



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time • November 19, 2023 • 10:00am
178 OENOK 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

Adagio (from *Symphonie III, Op. 13*)

Charles-Marie Widor

***Call to Worship**

Stephanie Hare

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place;

People: we come today to rest in You.

Leader: You have been the voice that guides us;

People: we come today to listen.

Leader: You have been the host who feeds us;

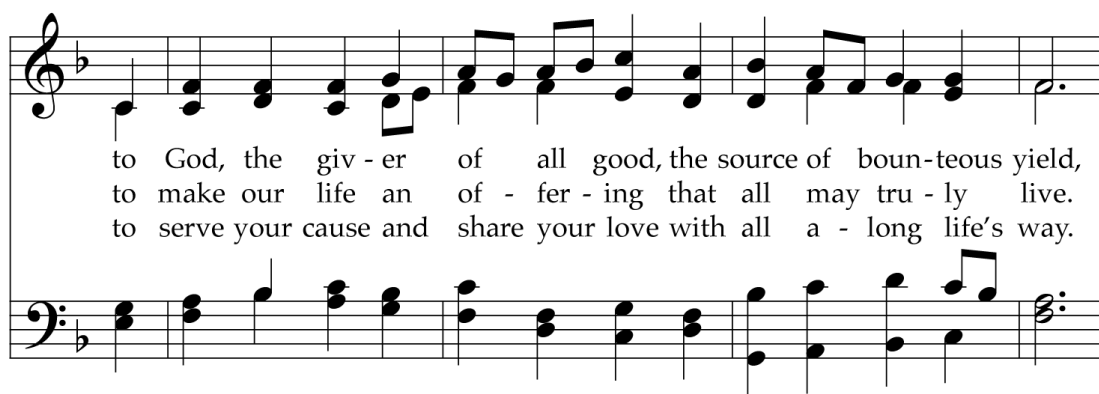
People: we come today to be filled.

Leader: You have been our joy and crown;

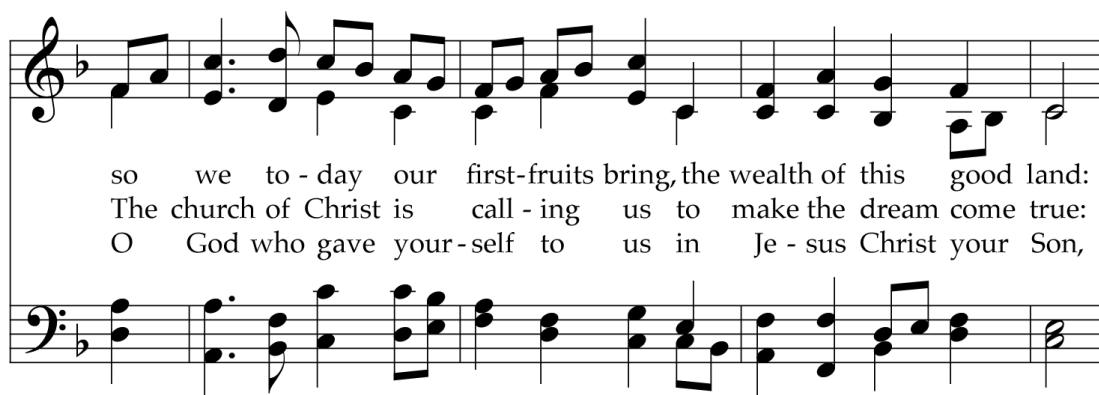
People: we come today to sing Your praise!



1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and give,
 3 In grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to-day,



to God, the giv-er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of-fer-ing that all may tru-ly live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a-long life's way.



so we to-day our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
 The church of Christ is call-ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God who gave your-self to us in Je-sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar-ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
 help us to give our-selves each day un-til life's work is done.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minute for Stewardship

Stephanie Hare

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Stephanie Hare

Invitation to Confession

Julian Brix

Leader: We know that our sins are too heavy for us to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. But we also know that You can lift that weight from us and transform our lives. So we lift our prayer of confession to You:

Confession of Sin (unison)

Julian Brix

Merciful God, we confess that once again, we have sinned. We've made mistakes. We've made wrong choices. We have hurt people, by action and inaction. We have wounded Your creation, by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over Yours, by action and inaction. And if the sum total of what we have done and what we have not done adds up to evil in Your sight, then in Your sight we ask You to turn us towards goodness. Forgive our past, and shape our future that we might live, by Your grace, into all that is good, true and beautiful...

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

Leader: In the strong name of Christ, we pray.

People: **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Julian Brix

Leader: Who is our God? Our God, the Psalmist declares, is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.." So, hear and believe the good news:

People: **We are forgiven, rescued and redeemed. Alleluia! Amen.**

*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

Julian Brix

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

Stacy Arevalo

Leader: Today we light a candle for God's global Vision of Compassion, Justice and Peace....

People – Sung response Hymn No. 757, verse 3: Today We All are Called to Be Disciples

Kingsfold

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

First Lesson – II Corinthians 9:6-15

Julian Brix

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Treasures in Heaven

Joseph W. Clokey

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,
Where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal,
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
Ask, and it shall be given you;
Seek, and ye shall find;
Knock and it shall be opened unto you,
For every one that asketh receiveth,
And he that seeketh findeth,
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 6: 19-21; 7: 7-8

FPCNC Choir

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Minister: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Walking Forward”

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Beach Spring



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your
end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to
cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in
to you, of - fering up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,
rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Prayers of the People

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

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.

Invitation to the Offering and Commitment

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: As we have done each year for decades, we now walk forward to commit our lives anew to You, Lord, and to pledge our support for Your work through the ministry and mission of this church. (After the Choir all who wish to make a pledge walk forward and place a pledge card in the basket along with today's offering and return to your seats...)

Offertory Anthem

Cantate Domino

Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni

Cantate Domino canticum novum.
Laus eius in ecclesia sanctorum.
Laetetur Israel in eo que fecit eum:
et filiae Sion exultant in rege suo.

Come sing a new song to your Maker.
O praise Him with the saintly congregation.
Israel, be joyful and glad in Him who made Isreal:
and children of Sion rejoice in your King.

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)

Julian Brix

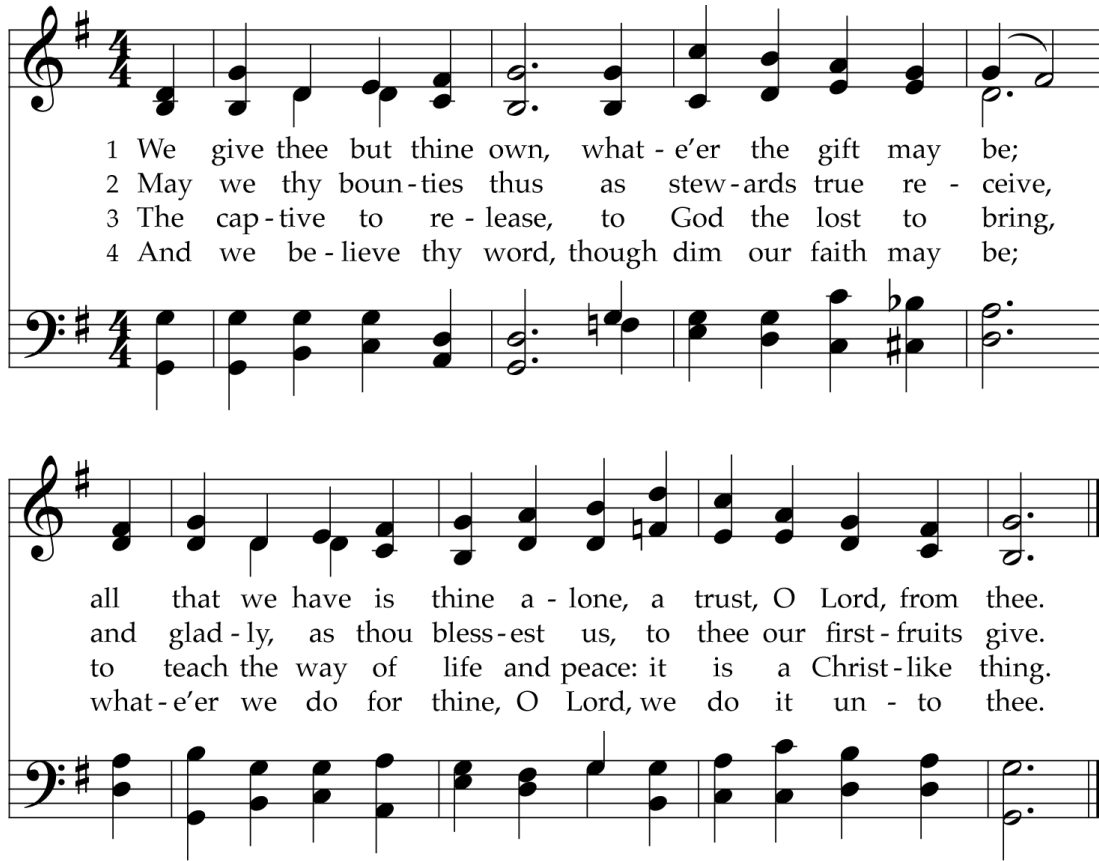
Generous God, with Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we are reminded to give You thanks for the many blessings and ministries of this congregation with which You have entrusted us. We are honored by the privilege to serve You in this time and place. Bless our offerings, given here and throughout the year, that our gifts of time, talent and treasure may be worthy of Your great love and help us to realize Your vision of the Beloved Community. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

Hymn No. 708

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Schumann



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap-tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be;

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

*Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

*Choral Amen

*Ringing of the Church Bell

*Postlude

Marcia (from *Symphonie III*, Op. 13)

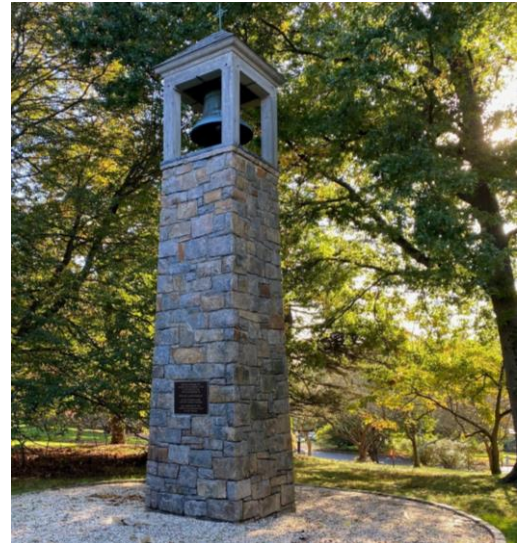
Charles-Marie Widor

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to Worship on this 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, when we here at the FPCNC observe Stewardship Commitment or “Walk Forward” Sunday! Today we remember and give thanks for the saints who have touched our lives and, in their own particular ways, have shown the generous love of God in their generous giving which continues to be a blessing in our lives and life together. We will reflect on the importance of giving through the II Corinthians and Matthew texts and hope that you will be inspired to consider your pledge and giving as an important part of your faith journey. Either way, we are glad you are here and pray you will experience the grace of God’s welcome and be spiritually renewed and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

Walk Forward Sunday – Not only is this a day on which we receive a lot of pledges but, for many of us who walk forward, it is also a moving expression of the congregation's coming together to pledge our support to each other, and to our Church, for the coming year. If you have already delivered your pledge to the Church, you are still encouraged to walk forward with one of the extra envelopes and pledge cards that are available as a symbol of your participation. The Choir will lead the walk forward procession. The pledge cards can also be used by any congregant who can't find the ones they received in the mail! Reflect on how you are investing in the “Beloved Community” with the abundance of blessings God has showered upon you. Thank you to the Stewardship Team.



The **Stewardship Lunch on November 5** was informative for everyone who attended. The link to a PDF of the presentation was included in the Friday, November 17 Tidings email or you can contact the church office for the link or a hard copy.

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. 11 about how to get involved!**

Children are also warmly welcome to stay in Worship! For children who 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>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:



DONATE:



ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Today's organ music is composed by French organist, composer, and teacher **Charles-Marie Widor** (1844-1937). The son and grandson of organ builders, Widor began his studies under his father and at the age of 11 became Organist at the Secondary School of Lyon. After studies in organ and composition in Brussels, he returned to Lyon in 1860 to succeed his father as Organist at Saint-François, where he remained for a decade. In 1870 the post of Organist at Saint-Sulpice in Paris became vacant, and Widor was given the appointment for a year; he left it in 1934. He taught at the Conservatory in Paris, succeeding César Franck as professor of organ in 1890 and Théodore Dubois as professor of composition in 1896. Among Widor's students at the Paris Conservatory were many of the most distinguished European organists active around the turn of the century, including Louis Vierne and Marcel Dupré. Albert Schweitzer studied organ under him, and Arthur Honegger and Darius Milhaud studied composition. As a composer Widor is best remembered for his 10 symphonies for organ, although he also wrote two operas, a sizable body of ballet music, and various other vocal and orchestral works.

Today's first choir anthem is composed by **Joseph Waddell Clokey** (1890-1960), an American educator, organist and composer of sacred and secular music in the first half of the 20th century. A student of Edgar Stillman Kelley, he served as dean of the School of Fine Arts at his alma mater, Miami University, from 1939 until 1946, and had previously been Professor of Organ at Miami University (1916–1923) and Pomona College. His work included two symphonies, including the "Dorian" Symphony, two orchestral suites, a string quartet, a cello and violin sonata, twelve choral works in large form, five operas, organ suites, many organ pieces, and more than a hundred published choral works. Clokey's father (also named Joseph Clokey) was a Presbyterian pastor, and this was certainly an influence on the younger Joseph Clokey's focus on sacred music. He was one of the most widely sung composers in churches during the 1950s. His son, Art Clokey, was the creator of clay animation characters Gumby, Pokey and Davey and Goliath.

Our second choir anthem is composed by **Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni** (1657-1743), an Italian organist and composer. He became one of the leading musicians in Rome during the late Baroque era, the first half of the 18th century. Giuseppe began vocal study with Pompeo Natali at the age of five and sang in the choir of San Giovanni dei Fiorentini from age eight. At Santi Apostoli he sang and studied counterpoint with Francesco Foggia, where his early compositions were performed. By age sixteen he was Maestro di Cappella at Santa Maria Maggiore, Monterotondo, a historic church near Rome. In 1673 as maestro for the cathedral at Assisi he began intensive study of the works of Palestrina, and in 1676 moved to the cathedral at Rieti. In 1677 he returned to Rome for a lifelong appointment as Maestro di Cappella at the Basilica of San Marco. In addition, he held a series of prestigious positions as maestro for Basilica dei Santi Apostoli, Rome (from 1686), at St. John Lateran (from 1708, where Palestrina had served from 1555 to 1560), and for the Cappella Giulia at St. Peter's (from 1719, immediately following Domenico Scarlatti), and Maestro di Cappella at the Collegium Germanicum in Rome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

THIS WEEK

FPC Office Hours:

Monday, November 20 – Wednesday, November 22: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Thursday, Nov. 23 – **THANKSGIVING – OFFICE CLOSED**

Friday, Nov. 24 – **OFFICE CLOSED**

Anything urgent, contact Scott (203-921-7536), or if it can wait until Monday the church office will respond to your voicemail/email.

Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies is on hiatus the week of November 22 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. It will resume on Wednesday, November 29 at 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!

LOOKING AHEAD

Welcome the Holidays – Sunday, November 26 from 4:00pm–6:00pm. All are invited to the annual **Advent Wreath Making, Gingerbread House Decorating, Decorating the Sanctuary and Christmas Tree Lighting.** Kick off the holiday season with Advent wreath making, gingerbread house decorating, kids Christmas crafts, carols, blazing yule logs, and seasonal snacks and beverages in the Common Room. Then volunteers can help the Worship, Music and Arts committee decorate the Sanctuary for the season. The festivities will conclude with the lighting of our 'Christmas Tree' on the FPCNC front lawn along with a few Christmas carols. Feel free to bring some Christmas cookies to share or bring a friend! All materials will be provided. Hope to see you there!



LOOKING AHEAD (Cont'd)



It's Dove Time! Each year, First Presbyterian Church joins with other local Houses of Worship to participate in Person to Person's (P2P) annual Dove program to provide food for families and seniors in our community who might otherwise go without during the holiday season.

In lieu of physically buying food for families, P2P is again offering a digital white dove this year. A suggested \$50 donation will be used to purchase a gift card to ShopRite which will be passed out to those who are in need. Each \$50 contribution will cover one family or senior and donations can be made via check or cash and brought to Church as we'll have a table at the rear of the Sanctuary the next few Sundays starting **today**. Please visit us there, make a donation and put a "dove on our Christmas tree!" Alternatively, you can mail your checks to the FPC Main Office, Attn: Wendy Starr, 178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840 (Checks should be payable to "FPCNC" and marked for Dove Program). We will collect the white dove donations, but P2P will purchase and deliver the gift cards to the clients.



Additionally, if you would rather give a donation for Scholarship or Emergency Assistance (green doves), you can do so directly on the P2P

website <https://www.classy.org/give/519794/#!/donation/checkout>. You can select "green dove" from the pull down menu. This is a wonderful and safe way to participate in this important ministry and the need is again great this year. **Please join us in support of the Digital Dove program, which will run from Sunday, November 19th to Sunday, December 10th.** For more information, please contact the church office or Janet Lanaway (203-966-1192; email janetlanaway@gmail.com). If anyone wishes to help Janet sell Doves on Sundays, please contact her and volunteer.

We're getting ready for Christmas Eve and we want you to be a part of the story! All ages are welcome to help tell the story of Jesus' birth at our **5:00 pm service on Christmas Eve**. Mark your calendars for these rehearsals: costume fitting and script distribution after Worship on Sunday, December 10; walk through rehearsal on December 17 following Worship; dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 23 from 10:30 am- noon. Minimal memorization is needed, but enthusiasm is encouraged! The congregation will participate on Christmas Eve with singing carols and bringing the light into the world with glow sticks. It will be enchanting and inspirational but light-hearted as well. Make this part of your Christmas Eve plans and help us, too! If you want to participate, please reach out to Jan Lucie at jlucie99@gmail.com/309-331-3468 or to Steph Hare at stephanie@fpcnc.org/ 203-680-8504.

CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday, Nov. 19 – Dec. 11	DOVE Program
Sunday, Nov. 26, 4:00pm	Welcome the Holidays! Advent Wreath Making, Gingerbread House Decorating, Sanctuary Decorating & Tree Lighting
Sunday, Dec. 3, 4:00pm	Charis Chamber Voices Concert
Thursday, Dec. 7, 3:00pm	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30pm	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7:00pm	New Canaan High School Choirs' Concert
Thursday, Dec. 14, 5:30pm	Newtown 11 th Anniversary Remembrance Service
Friday, Dec. 15, 6-8:00pm	Christmas Party at the Manse
Sunday, Dec. 24, 10:00am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service
Sunday, Dec. 24, 5:00pm	Christmas Eve Pageant
Sunday, Dec. 24, 10:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols with anthems sung by our FPCNC Choir joined by guest singers and harpist Krissy Teng.
Sunday, Dec. 31, 10:00am	First Sunday of Christmas Worship Service
Sunday, Dec. 31, 4:00pm	New Year's Eve Festive Concert & Party

MISSION & OUTREACH UPDATE

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

October was "Service Month"! Donations have been made to Save the Sound, Meals on Wheels, and First Candle's Bereavement Conference in October. We continue to spread our love and service.

Among other charities, here are a few specific ways that we were involved for October Service Month:

1. **NEW COVENANT HOUSE:** We have finished up the year with 6 volunteer times. We have had a great group of volunteers and can always use more help next year. Stay tuned for 2024 dates and a signup link. If interested, please coordinate with Cindy at c_graziano@msn.com
2. **UNDIE SUNDIE (October):** We collected 140 pairs of underwear.
3. **SOCK-TOBER (October):** We collected 180 pairs of socks.
4. **KNITTERS:** Thanks to the knitters we provided about 50 hats and blankets to Greenwich Hospital.
5. **CT. DIAPER BANK (October):** We collected 797 diapers.
6. **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.
7. **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Interested in helping build a home? If interested, please coordinate with Cindy at c_graziano@msn.com.
8. **KNITTERS:** Greenwich Hospital Volunteers always need help with shawls and blankets for patients. If interested, please call their volunteer office (203) 863-3222.
9. **RISING STARR STABLES:** Want to read to horses? This is for rescue horses at the farm in Wilton, CT. If interested, please coordinate with Cindy at c_graziano@msn.com.
10. **DOMUS:** After-school reading programs and other volunteer opportunities. If interested, please coordinate with Cindy at c_graziano@msn.com.

Any questions or if you'd like to help volunteer your time, contact Cindy Graziano.

UPCOMING CONCERT @ FPC

CHARIS 2023-24 Season

Performances at First Presbyterian Church New Canaan



Candlelight Christmas

with Festive Brass

December 3, 2023 - 4pm



Valentine's Soirée

Benefit Concert & Dinner

February 10, 2024



Bach's St. John Passion

with Baroque Orchestra

May 5, 2024 - 4pm

CHARIS CHAMBER VOICES | Jeremy Wiggins, Artistic Director

For tickets & more: www.CharisVocals.com

UPCOMING CONCERT @ FPC (Cont'd)

Sunday, December 31, 4:00pm New Year's Eve Festive "Go For Baroque" Concert and Party

Join the New Baroque Soloists on New Year's Eve at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary as they offer a program of celebratory music to end the year 2023 and bring in the new year 2024. Immediately following the concert, the party begins in the Common Room with food, drink, a New Year's blessing and mock countdown. Don't miss the music or the fun afterward!



Humanitarian response in Israel/Palestine

*"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children
of God."*
(Matthew 5:9)



We have witnessed the millions of people caught in the middle of the devastating conflict between the government of Israel and Hamas. This is a dire humanitarian crisis and the loss of human life is unimaginable. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable, and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of their neighbors. Our biggest concern is the safety and care for those caught in the middle of this conflict and in need of humanitarian aid, no matter their religious beliefs, politics or nationality. Years of recovery lie ahead. Will you stand in the "GAP" for all affected by this conflict? — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/GIVE-IP, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR000081-Israel/Palestine" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



ACT: Urge the U.S. government to advocate for an immediate cease-fire and the end of the blockade on Gaza to ensure urgent access to humanitarian aid, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

PRAY: *Dear God, We come before you with heavy hearts, burdened by the ongoing conflict in the land of Israel and Palestine. As we listen to the stories, and see the news of what is unfolding, we pray for all the people affected by this strife, for the innocent civilians, the children, and the families who endure the pain of violence and unrest. In times of darkness, help us remember that we are all your children, and that love and compassion can transcend the divisions and hate that lead to war. Grant us the strength to work tirelessly for a world where conflicts are resolved through dialogue, justice and respect for one another.*

☐ \$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: "DR000081-Israel/Palestine"



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



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

IP23-BI

PRAVERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

New prayers and concerns: Prayers for John and Kathy Edwards as John is back in Hospice Care at home; Prayers for Julie Fowler and her family as her parents Jerry and Jane Fowler were in a terrible car accident, where her father was killed and her mother is recovering in ICU. Julie and her husband David Veklund and their son Jack are visitors and have been joining us in Worship the last few weeks; Prayers for the family of David Johnson, son of Elsbeth Johnson, as he is suffering from ALS; Prayers for the family of Ann MacKenzie, who died just before All Saints' Day.

Continued prayer and concerns: Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); Mark Harmon (Darlene's husband); Mara Hollander (close friend of Lanah Holden); Denise Lynch; family of Connie Musa, who died October 26; Sandy Nissley; Marlene Powers; Spencer Reeves; family of Ruth Swanberg, who died October 22; 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 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, Daniel Mason, 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).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

SUNDAY, November 19

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service in-person/LocalLive
11:15 am Cherub Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, November 20

3-8 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons (Choir Rm)
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers

TUESDAY, November 21

9 am St. A's Walking with Purpose
10:30 am Staff Leadership Meeting
8 pm Men's A.A. Group (closed)

WEDNESDAY, November 22

4:30 pm English Handbells Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, November 23

(THANKSGIVING – OFFICE CLOSED)

FRIDAY, November 24

(OFFICE CLOSED)

SATURDAY, November 25

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

SUNDAY, November 26

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service (in-person/LocalLive)
11 am Coffee Hour
11:15 am Cherub Choir Rehearsal
4 pm Welcome the Holidays! Advent Wreath
and Sanctuary Decorating, Tree lighting

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

Greeters: Cathy and Rick Hollingsworth

Lay Readers: Julian Brix, Stacy Arevalo and Stephanie Hare

Ushers: Jim Ely and Bob Spangler

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>

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