



*The First Presbyterian Church
of New Canaan*

Sixth Sunday of Easter • May 5, 2023 • 10:00am
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • WWW.FPCNC.ORG

THE GATHERING

*“Invisible we see you, Christ above us, with earthly eyes we see above us clouds or sunshine,
but with the eye of faith we know you reign: instinct in the sun ray, speaking in the storm,
warming and moving all creation, Christ above us...”*

All is flux; turn but a stone and an angel moves. Underneath are the everlasting arms.

Unknowable we know you, Christ beneath us.”

The Rev. George MacLeod, founder of the Iona Community, Scotland

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.

Prelude

Meditation on *Amazing Grace* (from *Two Hymn Encores*)

Frederick Swann

Terence J. Flanagan – organ

Entrance of Pipes and Drums

***ProceSSIONAL**

Highland Cathedral

Michael Korb and Ulrich Roever

Order: The Cross, The Bible, The Chalice, The Scottish Banner, The Choir, Lay Leaders, and The Ministers

***Call to Worship**

Angela Johnson

Leader: In the words of an old Celtic Rune of Hospitality:

We saw a stranger yesterday,

**People: We put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place, and in the sacred name of the Triune.
He blessed us and our houses, our cattle and our dear ones.**

Leader: And as the lark says in her song,

often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

People: Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

***Hymn No. 168**

Within Your Shelter, Loving God

Abbey

1 With - in your shel - ter, lov - ing God, my ref - uge and my tower,
2 Be - cause I trust in you a - lone, no e - vil shall come near.
3 Your ho - ly an - gels bear me up and keep my feet se - cure.
4 As of - ten as I call to you, you kind - ly hear my prayer.
5 All those who know your name on earth shall life a - bun - dant know.

I safe - ly walk by day and night be - neath your guid - ing power.
The strong de - fend - er of my home, with you I have no fear.
Though fierce and an - gry foes as - sail, in you my way is sure.
In times of trou - ble and dis - tress I rest in your own care.
On all a - bid - ing in your love your sav - ing grace be - stow.

Invitation to Confession

Cindy Graziano

Leader: When we say, “we don’t sin,” we deny who we are. But when we say, “there’s no way out,” we deny who God is. Trusting that God’s grace is more powerful than our sin, let us confess our sins together.

Confession of Sin (unison)

Cindy Graziano

**People: Merciful God,
You made us in Your image,
with a mind to know You, a heart to love You, and a will to serve You.
But our knowledge is imperfect,
our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete.
Day by day we fail to grow into Your likeness;
yet You are slow to be angry with Your children.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior,
do not hold our sins against us,
but in Your tender love, forgive**

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

Leader: In Jesus’ name we pray.

People: **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Cindy Graziano

Leader: Hear the good news! New life is not only possible; it has drawn near to us in the Crucified-Risen Christ. The promise is for us, and for all the children of God.

People: **By the grace of God, the glory of Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven and we are set free! Alleluia! Amen.**

*Gloria Patri (No. 581)

Gloria Patri

Glorify 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.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Infant Baptism

The Rev. Scott Herr

The Sacrament of Baptism for Sofia Lydia Swanberg, daughter of Garrett and Nadya Swanberg

The Words of Institution

Minister: Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” Jesus also said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Obeying the Word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of His promises, we baptize those whom God has called.

The Presentation

Jennifer Van de Graaf, Elder

Elder: On behalf of the Session, I present Sofia Lydia Swanberg, daughter of Nadya and Garrett Swanberg, sister of Sebastian Tristan Swanberg, granddaughter of Chuck Swanberg and Kate Carleton, great granddaughter of the late Ned & Ruth Swanberg to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. (Here to stand with the parents are the Godparents: Heather and Phil Musser.)

Minister: Friends, God is love. We love because God first loved us. In Baptism God declares that love and claims us as God's own. I ask you now to profess your faith publicly before the congregation. Who is your Lord and Savior?

Parents: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Minister: Do you trust in Him?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Do you desire for Sofia Lydia to be baptized into the family of faith?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Relying on God's grace, do you intend for Sofia Lydia to be Christ's disciple, to obey His Word, and to show His love?

Parents: We do.

*The Congregation's Covenant

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minister: Will the congregation please stand in body and/or spirit? Do you, as witnesses to this Sacrament promise your love, support, protection, and care for Sofia Lydia as she grows as God's own child? If so, please say "*We do.*"

People: We do.

Minister: Do you promise to pray for and support as needed Nadya and Garrett as they seek to guide and nurture Sofia Lydia in the family of faith? If so, please say, "*We do.*"

People: We do.

*Affirmation of Faith (Apostles' Creed) (Unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Minister: Let us pray: Loving God, we give You thanks that from the chaos of the waters, You brought forth creation. Through the water of the sea, You led your people, Israel, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the water of the Jordan, Your Son was baptized and anointed by the Holy Spirit. Through the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection You set us free from the bondage of sin and death and give us cleansing and rebirth. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Sofia Lydia, that she may be strengthened to serve You with joy until You make all things new. In Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

The Baptism

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minister: What is the name of this child?

Parents: Sofia Lydia Swanberg

Minister: Sofia Lydia, child of the covenant, I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Prayer of Blessing

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minister: Let us pray: Gracious God, giver of life, we pray for Nadya and Garrett and their daughter, Sofia Lydia. Give them wisdom and patience to guide her in the way of Jesus Christ and in the faith of the Church. Let Your peace dwell in their home, that their family life may be instructed by faith, sustained by prayer, and governed by love. Strengthen them in their own baptisms, that they may all rejoice as Your beloved children, and serve You faithfully, in the name of Jesus Christ,

People: Amen.

Formal Welcome of the Children

Patty von Jena, Deacon

Deacon: Sofia Lydia Swanberg has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made her a member of the household of Christ. Please join with me in welcoming Sofia Lydia using the words printed in your bulletin.

People: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Sofia Lydia into Christ's church to share with us in His ministry. Amen!

The family will receive a certificate of baptism and be seated.

The Kirkin' o' the Tartans

Presentation of the Tartans and Gathering of the Children

Children, please come forward, and gather around the Communion Table.

Litany of Thanksgiving

Stephanie Hare

Leader: Thank you, O Lord, for our rich heritage of faith and sacrifice from our Scottish ancestors, from our spiritual ancestors in Abraham and Sarah, and from all our brothers and sisters in God from every nation over the centuries.

People: Never let us forget that our heritage of faith is a responsibility to be exercised; not a treasure to be hoarded.

Leader: Thank you for the blessing of mothers and fathers and for the warmth, comfort and security of family love.

People: Our family love is a gift to be shared, that the stranger may be as welcome as one of our own, as a brother or sister.

Leader: We praise you for those who have lived and died in Christ, so that we might have the freedom to gather as a community of faith.

People: **Let us not forget that the days of sacrifice are not over for us who claim your family name. We are called to live in freedom, love and joy!**

***Passing of the Peace**

Stephanie Hare

Leader: May the God of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

*Congregation greets one another and shares the peace of Christ.
When the Pipes start playing please find your seats.*

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson – John 15:9-17

Cindy Graziano

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Love and Joy"

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Call for the Offering

Angela Johnson

Leader: Let us give our money, our time and our energy with generous joy, presenting gifts to make God smile.

Offertory Anthem

Psalm 100

David Hurd

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing! Know that the Lord, who made us, is God, We are the Lord's; We are the people of God, and the sheep of God's pasture. Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, And God's courts with praise! Give thanks and bless God's name! For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever. God's faithfulness to all generations.

(Psalm 100 – NRSV)

FPCNC Choir

***Doxology (No. 606)**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Stacy Arevalo

God of surprises, take these gifts and astound us by what they do. Through the work of Your church, restore a broken world into the community of love and joy You dream for us. In Your grace we trust. Amen.

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to The Lord's Table

The Rev. Scott Herr

Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Stacy Arevalo

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Rev. Scott Herr

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

If you require gluten free, please request it.

Music during Communion:

Meditation on a Scottish Melody
God Himself Is With Us

Arranged by Kevin McChesney
Arranged by Sondra K. Tucker

English Handbell Choir

Prayer After Communion (unison)

The Rev. Scott Herr

Loving God, thank You for welcoming us again at Your table, and for feeding us again with this spiritual food. Thank You that You are a God who desires that our joy be complete. Strengthen us to love others as You love us. In Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and for Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

*Choral Amen

*Ringing of the Church Bell

*Recessional

Order: Mount Kisco Scottish Pipes & Drums, The Cross, The Bible, The Chalice,
The Scottish Banner, Lay Leaders, Honored Guests and The Ministers.

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The Cèilidh (or Scottish Celebration) will take place immediately following the service. Please follow the Pipes and Drums out of the Sanctuary to the Common Room patio and the tent on the lawn to enjoy refreshments, light lunch, shortbread, dancing, games and music.



“THE KIRKIN’ O’ THE TARTANS”

The Scottish Heritage Service is a Worship Service of traditional content for all people, but with special significance for Scots. Central to its theme is the “Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans”, a presentation of the Tartans of the Scottish Clans, symbolizing rededication of the families of all nationalities everywhere to God’s service. It is further characterized by the beauty of Scottish music, the color and dignity of its presentation, and the close bond of fellowship sensed by all who attend.

Tartan symbolism is akin to that of flags, it’s distinctive, cross-lines patterns representing specific Scottish clans, regions and regiments. In 1745, with Scots divided over monarchical matters, those following “Bonnie Prince Charlie” were defeated in the Battle of Culloden. Harsh repression of Scottish militancy and national identity followed, including the outlawing of tartan garments, a shocking condition that continued nearly forty years. With the triumph of righteousness over fear, the repressive laws were abandoned and the Tartan restored as lawful garb.

In the present century the Tartan, identifying the wearer with his or her clan, region or Scottish regiment, is recognized worldwide as a symbol of Scotland. Interestingly, there is a special Tartan for clergy different from any of the clans, as they are called to serve all clans. And so it is with us in the Church today!

Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans

Led by Nancy and Robert LaBadie

Kirkin’ Participants:

Ashley Godina

Thomas Godina

James Kramer

William Kramer

Charlotte Lombardi

Madeline Lombardi

The Banner carried this morning is a representation of the flag of Scotland, featuring a white saltire on a blue field, an x-shaped cross of St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland. Three Scottish thistles represent the Trinity. The Banner was designed and created by Brooke Manning-Hinds, Valerie Erichs, and Ruth Witt, in honor of Philip L.R. Du Val, leader of Scottish Heritage Sunday and presented to the Church in 2008, at the 35th Anniversary of Scottish Heritage Sunday.

Mount Kisco Scottish Pipes & Drums has performed at First Presbyterian Church’s Scottish Heritage Services for the past 50 years – the first year having been accompanied by just the band’s original Pipe Major Hector Cameron without the band present. The official band of the *St. Andrew’s Society of New York State* and a fixture at their events, the band has performed for many years at the *Scottish American Society Ball*. Designated a “Division in North America” of the *Bermuda Regiment* in 1996, the band has been the official band of the *New Canaan Fire Company* for 47 years. Under the direction of Pipe Major Jonathan Henken and Pipe Sergeant Pamela Matuszewski, the band proudly wears the uniform of the *Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders*.

THE CÈILIDH

To Our Members, Friends and Visitors: A Warm Welcome and Invitation!

“If after the kirk, ye bide a wee, there’s some would like to speak to ye: If after the kirk, ye rise and flee, we’ll all seem cold and stiff to ye, The one that’s in the seat wi’ ye is stranger here than you, maybe: All here has got their fears and cares, add them your soul unto our prayers, Be thou our angel unawares.”

Purple Heather Dancers are part of the New Haven Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. We meet on Monday evenings to enjoy the social dances of Scotland: reels, jigs and strathspeys. The group is beginner-friendly while preparing dancers to participate in Scottish dance events in the northeast. It is a welcome opportunity for physical and mental exercise in a friendly sociable atmosphere. For more information contact Sandra Bethray at 203-554-8961 or email purpleheatherdancers@gmail.com.

Presentation of the Haggis will be part of the Cèilidh.

Pipe Major – Jonathan Henken

Committee Chair – Steve Van de Graaf

Minister – The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr

Chef – Rab Ker

Whiskey Bearer – Randy Ferguson

Addresser – Paul Johnson

Sword Bearers – Charlie Robinson and Peter Ogilvie

Cannons – Mark Magnusen, Stephan von Jena and Walker Ker

FORMER CHAIRS OF THE SCOTTISH HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Philip L. R. Du Val (1974 – 1983)

Robert W. Ker, Jr. (1984)

David W. Bentley (1985 – 1986)

Robert McKay (1987 – 1988)

William H. Buchanan (1989 – 1990)

Peter P. Ogilvie (1991 – 1992)

James G. Godsmen (1993 – 1994)

George Hooker (1995 – 1996)

Dougal R. Munro (1997 – 1998)

Robert W. Ker III (1999 – 2000)

Stephanie H. Moore (2001 – 2002)

Jonathan Jameson (2003 – 2004)

Robert Moore (2005 – 2006)

Robert Mills (2007 – 2008)

Scott Gress & Robert W. Ker III (2009 – 2010)

Randall T. Ferguson, Jr. (2011 – 2012)

Pam Ogilvie (2013 – 2014)

Robert W. Ker III (2015 – 2016)

Carol McBurney Barbour (2017 – 2018)

Randall T. Ferguson, Jr. (2019)

Angela Johnson (2022)

Stephen J. Van de Graaf (2023 - 2024)

Thank You to the Scottish Heritage Committee and other volunteers who helped make today a success:

Committee Members: Sue Benko, Chris Bondor, Carole Clarkson, Sue Dishart, Linda & Randy Ferguson, Lisa Gifford, Serena & Doug Gillespie, Stephanie Hare, Scott Herr, Peggy Hooker, Angela & Paul Johnson, Rab Ker, Nancy LaBadie, Janet Lanaway, Mark Magnusen, Linda Martin, Pam & Peter Ogilvie, Debera Prosek, Sarah & Charlie Robinson, Keith Simpson, Jennifer Van de Graaf, and Patty & Stephan von Jena, with an additional Shortbread Making volunteer Barb Achenbaum.

Honored Guests: Sam Abernathy, Vera & John Blankley, Dionna & David Carlson, Kenneth Donnelly, Susan & Scott Gress, Nicki & Malcolm Keers, Gunilla & Peter Lawrie, Meg & Don MacKinnon, Becky, Dougal, & Rob Munro, Trish & Robert Rice, Doreen Wray Roth and Jennifer & Jonathan Zonis.

And Wendy Starr!

Thank you all. Steve Van de Graaf, Chair

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to Worship on this Sixth Sunday of Easter, also here at FPCNC, the 50th anniversary celebration of *Scottish Heritage Sunday*! Today we reflect through the lens of the gospel according to John text on the goal of the life of faith. Staying connected (as we learned last week with Jesus' teaching about the vine and the branches) is the way to a fruitful life of love, and today we will explore Jesus' teaching that he has come that our "joy may be complete." While some of us are of Scottish heritage, we remember the history of the Presbyterian tradition here in the United States and the great legacy of freedom for self-giving love which, according to Jesus, is the way of joy. We are glad you are with us and pray you will experience the grace of God's welcome and be spiritually renewed and socially reoriented for the coming week.

The flowers in Church today are dedicated by the Swanberg family.

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.

Sunday School will resume next Sunday. 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.

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.



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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

On our 50th Anniversary of Scottish Heritage Sunday, we begin with an organ prelude written by American church and concert organist, choral conductor, composer, and past President of the American Guild of Organists, **Frederick Lewis Swann** (1931-2022). Fred began playing the organ for church services as a ten-year old at a Methodist church in Winchester, Virginia, where his father was pastor. He graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in music and later studied at the School of Sacred Music of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. One of the best-known organists of the 20th and early 21st century, Swann was the former Director of Music and Organist at New York City's Riverside Church and Organist Emeritus of the Crystal Cathedral and the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. Playing the Crystal Cathedral organ on the weekly Hour of Power television program, he was seen by an estimated audience of twenty million viewers in 165 countries.

Our opening hymn has strong Scottish connections, coming from the Scottish Psalter. The Scottish Psalter is often referred to as The Scottish Psalter of 1650 because the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland approved the text of this Psalter for use by the church in 1650. This Psalter has been in continuous use since its initial publication, and has remained unaltered, except for some modernized spelling, from its original wording.

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC (Cont'd)

Our FPCNC Choir anthem is composed by concert organist, choral director and educator, **David Hurd** (b 1950). Dr. Hurd was Professor of Sacred Music and Director of Chapel Music at the General Theological Seminary, Chelsea, New York City, for 39 years. He was also the Music Director at the Church of the Holy Apostles, also in Chelsea, until May 2013. He is presently the Director of Music at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Times Square, New York City. Hurd attended the High School of Music and Art, the Juilliard School, and Oberlin College. He holds honorary doctorates from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, and Church Divinity School of the Pacific, given in recognition of his contributions to sacred music. In 1977 he received first prizes in both Organ Performance and in Organ Improvisation from the International Congress of Organists, being the only person to ever win both prizes in the same year. He has over 100 choral and organ works in print and his sacred compositions can be found in many hymnals. Hurd is one of the world's most visible and successful classical organists who is African-American.

Our FPCNC English Handbell Choir rings two pieces during our Communion time. The first is an arrangement by **Kevin McChesney** (b. 1963). Kevin graduated with highest honors from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BMus in Composition and Theory. A composer and arranger of handbell music, Kevin currently has over 450 titles in print and is one of the very few musicians who makes handbells a full-time vocation. Kevin was a church music director in Methodist and Presbyterian churches for twelve years. Kevin is currently the handbell editor for Jeffers Handbell Supply and the RingingWord catalog. He directs an auditioned community handbell choir, the Pikes Peak Ringers. The second piece is arranged by **Sondra K. Tucker** (b. 1957). Ms. Tucker presently works as a freelance composer and organist. Previous positions include Director of Music and Organist for Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN; Director of Music and Organist for Woodland Presbyterian Church in Memphis, TN; and Director of Music for Bartlett Presbyterian Church in Bartlett, TN. Educational Background includes a Bachelors in Music Education from the University of Arkansas, and a Masters in Sacred Music from the University of Memphis.



Next 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 next Sunday. Keep singing in the shower to work on your voice and join us. We will rehearse this Thursday, May 9 at 7:30pm in the Choir Room. Music is available to look at. Reach out to Terry if you have questions.

TODAY

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



THIS WEEK

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!



The Men's Gathering will explore this week the importance of Ascension Day (Thursday, May 9th, celebrated in Worship next Sunday, May 12th) through the lens of the Luke 24 and Acts 1 accounts. Why is the Ascension important, and what does Paul teach about post-Ascension life for the church (see Colossians 3:1-17)? Get your cup of coffee and come join us for this early Zoom study at **7:00am on Wednesday, May 8**. All are welcome! Any questions contact Mark Magnusen at mmagnusen@yahoo.com.

 **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 fpnc.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, May 5, 4:00pm	Charis Chamber Voices Concert
Wednesday, May 8, 7:00pm	New Canaan High School Choirs Concert
Saturday, May 18, 11:00am	Anne MacKenzie Memorial Service & Reception
Sunday, May 19, 11:30am	Faith @ Home Workshop
Saturday, June 1, 12:00pm	Circle of Grace: A Journey Through the Labyrinth – Woman’s Retreat
Sunday, June 2, 11:30am	Adult Forum: Keith Simpson – History of Canaan Parish

LOOKING AHEAD

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 19, 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!

Sunday, May 19, following worship, join Steph Hare for a **Faith at Home workshop at 11:30am**. Are you a parent, grandparent, caregiver, guardian and wondering about ways to share faith with the children in your life? Thinking about ways to infuse faith into your summer plans? Then join us in conversation on the 19th to talk about books, practices, and activities to do and read together at home (or even on vacation). Have questions or ideas to share? Bring those too!

Who Built Canaan Parish and where did they come from? New Canaan 1630 to 1801 – On Sunday, June 2 at 11:30am, Keith Simpson will give an illustrated talk about the development of New Canaan from the early 1600’s when Norwalk and Stamford were settled, until May, 1801 when New Canaan became a Town. It will include how, when and why New Canaan evolved into its present form, and who the first settlers were, and where they came from.

Keith Simpson is a member of the Church, and a landscape architect who has been working in New Canaan since coming here in 1976.



SAVE THE DATE



Circle of Grace:
A Journey Through the Labyrinth
Women's Retreat

June 1, 2024

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan CT

Saturday 12:00-4:00pm

\$22.50 Registration Fee.

Pay via PayPal by scanning below QR code.

*Add: "Labyrinth Retreat"

Limited space, so please register by Monday, May 27.

Light lunch will be served.

What To Bring

Journal – if you like to write/draw

Socks – for walking on Labyrinths



www.fpcnc.org

Questions: email Stacy at stacyarevalo@fuller.edu

BIRTH ANNOUCEMENT



Samuel Jerome Sisson ("Sam"), born April 22, 2024, to Jack and Sarah Sisson. Grandson of Frank and Ellen Taylor Sisson.

LOST AND FOUND

If any of these items are yours, please stop by the office to claim them.



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, for \$2500, 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/>.

-**RAM Council** is a nonprofit organization -- based in New Canaan -- that provides two groups; high school students 9th-12th graders and 7th-8th grades (RAM JR) an avenue to substance-free activities, healthy alternatives to substance abuse, and an opportunity to build leadership skills through hosting educational forums. With an active membership, teens know that they're making a difference in their community, and have the confidence to make healthy decisions. FPCNC currently allows them to use our space and in addition, we are excited to sponsor several activities throughout the year for the teens: pizza parties, bowling or an outdoor activity with our \$2000 donations.

-The mission of **Save the Sound** is to protect and improve the land, air, and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We are pleased to support their efforts with legal and scientific expertise and bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment. Our \$1000 donation supports their efforts now and for future generations.

Don't forget next Saturday, May 4th, is **New Covenant House** cooking and serving to 100 people. We could use another set of hands for the 2-4pm (cooking) and the 4:15-6:15pm (serving). **Please reach out to Cindy.**

-**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 here: www.mowofnc.org. Be part of our "Angel List" as a last minute driving volunteer.... we'll call you if we have an opening in our volunteer schedule. See Jen Van de Graaf.

-**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 Empowering Women,** New Canaan: \$2500 donation for an 8-week Skills Program began this spring for women struggling with family or personal challenges.

-**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.

FPCNC TARTAN SHOW OF INTEREST



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

TARTANS FOR SCOTTISH HERITAGE SUNDAY 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME _____

PHONE NO _____

EMAIL _____

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ORDERING EITHER A SHAWL OR TIE IN OUR FPCNC TARTAN (ACTUAL TARTAN TO BE DETERMINED). PLEASE CHECK THE ACCEPTABLE PRICE POINT WITH INTENDED QUANTITY. WE ARE EXCITED TO DEVELOP A TARTAN FOR THE CHURCH AND WILL PLAN TO ORDER ITEMS IF THERE IS ENOUGH INTEREST.

ITEM	PRICE PT 1	QTY	PRICE PT 2	QTY
STRAIGHT TIE	\$80		\$80	
BOW TIE	\$60		\$60	
SCARF	\$60		\$60	
SHAWL	\$160		\$160	
SASH	\$240		\$240	

NOTE:

PRICES BASED ON CURRENT RETAILER PRICES FOR ITEMS. THE INTEREST FORM IS NON-BINDING AND SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION AFTER FINAL TARTAN PATTERN, FINAL COSTS, AND CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL

PLEASE RETURN TO WENDY STARR
WENDY@FPCNC.ORG 203-966-0002 EXT. 1

COMMUNITY



Finding the right behavioral health support for yourself, family member or a friend can feel overwhelming. The New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance (NCBHA) is excited to announce the launch of its website. New Canaan Human Services, NCCF and Silver Hill Hospital have partnered with over 30 local agencies and organizations to encourage, develop and support a greater community awareness of behavioral health issues and resources in our area. To talk directly to someone that can help navigate available resources, or just to see what behavioral health events are happening around the area, visit www.newcanaanbha.org.

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

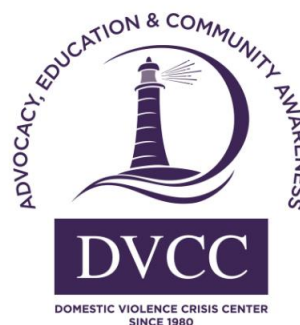
Email: Navigator@waveny.org

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.**

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

NEW prayers and concerns: Kim Herr's sister, Melissa Harrison, died May 2; Martha Herr's brother Sydney (Scott's Uncle) died May 3; Devon Reich's family (Wendy Starr's friend's daughter) as she died April 28


Continued prayers and concerns: Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); Sherman Bull; Judy and Tom Duncan (Lisa Flanagan's parents); Coco (4th grader) and her mother Jennifer and father Logan who experienced a trauma recently; Peter Findlay (Mimi Findlay's brother-in-law); Family of Jack Fonss; Amy Granato (Julie Fowler's sister); Gigi Guthrie; Mark Harmon (Darlene's husband); David Johnson (Elsbeth Johnson's son); Denise Lynch; Sister Eddie McLaughlin (Maxine Gaddis' friend) who's in hospice; Sandy Nissley; Chris O'Conner (Barbara Wentzel's son-in-law and Jen Gulden's brother-in-law); Marlene Powers; Joan Scherman (Mark Magnusen's friend); Bette Anne Thaut (Mary Thies' college roommate), whose husband died on March 19; Mary Thies; Kathy Ullerich (Wendy Starr's friend); 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 St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, its Members, Session, Seekers, and the Community of Groton, CT.

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 Stacy Arevalo, Peg Bull, Debera Prosek, Ellen Sisson, and Mary Thies, is ready to provide pastoral care to church members who are dealing with such a situation. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry or if you have questions about the work of the Team, please call the church office 203-966-0002 (ext 1).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

SUNDAY, May 5

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service (in-person/LocalLive)
11 am Coffee Hour
2:30 pm Charis Chamber Voices Rehearsal
4 pm Charis Chamber Voices Concert

MONDAY, May 6

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons (Choir Rm)
6 pm NCHS Choirs Rehearsal
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers

TUESDAY, May 7

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

WEDNESDAY, May 8

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

WEDNESDAY, May 8

6:30 pm Wednesday at the Well
7 pm NCHS Choirs Concert

THURSDAY, May 9

9am-12pm FP Nursery School Concerts (Common Rm)
3:30 pm Special Church
7 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg (Common Rm)

FRIDAY, May 10

9am-12pm FP Nursery School Concerts (Common Rm)
9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SATURDAY, May 11

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

SUNDAY, May 12

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Mother's Day Sunday Worship
(in-person / LocalLive)
11:15 am Coffee Hour

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

Lisa Flanagan, Meg Bowles – soprano, Jamie Ratcliffe, Annie Chester, Jennifer O'Neill – alto,
Nikolas Brannan, Evan McCormack, Joseph DeVaughn – tenor, Devin Mitchell, Liam Fitzpatrick – bass

Greeters: Cathy and Rick Hollingsworth

Lay Readers: Cindy Graziano, Angela Johnson, Jennifer Van de Graaf, Nancy LaBadie, Stacy Arevalo and
Stephanie Hare

Ushers: Jim Ely and Janet Lanaway

Cross: Stephan von Jena **Bible:** Peter Ogilvie **Chalice:** Linda Ferguson **Banner:** Janet Lanaway

Communion Servers: Linda Martin, Serena & Doug Gillespie, Jennifer & Steve Van de Graaf

Communion Preparers: Cathy and Rick Hollingsworth

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>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:



DONATE:

