

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time • August 7, 2022 • 10 am 178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

Grace and peace to you, and welcome!

As you prepare for worship, please sign the red welcome pad, and pass it to your neighbor. At the end of the row, have the last person please pass it back to the center aisle so we can know our fellow worshipers.

Then, prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of where you are, and the quiet stirrings of the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

# THE GATHERING

Prelude Entré - Prière (from Ten Pieces) René Vierne

# \*Call to Worship (Based on Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16)

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

People: the conviction of things not seen.

Leader: Like Abraham and Sarah, let us follow God,

People: even when we don't know where we are going.

Leader: By faith, let us look forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is

God. Let us be inspired to move forward to new life by faith.

People: Let us worship the God whose promises call and claim us.

<sup>\*</sup>PLEASE STAND IN BODY AND/OR SPIRIT.





# Message with the Young Disciples

**Cents-ability Sunday** – Please consider dropping your spare change in the jar on your way out or the children or ushers can also collect it. All change received will be donated to the local Food Pantry. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger.

Call to Confession Steve Van de Graaf

Leader: Sin shuts us down and stops us short of hearing God's Word. Let us open ourselves to hearing God's

truth and free ourselves to follow God's path by confessing our sin and embracing God's mercy.

# **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

God of Hope and Promise, we confess we do not always believe. We confess our questions and complaints catch up to us. We cannot understand our suffering and the suffering of others. We are perplexed and perturbed by the injustice of the world and life. Forgive us when we give up on you and ourselves. Return and restore us to right relationship. Help us not to disengage but remain steadfast in faithful pursuit of your love and grace.

(silence for personal reflection and repentance)

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: Amen.

#### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God's grace is given freely. God's love is steadfast. Receive the good news that by faith in Jesus

Christ, you are forgiven, and live liberated from sin to live to the glory of God.

People: By faith, we are forgiven and set free for new life. Thanks be to God!

\*Gloria Patri (No. 581) 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, Amen.

#### \*Passing of the Peace

Leader: This is Jesus' promise, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." May the peace of our Lord

Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Congregation greets one another and share the peace of Christ

# THE WORD

# Prayer For Illumination (unison)

Jeannie Hart

Your Word guides every step of our journey, God. Help us be attentive to your Word read and proclaimed today, so we can hear your message and act according to your will. Amen.

# First Lesson – Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." <sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

# Second Lesson - Luke 12:32-40

The Rev. Scott Herr

<sup>32</sup>"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>35</sup>"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup>"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

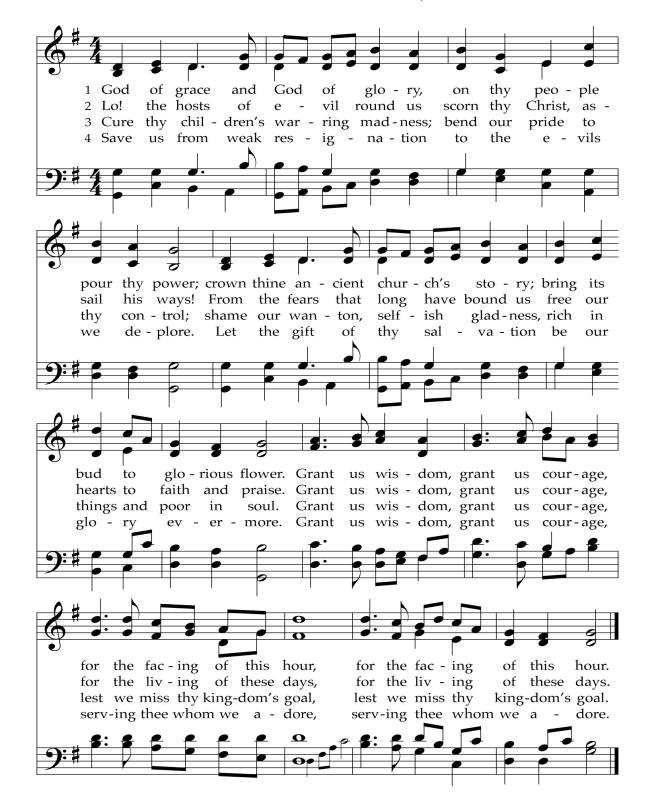
People: Thanks be to God.

#### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*Hymn No. 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM Rhondda



# Call for the Offering (From 2 Corinthians 9:7)

Steve Van de Graaf

We are people who desire a better country, literally. We strive for a community with liberty and justice for all. So as we pray, "thy Kingdon come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven," let us invest to make that vision a reality. Let us present our tithes, gifts and offerings to God.

Offertory

Walkin' Down That Glory Road

Mark Hayes

Walkin' down that glory road, I got no more troubles on my mind.

I've been many miles and I've seen joys and

trials,

but I have left my troubles far behind.

Now the rich get richer and the poor stay poor.

It seems to me

It's always been that way.

But I don't worry

About what I haven't got,

'Cause riches may never come my way.

I used to carry

A heavy, heavy load. Worry and heartache

Brought me down.

But I laid my burden Down by the road of life,

And I said good-bye to my sorrow

And then I turned around.

Now I don't worry,
I just don't worry,

If the sun is gonna shine. The rain falls on the sinner, And the dear old saint.

But I just keep walkin' Along that glory road,

Won't take no time for fussin' Or for worn out complaints.

Walkin' down that glory road of life.

Evan McCormack - tenor

\*Doxology (No. 606)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen. God of abundance, everything we have is but a gift from you. Help us be good stewards of all your precious resources. Bless these gifts we give in return that they might, in turn, be a blessing to others; for Christ's sake. Amen.

# THE EUCHARIST

#### Invitation to The Lord's Table

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

# **Eucharistic Prayer**

Minister: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

# The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

# The 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.

#### Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

The words of institution are spoken here.

#### **Prayer After Communion (unison)**

The Rev. Scott Herr

Living God, thank you for welcoming us again at this table, and for giving us faith to be sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see; to believe that you are present to us even now, and draw near whenever we truly seek you. Strengthen us with this spiritual food, that we may live more by faith, and receive what you have promised to seek a better life and fairer world for all; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Faith Begins by Letting Go

Lux Prima



\*Benediction The Rev. Scott Herr

\*Ringing of the Church Bell

\*Postlude Sortie (from Ten Pieces) René Vierne

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#### TODAY IN WORSHIP

**Welcome to worship** on this 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time! We are glad you are joining us and pray you will experience the grace of God's welcome and be spiritually refreshed and socially reoriented. Summer is a good time to consider what gives life or takes life away. Today we explore what it means to live "by faith." Scott will be reflecting on what it means to journey with God, AKA living "by faith" through the lens of our two lectionary texts for the day: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40.

**All children** are welcome to stay in worship throughout the service but may leave after Scott offers a message for young disciples after the welcome and announcements.

First Presbyterian is pleased to offer babysitting during our Sunday worship service provided by Louna Esperance and Saturnina Greeves-Cooper from Wee Care Nanny Agency. Our worship service nursery is located just off our Common Room vestibule down the long hall from the sanctuary and is available between the hours of 8:45–11:30am. Parental and guardian sign-in is required and we do ask that you pick up your child promptly after the service. Thank you.

There are also curriculum bags for kids and a craft corner in the rear of the sanctuary if anyone gets restless. Church-wide events hosted by the YLC are inclusive of all ages! Continue to watch the FPCNC event schedule and sign up to explore faith and share in fellowship with our wonderful inter-generational church family.

FPCNC is staying steady with "mask optional" policy in worship, at church gatherings, and on church grounds. Fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear masks, although those who prefer to may continue to do so. The in-person Sunday service will continue to be simultaneously streamed online via *LocalLive* at 10:00 am.

**Large Print Hymns available:** Have difficulty reading the hymnal? Each Sunday a copy of the hymns in large font will be available – just ask an usher for the "Blue Hymn Folder". After worship, please leave the hymn folder with an usher or on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

# **ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC**

René Ambroise Jean Eugéne Vierne (1878-1918) was a French organist and composer. He was born in Lille, the younger brother of Louis Vierne. Pushed by his mother, he entered the Catholic Seminary at Versailles in 1889 where he studied music with the Canon Poivet. Not feeling a vocation to the priesthood, he left and instead devoted himself to music, taking lessons in organ, counterpoint and fugue with his brother Louis. Then he studied with Alexandre Guilmant at the Paris Conservatoire and was awarded a first prize for organ and improvisation in 1906. In 1897, he obtained a post as organist at the Chapel of the Convent of the Dominicans, the Annunciation, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré in Paris. In 1904, he succeeded Camille Andres (1864–1904) as titular organist at Notre-Dame-des-Champs. At the outbreak of World War I, he was mobilized and moved to the front on 8 August, 1914. On 29 May, 1918, at 8 am, on the Plateau Branscourt (Marne), he was killed by Austrian shrapnel. His loss severely affected his brother, who also lost his son Jacques in the war.

Mark Hayes was raised in a creative musical environment, beginning piano lessons at age ten and developing his improvisational skills at an early age. He earned a B.M. in piano performance, from Baylor University. During his college years his dream of becoming a composer and arranger was born and nurtured. Mark is now a writer, conductor, and concert pianist, making international tours. Mark's music is found in the music libraries of churches and universities around the world. His compositions and arrangements are known for their unique American sound, drawing from such diverse musical styles as gospel, jazz, pop, folk and classical. Mr. Hayes' personal catalog, totaling over 1,500 published works, includes work for solo voice, solo piano, multiple pianos, orchestra, jazz combo, small instrumental ensembles, and choruses of all kinds. Whether concertizing on the other side of the globe or composing at his home in Kansas City, Missouri, Mark is blessed to live out his mission "to create beautiful music for the world.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **FPC Summer Church Office hours:**

Tuesday, July 5 through Friday, September 2 Mondays – Thursdays: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Fridays: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Regular office hours (8:30am – 4:30pm) will resume after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 6

Next week **Saturday, August 13 at 11:00 am** a service of Thanksgiving and Celebration will be held for the Life of **Charlotte Juhl Conner** at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan. Any questions, please call the church office.

**Knobloch Scholarship**: Thanks to the generosity of one of our distinguished members, Bill Knobloch, the FPCNC is offering to graduating High School senior congregation members the opportunity to apply for a \$2,500 scholarship to be used for college or university study costs. Application forms are available by contacting Wendy Starr at the church office (wendy@fpcnc.org). **REMINDER**, the applications are due by August 15th.







# Welcome BBQ and Ice Cream Social Who: FPCNC Youth and their Families

When: Thursday, September 8th from 6 to 8pm

Where: FPCNC Manse: 171 Jonathan Road, New Canaan

Inviting all FPC Youth (Pre-K through High School) and their families to join us at the Manse on Thursday, September 8th at 6pm for a *Welcome BBQ and Ice Cream Social*. Come and enjoy some delicious food and ice cream, meet other FPCNC Youth and parents, play some fun games, and hear about the exciting programs we're putting together for the Fall. RSVP to wendy@fpcnc.org or call 203-966-0002.



**SAVE THE DATE:** Please join us for Rally Day and a picnic on the lawn – Sunday, **September 11th** immediately following church service that day. There will be lots of music, food and fellowship for all. On this solemn anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, we will be reflecting and remembering the victims of 9/11 as part of the service and creating an environment of community to support one another.

## PARTICIPATE IN CHRIST'S MISSION

**Deacon's Fund:** Special envelopes are enclosed in today's bulletin to assist the Deacon's Fund and can be placed in the offering plates. The Deacons provide a ministry of welcome, hospitality and caring to the congregation as well as to our local and wider community and are a financially self-sustaining group. Some of the roles of our Deacons include assisting with baptisms, memorial services, and receptions, along with writing cards and letters, delivering flowers at Christmas and Easter to seniors, assisting with pastoral care, providing dinner at a local women's shelter and providing monetary assistance to congregants who might be in need. Please reach out to the pastor or a member of the Deacons should you know of someone who could use some help, a visit, or a phone call. Thank you for your continued support in helping the Deacons serve others in need.

**Sign-Up for Service (W+2).** W+2 is a formula for Spiritual Health. It's simple.....

(W = Worship) When you are in town and able, come join us for Worship every week for spiritual refreshment and a reminder that you are loved.

(+1 = Feed your soul) Find another source of revitalization during the week, whether a class or small group or service opportunity that feeds your soul.

(+2 = Service) Commit to a regular way of sharing your gifts for ministry. Service is not an option for followers of Christ, it's our way of life.



You can serve anywhere, but we would welcome you sharing your gifts of time and talent in the church through helping on a Sunday Morning or with any of our mission projects. Ministry options vary from reading of scripture and liturgy, ushering, greeting, serving communion, or helping to prepare for communion, etc. It's easy and rewarding and we'll walk you through it. Any questions call the church office, Jan Lucie at 309-331-3468, or one of the pastors.

**Sunday Worship:** <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday</a> Readers, Ushers, Greeters, Communion servers, etc.

**New Covenant House:** <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5AE28A7FF2-newcovenant">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5AE28A7FF2-newcovenant</a>
September 3, October 1, and November 5, 2022. Three people to help prepare meals (2-4pm) or two people to serve meals (4-6pm):

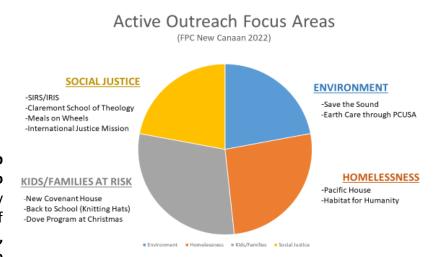
**Meals on Wheels:** <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa5a72ba2f94-january">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa5a72ba2f94-january</a> Deliver meals to local residents. It's a great way to get involved in the community.

#### MISSION OUTREACH

# WALK WITH US – VOLUNTEERS WELCOME Where your donations went this month:

- -New Covenant House: Buying and preparing meals six Saturdays a year \$350/month
- -Pacific House: \$1000 for March Mattress and the purchase of 4 new mattresses at the shelter
- -T-shirts for Earth Day and beyond

New Covenant House (NCH) in Stamford: Help Needed to prepare or serve food — this is so rewarding! FPC is privileged to have the opportunity to prepare and serve dinner on the first Saturday of each month. Signup! For September 3, October 1, and November 5, 2022, 3 people to help prepare meals (2-4pm) or 2 people to serve meals (4-6pm).



If you're interested in being part of the soup kitchen shopper team, contact Wendy in the church office. If you want to find out more about Mission Outreach, how you can help or if have any idea or questions, please contact Cindy Graziano at 203-912-1991 or c graziano@msn.com.

**FPCNC Flower Committee needs your help.** Their mission is to decorate the sanctuary, adding beauty, color, and nature each week. Flower arrangers and plant waterers are needed. We'd love your help! We're happy to help or teach you on simple decorating. For more info contact Patty von Jena at 203-655-1321 or <a href="mailto:pvonj@optonline.net">pvonj@optonline.net</a>.

**Flowers in the Sanctuary.** If you wish to place flowers in the sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, baptism, birthday, or honor a beloved family member or friend, please contact Barbara Wentzel, Flower Coordinator, 203-966-5402 or <a href="mailto:barbarawentzel@mac.com">barbarawentzel@mac.com</a>.

