



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Third Sunday after Epiphany • January 21, 2024 • 10:00am
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 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

Præludium Circulare (from *Symphoine II, Op. 13*)

Charles-Marie Widor

***Call to Worship**

Stephanie Hare

Leader: Silence your scattered thoughts and lay down your distractions. God calls us here to worship.

People: **We are here to worship.**

Leader: Drop your nets and leave your boats. God is with us. Jesus calls us.

People: **We are here to worship.**

Leader: Let us worship God together.

People: **We are here to worship our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer!**

***Hymn No. 151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Kings of Orient

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun-tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais-ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh-ing, bleed-ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro-ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Stephanie Hare

Call to Confession

Janet Lanaway

Leader: Jesus calls to us: to change our hearts and change our lives! He calls us to repent, and believe the good news. The mercy and forgiveness we have already received enables us to be honest about the places in our lives in need of transformation, so let us confess our sin together...

Confession of Sin (unison)

Janet Lanaway

God of mercy, we confess that we have settled down in Nineveh. We have gotten comfortable in our categories: haves and have-nots, makers and takers, bigots and bystanders, self-starters and subordinates, law-abiders and illegals, the perpetrators and the innocent. We confess that we are comfortable living under systems of injustice and exploitation. We confess our discomfort in speaking truths that unmask idolatries. Make us ready to follow Jesus, ready to repent, and eager

to change our hearts and lives. Call to us again, and show us your mercy. Let us hear your good news again...

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Janet Lanaway

Leader: God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation. Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation. Hear and believe the good news of God's grace:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen!

*Gloria Patri (Refrain to Hymn No. 113)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

*Passing of the Peace

Janet Lanaway

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 – Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Jennifer Van de Graaf

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰When 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.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Laudate Nomen Domine

Dr. Christopher Tye

*Laudate Nomen Domini,
vos servi Domini,
ab ortu solis usque
ad occasum eius.*

*Decreta Dei justa sunt,
et cor exhilarunt.
Laudate Deum, principes
et omnes populi.*

O come, ye servants of the Lord,
And praise His holy Name;
From early morn to setting sun,
His might on earth proclaim.

His laws are just, and glad the heart;
He makes His mercies known:
Ye princes come, ye people too,
And bow before His throne.

FPCNC Choir

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Minister: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Follow the Leader”

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 “Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don’t know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you’ve found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I’ll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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.

Calling for the Offering

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Minister: With open hearts and open hands, we let go of the things that possess us, we offer our gifts to God, and we dedicate our lives in service to Jesus Christ. Freely we have received, now freely let us give.

Offertory Anthem

Kings in Glory

Martin Shaw

Three Kings in great glory of horses and men,
In haste come ariding o'er mountain and fen;
For their King is awaiting, and lo they would bring,
The best of their treasure to give to their King.

Poor shepherds lie huddled tonight on the plain,
Their silly sheep guarding from danger and pain;
For the wolves howl around them, and bitter the air,
That blows o'er the snowfield all frozen and bare.

Come monarchs, and enter, your Monarch is here,
Doff crown, on the bare sod fall down and revere;
For the best you can offer is little, I trow,
To the Lord God of Heav'n you're akneeling to now.

Come shepherds, and fear not, he will not despise
The gifts that you bring him, tho' rude in men's eyes.
See, he's not arrayed here in purple and gold,
God's Lamb lies as helpless as lamb of your fold.

Then simple and gentle, and foolish and wise,
Come adore the great Lord of the earth and the skies,
Who deigns for us all on this night to be born,
This night that is fairer than midsummer morn.

Allison Gray – soprano, FPCNC Choir

***Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The First Noel

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all
creatures here below. Praise God above, ye
heavenly host. Creator Christ and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Jennifer Van de Graaf

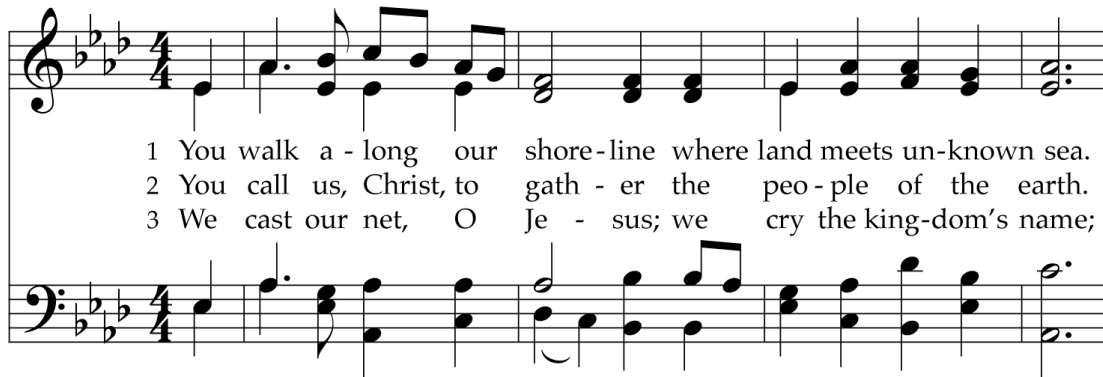
Holy God, change our hearts and our lives. Renew us by Your good news. Use the gifts we bring for Your holy work of transformation, as we seek to follow where Jesus leads us. Amen.

SENDING

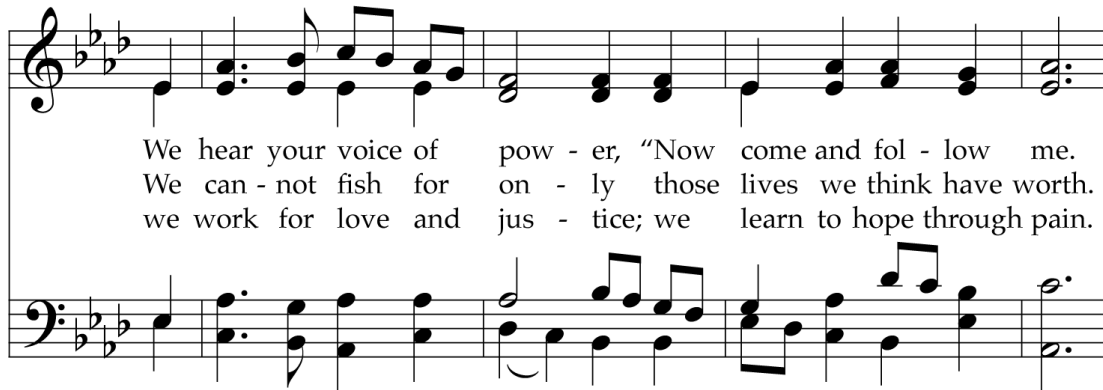
*Hymn No. 170

You Walk Along Our Shoreline

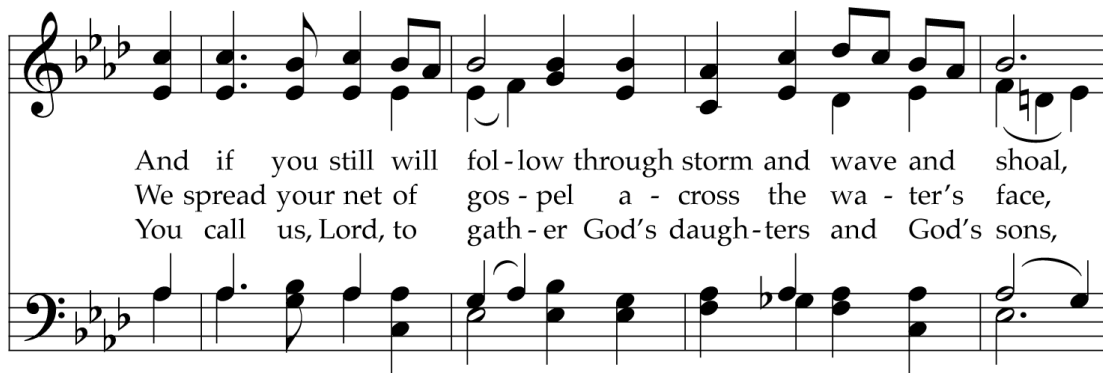
Wie lieblich ist der Maien



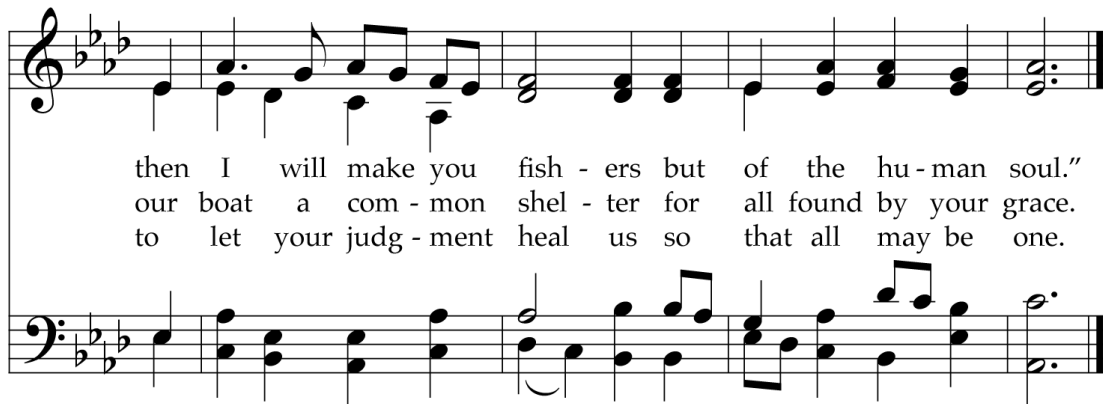
1 You walk a - long our shore-line where land meets un-known sea.
2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we cry the king-dom's name;



We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.
We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth.
we work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain.



And if you still will fol-low through storm and wave and shoal,
We spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,



then I will make you fish - ers but of the hu - man soul."
our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
to let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

*Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

*Choral Amen

*Ringing of the Church Bell

*Postlude

Finale (from *Symphonie II, Op. 13*)

Charles-Marie Widor

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to Worship on this Third Sunday after Epiphany (January 6 was the Feast of the Epiphany)! We are glad that you are here and pray you will reflect on how God extends the call to you to follow through believing. We will continue in this season of Epiphany to explore what it means to follow Jesus and walk in His light through the lectionary texts for this Sunday in Jonah and Mark. We are glad that you are joining us for Worship and pray that you will hear “God’s Word” to you and be spiritually refreshed and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

All children from Kindergarten age on up are welcome to join us for Sunday School this morning! Children depart the Worship service for Sunday School after the Blessing for Young Disciples. Sunday School is held upstairs in the “piano room” of the Bliss House (at the top of the stairs closest to the Pastor’s Study). Adults can meet up with their children in the Common Room immediately following Worship. During the winter quarter, we will be learning about Jesus’ life and ministry, the work of his Disciples, and how we can be disciples too!

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.

Cents-ability. We're now leaving the Cents-ability jar in the hallway on the way to the Common Room. If you have any spare change, please drop it into the jar either on the way to Coffee Hour or whenever you're in Church. You can also take home a small cents-ability bank to collect change. All change collected will be donated to the New Canaan Food Pantry. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger.



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 by **Charles-Marie-Jean-Albert Widor** (1844-1937). Widor's musical studies followed an unorthodox route. Rather than going to the Paris Conservatoire, he was encouraged by the organ builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll (a family friend) to study privately in Brussels with Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (whose French pupils already included Alexandre Guilmant) and François-Joseph Fétis. Back in Paris, Cavaillé-Coll promoted his protégé, introducing him to Liszt, Rossini and Saint-Saëns. Widor's playing as a young man was of such quality that he was invited to participate in the prestigious inaugurations of the organs at Notre-Dame and La Trinité, and in 1869 he became Saint-Saëns's Assistant at the Madeleine. In 1870, supported by recommendations from Gounod and Cavaillé-Coll, he was appointed Lefébure-Wély's successor as Titulaire of Saint-Sulpice, the post he was to hold for the next sixty-four years, and his earliest assistants included Fauré and Messager.

Our first choir anthem is composed by **Christopher Tye** (c.1505-before 1573), an English Renaissance composer and organist. Probably born in Cambridgeshire, he trained at the University of Cambridge and became the Master of the Choir at Ely Cathedral. He is noted as the music teacher of Edward VI of England and was held in high esteem for his choral music, as well as chamber works. It is likely that only a small percentage of his compositional output survives, often only as fragments; his *Acts of the Apostles* was the only work to be published in his lifetime. He ceased composing when he became a clergyman, returning to Ely Cathedral and later becoming Rector of Doddington, Cambridgeshire. Today, he is perhaps best known for the hymn *Winchester Old*, based on a theme from *Acts of the Apostles*, which forms the basis of the most commonly performed version in the United Kingdom of *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*.

Our offertory anthem is composed by **Martin Edward Fallas Shaw** (1875-1958), an English composer, conductor, and (in his early life) theatre producer. His over 300 published works include songs, hymns, carols, oratorios, several instrumental works, a congregational mass setting (the *Anglican Folk Mass*), and four operas including a ballad opera. Shaw was the eldest of nine children, son of the Bohemian and eccentric James Fallas Shaw, composer of church music and Organist of Hampstead Parish Church. He was the elder brother of the composer and influential educator Geoffrey Shaw and the actor Julius "Jules" Brinkley Shaw. He studied under Charles Villiers Stanford at

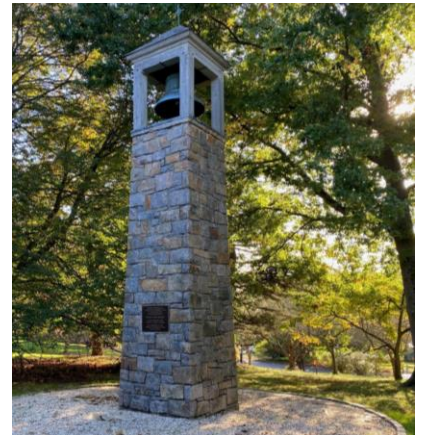
the Royal College of Music, together with a generation of composers that included Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and John Ireland. He began his career as an organist, serving at Emmanuel Church, West Hampstead, from 1895 to 1903. He did much editorial and executive work in connection with popularizing music, the encouragement of community singing and raising standards of choral singing in small parish churches.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School is growing, and we can use your help! If you are interested in helping Steph teach Sunday School this year, please reach out to Stephanie Hare (stephanie@fpcnc.org) or by completing this short form here: <https://fpcnc.breezechms.com/form/Teachers2023-24>. Let's help our young disciples grow in their understanding and relationship to God!

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE 2024

Stewardship 2024 Pledge. On November 19 we came together to *pledge our support to each other, and to our Church, for the coming year and investing in the "Beloved Community"*. Please prayerfully complete the 2024 Pledge Card, which you should have received in the mail or there are extra pledge cards in the back of the Sanctuary. If you didn't submit your pledge during the "walk forward" time in our Worship service, you can place it in any of the collection plates or mail it back to the Church. We pray that you will join us in committing ourselves anew to the ministry and mission of Christ through our congregation and be more generous stewards of the abundance we have received.



THIS WEEK



MEN'S GATHERING will meet via Zoom this **Wednesday, January 24th from 7:00 – 8:00am**. Our featured speaker will be Michael Reeves. Michael will share some crazy - and maybe provocative - ideas for FPCNC, all with the goals of filling the seats and making FPCNC a buzzing community hub. 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 at 7am!

(Men's Gathering meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.) Any questions, contact Mark (mmagnusen@yahoo.com).

Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies meets every Wednesday 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!

THIS WEEK (Cont'd)



 **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN**

Wednesdays At The Well

Our next series of Wednesdays at the Well begins January 10th!
The theme for January is "Make Peace."

Wednesdays at the Well are midweek, intergenerational opportunities to learn and grow in faith together - and all ages are invited to participate.

We will be exploring peace for four Wednesdays in January in the Common Room: (1/10, 17, 24, & 31).

Dinner will be served and all are invited!
6:30-7:45 pm

Join us for our next session of **Wednesdays at the Well** on January 24th! Our theme for January is "Make Peace"; we will be exploring topics such as: what does peace mean; the practice of cultivating inner peace; and learning to look at differences between people with a sense of curiosity.

If you're planning to attend, please call the Church office so we can properly plan for dinner.

CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesdays in January	Wednesday at the Well (January 10, 17, 24, 31) – 6:30-7:45pm
Thursday, Jan. 25, 3:00pm	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
Friday, Jan. 26, 7:30pm	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
Saturday, Jan. 27, 12:00pm	Marion Blose Memorial Service
Saturday, Feb. 3, 12:30pm	Karen Wells Memorial Service (mother of Freia Mierendorf)
Sunday, Feb. 4, 11:30am	Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, Feb. 4, 3:00pm	Lumos Orchestra Concert
Saturday, Feb. 10, 4:00pm	Charis Chamber Voices Annual Fundraising Gala
Sunday, Feb. 25, 10:00am	FPC Annual Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 25, 2:00pm	Abby Wise Memorial Service
Friday, March 2, 6:00pm	SAVE THE DATE for the First Annual Agape Gala: The Called to Conquer Awards (Support the MLK Community Presbyterian Church – Springfield, MA)

LOOKING AHEAD

FPCNC invites you to participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring*** on **February 4th at 11:30am**. We love the big game, but we love our neighbors more. An estimated 111 million people watch the Big Game while 53 million Americans struggle with hunger. Don't sit on the sidelines. Join us in making a difference in our community!

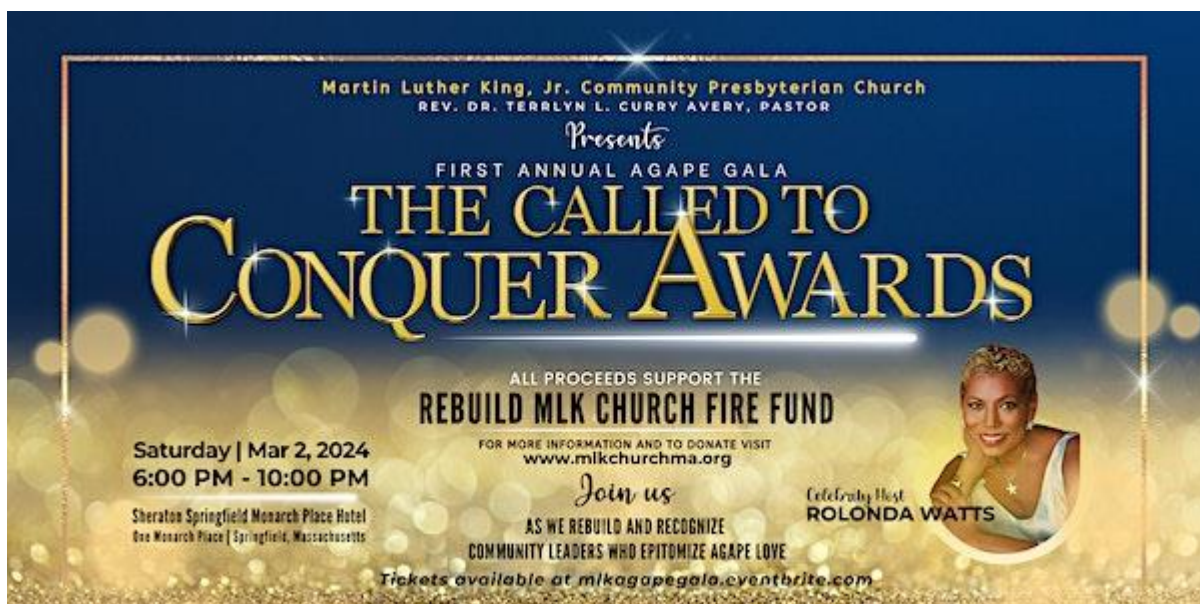


The week *before* the Super Bowl, we will host our very own *Souper Bowl*. Following church, we will serve a soup lunch in the common room. Drop a donation in the specially marked stock pot and enjoy some delicious soup and fellowship. Can't stay? Your donation can also get you a frozen pint of soup to go. Suggested donation is \$5 per pint. All donations will be given to The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield. Last year we raised almost \$900!

Interested in making soup or helping serve on February 4th? Contact our SOUPer coordinator, Lisa Flanagan (917-653-3127, DoRaeMe@me.com).

**About TACKLE HUNGER: Home of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Tackle Hunger's signature Souper Bowl of Caring effort is a youth-inspired movement working across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. Mobilizing grassroots resources including churches, schools, civic groups and caring individuals, Tackle Hunger and the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has created over \$175 million worth of support that stays completely local to make sure no one goes without soup in their bowl.*

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 2 from 6:00–10:00pm
for The First Annual Agape Gala: The Called to Conquer Awards
at the Sheraton Monarch Place Hotel, Springfield, MA**



UPCOMING CONCERTS @ FPC

New Canaan Chamber Music's next concert, "The Virtuosi", will be on Thursday, January 25th at 3pm and Friday, January 26th at 7:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Pianist Andrew Armstrong will be joined by renowned American violinist Kevin Zhu and acclaimed German cellist, Jan Vogler.

Tickets: www.newcanaanchambermusic.org.



Charis Chamber Voices invites you to our Valentine's Soirée, a benefit concert & dinner celebrating Love at the **First Presbyterian Church**.

Saturday, February 10th at 4:00 pm

Enjoy a concert followed by wine & beer, hors d'oeuvres & food stations, dessert, a live auction and more!

Our annual fundraising gala will raise money for our May 4th and 5th presentations of Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. John Passion*, accompanied by a full Baroque orchestra.

Tickets: Single \$125 Couple \$200
(Cocktail attire)



UPCOMING CONCERTS @ FPC (Cont'd)

The First Presbyterian Church welcomes Orchestra Lumos on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 3:00pm

Inspired by Clara Schumann... Clara, wife of Robert, dear friend of Brahms, duo partner of violinist Joseph Joachim and champion of Mendelssohn and



Chopin. Her influence was significant as a performer, teacher and composer and during her long career she changed the format and repertoire of the piano recital by lessening the importance of purely virtuosic works. In an era where women did not have careers, her unbelievable perseverance as both a composer and a devoted wife and a mother to eight children, made her an extraordinary role model for her time.

Featured artists: Deborah Buck, *violin (L)*

Orli Shaham, *piano (R)*

Tickets: <https://orchestralumos.org/inspired-by-clara-schumann/>



EDITOR'S NOTES



Lost and Found: a Leatherman Skeletool was found last Sunday, January 14. Please call the church office if it's yours or if you know who it belongs to.

COMMUNITY



Waveny Lifecare Network's **NAVIGATOR** *Alzheimer's at Home for New Canaan*

Providing support and
guidance to those impacted by
Alzheimer's in New Canaan

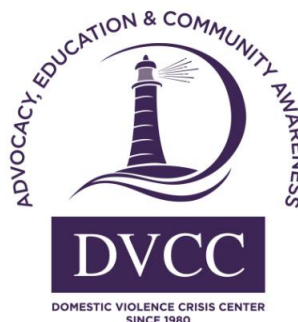
All Communications Confidential

- » Personal Alzheimer's Navigation Specialists
- » 24/7 accessibility
- » Complimentary grant based program
- » Exclusive respite apartment
- » Access to adult day programming
- » Assistance with trusted affiliated resources
outside of the Waveny Network
- » Wellness checks
- » Alzheimer's-specific caregiver support groups
- » Expedited access to Waveny's continuum
- » Dedicated mobile app

Contact us for a consultation
Phone: 203-594-5289
Email: Navigators@waveny.org



**Domestic violence doesn't take a break
for the holidays.**



**If you or someone you know needs help, call DVCC's
24-hour hotline at 203.588.9097 or visit the website
at DVCCCT.org for more information.**

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

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

New prayers and concerns: prayers of healing for Sherry Young (Kay Brix's friend) who is recovering from a fall that resulted in a broken hip; Joan Scherman (Mark Magnusen's friend) whose cancer has returned.


Continued prayer and concerns: Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); Judy and Tom Duncan (Lisa Flanagan's parents), as they both recover from COVID and Tom from pneumonia; Ashley (Lisa Flanagan's cousin) who had heart transplant; Jane Fowler, as she recovers from injuries; Amy Granato, who is battling lung cancer; Dan Hodges; Mark Harmon (Darlene's husband); David Johnson, son of Elsbeth Johnson, as he is suffering from ALS; Mark McEvoy, Jim McEvoy's brother, who is undergoing chemotherapy and other treatments for bone cancer; Denise Lynch; Sandy Nissley; Marlene Powers; Spencer Reeves; Devon Reich (Wendy Starr's friend's daughter) who is battling brain cancer; Gretchen Watkins as she's 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 around the world, responding to the enormous needs following wildfires and earthquakes and during war.

For the following PSNE Clergy: Greg Doll, Shelley Donaldson, Brandi Wolfe Drake, Wayne Eberly, Julie Emery, Eileen Epperson, Gail Faithful, John Ferguson, Thomas Fisher, Christine Foster, Julia Fuller, Royal Garren, and Robert Gibson.

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, January 21

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

MONDAY, January 22

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Tate Barn)
3-8 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons (Choir Rm)
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers

TUESDAY, January 23

9 am St. A's Walking with Purpose
9:30, 10:30, 11:30 Jumpin' Jams (Tate Barn)
10:30 am Staff Leadership Meeting
8 pm Men's A.A. Group (closed)

WEDNESDAY, January 24

10 am Weekly Bible Studies
4:30 pm English Handbells Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Wednesdays at the Well

THURSDAY, January 25

3:30 pm Special Church
3 pm New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
7 pm Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, January 26

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Tate Barn)
7:30 pm New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
3-8 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons (Choir Rm)

SATURDAY, January 27

9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)
12 pm Marion Blose Memorial Service

SUNDAY, January 28

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

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir
with:

Amy Minasian – soprano, Annie Chester – alto, Nickolas Brannan – tenor, Devin Mitchell – bass

Greeters: Sarah and Charlie Robinson

Lay Readers: Janet Lanaway, Jennifer Van de Graaf, Stephanie Hare and Stacy Arevalo

Ushers: Jim Ely and Drew Gurley

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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DONATE:

