



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time • September 1, 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: Méditation (from *Trois Improvisations*) Louis Vierne

***Call to Worship** Stephanie Hare

Leader: O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

**People: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right –
those who speak the truth from their heart;**

Leader: Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**People: Those who do not slander and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors.**

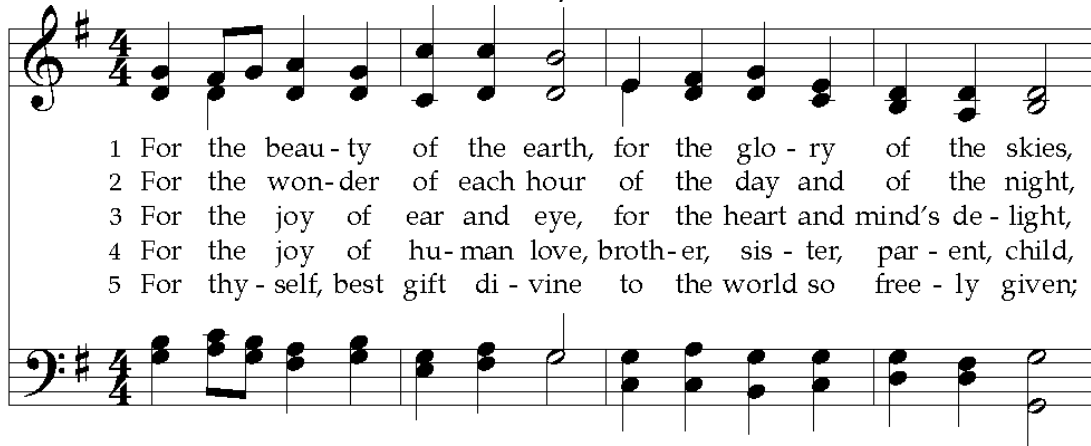
Leader: O Lord, who may dwell on your holy hill?

People: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

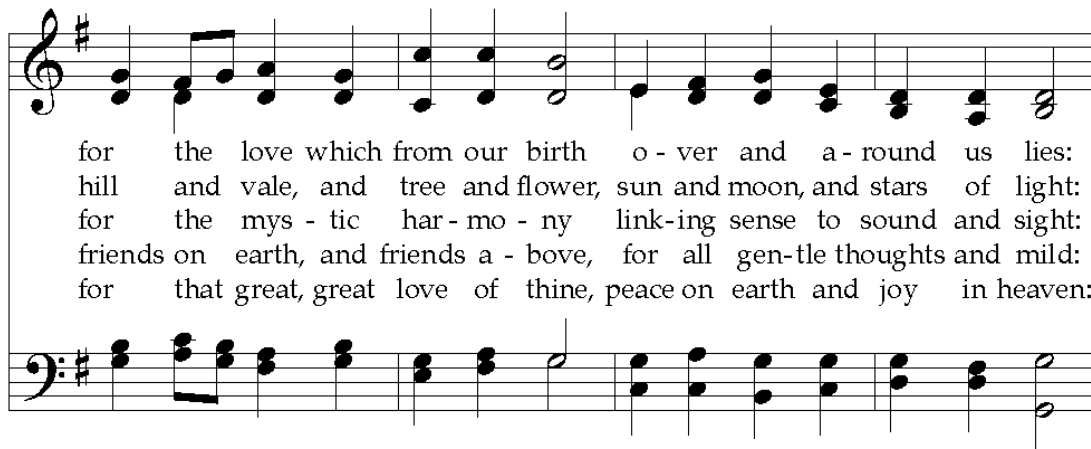
***Hymn No. 14:**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

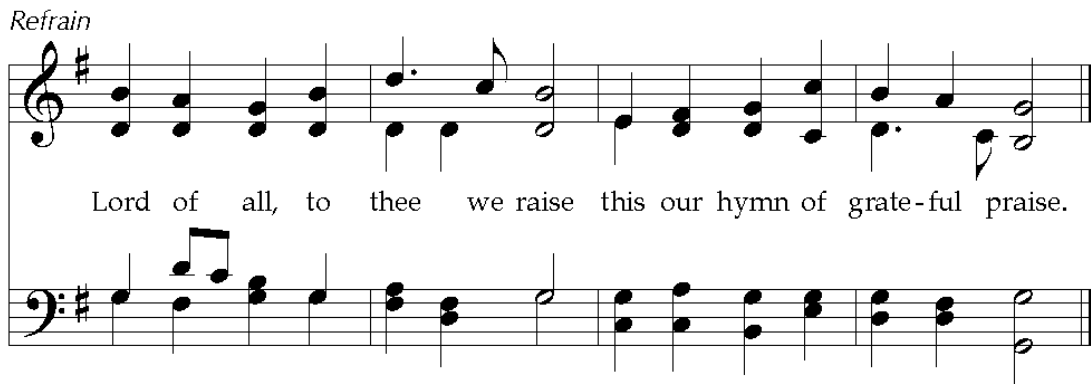


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;



for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Stephanie Hare

Call to Confession

Jan Lucie

Leader: Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Confession of Sin (unison)

Jan Lucie

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you. We have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and we have refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world. We have passed by those in need - the hungry, the poor, the homeless, the isolated, and the oppressed.

In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments.

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Jan Lucie

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners like you and me. He bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous! Thanks be to God! 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.**

*Passing of the Peace

Jan Lucie

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ
Let us forgive one another
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

All: 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

Stephanie Hare

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 – Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. ⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children—

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson – Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Stacy Arevalo

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“An Unclean Heart”

Stacy Arevalo

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 630:

Fairest Lord Jesus

Crusader's Hymn

The musical score is written in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Call for the Offering

Jan Lucie

Leader: We are reminded that in giving we receive. As we respond to God's grace with the gifts of time, talent, and treasure entrusted to us, we share our joy and gratitude with others. Let us now return to God a portion of what God has so generously given to us.

Offertory Solo:

Arise, My Love

Richard Hundley

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
O my dove, that dwelleth in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of a steep place
Let me see thy countenance, Let me hear thy voice;
For sweet is thy voice and thy countenance is comely.

Lisa Flanagan – soprano

*Doxology:

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)

Jan Lucie

Thank you, God, for all that we are and all that we have. Please accept the gifts we joyfully share in doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with you. Amen.

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to The Lord's Table

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

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

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

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Almighty God, you have welcomed us to receive at your table a reminder of the scandalous grace of your love. Help us to be truly thankful, and to live in the power of your weakness; to let go of the love of power and embrace the power of your self-giving love. Send us filled with your Spirit, equipped to share your grace and love with those around us, so that with all the saints, we may live to your glory; in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and for Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 39:

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Benediction

Stacy Arevalo

*Ringing of the Church Bell

*Postlude:

Marche épiscopale (from *Trois Improvisations*)

Louis Vierne

Join us in the Common Room after worship for a time of fellowship, coffee/tea and snacks and stop by the NEW Welcome Table.

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to worship on this 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, the season of the church calendar where we practice ordering our lives around the teachings of Jesus. Today we will explore what it means to be unclean. How has the law changed with Christ? Why does the older Jewish tradition focus on strict rules that no longer apply to those who follow Christ? We will reflect on the Lectionary texts from the Gospel of Mark and what it means for the law as it was given in Deuteronomy. We are glad you are here and pray you will be spiritually renewed and socially reoriented for the week ahead

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.

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 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.**

NEW Welcome Table

Our Welcome Table will be set up and available each week as a resource for you to ask questions and learn about different ways to be involved in the life of this congregation, including music, study, fellowship, prayer and service opportunities in the church and community. Feel free to stop by our Table after worship.

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:



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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 15th! We are so excited to kick off another fun year of exploring Bible stories and all our questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the world around us. Children begin worship in the Sanctuary with their families then following the Blessing for Young Disciples, we move to our Sunday School classes upstairs in the Bliss House.

If your child will be participating in Sunday School, please fill out this very short form so that we have up-to-date family contact numbers, and you can provide us with any information about your child that will help us minister to them: <https://fpcnc.breezechms.com/form/2024SundaySchoolStudents>

Adults or older teens who want to come be part of the fun of Sunday School, we need you! Join us and bring your own sense of wonder and joy as we learn together what it means to be part of God's big family. Let us know of your interest by filling out this form: <https://fpcnc.breezechms.com/form/Teachers2024-25>, or reach out to Steph Hare – stephanie@fpcnc.org

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This Sunday's organ music is composed by **Louis Victor Jules Vierne** (1870-1937), a French organist and composer. He focused on organ music, including six organ symphonies and a *Messe Solennelle* for choir and two organs. He toured Europe and the United States as a concert organist and his students included Nadia Boulanger and Maurice Duruflé. Louis was born nearly blind due to congenital cataracts. His unusual gift for music was

discovered early. When he was only two years of age, he heard the piano for the first time: his neighbor played him a Schubert lullaby, and after he had finished young Louis promptly began to pick out the notes of the lullaby on the piano. He was impressed when listening to César Franck playing the organ in 1881 and was accepted as a student of the Institut National des Jeunes Aveugles (National Institute for the Young Blind) in 1881. Franck recommended that he study the organ, and Vierne began lessons with Louis Lebel and Adolphe Marty. He studied harmony privately with Franck, and attended classes at the Paris Conservatoire, admitted as a full-time student in 1890. When Franck died on 8 November 1890, Charles-Marie Widor succeeded him. Vierne became his Assistant in the organ class and as Organist at Saint-Sulpice. He remained Assistant to Widor in the organ class, and to his successor Alexandre Guilmant from 1896. On 21 May 1900, Vierne won the competition for the position of Titular Organist at Notre-Dame de Paris. He held the post until his death in 1937.

Lisa Flanagan will sing music by **Richard Albert Hundley** (1931-2018) for our offertory. He was an American pianist and composer of art songs for voice and piano. When he was seven years old, he began piano lessons. At the age of ten, Hundley attended his first opera, *Il trovatore* by Giuseppe Verdi. He began taking piano lessons with Madame Illona Voorm at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music when he was eleven. At age fourteen, Hundley performed a Mozart piano concerto with the Northern Kentucky Symphony Orchestra. Two years later he soloed with the Cincinnati Symphony. Hundley moved to New York City in 1950 and enrolled in the Manhattan School of Music but dropped out shortly after. In 1960, he was selected for the Metropolitan Opera Chorus. In preparation for this position, he learned to sing ten operas in four different languages. Hundley never went abroad to study but credited his development as a songwriter to his three years in the Metropolitan Opera chorus and the longer time he spent as accompanist for Zinka Milanov's lessons.

THIS WEEK

FPC SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, September 2 – **OFFICE CLOSED – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**

Tuesday, September 3 – Friday, September 6: **9:00am–4:00pm**

OUT OF OFFICE:

September 4 & 5 – Wendy working from home

(Leave a message at 203-966-0002 ext 1 or send an email to wendy@fpcnc.org, Wendy will respond to you.)

Join us for Bible Reading every Sunday morning at 9:00am in the Parlor

We will read through the Bible together each week before worship as a community of believers, following the Lectionary and offering daily readings for the week ahead. Please reach out to Stacy (sarevalo@fpcnc.org) with any questions.

Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies, led by Darlene Harmon, will start up again this **Wednesday, September 4 at 10:00am** and will meet every Wednesday. They will be continuing their study of the Apostle Paul and his three missionary journeys in the book of Acts to spread the Good News about the life and teachings of Jesus to Gentiles. Please come at 9:45am to share a cup of tea or coffee. We hope you can come join us! Everyone is invited!

FPCNC Choir rehearsals resume this Thursday, September 5 at 7:00pm in the Choir Room! If you are considering singing, please join us as we begin a new season preparing music for Rally Day, Sunday, September 8. We are a friendly and supportive group looking for blending voices, not soloists. Please consider joining the collective voice and help make Sunday mornings special with your gift of singing. Questions, please reach out to Terry.

NEW @ FPC

FPCNC WEBSITE – What a Tangled Web We Weave...

It was the early nineteenth century author, a Scot (!) no less, Sir Walter Scott, who famously opined, "What a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." And although this utterance was issued centuries before the invention of the internet, Sir Walter might as well have been referring to FPCNC's website, fpcnc.org.

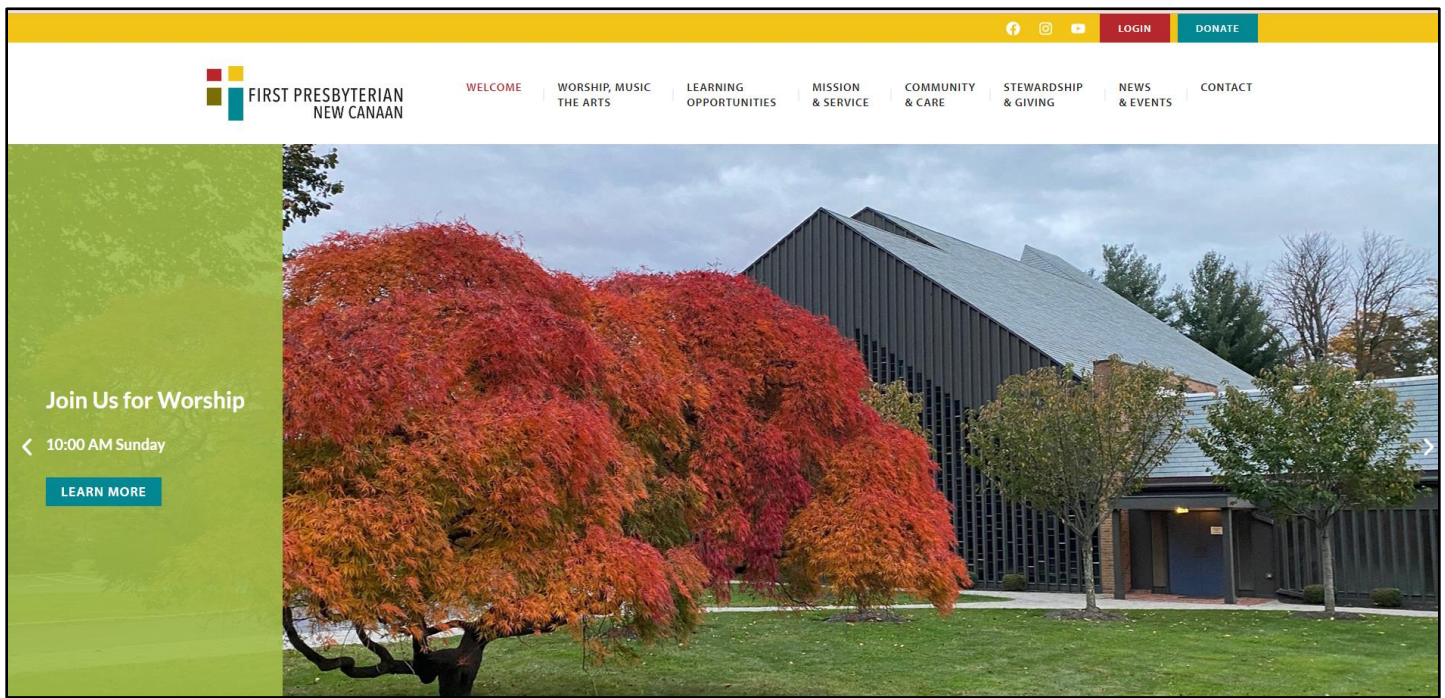
Not that the church website was intentionally deceptive. A better adjective for it might be obsolete. Unrefreshed for many years, the website content was just that, mostly obsolete, with stale information about who we are and what we do. Not exactly the most flattering portrayal of our active and vibrant ministry.

So, in early July, at the urging of Pastor Scott Herr, an intrepid band of FPCNC sisters and brothers set out to rectify that situation. Scott, Stacy Arevalo, Emily Johnson, Terry Flanagan, Stephanie Hare, Aimee Harkins, Jim Riehl, Wendy Starr, Mary Thies and Matt & Kate Ziance all collaborated to *untangle* and take the church website live on August 28, *in less than two months*. Unprecedented!

The new and improved site boasts colorful, contemporary graphics and updated content on all aspects of the church - its history, leadership, worship, music, programs, outreach and current events. A major objective of the upgrade was to more accurately portray our congregation as welcoming, devout and fully engaged in the community. Going forward, there is a reborn urgency to maintain the site on a regular basis so that it presents an accurate and up-to-date account of what's going down at FPCNC.

With apologies to Sir Walter, "What an untangled web we weave, when we collaborate to relieve."

Visit www.fpcnc.org to see what the excitement is all about! Here are a few screenshots from our new and improved home page.



CHURCH CALENDAR

WEEKLY TIDINGS

NEWS & EVENTS

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP DETAILS

ALL ARE WELCOME

The First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan is a welcoming, worshipping, learning, celebrating, caring, giving and serving community, reflecting the inclusive love of God, and nurturing each person's spiritual formation. Together and individually we encourage one another to journey as disciples in the Way of Jesus, embody his love, forgiveness, and mercy, and grow in his passion for justice and peace.

We celebrate the rich diversity of all God's children and find our lives enriched by people of every race, age, gender, economic status, marital status, and sexual orientation.

Join us in the joyful and often challenging journey of faith to pursue a better life and fairer world for all!



OUR MISSION

To Live Spiritually, to Love Inclusively, to Learn Continuously, and to Leave a Legacy.

NEWS & EVENTS



Rally Day Picnic

September 8, 2024 11:30 am

Join us for food, fellowship and fun directly following the worship service at 10 AM



New Member Orientation

September 15, 2024 11:30 am

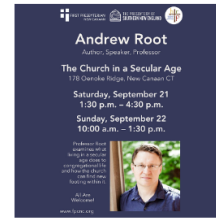
Considering joining FPCNC? During this informative gathering, you will learn everything you need to know!



Wednesdays @ The Well

September 18, 2024 6:00 pm

A mid-week intergenerational opportunity to learn and grow in faith together, with folks of all ages invited to participate!



Andy Root

September 21, 2024 1:30 pm

Renowned author, speaker and professor, Andy Root, conducts an open seminar addressing "The Church in a Secular Age."

VOLUNTEER!

CLICK HERE

WE WELCOME YOU TO OUR IN-PERSON AND ONLINE SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

We welcome you to join with us each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for worship OR participate using our on-line streaming service via LocalLive.

LOCAL LIVE STREAMING

SUNDAY BULLETIN

GUESTBOOK SIGN IN

JOIN COFFEE HOUR REMOTELY

NEXT SUNDAY



Join us for “Blessing of the Backpacks” in worship on September 8!

Students of all ages – pre-school through grad school – are invited to bring their backpacks to worship and join us to receive a special blessing as they are beginning their new school year. We as a congregation will send our students back to school with our prayers and love.



Rally Day Picnic

Sunday, September 8, 11:30am



Join us for fun & lawn games, a bouncy castle, lunch, live music, and Ol' Faithful fire engine rides.

Worship service at 10 am

www.fpcnc.org

CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, September 5, 7:00pm	Choir Rehearsals Resume
Sunday, September 8, 10:00am	Blessing of the Backpacks – during worship
Sunday, September 8, 11:30am	Rally Day Picnic (food, fellowship and fun after worship)
Wed., September 11, 7:00am	Men's Gathering Zoom
Wed., September 11, 4:30pm	English Handbell Choir Rehearsals Resume
Sunday, September 15, 10:00am	Sunday School Resumes
Sunday, September 15, 11:30am	New Members' Orientation Class
Wed., September 18, 6:00pm	Wednesday at the Well – 3 rd Wednesday every month
Saturday, September 21	Andrew Root – Public Lecture (1:30–4:30pm)
Sunday, September 22	Andrew Root – Preaching & Adult Forum (includes LUNCH)
Wed., September 25, 7-8:00pm	<i>Public Faith for Troubled Times</i> – 4 week Zoom every Wednesday
Sunday, September 29, 5:30-7pm	Sermon on the Mount – 6 week program with dinner

SAVE THE DATE

The Men's Gathering is gathering again after a summer break. We are going to continue our format of a blend of Bible Study and sharing stories of our lives. In the coming academic year, we are going to examine some of the most important parables of Jesus. Scholars believe the first of Jesus' parable is the Parable of the Sower, Mark 4:1-20. On Wednesday morning, **September 11 at 7:00am**, get your coffee and Bible and join us on-line for a catch up after the summer and a discussion on the Parable of the Sower! Contact Wendy wendy@fpcnc.org or Mark Magnusen mmagnusen@yahoo.com for the Zoom link to join the meeting. See you then!



English Handbell Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 11 at 4:30pm in the Sanctuary! Come give handbell ringing a try. Learn how to hold and ring handbells as well as different handbell ringing techniques. We have a lot of fun preparing music and ring roughly once a month during the season on Sunday mornings. Now is the time to give it a try. Any questions, please reach out to Terry.




New Members! We welcome you to worship *every Sunday*, and if you are new to New Canaan and looking for a Church community to join, are you interested in our **New Members' Orientation Class**? Join us on either **Sunday, September 15 or Sunday, October 13 from 11:30am–1:00pm**. We will discuss "who we are," "what we believe," "how we live out our faith" and what First Presbyterian is about. This will include a light lunch.

Please let us know if you are interested and can attend by contacting the church office wendy@fpcnc.org or Janet Lanaway at 203-966-1198 / janetlanaway@gmail.com. ***We will then Welcome New Members on Sunday, October 27 during our worship service.***

SAVE THE DATE (Cont'd)

Wednesdays at the Well – Sept. 18

We'll be gathering monthly for dinner and intergenerational fun and faith development on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6:00pm–7:30pm. All ages are warmly welcome to learn and grow together! For more information, reach out to Steph Hare at stephanie@fpcnc.org.



Andrew Root
Author, Speaker, Professor

The Church in a Secular Age
178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan CT


Saturday, September 21
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 22
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

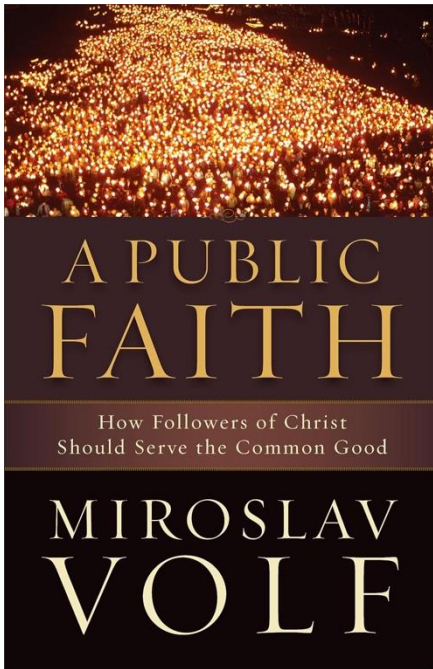
Professor Root examines what living in a secular age does to congregational life and how the church can find new footing within it.

All Are Welcome!

www.fpcnc.org

A portrait of Andrew Root, a man with glasses and a blue shirt, looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

SAVE THE DATE (Cont'd)

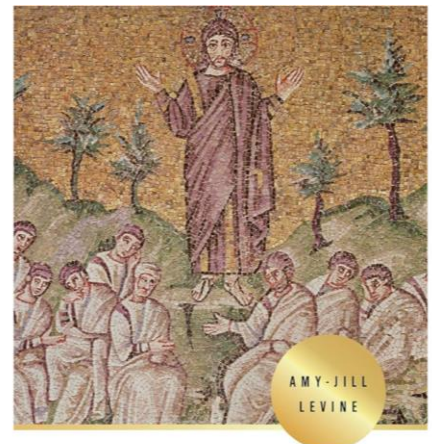


Faith and Politics Conversation: Are you anxious about the upcoming election? Does it seem to you that Christian faith has been hijacked by many who do not seek the common good? Given the controversial presidential elections coming up, we will be offering an on-line course called ***Public Faith for Troubled Times*** each Wednesday from September 25, and then October 2, 9, 23 and 30 from 7:00–8:00pm using Miroslav Volf's book, *Public Faith*. Follow this link for more information on this course: <https://youtu.be/4rQre8IUYuc?si=6XHOjKkcGiq3tq6l>

You are invited to join this on-line discussion group that will also highlight video clips from Miroslav Volf, Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology at *Yale Divinity School*, and Founding Director, Yale Center for Faith & Culture. Together we will consider how we live out our faith in the current context of strong political disagreement and cultural discontent. **Contact [Scott for Zoom link.](#)**

Sermon on the Mount

Have you heard of the Beatitudes or ever wondered about the origin of the Lord's Prayer? Journey with us through the Sermon on the Mount to see how the kingdom of heaven is closer than you think! Join us on Sunday evenings (5:30-7:00pm) beginning September 29 through November 3 for dinner and small group discussion on Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. We will follow a six-week study guide and video series on the teachings of Jesus and how to interpret them in today's context. More details to follow. Please contact Stacy at sarevalo@fpcnc.org with any questions.



SERMON *on*
the MOUNT
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

EDITOR'S NOTES

FPCNC Trip to Iona Scotland 2025

The Church is planning a trip to Iona in early June 2025. The itinerary and costs are available from Angela Johnson (angela.johnson@dentsu.com) if you are interested to find out more. **UPDATE:** this trip is currently fully subscribed but we would be happy to create a wait list.



"**Ordinary Time**" holds significant importance in the Presbyterian Church as it represents a period of growth, reflection, and discipleship within the liturgical calendar. While not marked by major feasts or celebrations like Advent or Easter, this time allows congregants to delve deeper into the ordinary rhythms of life and faith, emphasizing the everyday moments where God's presence is found. It serves as a reminder that the Christian journey is not solely defined by dramatic events or high holy days but is profoundly shaped by the consistent practice of worship, service, and community throughout the year.



In this season, Presbyterian believers are encouraged to nurture their spiritual lives, cultivate relationships, and live out their faith in practical ways, fostering a deeper connection to God and one another amidst the ebb and flow of ordinary existence.

During this time, you will see our green paraments that were new last year. The design on the paraments were inspired by our stain glass windows and mid-century modern atmosphere. We hope that as you worship in our Sanctuary or online that you will find spiritual significance and differing interpretations of these designs over the coming months.

Worship, Music & Arts Committee

COMMUNITY



Friends of Bristow Park

Bristow Park Centennial

New Canaan's Bird Sanctuary & Wildwood Preserve

A Weekend to Celebrate 100 Years of Bird Conservation in New Canaan (September 7th & 8th)

The Helen and Alice Bristow Sanctuary and Wildwood Preserve was established in 1924 as bird watching was gaining traction in New Canaan society. *(Helen and Alice Bristow were members of our congregation!)* Bristow Park was founded one year after Theodore Roosevelt's near-by [Sanctuary and Audubon Center](#) in Oyster Bay, our 17 acre park is home to a wide variety of species including warblers, tanagers, vireos and woodpeckers. Archival documents noted 100 different bird species in 1924!

Weekend Schedule: September 7th and 8th

Saturday (9/7): NC Library

2:30pm: NC Land Trust Annual Meeting at the NC Library (**register at www.bristowpark.com**)

3:15pm: David Sibley presentation: "What It's Like to be a Bird."

4:15pm: Wine & Cheese Reception with David Sibley Book Signing.

Sunday (9/8): Bristow Park Center Crossing Pavilion

2:00 to 3:30pm (register at www.bristowpark.com)


David Sibley's Keynote on Birds in the Northeast

Harmonia V: Gwyneth Walker Compositions

Unveiling of Francis of Assisi Statue and Dedication (with The Rev. Scott Herr)

New Canaan High School Madrigals

COMMUNITY (Cont'd)



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



ROTARY CLUB OF NEW CANAAN
LOBSTERFEST
STEVE BENKO POOL IN WAVENY PARK

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
September 27 & 28
4pm to 8pm

10% DISCOUNT THRU LABOR DAY



Order Today!



newcanaanrotarylobsterfest.org

NEW CANAAN
Behavioral Health
ALLIANCE

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.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

NEW prayers and concerns: Prayers for the family of Peter Flournoy as his niece and goddaughter, Maggie Flanigan, died unexpectedly on August 17; Prayers for the family of Marianne Johnson, the cousin of Mary Thies, who died this past week.


Continued prayers and concerns: Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); David Altchek undergoing medical treatments (Charles Altchek's father); Prayers of healing for Andy (Steph Hare's friend); Anna Mae Bondor; Gloria Bridgman who's home from the hospital following a stroke; Mary Dillon (Barbara Wentzel's sister) and her family, mourning the death of her husband, Jim Dillon on August 19; Maryann Donnan (Michele Bergeal's mother); Judy and Tom Duncan (Lisa Flanagan's parents); Prayers of healing for Valerie Erichs from her surgery on August 28; Peter Findlay (Mimi Findlay's brother-in-law); Amy Granato (Julie Fowler's sister); Mark Harmon (Darlene's husband); Barbara Holt (friend of Nancy LaBadie); David Johnson (Elsbeth Johnson's son); Denise Lynch; Sandy Nissley; Marlene Powers; Nancy Russell (Linda Martin's sister) who is suffering from lung failure and awaiting a lung transplant; Joan Scherman (Mark Magnusen's friend); 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.

PSNE Community Prayer: The faithful work of the PSNE Roundtable, and for its members: Nicole Aronson Champagne, David Baer, Lisa Baker, Andre Castillo, Shelley Donaldson, Rachelle Lee, Mildred McNeil, John Merz, Deborah Packard, Jenny Peek, Philip Phiri, Joan Withers Priest, Jason Santalucia, Stephen Scovell, Chris Tate, Lauren Tate, and Kevin White..

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 The Rev. 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, September 1

9 am Weekly Bible Reading (Parlor)
9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Sunday Worship (in-person/LocalLive)
11:30 am Coffee Hour

MONDAY, September 2

OFFICE CLOSED – LABOR DAY

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin’ Jams (Lawn)
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

TUESDAY, September 3

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

WEDNESDAY, September 4

THURSDAY, September 5

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, September 6

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin’ Jams (Lawn)
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SATURDAY, September 7

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

SUNDAY, September 8

9 am Weekly Bible Reading (Parlor)
9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Sunday Worship (in-person/LocalLive)
11:30 am Coffee Hour & RALLY DAY

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

Greeters: Jeannie Hart and Jennifer Van de Graaf
Lay Readers: Jan Lucie, Stacy Arevalo and Stephanie Hare
Usher: Margaret Cooper
Communion Preparers: Cathy and Rick Hollingsworth
Communion Servers: Jan Lucie and Jennifer Van de Graaf
Cross Bearer: Jan Lucie

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, Director of Pastoral Care, Adult Discipleship and Spiritual Formation
Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers

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

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