower Coordinator, at 203-966-5402 or email at barbarawentzel@mac.com.

No Gift Too Small! The Bell Tower Society welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes. Every dollar given makes a difference in serving the long-term welfare of our church. If you have questions about remembering the church in your estate plans, please contact Jim Beall in the church office.

New Canaan Food Pantry: Items in need now due to low/no stock are Salad Dressing, Kids Juice Boxes, Kids Snacks, Brownie Mix, Pancake Mix – add water only, Tea, Canned Chili, Canned Stew, Jelly, Packaged Pasta, Packaged Potatoes. **No beans or soup are needed now.** Please drop these items in the shopping cart at the back of the Sanctuary and we will make sure they are delivered to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

Cents-ability: On April 1, we collected \$103.73. Our total collection since we began Cents-ability at our church November 2011 is \$18,905. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger. If you would like more information on Cents-ability or need a Cents-ability cup, please call the church office. Remember to fill up your Cents-ability cup ‘til it runneth over! **Our next collection is May 6.**

New Covenant House: Looking for volunteers to prepare and/or serve meals at New Covenant House on both Saturday 5/5 and 6/2. Prep is at 2:00, meal service at 4:00. Please join us for this very rewarding way of giving back. Reply to glennmierendorf@gmail.com



BREAK THE ICE!

Break the ice and get to know fellow FPCNC members
at an informal gathering at a host house.
Feel free to bring a friend too.

Next Icebreaker! at the home of Steve and Jen Van de Graaf
Saturday, April 28th at 6:30 pm • 26 Meadow Lane
Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and what you would like to drink!!
RSVP: Lisa Gifford at (203) 594-9826 or ldagbg@aol.com

Calling all lads and lassies!! Scottish Sunday is April 29
With Scottish activities leading up to the big day!



Sign up by Tuesday, April 24. Calling ALL CHILDREN! to participate in the KIRKIN O the TARTAN, a procession into the sanctuary, on Sunday April 29 for the 45th Annual Scottish Sunday Service. All interested, please email Nancy LaBadie (rlabadie@netzero.net) by Tuesday evening, April 24. There will be a brief rehearsal for the kids on Sunday, April 29 at 9:30 A.M. We encourage all to wear the tartan in whatever form of one's choice. A "ceilidh" will immediately follow the service, featuring songs of Scotland, Pipers and a harpist, along with a serving of shortbread made by the Scottish Heritage Committee.

Wednesday, April 25, 6:00pm: Assist master shortbread bakers in the FPCNC kitchen to bake batches of homemade shortbread to share on Scottish Sunday. RSVP: tina@fpcnc.org

Sunday, April 29: Join the fanfare starting with a bagpipe procession at the beginning of the 10:00 service, grab some coffee and homemade shortbread and enjoy the Ceilidh featuring Scottish songs, harp and bagpipes. A wee donation is much appreciated to defray our costs (we must pay the piper after all). Monies leftover will be donated to the Deacons Fund.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840

Tel.: 203-966-0002 / www.fpcnc.org

Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

- 10:00 AM** **Worship with
Rev. Michael Piazza**
- 10:15 AM Church School for grades preK-7
- 11:15 AM Coffee Hour
- 11:15 AM Cherub Choir
- 11:30 AM Special Called Session
with Confirmands

MONDAY, APRIL 23

- 2:00 PM Meditation Group
- 6:30 PM Purple Heather Dancers

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

- 9:30 AM Leadership Team
- 11:00 AM** **Tues AM Bible Study**
- 11:30 AM Gentlemen Songsters
- 8:00 PM Men's A.A.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

- 10:00 AM Music Librarians
- 5:00 PM Carol Choir
- 6:00 PM Shortbread baking

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

- 3:30 PM Special Church
- 7:30 PM FPC Choir

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

- 11:00 AM** **Memorial Service
for Peter Murphy**

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

- 9:15 AM A.A. (closed)
- 10:30 AM A.A. (open)
- 6:30 PM** **IceBreaker!**

SUNDAY, APRIL 29: Scottish Sunday

- 10:00 AM** **Worship with
Rev. J. Barrie Shepherd**
- 10:15 AM Church School for grades preK-7
- 11:15 AM Ceilidh and Shortbread
- 11:15 AM Cherub Choir
- 5:00 PM Cooking for Domus
- 6:00 PM HSYG: Barntime and Dinner



Our **New Member Inquirers** classes run from **11:15-12:00** in the Parlor immediately following Coffee Hour.

This 3-week series is open to all members of FPC, in addition to prospective new members, and will focus on the following:

Week 1 (5/6): "History of our faith: What is Presbyterianism?" ~ Find out how our faith began worldwide and in the United States. Discover answers to questions such as: Who was John Calvin? What is the Book of Order? How is the governance of the Presbyterian church set up and why?

Week 2 (5/20): "History of FPCNC: How and Why We Got Here" ~ Learn about the founding of this church, FPCNC's history of civil and human rights efforts, the ministers and music history of our church, and how our church contributes to the spiritual life of this community. A tour of the facilities and grounds will be part of this class.

Week 3 (6/3): "What it Means to be a Member ~ Believing and Belonging" ~ Learn about how you can become a member of our vibrant faith community, including worship, stewardship, opportunities for service and involvement, fellowship events, children and youth activities, and more!

Week 4 (6/10): "Welcoming New Members" ~ Breakfast at 9:15 in the Common Room hosted by the Elders and Deacons of the church as we prepare to welcome you into our church family during the service.



Tues AM Bible Study: Genesis Part II
Jacob and Joseph: Like Father, Like Son

Taught by Rev. Mary Marple Thies

11:00 am – 12:30 pm in the Common Room

DON'T COME to this class looking for guidance on family values. The stories of Jacob and Joseph are marked by sibling rivalry, familial dysfunction, deception, theft and sexual harassment, as well as poignant tales of longing and grief, love and reconciliation.

DO COME if you sometimes wonder where God is at work in the world and discover how God's grace broke into the lives of these all-too-human people.

Week 2, 4/24	Jacob & Rachel & Laban Genesis 29-32:2
Week 3, 5/1	Jacob, Esau & Jacob's Children Genesis 32:3-Genesis 34
Week 4, 5/15	Jacob & Joseph Genesis 35-37*
Week 5, 5/22	Joseph & Dream Interpretation Genesis 39-45
Week 6, 5/29	The Family Reunited Genesis 46-50

*We will not study Genesis 38 since we did so Fall 2016



On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13th at 4:00 p.m., Charis Chamber Voices directed by Art Sjögren, will be presenting their "Serenade to Spring" concert here at FPC. This Westchester-based chamber ensemble will be presenting works by Bridge, Berger, Minard, Padella, Brahms, and more. In

true Art Sjögren style, the program is elegant and creatively programmed with works spanning the centuries. Tickets are \$25 for regular admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for students. Tickets are available online at www.charisvocals.com or at the door. For Mother's Day, come enjoy a concert and dinner out on the town afterwards!



Deacon Missions - Driving. Do you ever need a ride to or from church or church events? The deacons can help! Do you attend church or church events and would you be willing to be on an email list of potential drivers for others? The deacons can help there too!

The deacons are looking to expand our Driving mission by developing a list of potential drivers beyond the current Board of Deacons. We are also seeking to reach-out to those who may need rides to assure that all church members are able to attend church services and events. If you can be an occasional driver or you or anyone you know need rides to church, please call Tina at the church office or stop by the Deacon table in the Common Room after church today.

Stewardship

Thank you all so much for your GREAT response to the recent appeal from Rev. Kibbie Laird and Scott Beyer. Many of you already stepped up and generated incremental and new pledges and gifts. We're incredibly grateful to the 28 families and individuals who so quickly contributed an additional \$66,000., helping to bring us within reach of our \$800,000. 2018 operating budget goal. But we're not quite there yet, and great FPCNC programs and services are still in jeopardy. If there's any way you can consider an additional pledge for 2018, please contact Barbara Wentzel, Stewardship Chair, Armin Thies, or the Church office at 203-966-0002 or visit <http://fpcnc.org/stewardship/> to pledge or donate electronically TODAY! Every donation and pledge is a blessing to this congregation and its mission, as are you.



OUR MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

OUR PASTORS

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, Acting Head of Staff

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

Rev. Christopher G. Tate, Parish Associate

OUR STAFF

Victoria Shields, Director of Music / Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir director

Jim Beall, Acting Church Administrator / Tina St. Armand, Office Manager

Erika Hagan, Administrative Assistant to Children and Youth Ministries

Edgar Torres, Day Sexton

THE SESSION

Our Pastors

Scott Beyer, Clerk of Session

George Benington, Bell Tower Society

Sue Benko, Communications

Laurel Carlson, Youth Ministries

Carole Clarkson, Worship, Music and Arts

Linda Ferguson, Nominating

Lisa Gifford, Congregational Life

Jennifer Gulden, Personnel

Julie Hoffman, Member-At-Large

Freia Mierendorf, Co-Youth

Glenn Mierendorf, Outreach

Dede McEvoy, Strategic Planning

Andy Petitjean, Finance

Lynn Quinn, Adult Education

Julie Reeves, Membership Involvement

Charles Robinson, Co-Buildings and Grounds

Rose-Scott Rothbart, Co-Buildings and Grounds

Kevin Thomson, Advisory Committee

Spencer Reeves, Co-Youth

Jenny Volanakis, Children's Ministries

Barbara Wentzel, Stewardship

THE DEACONS

Jen and Steve Van de Graaf, *Co-Moderators*

Carson Allsteadt, *Co-Youth*

Erica Bergmans, *Inspirica, Meals-on-Wheels*

Mary Jane Bolin, *Senior Lunch*

Peg Bull, *Flock Program*

William Dooley, *Co-Youth*

Cindy Hagopian, *Inspirica*

Karen Hanson, *Memorial Services and Receptions*

Beth Hersam, *Flowers and Cards*

Chris Kniffin, *Member-At-Large*

Nichole LaBadie, *Co-Youth*

Linda Martin, *Baptisms; Flock Program*

Sarah Robinson, *Pastoral Care Team*

Kristen Rodgers, *Cards and Flowers*

Kathleen Servidea, *Cards and Flowers*

Elizabeth Stuart, *Flowers and Cards, Treasurer*

Ashley Walker, *Co-Youth*

Rev. T. Guthrie Speers, Jr., Pastor Emeritus - Mrs. Marilyn J. Ballantine, Minister of Music Emerita