



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time • September 28, 2025 • 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:** Prelude (from *Prelude, Fugue and Allegro in E-flat Major - BWV 998*) Johann Sebastian Bach  
Trevor Babb - guitar

**\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 146)**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

**Leader:** Come! Praise the Lord!

**People:** **Praise God for the heavens and the earth and all that is in them!**

**Leader:** Come! Praise the Lord!

**People:** **Praise God who feeds the hungry and uplifts the downtrodden!**

**Leader:** Come! Praise the Lord!

**People:** **Praise God who gives sight to the blind and sets prisoners free!**

**Leader:** Come! Praise the Lord!

**People:** **The Lord will reign forever! Praise the Lord!**

**\*Hymn No. 793:**

O Christ, the Healer

*Erhalt uns, Herr*



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for  
2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies  
3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our  
4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -  
5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -

health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to  
clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we  
knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those  
nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -  
mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -  
be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.  
heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.  
clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

## Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

## Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Leah Saulsberry

## Call to Confession

Angela Johnson

Leader: Perhaps we fear that if we admit the flaws of our lives, we will find ourselves too far away, unreachable by God's grace. But no chasm is too wide for God. In the act of confessing our sin, we begin the work of reconciliation, reaching out so God can take our hand once again. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin, first together, and then in silence. Let us pray...

## Confession of Sin (unison)

Angela Johnson

**Almighty God, you call us to lives of service, but we confess that we ignore our neighbors in need right outside our door. You call us to share our abundance, but we confess that we choose our own comfort over generosity to others. You call us to build community, but we confess that we are too often gatekeepers, letting in only those who make us comfortable. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to be content with enough and inspire us to share what we have – our prosperity, our power and our love – until all your children have life and dignity in beloved community...**

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: **Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Angela Johnson

Leader: Friends, who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us. Christ rose again for us. Christ reigns in power over us. Christ prays for us. If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. So, friends, hear and believe the good news:

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

## \*Gloria Patri (No. 580)

*Gloria Patri* (Scottish)

**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**

Angela Johnson

Leader: Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.” Friends, may the peace of Christ be with you all!

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Please share Christ’s peace with one another.

*(All share a greeting of peace with one another.)*

## **THE WORD**

### **Prayer For Illumination (unison)**

Angela Johnson

**God of wonder, as we hear your Word for us today, fill us with holy imagination. Help us hear your holy invitation and ignite within us a passion to live your truth and follow your way. Amen.**

### **First Lesson – Amos 6:1-7 (page 854-855 – Old Testament)**

Angela Johnson

- <sup>1</sup> Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,  
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,  
the notables of the first of the nations,  
to whom the house of Israel resorts!
- <sup>2</sup> Cross over to Calneh, and see;  
from there go to Hamath the great;  
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.  
Are you better than these kingdoms?  
Or is your territory greater than their territory,
- <sup>3</sup> O you that put far away the evil day,  
and bring near a reign of violence?
- <sup>4</sup> Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,  
and lounge on their couches,  
and eat lambs from the flock,  
and calves from the stall;
- <sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,  
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
- <sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls,  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
- <sup>7</sup> Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,  
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Anthem:**

Give Almes of Thy Goods

Christopher Tye

Give almes of thy goods, and turn never thy face from any poor man:  
and then the face of the Lord shall not be turned away from thee.

FPCNC Choir and guests

<sup>19</sup> ‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” <sup>27</sup> He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” <sup>30</sup> He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” <sup>31</sup> He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” ’

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

“Lazarus”

The Rev. Scott Herr

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith (Apostles’ Creed) (unison)**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

**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.**

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE

### SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Linda Ferguson, Nominating Committee Chair

Leader: There are varieties of gifts,  
**People: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

Leader: There are different ways of serving God,  
**People: but it is the same Lord who is served.**

Leader: God works through each person in a unique way,  
**People: but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.**

Leader: To each is given a gift of the Spirit  
**People: to be used for the common good.**

Leader: Together we are the Body of Christ,  
**People: and individually members of it.**

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by Baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as Deacons, as Ruling Elders and as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us. Through ordination, God provides for acts of care and compassion in the world, for the ordering and governance of the church, and for the preaching of the Word and celebration of the Sacraments.

Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, the Session of First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan now presents Bob Spangler for installation and Barb Achenbaum for ordination and installation to ministry as Ruling Elders.

### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies and The Rev. Scott Herr

#### FOR RULING ELDERS TO BE ORDAINED/INSTALLED:

In Baptism, you were claimed by the love of God, clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ, and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to share Christ's mission in the world.

Now you are called by God through the voice of the church for new service and ministry in Jesus' name. In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), show your commitment to this calling by responding to these questions:

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's policy, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

#### **FOR RULING ELDERS**

Will you be a faithful Ruling Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

#### **FOR THE CONGREGATION:**

Linda Ferguson, Nominating Committee Chair

Do we, the members of the church accept these Ruling Elders chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decision and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

#### **PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

The Rev. Scott Herr

*(All ordained Elders and Deacons may lay on hands for those to be ordained. Members of the congregation may raise a hand as a symbolic gesture of the physical laying on of hands, an ancient practice of invoking the Holy Spirit's anointing upon new leaders.)*

Minister: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you.**

Almighty God, in every age you have chosen servants to speak your Word and lead your loyal people. We thank you for these persons whom you have called to serve you. Give them special gifts to do their special work; and fill them with your Holy Spirit, so they may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be faithful disciples as long as they shall live.

God of grace, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us, that we may discern the gifts you have given, calling them forth from one another, and together use these gifts for the good of all. Sustain this congregation in ministry. Ground us in the Gospel, secure our hope in Christ, strengthen our service to the poor and outcast, and increase our love for one another. Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together, that we may be servants of the Gospel, giving witness in the world with our very lives to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### **CHARGE**

The Rev. Scott Herr

Friends and Colleagues, you are now Ruling Elders ordained and installed for the ministries of service and governance in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. Amen.

**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**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

We are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share the gifts that have been shared with us. In our sharing, we make our actions our prayer that our neighbors might know God's abundant love. Let us consider the gifts we give in grateful praise.

**Offertory Anthem:**

The Rune of Hospitality

Alf Houkom

I saw a stranger e'en yestere'en; I put food in the eating place,  
 Drink in the drinking place, Music in the list'ning place;  
 And in the sacred names of the Triune He blessed me and my house,  
 My cattle and my dear ones. And the lark said in her song:  
 Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

*(text from the Gaelic)*

Trevor Babb – guitar, FPCNC Choir and guests

**\*Doxology:**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymn Tune No. 606: *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)**

Angela Johnson

**All that we have is a gift from you. Lord, bless these gifts and inspire us to use them in ways that transform and enliven your people. May they be a blessing to those who need them most. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**SENDING****\*Hymn No. 767:**

Together We Serve

*San Anselmo*

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,  
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,  
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,  
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.  
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.  
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.



**\*Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

**\*Choral Amen**

**\*Ringing of the Church Bell**

**\*Postlude:**

Maestoso

Calvert Shenk

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***Join us in the Common Room after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Don't forget to stop by the Welcome Table to see what's happening in our community.***

### **TODAY IN WORSHIP**

**Welcome to worship on this 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**, and also during our worship we will ordain and install new leaders. Today's texts confront those of us who are rich in things and able to do more for the poor around us. The parable of Lazarus is challenging, especially for us who live in a very privileged community. The prophet Amos also warns us that God cares about economic justice, but even more importantly, about how indifference to the suffering of others will be judged. Both these lectionary texts compel us to consider again how we are being stewards of what we have, and to remember that injustice has consequences for us all. We pray that in our time of worship together you will be spiritually refreshed and socially reoriented for the week ahead!

**Sunday School!** Join us as we explore Bible stories and all our questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the world around us. We will explore these themes through discussion, crafts, music, and other visual media. 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 and then return to the Sanctuary towards the end of worship.

If your child is 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>



## **TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)**

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 Leah Saulsberry at [leahs@fpcnc.org](mailto:leahs@fpcnc.org).

**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 bench. 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 childcare during our Sunday Service** provided by Saturnina Greaves 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.**

**Have a prayer request?** We are called to pray without ceasing... In addition to receiving prayers during the Service with the microphone, our **prayer box** offers the opportunity to submit handwritten prayer requests at any time. The box is in the back of the church adjacent to the Sanctuary entrance. Any prayer requests will be brought into the Sanctuary for worship by the Ushers. These requests will be included in our Prayers of the People for that Sunday. You will have the option to exclude your prayer from the communal prayer if you prefer. All prayers will be held and prayed over in confidence. Any questions or concerns, please contact Mary ([marythies75@gmail.com](mailto:marythies75@gmail.com)).

### **The Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee**

As we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 5th, if you have a heritage that is associated with a distinctive type of bread, we would love to have you share a small loaf for our table that day. The loaves will be brought to the table following the cross in that morning's processional. Let us know of your interest by contacting Wendy in the church office or Jan Lucie ([jlucie99@gmail.com](mailto:jlucie99@gmail.com)).

**Cents-Ability** – The Cents-ability jar is in the hallway on the way to the Common Room. Please drop your spare change into the jar either on the way to Coffee Hour or whenever you're at 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. ***Last week we collected \$10 towards our total of \$74.50 so far.***



## TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

**Greetings from the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee.** We send our heartfelt thanks to all of our church members who have stepped up to help and assist during worship services. Serving as an usher, greeter, reader, communion preparer, communion server or cross bearer is an important role as it helps our church staff and enhances the worship experience for all. To those who signed up to help over the summer, we are most grateful. To those of you who have stepped up and signed up for the first time, thank you for joining our **“worship team.”** As our Fall season has begun we ask you to prayerfully consider signing up to serve during October, November and December. We all have busy lives with work, family and travel but our Sunday worship services continue on and could use your kind assistance when you are able. Please consider logging into the **Sign-Up Genius** found on the homepage of the church website ([www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org)) to find a Sunday morning that works for you. If you are new to the congregation and would like to find out more about how you can participate on Sunday mornings, please speak with Jan Lucie, Linda Martin, Armin Thies or call Wendy Starr in the church office for further information and assistance. Being a part of the **“worship team”** is a wonderful way to get to know other church members while assisting our church staff during Sunday worship. We know that those who have served in the past and continue to help find this to be a very meaningful experience. Thank you for the generosity of your time and your talents. We look forward to seeing you at Sunday morning worship at 10:00am and at coffee hour following the service each week. Many blessings to all and thank you for your service to FPCNC.



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

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## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This Sunday, our prelude music is composed once again by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750), a German composer and musician of the late Baroque period. He is known for his prolific output across a variety of instruments and forms. I am delighted to welcome Trevor Babb, who will play Bach's music on the guitar. We hear the opening movement from his *Prelude, Fugue, and Allegro in E-flat Major; BWV 998*, written for lute or harpsichord. The piece was written around 1735. The original manuscript with the title *Prelude pour la Luth. à Cembal. par J.S. Bach* was sold at Christie's on July 13, 2016, for £2,518,500. The Prelude is similar to many in the Well-Tempered Clavier (the second book of which dates from around the same time as this work), in that it is composed of many arpeggios. Arranged for guitar, it is usually played in D Major with a Drop D tuning.

Our FPCNC Choir's anthem is music composed by **Christopher Tye** (c. 1505-before 1573), an English Renaissance composer and organist. Probably born in Cambridgeshire, he trained at the University of Cambridge and became the Master of the Choir at Ely Cathedral. He is noted as the music teacher of Edward VI and was held in high esteem for his choral music, as well as chamber works such as his 24 polyphonic *In nomines*. It is likely that only a small percentage of his compositional output survives, often only as fragments; his *Acts of the Apostles* was the only work to be published in his lifetime. He ceased composing when he was ordained, returning to Ely Cathedral and later becoming rector of Doddington, Cambridgeshire. Today, he is perhaps best known for the hymn *Winchester Old*, based on a theme from *Acts of the Apostles*, which forms the basis of the most commonly performed version in the United Kingdom of *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*.

### **ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC (Cont'd)**

For our offertory music, we hear our choir sing music composed by **Alf Houkom** (b. 1935), a Minnesota-born composer of Norwegian heritage. Around Christmas in 1984; while living in Iowa as a professor at Cornell College, Alf Houkom was sitting in his easy chair reading a book on old Scandinavian runes. Suddenly, this text of Gaelic origin "simply grabbed me," he says. "In my experience, Christianity has the capacity to be a closed-door faith. This text struck me with its openness, with the possibility for the Christ to come in any place." Not writing for any performance or commission in particular, he quickly wrote today's anthem in response, and "...the music just unfolded, purposefully simple." It is accompanied by guitar. Alf is a 1957 St. Olaf Alumni.

We close our Worship with music composed for the organ by **Calvert Shenk** (1940-2005). Although he missed the feast day of Saint Cecilia by one day (he was born on November 21), music was always a major fact in Calvert Shenk's life. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1962 with a Bachelor of Music degree, and went on to earn a Masters of Music in Organ and Church Music in 1963 from the same institution. He continued his studies with Theodore Marier (Gregorian chant), Gerre Hancock (improvisation) and Sir David Willcocks (choral conducting). Mr. Shenk worked full-time at various music positions, including St. Henry Parish in Chicago IL, Armed Forces School of Music at Norfolk VA, St. Philip Parish in Battle Creek MI, St. Catherine Parish in Milwaukee WI, Cathedral of Saint Paul in Birmingham AL, as Organist and Director of Music at the Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit MI and his last position as Director of Music at Assumption Grotto Church in Detroit. He also worked as Adjunct Instructor at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, as Music Critic for the Battle Creek Enquirer and News, as Choral Director at St. Philip Catholic Central High School, and as Associate Director, Accompanist and Composer-in-Residence for the Battle Creek Boys Choir. His particular interests were Gregorian chant, sacred polyphony, organ performance and improvisation, liturgical ceremony, and the theology of liturgy.

### **ABOUT TODAY'S GUEST MUSICIAN**

**Trevor Babb** is a classically trained guitarist and composer based in New Haven, CT. He performs on classical guitar, electric guitar and other plucked instruments. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Yale School of Music, and studied at the Haute École de Musique de Genève for a year under a Fulbright Award. He teaches in the music departments at Vassar College and Connecticut College and performs collaboratively throughout New England and beyond.

### **THIS WEEK @ FPC**

**Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies**, led by Darlene Harmon, meets **every Wednesday from 10:00am-11:30am**. The focus of the study will be on Philippians. Please come at 9:45am to share a cup of tea/coffee and snack in the Parlor/Library. We hope you can come join us! Everyone is invited!

## NEXT SUNDAY

**Peace & Global Witness Offering** will be next **Sunday, October 5**. This offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

Offering proceeds will be distributed according to the following formula from PCUSA:

- 25% retained by congregations to support peacemaking efforts in their local communities. (A local charity will be identified in the next coming weeks.)
- 25% retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts at the regional level.
- 50% supports peacemaking, reconciliation and global witness.

A graphic for World Communion Sunday. On the left, a colorful abstract design of overlapping circles and shapes in shades of orange, yellow, purple, and green. In the center, a circular logo with a globe and the text "WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY" and "OCTOBER 5, 2025". To the right, white text on a dark purple background reads: "Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering help us pursue what makes for peace, and see the face of God in all people." Below this, smaller text says "THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING" followed by a small orange star icon and "SEPTEMBER 7-OCTOBER 5, 2025".

Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering help us pursue what makes for peace, and see the face of God in all people.

THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING  SEPTEMBER 7-OCTOBER 5, 2025

**New Members!** We welcome you to worship every *Sunday*, and if you are new to the New Canaan area and looking for a church community to join, are you interested in attending our **New Members' Orientation Class next Sunday, October 5?** We will discuss "who we are," "what we believe," "how we live out our faith" and "what First Presbyterian is about". The class will take place immediately following worship from 11:30am – 1:00pm (in the Parlor off the Common Room) and will include a light lunch. If you are interested in joining us and the next Orientation Class, please contact Barb Achenbaum at 203-966-1010 / [barbachenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:barbachenbaum@gmail.com) or the church office at 203-966-0002 ext 1 / [wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org). **We will then welcome New Members on Sunday, October 19 during our worship service.**





# FPCNC MISSION MONTH

It's mission month in October at  
First Presbyterian Church

Donation boxes will be located at the  
back of the Sanctuary all month long

**Get involved!**

More Info call us at 203-966-0002 ext 1



# Want to get Involved???

## Volunteer Opportunity Week One:



Bring any NEW women's, men's, or children's **underwear**, any size or quantity, for the collection boxes at the back of the Sanctuary on **Oct 5th**.

### Upcoming Opportunities:

#### Week Two - Sunday, Oct 12th:

Bring any NEW women's, men's, or children's **socks**, any size or quantity, for the collection boxes at the back of the Sanctuary on Oct 12th.

#### Week Thrrww - Sunday, Oct 19th:

Help us collect **diapers**! Drop off any size or quantity at the collection boxes at the back of the Sanctuary on Oct 19th.

#### Week Four - Sunday, Oct 26th:

Help by bringing **unused toiletries and personal care items**, in any quantity, for the collection boxes at the back of the Sanctuary on Oct 26th.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS @ FPC



### Discover “Being With”

Starting **Thursday, October 9 from 10:00am–11:30am** we are excited to offer a 10-week journey of conversation, reflection, and community. Led by Scott Herr, Steve Sieke, and Marian Sieke, *Being With* is a gentle, thoughtful course that explores life’s big questions—meaning, love, suffering, hope, and faith—through storytelling, wonderings, and open discussion. This is not about having the “right” answers but about listening, sharing, and discovering together. Whether you are curious, questioning, or seeking a deeper connection, this safe and welcoming space is for you. **Group size is limited to 12 participants. Contact the church office** (203-966-0002 ext 1 / [wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org)) **to register.** Come as

you are—no advanced prep required. Bring your questions, your story, and your heart.

**Goodwill collection truck will be here this coming Saturday, October 11 from 9:00am-1:00pm in the FPCNC parking lot.** Bring donations of clothing, furniture, and household items in good condition. Receipts for tax purposes will be available. Goodwill Industries provides vocational services for people with disabilities and special needs. **(The Goodwill truck is here every 2nd Saturday of each month until November 8.)**



**CONFIRMATION CLASS!** If you are a Middle School eighth-grader or older and would like to join this year’s Confirmation Class or know of someone who might be interested, please let Scott ([scott@fpcnc.org](mailto:scott@fpcnc.org)) or Wendy ([wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org)) know. We will collaborate with participants and parents to choose the best day and time for the class and review the curriculum together.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

# *Blessing of the Animals*

Sunday Service October 12th, 10 am

Bring your furry, scaly or feathery friends to our Sunday morning service for a blessing!

All creatures great and small are welcome!

Visit [fpcnc.org](http://fpcnc.org) or call us at 203-966-0002 ext 1

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

## KATHLEEN BENEVENTO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NAVIGATION

### OCTOBER 19, 2025

178 OENOKES RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

**10 AM** WORSHIP GUEST PREACHER  
**11:30 AM** ADULT FORUM

DISCUSSING:

- WAVENY LIFECARE NETWORK
- ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA
- NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

LUNCH AND CHILDCARE PROVIDED

WWW.FPCNC.ORG

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## MISSION & OUTREACH

### Upcoming events!

We are serving New Covenant House on October 4th and November 1st. Check Signup Genius to help cook or serve in October. Thank you, Church Staff, for being the team on November 1st.



### **OCTOBER is the Third Annual FPCNC Mission Month!**

**Boxes will be in the narthex to collect donations for:**

#### Undie Sunday – Oct 5

**Need:** Underwear for any age

*Most people take things like underwear for granted but many families who are in poverty or homeless, and seniors living on poverty-level income cannot spend money on new underwear and are in desperate need. The Undie Project collects and distributes these donated items. **Your donations matter. And that's the long and short of it!***

#### Socktober Sunday – Oct 12

**Need:** Socks for any age

*New Covenant Center of Stamford is focused on hunger prevention and social services for a better life. Their facility in Stamford provides expanded basic need services to our guests. These items are distributed to those facing financial hardship, ensuring they can access basic necessities with dignity. New socks of all sizes and types are among the most needed items, especially in Fall and Winter. **Socks it to me!***



#### Diaper Drive Sunday – Oct 19

**Need:** Diapers from newborn to toddler

*Having clean diapers is considered one of the most important elements for new parents to believe they are caring for their children. When they struggle with the cost of that, it impacts a mom or dad's self-esteem and can impact a child forever. The Diaper Bank of Connecticut distributes free diapers to poor and low-income families through its extensive Diaper Distribution Network of more than 200 agencies throughout CT. **Pamper us with your donations!***

#### Toiletry Roundup Sunday – Oct 26

**Need:** Toiletries and Personal Care Products (shampoo/conditioner, soap, disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant, toothbrushes, menstrual products, baby wipes)

*Bridgeport Rescue Mission (BRM) works to meet basic needs today, restore hope for tomorrow, and transform lives forever through providing food, clothing, safe housing, recovery programs, and healthcare. All programs are provided free of charge to anyone in need, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic group. BRM's Pantry offers fresh produce, dry goods, meat, and dairy items, plus toiletries and personal care items, to enable them to feed and care for their families. **Your donations put you head and shoulders above the rest!***



The **DOVE** program is right around the corner, too.

**Thank you for your dedication to make the world a kinder, safer and a healthier place. Any questions, please reach out to Steve Van de Graaf ([stevedg01@gmail.com](mailto:stevedg01@gmail.com)).**



## COMMUNITY



### **Sunday, Oct 5 – One Day Only! The Bard at Bristow – A Shakespearean Immersive Stroll @ Bristow Bird Sanctuary**

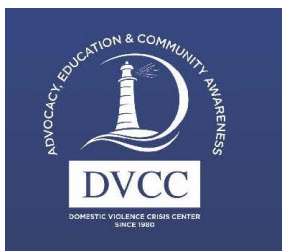
Presented by Summer Theater of New Canaan, in association with the **New Canaan Land Trust, New Canaan Conservancy, October4Design** and **Bristow Bird Sanctuary**.

Immerse yourself in William Shakespeare's timeless tales on a scenic stroll through **Bristow Bird Sanctuary**. Visitors may encounter the romance of *Romeo & Juliet*, the whimsy of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the magic of *The Tempest*, and the dark intrigue of *Macbeth*—complete with witches and sword fights—along with sonnets, madrigals, and more, performed by professional actors (including some local talent).

Groups of 15–20 will depart every 15 minutes from 11am–3pm for a 45-50 minute traveling experience. The total distance is less than a mile on a gravel path with light

graduation. The full experience is ADA accessible. **Tickets from \$30 including fees.** Get Tickets on Summer Theatre of New Canaan here [www.stonc.org](http://www.stonc.org) or email us at [boxoffice@stonc.org](mailto:boxoffice@stonc.org). **Location:** Bristow Bird Sanctuary, entry via Mead Park (36 Richmond Hill Rd, New Canaan, CT). Convenient free parking is available. *Sponsored by the New Canaan Community Foundation*

For more information and to purchase tickets:  
<https://www.dvccct.org/harvest-fest/>



HELP CHANGE LIVES  
THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER'S

*Harvest*  
FEST ✦

DENIM & DIAMONDS

11.07.2025  
6:15 PM

SHOREHAVEN GOLF CLUB  
NORWALK, CT



Waveny Lifecare Network's

# NAVIGATOR

Alzheimer's and Dementia at Home for New Canaan

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

*All Communications Confidential*

- 24/7 access to dedicated Alzheimer's and dementia specialists
- Complimentary grant-based program
- Exclusive respite apartment
- Exclusive social model adult day programming
- Expedited access to Waveny's continuum
- Access to trusted resources outside of Waveny
- Wellness checks and safety assessments
- Education on disease progression and healthcare resources available
- Assistance with insurance and public benefits
- Coordination of care, advance care planning, discharge planning
- Emotional support
- Alzheimer's and dementia caregiver support group
- Dedicated mobile app

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

*In collaboration with*



NEW CANAAN  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

**SAVE THE NUMBER  
SAVE A LIFE  
CALL OR TEXT 988**

**988**  
SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

Add this number to your phone now.  
It could save a life later.



nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention

Save the number, save a life. Add the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) to your phone now—it could save a life later. Trained crisis counselors are available to talk 24/7/365.

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](http://www.newcanaanbha.org).

**Support for domestic violence victims is  
available through the holidays.**



**24-hour Hotline:** (203) 588-9097

**CT Safe Connect 24-hour Hotline:**  
(888) 774-2900 (call/text)

**Main Business Line:**  
(203) 588-9100

**www.dvccct.org**

**Our services are free and confidential, multilingual  
and multicultural. Help is available.**

*DVCC is the only state-certified domestic violence agency recognized by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) serving the communities of Norwalk, Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, Westport, Weston and Wilton.*



## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

**New prayers and concerns:** Jim Riehl, who is undergoing a surgical procedure at New York Presbyterian hospital in New York City on September 30


**Continued prayers and concerns:** Joe Achenbaum (Whitney Gulden's father-in-law) has cancer—Joe Achenbaum is a cousin of Barbara Achenbaum's husband Jon; Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); Kevin Bedford (Mark Magnussen's friend); Peter Brannigan, who is a friend of Jen & Steve Van de Graaf; Betty Drew (Sue Dishart's mother); family of Peter Findlay (Mimi Findlay's brother-in-law) who died September 6; Amy Granato (Julie Fowler's sister); Chris Harris (Dede Trefts' lifelong and beloved friend) is in the last stage of a very long battle with cancer; Dan Hodges; David Johnson (Elsbeth Johnson's son); Josephine Markell (Jim Riehl's 105-year-old aunt); Mary (Barbara Wentzel's sister); Mary Eleanor Morris (Janet Lanaway's mother) who is 94 years old, fell and broke her hip and is in a hospital in Canada; Sandy Nissley; Marlene Powers who broke her wrist; John Robinson (Darlene Harmon's brother) who has lung cancer; Nancy Russell (Linda Martin's sister) who received a double lung transplant on September 19; Mindy Starr-Pfahler (Wendy Starr's cousin); family and friends of Paul Thorsteinson (Maxine Gaddis' cousin) who died Sept 9; Homero Villareal; and 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 gun violence.

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, hurricanes and earthquakes and during war. PDA Giving: <https://pcusa.org/giving/stewardship-funds-development/ways-give>

**PSNE Community Prayer:** For Wilton Presbyterian Church, its Members, Session, Seekers, and the Community of Wilton, 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](mailto: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 Ferial Aldag, Peg Bull, Debera Prosek, Ellen Sisson, The Rev. Mary Thies and Barbara Wentzel, 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**

### **CALENDAR – UPCOMING WEEK**

#### **SUNDAY, September 28**

**9 am Music Rehearsals**

**10 am Worship Service**  
– 2<sup>nd</sup> Elder Installation

**11:30 am Coffee Hour**

#### **MONDAY, September 29**

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

7 pm Purple Heather Dancers

#### **TUESDAY, September 30**

9:30, 10:30, 11:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)

10:30 am Staff Leadership Team Meeting

8 pm Men's A.A. Group (closed)

#### **WEDNESDAY, October 1**

10 am Weekly Bible Studies (Parlor)

1 pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting (Parlor)

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsals

#### **THURSDAY, October 2**

3:30 pm Special Church

7 pm FPCNC Choir Rehearsals (Choir Room)

#### **FRIDAY, October 3**

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

#### **SATURDAY, October 4**

9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)

10:30 am A.A. Group (open)

2 pm New Covenant Center (Prep Food)

4 pm New Covenant Center (Serve Meal)

#### **SUNDAY, October 5**

**9 am Music Rehearsals**

**10 am Worship Service**

**11:30 am Coffee Hour**

**11:30 am New Members' Orientation Class (Parlor)**

### **CALENDAR – OCTOBER thru NOVEMBER**

**Wednesday, Oct 8, 7:00am**

**Men's Gathering (Zoom)**

**Saturday, Oct 11, 9:00am-1:00pm**

**Goodwill Donation Truck (FPC Parking Lot)**

**Saturday, Oct 11, 1:00pm**

**Margaret "Peg" McConnell Memorial Service**

**Sunday, Oct 12, 10:00am**

**Blessing of the Animals**

**Wednesday, Oct 15, 12:30pm**

**New Canaan Clergy Association Lunch (hosted at FPC)**

**Sunday, Oct 19, 10:00am**

**New Member Reception**

**Sunday, Oct 19, 11:30am**

**Adult Forum – Kathleen Benevento discussing: *Waveny LifeCare Network Navigator Program***

**Wednesday, Oct 22, 7:00am**

**Men's Gathering (Zoom)**

**Wednesday, Oct 22, 7:00pm**

**Open Mic Night**

**Sunday, Oct 26, 10:00am**

**Cantata 79 – Accompanied by Baroque Orchestra  
(300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Premiere Performance)**

**Tuesday, Oct 28, 3:00pm**

**New Canaan Chamber Music Concert**

**Wednesday, Oct 29, 7:00pm**

**New Canaan Chamber Music Concert**

**Saturday, Nov 1**

**New Covenant Center (2:00pm prepare food, 4:00pm serve meal)**

**Wednesday, Nov 5, 12:00pm**

**Men's Gathering (In-Person Lunch/Meeting)**

**Saturday, Nov 8, 9:00am-1:00pm**

**Goodwill Donation Truck (FPC Parking Lot) – Last one until April**

**Wednesday, Nov 19, 7:00am**

**Men's Gathering (Zoom)**

**Wednesday, Nov 19, 7:00pm**

**Open Mic Night**

## **THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE:**

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

Lisa Flanagan, Meg Bowles – soprano, Jamie Ratcliffe, Jennifer O’Neill – alto,  
Nikolas Brannan, Evan McCormack – tenor, Devin Mitchell, Richard Price – bass

**Greeters:** Sue Sherwood and Jennifer Van de Graaf

**Lay Reader:** Angela Johnson

**Ushers:** Barb Achenbaum and Paul Martin

### **MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

### **OUR PASTORS**

The Reverend Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Reverend Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

## **2025-2026 SESSION ELDERS AND DEACONS**

### **SESSION ELDERS**

Bob Spangler (Co-Clerk) • Jennifer Van de Graaf (Co-Clerk) • Barb Achenbaum • Tom Butterworth • Jim Ely  
Angela Johnson • Nancy LaBadie • Janet Lanaway • Jan Lucie • Mark Magnusen • Bonnie Peterson  
Mike Peterson • Charlie Sulkowski (Youth) • Steve Van de Graaf • Patty von Jena • Stephan von Jena

### **DEACONS**

Dan Mason (Co-Moderator) • Kathy Edwards (Co-Moderator) • Ferial Aldag • Sue Benko • Carole Clarkson  
Chris Cluett • Sue Dishart • Lisa Flanagan • Terence Flanagan (Youth) • Julie Fowler • Jo Ann Nerenburg  
Debera Prosek

### **OUR STAFF**

Terence J. Flanagan, Director of Music and Fine Arts • Jim Riehl, Business Administrator  
Leah Saulsberry, Sunday School Director • Wendy Starr, Office Manager  
Emily Johnson, Communications Assistant • Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers  
Terence D. Flanagan, Sunday Audio Technician

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

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DONATE:

