



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Fourth Sunday of Easter • April 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: Adagio (from *Symphonie V, Op. 42*) Charles-Marie Widor

***Call to Worship** Stephanie Hare

Leader: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

People: **God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble,
and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!**

Leader: Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's holy love:

People: **O God, do not turn from us or hide Your face from us!
Be our guide and our light instead!**

Leader: One thing we ask of God:

People: **That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life,
and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.**

Leader: Beloved of God, enter this Worship in thanksgiving,

People: **for God is among and within us!
Thanks be to God!**

*Hymn No. 12:

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minute for Mission – Earth Day

Cindy Graziano

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Stephanie Hare

Call to Confession

Doug Gillespie

Leader: Let us confess our failures, and renounce our sins. Let us pray together the prayer printed in the bulletin and then individually in silence...

Confession of Sin (unison)

Doug Gillespie

People: Please hear us, loving God, when we cry to You, be gracious to us and answer our prayer. If we have slid away from new opportunities, or failed to give our best effort to long familiar duties, forgive us and restore us, merciful Friend. Christ Jesus is our light and salvation, of whom shall we be afraid? If we have become weary, and slipped into mirroring the prejudices and dissatisfactions of a greedy and unjust world, forgive us and heal us, gracious Companion. Christ Jesus is our light and salvation, of whom shall we be afraid? If we have performed well in public, smoothly keeping up appearances, while our personal faith has grown shabby and weak, forgive us and rehabilitate us, loving Savior. Christ Jesus is our light and salvation, of whom shall we be afraid?

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Doug Gillespie

Leader: Wait for the Lord. Be strong and allow your heart to take courage. Wait; yes, wait on the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Loving God, we praise You that our sins are forgiven, and that the future has again become an open door. Thanks be to You, God of grace and glory! Through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. 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

Doug Gillespie

Leader: The first words of the risen Christ to his followers were, "Peace be with you." May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please share that peace with one another.

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

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minister: 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 – Psalm 27:1-5

Doug Gillespie

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
²When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.
³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
⁴One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.
⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Kyrie (from *Missa in simplicitate*)

Jean Langlais

Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.

FPCNC Choir

Second Lesson – Daniel 3:1-7

The Rev. Mark Labberton

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples,

nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“An Unhooked Life”

The Rev. Mark Labberton

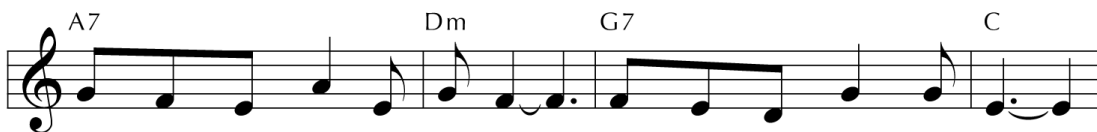
RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 661: His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Sparrow



1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged? Why should the shad-ows come?
2 “Let not your heart be trou-bled,” his ten-der word I hear,
3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,



Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and home,
and rest-ing on his good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
when song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies,



when Je-sus is my por-tion? My con-stant friend is he:
though by the path he lead-eth but one step I may see:
I draw the clos-er to him; from care he sets me free:



his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me;



his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Refrain

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, (I'm hap-py) I sing be-cause I'm free, (I'm free)

for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Prayers of the People

Stacy Arevalo

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

Stacy Arevalo

Leader: We have worshipped and bowed down to various gods over the course of our lives and life together. Set us free, now, O God, to worship You with our very lives, and with generous giving of our tithes, offerings and gifts.

Offertory Anthem:

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth (from *Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the firstfruits of them that sleep.

(Job 19:25-26, I Corinthians 15:20)

Lisa Flanagan – soprano, Nelva TeBrake – violin

***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.**

Our dedication is inconsistent at best, and so we pray that your Spirit would give us strength and grace to be more faithful disciples of Jesus, giving of ourselves in any way that You may call us and to Your glory. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 841:

God Is My Strong Salvation

Wedlock



1 God is my strong sal - va - tion; what foe have I to fear?
2 Place on the Lord re - li - ance; my soul, with cour-age wait;



In per - il and temp - ta - tion my light, my help, is near.
God's truth be thine af - fi - ance, when faint and des - o - late.



Though hosts en-camp a - round me, firm to the fight I stand;
God's might thy heart shall strength-en; God's love thy joy in-crease;



what ter - ror can con - found me, with God at my right hand?
mer - cy thy days shall length - en; the Lord will give thee peace.

*Benediction

The Rev. Mark Labberton

*Choral Amen

*Ringing of the Church Bell

*Postlude:

Now Thank We All Our God (from *Cantata 79*)

Johann Sebastian Bach

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to Worship on this Fourth Sunday of Eastertide. Today we welcome to the pulpit The Rev. Dr. Mark Labberton PhD. who will help us to reflect on the relationship between fear and faith for daily living. Through the lens of the two texts from the Psalms and the famous story of Daniel, we will reflect on how God calls us to renounce idolatry and to trust God to be our very life and being. Through the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we see what ordinary faith looks like in the face of extraordinary challenges. We are glad that you are joining us for Worship today and pray you will be spiritually refreshed and renewed, and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

Mark Labberton will also be leading our Adult Forum at 11:30am where he will discuss: **The Wisdom and Tyranny of Fear**. We hope you can join us.

Mark, an ordained PC(USA) Pastor and President Emeritus of Fuller Theological Seminary, is a writer, preacher, and leader. He hails from Washington State, graduated from Whitman College (BA), Fuller Theological Seminary(MDiv), and Cambridge University (PhD). Most of his pastoral ministry was spent as the Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, CA. He has authored four books and many articles, and is currently writing another book on fear. He is married to Janet Labberton and they have two adult sons. Mark and Janet live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

MARK LABBERTON
AN ORDAINED PC (USA) PASTOR &
PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

APRIL 21ST, 2024
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
11:30 AM ADULT FORUM

DISCUSSING:
THE WISDOM
AND
TYRANNY OF
FEAR.

ALL
ARE
WELCOME!

WWW.FPCNC.ORG

Note from Worship Committee:

During our year dedicated to exploring the search for peace, notice the over 600 cranes that grace the wall to the east of the Chancel and at the back of the Sanctuary. The crane is a Japanese symbol of peace, here in origami form. These cranes were first strung above the center aisle of our Sanctuary five years ago in conjunction with the Confirmation Class of that year although they were folded on commission.

All children from Kindergarten age on up are welcome to join us for Sunday School each Sunday! Children depart the Worship Service for Sunday School after the Blessing for Young Disciples. Sunday School is held upstairs in our dedicated room on the 2nd floor of Bliss House (enter staircase next to the Pastor's Study, at top of stairs go straight and it's last door on your right). Adults can meet up with their children in the Common Room immediately following Worship.

Children are 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.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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.**

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:



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!

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This Sunday, our organ prelude is music by **Charles-Marie-Jean-Albert Widor** (1844-1937). On Easter Sunday, we heard the well-known Toccata from *Symphony V, Op. 42*. We will hear the beautiful and expressive *Adagio* that precedes the *Toccata* today. Widor was an organist, composer and teacher of the late Romantic era. As a composer he is known for his ten organ symphonies. As of 2022, he is the longest-serving Organist of Saint-Sulpice in Paris, a role he held for 63 years (January 1870 – 31 December 1933). He also was Organ Professor at the Paris Conservatory from 1890 to 1896 (following César Franck) and then he became Professor of Composition at the same institution, following Théodore Dubois. Widor was a prolific composer, writing music for organ, piano, voice

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC (Cont'd)

and ensembles. Apart from his ten organ symphonies, he also wrote three symphonies for orchestra and organ, several songs for piano and voice, four operas and a ballet. The French organ builder Aristide Cavaillé-Coll, reviver of the art of organ building, was a friend of the Widor family and had arranged for the talented young organist's study at the Brussels Conservatoire. It was in January 1870, with the combined lobbying of Cavaillé-Coll, Saint-Saëns, and Charles Gounod, the 25-year-old Widor was appointed as Provisional Organist of Saint-Sulpice in Paris, the most prominent position for a French organist. The organ at St-Sulpice was Cavaillé-Coll's masterwork and the instrument's spectacular capabilities proved an inspiration to Widor.

Our FPCNC Choir's anthem is also from the French tradition, composed by organist **Jean François-Hyacinthe Langlais III** (1907-1991), a composer of modern classical music and improviser. Langlais became blind due to glaucoma when he was only two years old and was sent to the Institut National des Jeunes Aveugles (National Institute for Blind Children) in Paris, where he began to study the organ, with André Marchal. From there he progressed to the Paris Conservatoire, obtaining prizes in organ and studying composition with Marcel Dupré and Paul Dukas. He also studied improvisation with Charles Tournemire. After graduating, Langlais returned to the National Institute for Blind Children to teach, and also taught at the Schola Cantorum in Paris from 1961 to 1976. It was as an organist that Langlais made his name, following in the footsteps of César Franck and Charles Tournemire as Organiste Titulaire at the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris in 1945, a post in which he remained until 1988.

On Easter morning we hear *The Trumpet Shall Sound*, from **George Frideric Handel's** (1685-1759) *Messiah*. This morning we will hear the opening solo of the third part of the *Messiah*, *I know that my Redeemer Liveth*, sung by Lisa Flanagan. Handel was a German- British Baroque composer well known for his operas, oratorios, anthems, concerti grossi, and organ concertos. Handel received his training in Halle and worked as a composer in Hamburg and Italy before settling in London in 1712, where he spent the bulk of his career and became a naturalised British subject in 1727. He was strongly influenced both by the middle-German polyphonic choral tradition and by composers of the Italian Baroque. In turn, Handel's music forms one of the peaks of the high baroque style, bringing Italian opera to its highest development, creating the genres of English oratorio and organ concerto, and introducing a new style into English church music. He is consistently recognized as one of the greatest composers of his age. After his success with *Messiah* (1742), he never composed an Italian opera again. His orchestral *Water Music* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks* remain immensely popular. One of his four coronation anthems, *Zadok the Priest*, has been performed at every British coronation since 1727. Almost blind, he died in 1759, a respected and rich man, and was given a state funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Our organ postlude is an arrangement of **Johann Sebastian Bach's** (1685-1750) *Now Thank We All Our God*, from *Cantata 79*. Bach composed the church cantata *Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild (God the Lord is sun and shield)*, BWV 79, in Leipzig in 1725, his third year as Thomaskantor, for Reformation Day and led the first performance on 31 October 1725. The text was written by an unknown poet, who did not refer to the prescribed readings for the day. Bach began the libretto for the feast with a quotation from Psalm 84 and included two hymn stanzas, the first from Martin Rinckart's *Nun danket alle Gott*, associated with Reformation Day in Leipzig, as the third movement, and as the last movement the final stanza of Ludwig Helmbold's *Nun laßt uns Gott dem Herren*. Bach composed a work of "festive magnificence", structured in six movements. He scored the work for three vocal soloists, a four-part choir, and a Baroque instrumental ensemble of two horns, timpani, two transverse flutes (added for a later performance), two oboes, strings and continuo. Bach performed the cantata again, probably in 1730.

Sunday, May 12 is Mother's Day! Last year the men serenaded our women on their special day, and we are going to do so again this year. Start singing in the shower to work on your voice and join us as we prepare to sing on May 12. Reach out to Terry if you have questions.



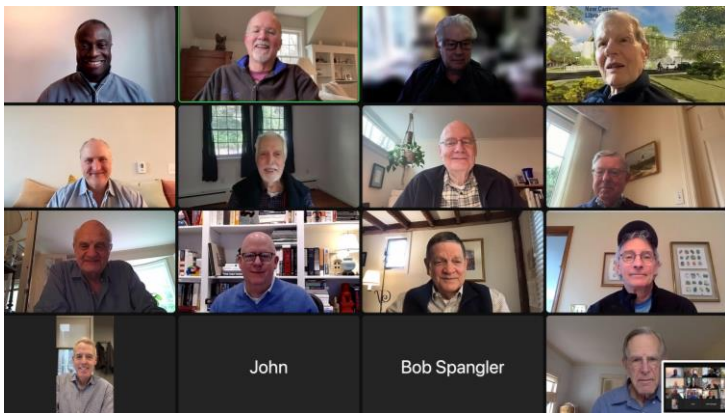
THIS WEEK

Church Office hours next week:

Monday – Friday, April 22 – 26 (**Scott out of office**)

The office will be open during this time. For any urgent Pastoral Care needs, please contact the office 203-966-0002 ext 1 or at wendy@fpcnc.org and Wendy will get in touch with Scott.

Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies, led by Darlene Harmon, meets every Wednesday at 10:00am and they will be studying the book of Acts. Please come at 9:45am to share a cup of tea or coffee. We hope you can come join us! Everyone is invited!



MEN'S GATHERING will meet via Zoom this **Wednesday, April 24th at 7:00am** and our guest speaker will be our very own Co-Clerk of Session, Bob Spangler. It was wonderful to hear Bob share about his family, career and faith way back in December of 2021, and we're excited to hear from him again. 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! Any questions contact Mark Magnusen at mmagnusen@yahoo.com.

Knobloch Scholarship: Thanks to the generosity of one of our distinguished members, Bill Knobloch, the First Presbyterian Church is offering to any Fall 2024 matriculated college student who is a member of the congregation the opportunity to apply for a \$2,500 scholarship to be used for college or university study costs. Application forms are available by contacting Wendy at the church office (wendy@fpcnc.org). **Application deadline is April 30th.**

THIS WEEK (Cont'd)

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN**

Wednesdays At The Well

Join us April 10th through May 15th.
We will practice loving God, our neighbor, and our enemy.

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

Dinner will be served and all are invited!

6:30-7:45 pm

All Are Welcome
Visit fpcnc.org or call us at 203-966-0002 ext. 1

CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesdays at the Well	(April 10–May 15 at 6:30-7:45pm)
Sunday, April 21, 11:30am	<u>Adult Forum</u> – Mark Labberton
Saturday, April 27, 11:30am	Louise Warren Higley John Memorial Service & Reception
Saturday, May 4, 11:00am	Ruth Swanberg Memorial Service & Reception
Sunday, May 5, 10:00am	Scottish Heritage Sunday 50th Anniversary
Sunday, May 5, 10:00am	Sofia Swanberg Baptism
Sunday, May 5, 4:00pm	Charis Chamber Voices Concert
Saturday, May 18, 11:00am	Anne MacKenzie Memorial Service & Reception

Calling All Children for The Kirkin' O' the Tartan

Calling ALL CHILDREN! to participate in the KIRKIN' O' the TARTAN, a procession into the Sanctuary, on Sunday, May 5th for the Annual Scottish Sunday Service.

All interested, please email Nancy LaBadie or the Church Office by Tuesday, April 30 (nancydllabadie@gmail.com). There will be a brief rehearsal for the kids on Sunday, May 5 in the Sanctuary at 9:30am.



We encourage (but don't require) all to wear the tartan in whatever form of one's choice.

A ceilidh will follow the Service, featuring songs of Scotland, Mt. Kisco Pipes and Drums, Purple Heather Scottish Dancers along with servings of shortbread made by the Scottish Heritage Committee. **Please Sign up by April 30.**

PENTECOST – Do you speak another language, and would you be willing to share it publicly during Worship? The celebration of Pentecost is coming up quickly on Sunday, May 19th, and part of the text from Acts 2 involves the crowds gathered hearing the good news in their own language. So, we plan to have different languages as a part of the reading of the Acts text on Pentecost Sunday, to experience a taste of that first Pentecost. The sentence that you will be asked to read in your language is Acts 2:4, “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” If you are available and willing, please reach out to Wendy at wendy@fpcnc.org or email Scott (scott@fpcnc.org) **with any questions**. We look forward to hearing from you and hope that this will make Pentecost Worship meaningful and inspiring!

SAVE THE DATE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

Scottish Sunday

May 5th @ 10 AM

50th Anniversary

**Mount Kisco Scottish Pipes & Drums,
Purple Heather Dancers,
The tartans and the kilts,
The shortbread and haggis,
Great Scot!**



**All Are Welcome 178 Oenoke Ridge
Visit fpcnc.org or call us at 203-966-0002 ext. 1**

SAVE THE DATE (Cont'd)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

Circle of Grace: A Journey Through the Labyrinth

June 1st, 2024

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan CT

Saturday 12-4 pm

MISSION & OUTREACH

March-April 2024 - THANK YOU 2024 VOLUNTEERS!

-**Tech4Girls:** FPCNC is pleased to be able to sponsor Tech education for two girls in Ghana, West Africa, as part of the Tech4Girls program. Tech4Girls is a hands-on learning program which trains girls and women in digital skills, including ICT, coding and AI, in order to empower them with tech skills for career development. The initiative creates opportunities for African girls and women to immerse themselves in technology and acquire skills needed for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Girls will also be taught soft skills including entrepreneurship, emotional intelligence and leadership.



Tech4Girls is part of the HACSA Foundation's "Lifeline for Africa". The HACSA Foundation is an international non-profit founded by Ambassador Johanna Svanikier, a Ghanaian attorney and former ambassador to France, Portugal and UNESCO. To learn more about Tech4Girls and HASCA, please visit <https://thehacsa.org/>.

-**April 21 is Earth Day.** Since the very first Earth Day in 1970, millions of people from more than 190 countries worldwide have come together every April to stand up for the planet and champion a greener, more equitable future for us all. Now in its 54th year, Earth Day serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to safeguard the environment and our own future. No matter what we do, where we are or how we can honor mother earth, each of us has the power to bring about real and positive change. Wear a FPC New Canaan t-shirt to remind others of our love for God's creation. They are located in the back of the Church.

-**Meals on Wheels:** We are continuing to find monthly volunteer opportunities to deliver meals in New Canaan besides our annual financial gift of \$1000 a year to MOW. Volunteer slots can be found here: mowofnc.org.

-**New Covenant House:** Buying and preparing meals for over 100 families. 5-7 volunteers are always welcome, sign up for May, August, Sept, and Oct for the first Saturday of the month using Signup Genius or contact the Church Office. **NEEDED: volunteers and cooks for May 4! Please reach out to Cindy.**

-**Pacific House:** \$1000 for March Mattress and the purchase of four new mattresses at the shelter. April help is needed to take inventory in the basement of one of their shelters. We have three people signed up to help for a 4-hour shift – specific date in April or May to follow. Please join in if you are free – contact Cindy.

-**Women Empowerment Women, New Canaan:** \$2500 donation for an 8-week Skills Program began this spring for women struggling with family or personal challenges. Conducted by a licensed Social Worker, the program has been credited for literally changing the direction of a woman's life whether it is in the area of personal addictions or that of a family member.

-**Lent Food Drive:** Thanks to all that were able to give! **We collected over 60 bags of food** for the NC Food Pantry at St. Mark's.

-**Toiletry Kits for the Homeless:** We prepared **over 75 toiletry kits for the homeless** before the Maundy Thursday Service in commemoration of Jesus' washing the feet of his Disciples and his mandate to "...love one another; even as I have loved you..." Thanks to everyone that came to help and a special thanks to the members of the Latter-Day Saints Church in New Canaan.

MISSION & OUTREACH (Cont'd)

Presbyterian Promise: As part of our ongoing mission to live spiritually, to love inclusively, to learn continuously, and to leave a legacy, we at FPCNC have become sponsoring members of Presbyterian Promise. (<https://presbyterianpromise.wordpress.com>). This organization serves as a resource for the LGBTQ+ and their children who are looking for a welcoming Church home in Southern New England. **Their Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 27th at First Presbyterian Church of Stamford (1101 Bedford Street) and on Zoom.** Their guest speaker Lesléa Newman, will kick off the day with her talk from 3-4pm with time for Q&A and book signing. Lesléa's children's books have been in the homes of American children for decades, starting with LGBTQ family children's books like *Heather Has Two Mommies* and today including books like *Mommy, Mama, and Me* and *Daddy, Papa and Me*; children's books like *123 Cats* and *Sparkle Boy*, and books for young adults and adults about the life of Matthew Shepherd. She is one of the major authors of LGBTQ children's literature and we are very blessed to have her join us. She will be sharing about her career, what she has learned and where she thinks we need to go to help continue to protect and care for all families, including LGBTQ families.

You are welcome to join us just for the author talk or the whole meeting. Refreshments and appetizers will be available following the business meeting. All are welcome!

(Register <http://bit.ly/PresPromAuthorTalk> and they will send you a Zoom link.)

PRESBYTERIAN PROMISE

**Author Talk with Lesléa Newman:
"It Takes A Village to Raise An Activist"**



Photo credit: Mary Vazquez

Saturday, April 27th

First Presbyterian Church of Stamford & on Zoom

Author Talk and Q&A 3pm-4pm followed by

Presbyterian Promise Annual Meeting

Register at: bit.ly/PresPromAuthorTalk

Please join Presbyterian Promise in welcoming Lesléa Newman as she looks back on her career as an LGBTQ author and activist and looks towards the future. Author of powerful stories like *Heather Has Two Mommies*, *Sparkle Boy*, and *Always Matt: A Tribute to Matthew Shephard*, among 80+ other books, Lesléa's work has been and continues to be essential reading for LGBTQ families and allies. In a time when books like Leslea's are being banned throughout the country, join us as we learn from her career and think about how to show support to the LGBTQ community and LGBTQ authors today.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Barbara “Barb” Achenbaum!

A native of Chicago, Barb moved to New Canaan with her husband Jon and their three daughters in 2003. Barb’s professional experience in Chicago included eight years in corporate communications at the Quaker Oats Company and a decade in development work in the non-profit arena. While she was raising her kids in New Canaan, Barb was an active volunteer and ran a small book group business. From 2016-2022, Barb was Executive Director of Staying Put in New Canaan, a nonprofit organization committed to helping older adults live independently at home as they age. Following retirement, Barb joined the Town’s Health and Human Services Commission, and she is currently serving on the Boards of both Waveny Lifecare Network and the New Canaan Museum and Historical Society.

Barb is an avid reader, enjoys traveling with Jon, and loves spending summers at her family’s cottage in Michigan. She is most proud of the fact that she can frequently visit her three daughters and two grandsons – who all live in Brooklyn!



Welcome Michele Bergeal!

My husband Jean-Marie and I live in Westport, CT. We lived in NYC prior to this. I raised my family in Rye, NY and Jean-Marie raised his in Stamford, CT. We have a son and three daughters, two sons-in-law and 2 grandchildren. I have worked in the fashion business for over 30 years. Jean-Marie is an entrepreneur and founder of an energy technology company, Clairvoyame. We enjoy spending time with friends and family here and in France. Jean-Marie is an avid sailer and slowly teaching me to sail.



UPCOMING CONCERTS @ FPC

2024 marks the 300th anniversary of Bach's beloved masterpiece, the St. John Passion. **Charis Chamber Voices** will present this masterwork featuring Grammy-nominated British vocalist Ryland Angel as the Evangelist and former FPCNC bass Christopher Grundy as Jesus. Accompanying them will be a Baroque Orchestra including our own Terence J Flanagan playing continuo/harpsichord along with many of the same instrumentalists who performed with our choir in our last Cantata Sunday! Choose from one of two performances: Saturday, May 4 at 7:00pm at O'Byrne Chapel on the Manhattanville College campus in Purchase, NY and **Sunday, May 5 at 4:00pm at First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan.** There will be a free pre-concert lecture at 6:00pm before the Saturday evening performance. Learn more at www.charisvocals.org or by scanning the QR code.



CHARIS CHAMBER VOICES
JEREMY WIGGINS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
TERENCE J. FLANAGAN ACCOMPANIST

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
ST. JOHN PASSION
WITH BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

MAY 4 & 5

This concert is made possible in part by a grant from the Westchester Community Foundation, a division of The New York Community Trust

www.charisvocals.com



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: Navigator@waveny.org

In collaboration with



NEW CANAAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

SUNDAY, April 21

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service (in-person/LocalLive)
11 am Coffee Hour
11:30 am Adult Forum – Mark Labberton

MONDAY, April 22

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Tate Barn)
2-8 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons (Choir Rm)
8 pm Purple Heather Dancers

TUESDAY, April 23

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

WEDNESDAY, April 24

10 am Weekly Bible Studies
6:30 pm Wednesday at the Well

THURSDAY, April 25

3:30 pm Special Church
6-7, 8-9 pm Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, April 26

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

SATURDAY, April 27

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

SUNDAY, April 28

8 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service (in-person / LocalLive)
11 am Coffee Hour

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir

with:

Lisa Flanagan – soprano, Jamie Ratcliffe – alto, Nikolas Brannan – tenor, Devin Mitchell – bass

Greeters: Sarah and Charlie Robinson

Lay Readers: Doug Gillespie, Stacy Arevalo and Stephanie Hare

Ushers: Janet Lanaway and Serena Gillespie

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 • Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers

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

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