



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

Twenty-fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time • September 24, 2023 • 10:00am  
178 OENOKKE 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 found at the center of each aisle so that we will know you worshipped with us. Then pass it to your neighbor. The last person to sign the pad should pass it back to the center of the aisle. We suggest you 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.*

*\*PLEASE STAND IN BODY AND/OR SPIRIT.*

## THE GATHERING

**Prelude**

Allegro Vivace (from *Symphonie I, Op.14*)

Louis Vierne

**\*Call to Worship**

Stephanie Hare

**Leader:** We gather to give thanks and call on the name of the Lord!

**People:** **Let us worship the One who remembers His holy promise.**

**Leader:** We gather to sing praises to the Lord!

**People:** **May our hearts seek to rejoice and glorify the Lord our God.**

**Leader:** We gather to remember the wonderful works God has done!

**People:** **Let us worship God who rescues us, with joy and singing.**

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your  
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears  
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our  
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,  
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,  
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

## Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

## Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Stephanie Hare

## Invitation to Confession

Armin Thies

**Leader:** The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With that assurance and the promise of God's grace through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another, first in unison, and then personally in silence...

## Confession of Sin (unison)

Armin Thies

**People:** Gracious God, forgive us when we grumble and complain against Your goodness and grace. We judge and weigh Your gifts according to our standards. We often question Your fairness instead of receiving Your grace with thanksgiving and joy. Forgive us, Lord, in Your grace and mercy. Help us to see Your world through Your eyes and with Your spirit of generosity and compassion, that we may welcome the chance to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You...

*(silence for further individual reflection and repentance...)*

**Leader:** In Jesus' name we pray.

**People:** Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 145:9 and Ephesians 2:8-9)

Armin Thies

**Leader:** The Lord is good to all, and God's compassion is over all that God has made. For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel!

**People:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia!

## \*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

Armin Thies

**Leader:** Jesus said, "My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid." May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People:** And also with you.

*Congregation greets one another and shares the peace of Christ*

## THE WORD

### Lighting the Candle for God's global vision of Compassion, Justice and Peace

Armin Thies

Leader: Today we light a candle for God's global Vision of Compassion, Justice and Peace.... And now hear us as we sing together:

People – Sung response Hymn No. 544: Bless the Lord (sung three times)

*Bless the Lord*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

### First Lesson – Jonah 3:10–4:11

Stacy Arevalo

<sup>3</sup><sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4</sup><sup>1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came

into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem**

Steal Away

arranged by John Barnard

Steal away, to Jesus. Steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder.

The trumpet sounds within my soul.

Green trees, abending, poor sinner stands trembling.

FPCNC Choir

### **Second Lesson – Matthew 20:1-16**

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Walton

<sup>1</sup>"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Minister: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

"A Gospel Meritocracy"

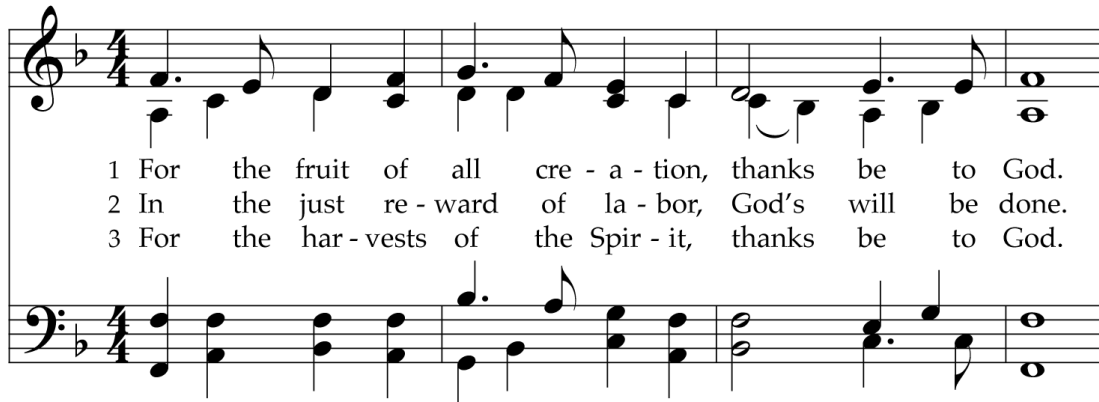
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Walton

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

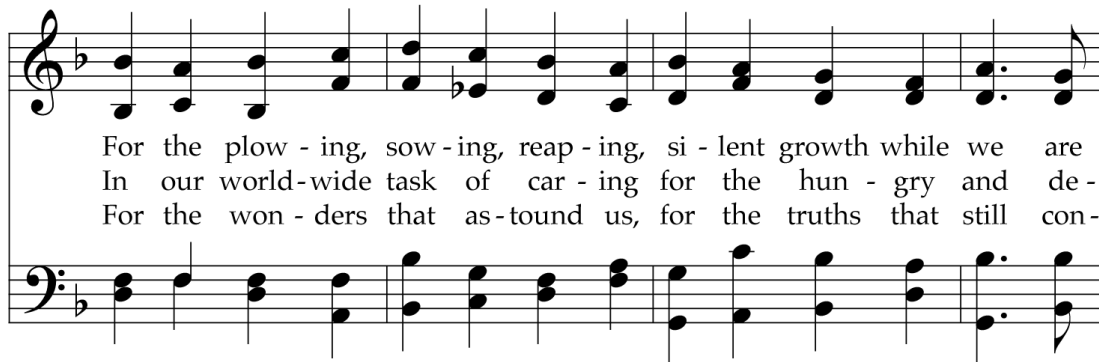
*Ar Hyd y Nos*



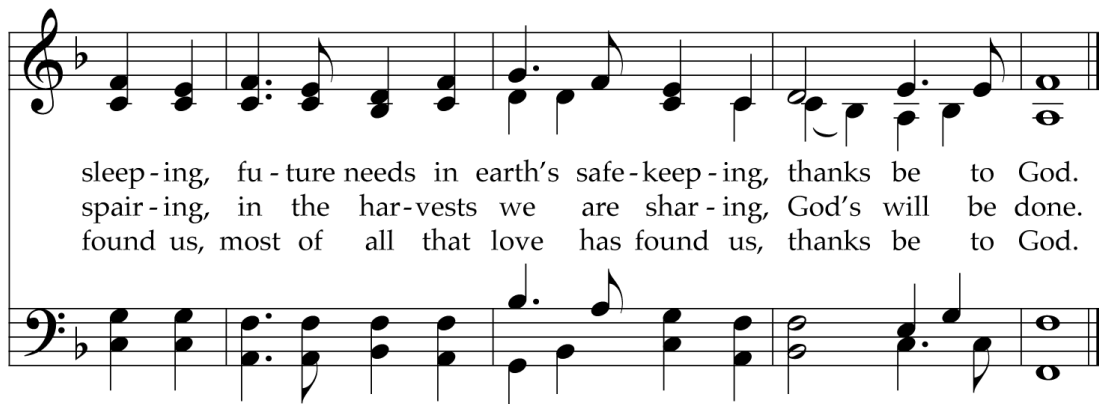
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## Prayers of the People

The Rev. Scott Herr

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

### 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.**

## Call for the Offering

The Rev. Scott Herr

Leader: The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the Saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." Let us bring our offerings to God, even as we present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

## Offertory

Praise God in His Holiness

Geoffrey Shaw

Praise God in His holiness: Praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him in His noble acts: Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet: Praise Him in the cymbals and dances. Praise Him upon the well-tuned cymbals: Praise Him upon the loud cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

FPCNC Choir

## \*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.**

## \*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Stacy Arevalo

**Gracious God, we know that every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from You. We thank You for Your many blessings, especially Your Son Jesus Christ, Your indescribable gift! Help us to receive Your grace with thanksgiving and humility and to use our time, talent and treasure faithfully in and for Your kingdom. We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*Hymn No. 541

### God Be with You Till WE Meet Again

Randolph

*Unison* *Harmony*

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing coun - sels  
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen wings pro -  
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils  
4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en - fold you:  
tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:  
thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:  
float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be - fore you:

*Unison*

God be with you till we meet a - gain.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The hymn is divided into three systems. The first system includes a unison vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The second system continues the vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The third system features a unison vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

### \*Benediction

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Walton

### \*Choral Amen

### \*Ringing of the Church Bell

### \*Postlude

"Gigue" Fugue in G Major, BWV 577

Johann Sebastian Bach

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## TODAY IN WORSHIP

**Welcome to Worship** on this 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time! Today we are honored to welcome The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Walton, President of *Princeton Theological Seminary*, as our guest preacher. Please see his bio below and plan to stay for Dr. Walton's talk entitled, "Theological Education in the Contemporary Age: Expanding the Table". The Adult Forum will be held over lunch at 11:30am in the Common Room. We are glad you are with us today and pray you will experience the grace of God's welcome and be spiritually inspired and socially reoriented for the week ahead!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL has begun!** Sunday School is our weekly opportunity for children to learn about the love of God while building connections and relationships with other young folks as well as adults in our congregation. As is our tradition, Sunday School happens concurrently with our 10:00am Worship Service. Children begin the Service with their families in the Sanctuary and then are dismissed to Sunday School after the Blessing for our Young Disciples. **If your child is planning on participating in Sunday School, we would love for you to fill out this brief form, so we know we have the most up-to-date contact info for you and a few important details about your child:** <https://fpcnc.breezechms.com/form/2023SundaySchool>. Sunday School teachers are also needed. If you've got a heart for working with young people, please see the announcement on pg. 14 about how to get involved!

**Children are also warmly welcome to stay in Worship!** For children that stay during Worship, the **Pray-Ground** can be found in the area in front of the back pew. The Pray-Ground is a designated place in the Sanctuary where young children can experience Worship through age-appropriate worship materials and tools that will help keep them engaged in what is happening. We will continue to rotate books and coloring materials on an ongoing basis. Although it can seem counter-intuitive to adults, children are often able to process what they hear more effectively when they have something to do with their hands.

**Any child worshipping in the Pray-Ground should bring their grown-up with them to the Pray-Ground.** Including young children in Worship can sometimes feel a little daunting, especially on days when they're feeling a little extra fidgety, but we don't need to be discouraged from keeping children in the Sanctuary. There are many important things that children learn while in Worship, even when we're not sure if they're paying attention. Young children learn by observing the adults around them. Children acquire the "language" of worship by listening to and observing the words the adults around them say, much like how they learn their native tongue. Quite simply, children learn to worship by regularly being in Worship. **So families with little ones should feel free to worship together in the Pray-Ground!**

FPCNC also offers **babysitting during our Sunday Service** provided by Saturnina Greeves-Cooper and Lizz Reyes from Wee Care Nanny Agency. Our 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.**

**If you wish to place flowers** in the Sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, baptism, or birthday, or to memorialize a beloved family member or friend, please contact the church office.

**SIGN UP to Read, Usher or Greet** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This Sunday's organ prelude is the lively third movement from Symphony I (two different movements from this symphony were heard last Sunday) composed by **Louis Victor Jules Vierne** (1870-1937). As the organist of Notre-Dame de Paris from 1900 until his death, Louis focused on organ music, including six organ symphonies and a Messe Solennelle for choir and two organs. He toured Europe and the United States as a concert organist, and his students included Nadia Boulanger and Maurice Duruflé. He studied at the Paris Conservatoire with Cèsar Franck and then Charles-Marie Widor. Vierne became Widor's assistant in the organ class and as organist at Saint-Sulpice. He remained Assistant to Widor in the organ class, and also to his successor Alexandre Guilmant. Our postlude is the famous "Jig" (or Gigue) Fugue by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750). It is a brisk, rhythmic, four-voice dance fugue and is technically brilliant, light-hearted and energetic with its frolic triple meter. Bach wrote this fugue, which stands alone not attached to a prelude, in his earlier years, presumably around 1705-1706.

Our FPCNC Choir sings a beautiful arrangement of the spiritual *Steal Away* by **John Barnard** (born 1948). John is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists (FRCO), an Associate of the Royal School of Church Music (ARSCM) and an active developer of church music as a composer, arranger, choir director and organist in North West London, England. Barnard was on the Council of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland and has been active in helping to assemble such publications as Hymns for Today's Church, Carols for Today and Psalms for Today. He has been Director of Music at a series of high-profile churches, which include Emmanuel Church (Northwood), St Alban's Church (North Harrow), John Keble Church (Mill Hill) and St John the Evangelist Church (Stanmore). He returned to John Keble Church in September 2010, following the appointment of Canon Chris Chivers as Vicar.

Our offertory anthem is by another English composer and musician specializing in Anglican church music, **Geoffrey Turton Shaw** (1879-1943). After Cambridge, where he was an organ scholar, he became a schoolmaster, then a schools inspector, while producing a stream of compositions, arrangements, and published collections of music. He was awarded the Lambeth degree of Doctor of Music. Shaw worked with his brother Martin Shaw, also a composer, while his son Sebastian was a Shakespearean actor who is remembered for the Star Wars role of Anakin Skywalker.

## TODAY

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are in celebration of the marriage of Jennifer Gulden and Jay Luther.

**TODAY, we are joined by** Jonathan Lee Walton, Ph.D., who is a social ethicist and religious educator known for engaging American evangelical traditions. On January 1, 2023, he became the 8<sup>th</sup> president of Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the author of two books, *A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World*, Westminster John Knox Press, and *Watch This! The Ethics and Aesthetics of Black Televangelism*, NYU Press. Prior to becoming president of Princeton Seminary, he served as the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church at Harvard University and as dean of the Divinity School at Wake Forest University. President Walton will be participating in our Worship Service and delivering the sermon along with presenting the Adult Forum discussing *Theological Education in the Contemporary Age: Expanding the Table* after Worship. **A light lunch will be included.**



## THIS WEEK

FPCNC Music & Arts Presents...

# Diana Golden, Cellist

Monday, September 25 at 7:30pm



Join us for a program of works from the 21st Century for solo cello including the premiere of a newly commissioned work by Ellinor Petersen

Free Admission

Donations to the FPCNC Music Ministry will be accepted.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

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[www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org) | 203-966-0002

## MEN'S GATHERING

**MEN'S GATHERING** will meet via Zoom this **Wednesday, September 27, from 7:00–8:00am** and our guest speaker will be Doug Gillespie, a founding member of our Men's Gathering. Doug will be talking about New Canaan "Then & Now—Perspectives from Two Tours of Duty". We're excited to hear from Doug and to engage in a lively discussion. Come and join us for virtual but very real fellowship and learning. All men are welcome, and feel free to

invite any friends. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday! Any questions or for the Zoom link, contact Mark Magnusen ([mmagnusen@yahoo.com](mailto:mmagnusen@yahoo.com)) or Wendy ([wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org)).

**Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies** has begun and is every **Wednesday** at a **NEW TIME, 10:00am**. Please come at 9:45am to share a cup of tea or coffee. We will be continuing our study of the book of Matthew and then the book of Acts to follow. Come and see! Everyone is invited!


**English Handbells Choir** rehearsals resume this **Wednesday, September 27 at 4:30pm** in our Sanctuary. If you are curious, come give us a try. Learn how to hold and ring bells as well as different bell-ringing techniques. We prepare music and ring roughly once a month during Worship. Our Whitechapel Handbells were recently refurbished and are like new! Please call Terry if you have questions at 203-408-2861 or email him at [terry@fpcnc.org](mailto:terry@fpcnc.org).

## THIS WEEK (Cont'd)

**Youth Choir & Chimes** begins this **Wednesday, September 27** from 5:30-6:15pm. An opportunity for our Youth in 3rd through 8th grade to have fun together, develop their singing skills, and learn the fundamentals of Chimes and Handbells with the opportunity to perform in a welcoming environment. Our Youth are directed by Terry Flanagan, our Director of Music and Fine Arts. For questions about these or any of our music ministry opportunities, please email Terry at [terry@fpcnc.org](mailto:terry@fpcnc.org).



## NEXT SUNDAY



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN


**ALAN TIEGER**  
SENIOR TRIAL LAWYER, OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR,  
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

**OCTOBER 1ST, 2023**  
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

**10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**11:30 AM ADULT FORUM**

DISCUSSING PURSUING  
TRUTH AND  
JUSTICE AND  
GIVING VOICE  
TO THE VOICELESS

ALL  
ARE  
WELCOME!



Join us on **Sunday, October 1** for our next Adult Forum to hear **Alan Teiger, Senior Trial Lawyer, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia** who will be discussing *Pursuing Truth and Justice and giving Voice to the Voiceless* at 11:30am immediately following our Worship Service.

Alan Teiger began his career as a Prosecutor working for the U. S. Department of Justice in Washington DC in the Criminal Civil Rights Division which investigates racial violence, police brutality and the Ku Klux Klan including In the Rodney King case. Mr. Teiger prosecuted two of the four Los Angeles Police Department officers charged in the beating. In 1994, Mr. Teiger left the Department of Justice to serve as a trial attorney in the newly formed office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). There he had the distinction of having been involved in the tribunals' final trial of Ratko Mladic. In Mladic's genocide trial, the ex-Bosnian Serb general was accused of ordering the massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica. Prosecutor Teiger demanded a life sentence for Mladic, saying a lesser sentence would be 'an insult to the victims, living and dead and an affront to justice to

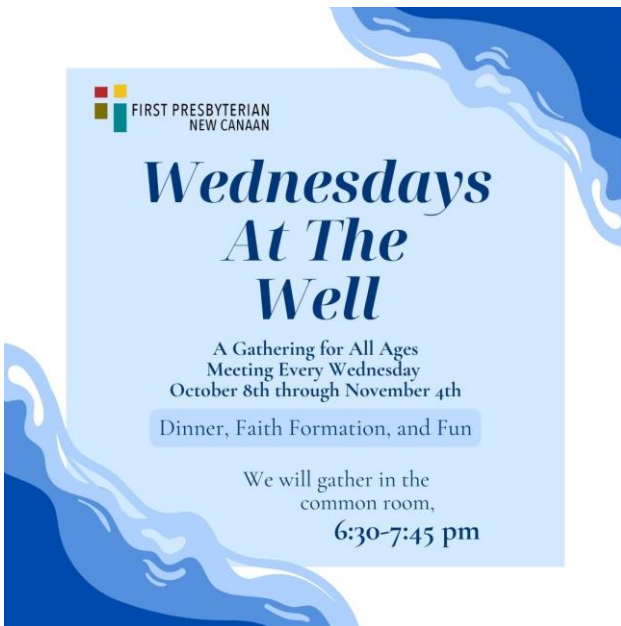
impose a sentence other than the most severe available under law". Following the end of the ICTY, Mr. Teiger was chosen to join the recent Kosovo Tribunal as a Senior Prosecutor. Until last November, the position of Chief Prosecutor of the Kosovo Tribunal was held by American Jack Smith, the current Special Counsel in the investigation of the January 6 Insurrection. **A light lunch will be included. Please call the Church office to RSVP.**

**REMINDER: Cents-ability is next Sunday, October 1** – Please consider bringing your spare change to church that day. All change collected will be donated to the New Canaan Food Pantry. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger.





## LOOKING AHEAD



Join us for **Wednesdays at the Well** beginning on October 4 from 6:30–7:30pm. **Wednesdays at the Well** is a six-week series of intergenerational dinner and faith formation gatherings for literally **all ages** of our FPCNC community. Our theme will be “Hope”, a vital Christian practice. Intergenerational learning and fellowship nurtures and strengthens faith development in young people, older people, and everyone in between. Communities of faith are one of the very few institutions in our society in which people can build genuine, authentic relationships that cross the boundaries of age outside of our immediate families. **So mark your calendars for Wednesday evenings October 4 through November 8 and join us!**

**NEW COVENANT HOUSE** – we need **THREE volunteers** to help on **Saturday, October 7** to prep and serve the food at the shelter. Sign up here or call the church office if you’d like to help.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5AE28A7FF2-newcovenant#/>



**On Sunday, October 8, following the Worship Service, we are holding a Sunday School Open House!** Families of students in Sunday School, folks who are considering volunteering, and anyone in the congregation who is interested in what our young people are learning this year in Sunday School are all warmly welcome to come see an overview of the curriculum and ask any questions you may have about Sunday School and what it’s all about. *Check us out in the Common Room after the Worship Service.*

**Because our Sunday School is growing, we need you** to help our children grow in their faith and strengthen their connections to our church community. In short, we need more adults to be a part of the fun! Adults (and older teens as well) can sign up by clicking here: <https://fpcnc.breezechms.com/form/Teachers2023-24>. The form gives you a chance to indicate which age group you prefer working with if you have a preference, and how often you anticipate being able to volunteer. As we have a wide range of ages of children in our Sunday School, having more volunteers involved means we can create age/grade breakout groups that will allow for deeper conversation and meaningful relationship building. All resources for leading a Sunday School lesson are provided well in advance of the Sunday that you could be scheduled to lead, and I am here to facilitate and support all volunteers with whatever you need to have a rewarding experience helping our young disciples grow in their understanding and relationship to God. Please reach out with any questions to Steph Hare, Director of Family Ministries.

## LOOKING AHEAD (Cont'd)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

**THE REV. DR. MARGARET GRUN KIBBEN**  
CHAPLAIN, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REAR ADMIRAL, U.S. NAVY (RETIRED)

**OCTOBER 15TH, 2023**  
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

**10 AM** WORSHIP SERVICE

**11:30 AM** ADULT FORUM

DISCUSSING PRAYER  
IN THE HOUSE:  
THE HISTORY  
OF LEGISLATIVE  
PRAYER

ALL  
ARE  
WELCOME!



Join us on Sunday, October 15 at 10:00am as The Rev. Dr. Margaret Kibben will be our guest preacher and then will lead our next Adult Forum at 11:30am following our Worship Service. She will be discussing *Prayer in the House: The History of Legislative Prayer*.

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Kibben is the Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives and Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired). On January 3, 2021, Chaplain Margaret Grun Kibben was sworn in as the 62nd Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives, having served as a Chaplain for over 30 years in the Navy and Marine Corps. Born and raised in Warrington, Pennsylvania, Chaplain Kibben graduated from Goucher College and received both her Master of Divinity and her Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. Chaplain Kibben has served as a Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace and holds a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. In addition to Princeton Theological Seminary's Board of Trustees, Dr. Kibben serves on the boards for the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence, the World War II Foundation, and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. Dr. Kibben is a faculty associate for

Arizona State University's School of Politics and Global Studies. Margaret is married to Lieutenant Colonel Timothy J. Kibben, USMC (Retired). They reside in Alexandria, Virginia. Margaret enjoys cycling, swimming, gardening, cooking, and reading.

**Classic Whiffenpoofs – concert at FPCNC on the evening of October 13 and then joining us on Sunday, October 15 during our Worship Service.** Comprising Yale Whiffenpoof alumni, mostly from the 1960's and '70's, the Classic Whiffs, now in their twelfth year, have performed before audiences in Upper NY State, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Boston, Cape Cod, and the New Haven area. Drawing on traditional songs within the Whiffenpoof repertoire, the Classics remain serious about singing, rehearse diligently, and thoroughly enjoy the old songs in contemporary and challenging arrangements. Come join the fun!



## LOOKING AHEAD (Cont'd)



**Sip & Sing on Saturday, October 7, 5-8pm at FPC** – Join us for a festive afternoon of song and a "behind the scenes" Charis experience as YOU join Charis singers in making music. We invite you to "sip and sing" along with your voice part while Artistic Director Jeremy Wiggins leads us through some of our favorite works. Or you are welcome to just sip and listen! Our wonderful accompanist, Terence J. Flanagan, will treat us to a piece on the magnificent pipe organ, too! We'll continue the celebration with one of our famous receptions featuring an Oktoberfest theme of beer, wine and sweet and savory treats. Monies raised will go directly to support our 2023-2024 season which will include the return of an orchestra collaboration! We appreciate your support which allows us to continue bringing wonderful musical presentations to our friends, family, and neighbors. Tickets: \$75 single, \$125 duo, family pricing available at the door - click the QR Code above for tickets.





Rotary Club of New Canaan

## 38th Annual Lobsterfest!

Friday and Saturday, September 29th & 30th from 4pm to 8pm  
at the Steve Benko Pool Pavilion at Waveny Park

*Choose from Steamed Lobster, Lobster Roll,  
Grilled Salmon or Fried Chicken Dinners!*



Tickets: [www.newcanaanrotarylobsterfest.org](http://www.newcanaanrotarylobsterfest.org).

**Order by Labor Day for 10% Discount**

CURBSIDE pick up to dine at home.

DINE POOLSIDE with meal reservation. Wine and beer will be sold for onsite consumption.

HOME DELIVERY for orders of 8 or more.

Online orders only.

No tickets sold at door.





## **COMMUNITY (Cont'd)**



### **Woman 2 Woman**

This fall marks the tenth anniversary of Woman 2 Woman, the prison ministry Nancy Gernert co-founded at Bedford Presbyterian Church in 2013. Woman 2 Woman is a prison ministry program that connects women in our community with women incarcerated at Bedford Hills and Taconic prisons and has connected more than 150 women in the community with these 2 facilities. These women are our neighbors, yet

many of them have little to no outside contact. Our visiting program is designed to provide much-needed emotional support, encouragement and friendship. Our goal is also to stretch our own capacity for empathy and understanding by developing a relationship of mutual respect and caring with someone whose history and circumstances is typically very different from our own.

### **What You Can Do**

- Attend a 2-hour Zoom training session to discuss the program guidelines and to ask questions.
- Commit to visiting a woman in prison at least once a month.
- Determine whether you would like an experienced visitor to accompany you on your first visit.
- Attend visitor support groups, which are held three times a year. They provide a forum for sharing both the joys and frustrations of prison visiting and for discussing any questions or concerns you may have.

Please note that in order to become a Woman 2 Woman visitor, you must attend a training session. Questions, contact Nancy Gernert (914-763-0750/914-980-6431/ [nancygernert@gmail.com](mailto:nancygernert@gmail.com)). Zoom training scheduled for Monday, October 16 from 7:00–9:00pm at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6193223941> / Meeting ID: 619 322 3941.

## MISSION & OUTREACH UPDATE

### THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS – HERE’S AN UPDATE FOR OCTOBER!

Donations will be made to Save the Sound, Meals on Wheels, and First Candle’s Bereavement Conference in October. Watch out for additional service opportunities in October.

#### October is “Service Month”!

We continue to spread our love and service with a special effort in the month of October. Whether it is an effort close to your heart or one that is recommended by our Church, please be mindful of taking a photo of your efforts and sending those photos to Wendy ([wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org)) or Cindy ([c\\_graziano@msn.com](mailto:c_graziano@msn.com)). We will celebrate on Sunday, October 29, after church with photos of our volunteer efforts!

Among other charities, here are a few specific ways to be part of October Service Month:

1. **NEW COVENANT HOUSE:** *Need 3 more volunteers for October to cook and serve at the shelter (and 5-6 volunteers for November).*
2. **CT. DIAPER BANK:** We will be collecting diapers in October and delivering them to their warehouse in late October.
3. **SAVE the SOUND:** Look at their website for Upcoming Events throughout October and join in any cleanup of a beach near you. Go to [www.savethesound.org](http://www.savethesound.org).
4. **UNDIE SUNDIE (every Sunday in October):** Look for the baskets every Sunday for collections. In November, we drop off the baskets for their distribution to the homeless.
5. **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Interested in helping build a home? Final October date on a Saturday to be finalized. Watch for the announcement.
6. **KNITTERS:** Greenwich Hospital Volunteers always need help with shawls and blankets for patients. If interested, please call their volunteer office (203) 863-3222.
7. **RISING STARR STABLES:** Want to read to horses? This is for rescue horses at the farm in Wilton, CT. Available on Fridays, October 13 or 27. Coordinate with Cindy at [c\\_graziano@msn.com](mailto:c_graziano@msn.com).
8. **Domus:** After-school reading programs and other volunteer opportunities available in October. Coordinate with Cindy at [c\\_graziano@msn.com](mailto:c_graziano@msn.com).

Questions or if you’d like to help, contact the Church Office or Cindy Graziano at (203) 912-1991 / [c\\_graziano@msn.com](mailto:c_graziano@msn.com).



Liberation  
RECOVERY  
FOR LIFE Programs



# SOCK-TOBER!



**Donate NEW socks to support individuals and families with substance use and mental health disorders.**



**Help us collect 2,000 pairs of socks during the month of October!**

**Drop socks in collection box or purchase directly from Amazon Wishlist (scan QR code).**

*Men's and women's socks urgently needed.*





## Nothing says you care like underwear!

First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

will be collecting donations of underwear for men, women  
and children in need to help improve their lives in

### OCTOBER

- ♦ NEW women's panties ♦
- ♦ NEW men's boxers and briefs ♦
- ♦ NEW children's underwear ♦

All sizes and ages needed.

All items donated will be distributed to organizations that help those who are homeless,  
living in shelters, or who are on a low income.

Underwear is the most under-donated, and most needed, item of clothing. No one should be deprived of the simple, daily necessity of clean underwear that many of us take for granted. Hygiene and physical comfort are only a part of this basic human need. New, clean underwear also provides dignity and self-esteem. Cash donations are also welcome. Contact Cindy Graziano, the church office or leave the funds in the collection plate marked "Undie Sunday".

The Undies Project Inc. was started to fulfill this need.

[www.theundiesproject.org](http://www.theundiesproject.org)

The Undies Project Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.



## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

**New prayers and concerns:** In celebration of the wedding of Jennifer Gulden and Jay Luther who were married 9/23/23.

**Continued prayer and concerns:** Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); David Cisneros who is going through some very difficult hardships (Alice Cisneros and son Joseph Cruz); John Edwards; Linda Ferguson, recovering from knee surgery; Mark Harmon (Darlene's husband); Mara Hollander (close friend of Lanah Holden); The Lewis Family (friends of Lisa and Terry Flanagan); Janet Lindstrom and family (her daughter, Jennifer Lindstrom, died); Denise Lynch; Sandy Nissley; Marlene Powers; Spencer Reeves, recovering from surgery; Keith Simpson, recovering from surgery; the Abo Noktah family (the Syrian family FPCNC sponsored): 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.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is our presence around the world when disasters happen. Through them, we are on the ground in Maui, Syria-Turkey and Ukraine, responding to the enormous needs following wildfires and earthquakes and during war.

For First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, its Members, Session, Seekers, and the Community of Greenwich, CT.

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

## GROW IN FAITH

 **SILVER HILL HOSPITAL** If you know of someone in urgent need of mental health support, please remember the resource that our town has in the New Canaan Urgent Assessment Program. The town, in partnership with Silver Hill Hospital, is prepared to offer psychiatric assessment and tailored referral for ongoing care. The Program serves children, teens and adults who are New Canaan residents free of charge. To schedule an intake call, email [NCUA@silverhillhospital.org](mailto:NCUA@silverhillhospital.org) or call Silver Hill Hospital admissions at 1-866-542-4455 and indicate that you are asking about the New Canaan Urgent Assessment Program. For more details use this link: <https://silverhillhospital.org/new-canaan-urgent-assessment-program/>

**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 Allyn Bachran, Peg Bull, Debera Prosek, 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).



## CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

### Hawai'i Wildfires



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in response to the devastating wildfires in Hawai'i, which authorities are calling the deadliest natural disaster in state history. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by these catastrophic wildfires? — Give. Act. Pray.

**GIVE:** PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at [pcusa.org/hawaiifires](https://pcusa.org/hawaiifires), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR000165-Hawai'i" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



**ACT:** Assemble Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas — hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to [pcusa.info/heart](https://pcusa.info/heart).

**PRAY:** *Where do we go to even raise our prayers when our hale pule became a burnt victim to the ravages of the fire? Comfort us in our tears and carry our heavy hearts in our time of sorrow. Eventually Ke Akua, our energy will turn to rebuilding our homes, our businesses, our jobs, our lives. Walk with us during the long recovery that lies ahead. We will become frustrated by bureaucratic red tape and supply chain delays and price gouging. We will fume and shake our fists and we will cry even more tears. Yet, the journey will not be as overwhelming with you by our side.*  
(prayer excerpt from UCC Hawai'i Conference Minister the Rev. Dr. David K. Popham)

☐ \$500   ☐ \$125   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$25   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN **#3719**

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

In Check Memo: **"DR000165 - Hawaii"**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Presbyterian Mission

HF23-BI

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

### **SUNDAY, September 24**

**9 am** Music Rehearsals  
**10 am** Worship Service in-person and LocalLive  
**11 am** Coffee Hour  
11:15 am Cherub Choir Rehearsal  
11:30 am Adult Forum: Jonathan Walton, PH.D.,  
President of Princeton Theological Seminary

### **MONDAY, September 25**

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)  
3-8 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons (Choir Rm)  
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers  
7:30 pm Diana Golden, Cellist (Sanctuary)

### **TUESDAY, September 26**

9:30, 10:30, 11:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)  
10:30 am Staff Leadership Meeting  
8 pm Men's A.A. Group (closed)

### **WEDNESDAY, September 27**

7am Men's Gathering (Zoom)  
10 am Weekly Bible Studies  
4:30 pm English Handbells Choir Rehearsal

### **WEDNESDAY, September 27**

5:30 pm Youth Choir & Chimes Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, September 28**

3:30 pm Special Church  
7 pm Choir Rehearsal

### **FRIDAY, September 29**

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)  
3-8 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons (Choir Rm)

### **SATURDAY, September 30**

9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)  
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)

### **SUNDAY, October 1**

**9 am** Music Rehearsals  
**10 am** Worship Service in-person and LocalLive  
**11 am** Coffee Hour  
11:15 am Cherub Choir Rehearsal  
11:30 am Adult Forum: Alan Tieger – Senior Trial  
Lawyer, Office of the Prosecutor, International  
Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

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

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

Lisa Flanagan – soprano, Jennifer O'Neill – alto, Evan McCormack – tenor, Devin Mitchell – bass/baritone

**Lay Reader:** Armin Thies

**Ushers:** Jim Ely and Doug Gillespie

**Cross Bearer:** Armin Thies

### **MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

### **OUR PASTORS**

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

### **OUR STAFF**

Terence J. Flanagan, Director of Music and Fine Arts • Stephanie L. Hare, Director of Family Ministries  
Jim Riehl, Business Administrator • Wendy Starr, Office Manager • Stacy Arevalo, Seminary Intern  
Sherry Tate, Director of Cherub Choir • Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers

**SIGN UP to Read, Usher or Greet** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:**



**DONATE:**