# **GROW IN FAITH**



Pastoral Care Team: Do you know of someone who needs a visitor or a phone call? Our congregation is fortunate to have a team of people who are ready to reach out to church members who are facing a life crisis. They may be in declining health, shut-ins, living in a care facility, grieving, or struggling with a significant change in their circumstances. Our Pastoral Care Team, made up of Kay Brix, Peg Bull, Nancy Flournoy, Lisa Gifford, Anne Palmer, Ellen Sisson and Mary Thies, is ready to provide pastoral care to church members who are dealing with such a situation. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry or if you have questions about the work of the Team, please call the church office 203-966-0002 (ext 1).

# SILVER HILL HOSPITAL

The New Canaan Urgent Assessment (NCUA) Program is a collaboration between the Town of New Canaan and Silver Hill Hospital. Its goal is to connect those in urgent need of mental health treatment with a timely, psychiatric assessment and tailored referral for ongoing care. The program serves children, adolescents, and adults and is available to New Canaan residents for no out-of-pocket cost. The Assessment Program is available by advance appointment only. Please refer to the link below for a complete overview:

https://silverhillhospital.org/new-canaan-urgent-assessment-program/

# PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

**New prayers and concerns:** Don O'Brien **Continued concerns:** Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); Tom and Judy Duncan (Lisa Flanagan's parents); John Edwards; John Lanaway; The Lewis Family (friends of Lisa and Terry Flanagan); Denise Lynch; Sandy Nissley; Marlene Powers; Wendy Starr; The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees): father Khaldoun, mother Khawla Alzob, daughters Hanin, Zain and Hayat, and sons Yaman and Ahmed, and Khaldoun's mother, Nam Abo Noktah.

We continue to pray for the families and friends of the victims who have been affected by all the mass shootings. We also continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia.

Finally, please pray for the APNC team on behalf of their focused and dedicated Associate Pastor search.

# **Emergency response to Ukraine war**



As the violence in Ukraine continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. And in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Our first priority is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. Our response will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

GIVE: To support emergency relief for those fleeing Ukraine, designate gifts to DR000156. You can also text PDAUKR to 41444 to donate. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/UK22, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device.

ACT: Urge the U.S. government to support generous aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

**PRAY:** May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help. May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly. May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.

May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.

And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

-Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

○ \$500	O \$125	O\$50	O \$25	O Other \$_	
Name			Address		
City			State	Zip	Congregation/PIN 3719
Please de	etach the	reply for	n and re	turn it with yo	our gift to your church; or enclose
in an env	elope wit	h your ch	eck and	mail it to Pres	byterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box
643700.	Pittsburgh	. PA 152	64-3700.		





UK22-BI

# THIS WEEK at the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

SUNDAY, August 7

9 am Music Rehearsals

10 am Worship Service in person and LocalLive

(Communion)

11 am Coffee Hour in person and Zoom

MONDAY, August 8

3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)

TUESDAY, August 9

9:30am, 10:30am, 11:30am Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)

10 am Staff Leadership meeting7 pm Session Meeting (via Zoom)8 pm Men's A.A. Group (closed)

WEDNESDAY, August 10

THURSDAY, August 11

FRIDAY, August 12

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)

SATURDAY, August 13

9 am-1 pm Goodwill Truck (parking lot)

10 am Music Rehearsals (Sanctuary/Choir Room)

11 am Charlotte Conner Memorial Service

SUNDAY, August 14

9 am Music Rehearsals

10 am Worship Service in person and LocalLive

11 am Coffee Hour in person and Zoom

#### THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Greeters: Jennifer and Steve Van de Graaf

Lay Readers: Steve Van de Graaf and Jeannie Hart

**Usher:** Paul Martin

Communion Servers: Jennifer and Steve Van de Graaf

#### **MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

# **OUR PASTORS**

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

#### **OUR STAFF**

Terence J. Flanagan, Director of Music and Fine Arts • Jim Riehl, Business Administrator
Wendy Starr, Office Manager • Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir Director • Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers