



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time • September 7, 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:** Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572 Johann Sebastian Bach

**\*Call to Worship** The Rev. Scott Herr

Leader: Today we rally again as the people of God,  
**People: Coming from the East and from the West and the North and the South**  
Leader: To find again our place at the Lord's table,  
**People: And to be reminded that we are called beloved!**  
Leader: Like clay on a wheel  
**People: God forms us: shaping us, molding us, creating us.**  
Leader: And like moldable clay,  
**People: God continues to shape us, so let us offer to God our worship and praise!**



1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis-tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.  
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

## Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Leah Saulsberry

## Call to Confession

Jennifer Frazer

Leader: In the very beginning, God made us in God's own image. And yet, in the most common of human actions, we stray from God's pure intentions for us. Let us return to our Lord, acknowledging our mistakes both as a community and personally...

## Confession of Sin (unison)

Jennifer Frazer

**Loving God, you know us better than anyone else. You formed us in your own image. And yet, we sometimes stray from the gifts you've given us. We keep people at a distance, letting systemic and personal barriers get in the way of relationships. We mistake your call to discipleship as a burden, and not as the path to true freedom and new life. Forgive us, Lord. Let us hear your call to change and liberation. Help us to receive your grace, and empower us to love you and to love our neighbors as ourselves...**

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: **Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Jennifer Frazer

Leader: Friends, the good news is this: God is not done with us. Our Creator is still forming and shaping us, forgiving us, and allowing us to grow. Hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new! Thanks be to God!**

## \*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

Jennifer Frazer

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)

Jennifer Frazer

**Lord, allow our ears to be open to your Word, especially where there are questions or challenges. Allow us to be open to where you are speaking to us in our discomfort. Amen.**

## First Lesson – Jeremiah 18:1-11 (*page 720 – Old Testament*)

Jennifer Frazer

<sup>1</sup>This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: <sup>2</sup>“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup>But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

<sup>5</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to me. <sup>6</sup>He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the Lord. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. <sup>7</sup>If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, <sup>8</sup>and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. <sup>9</sup>And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, <sup>10</sup>and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

<sup>11</sup>“Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Lesson – Luke 14:25-33 (*page 78 – New Testament*)

The Rev. Scott Herr

<sup>25</sup>Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup>“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup>For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup>“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“This is Going to Cost You”

The Rev. Scott Herr

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 306: Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

*Dennis*

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
2 Be - fore our \*Fa - ther's throne we pour our  
3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual  
4 When we are called to part, it gives us  
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of  
ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our  
bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each  
in - ward pain; but we shall still be  
shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.  
friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### **Call for the Offering**

*Jennifer Frazer*

As a response to God's Word, which we have heard read and proclaimed, let us offer ourselves and our tithes, offerings and gifts to God.

**Offertory Anthem:**

O be joyful in the Lord

John Rutter

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands:  
Serve the Lord with gladness, and come before His presence with a song.  
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves;  
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.  
O go your way into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.  
Be thankful unto Him, and speak good of His name.  
For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting:  
and His truth endureth from generation to generation.  
Glory be to the Father; glory be to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.  
*(text is Psalm 100)*

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)**

The Rev. Scott Herr

**We give because we have been given so much. Lord, take these gifts and use them to faithfully transform others. Allow your work to be continued in the world where it is most needed; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**THE EUCHARIST**

**Invitation to The Lord's Table**

**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**





5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.

**\*Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

**\*Choral Amen:**

**\*Ringing of the Church Bell**

**\*Postlude:**

Festival Toccata on *St. Anne*

Frederick Swann

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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 Rally Day!** We are delighted that you are here and hope you experience the grace of God's welcome. This is technically the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, the season (almost six months) in the church's calendar of remembering the teaching of Jesus and learning to order our lives accordingly. Today we will reflect on the cost of discipleship. What does it mean for us to give up everything to follow Jesus? How is that even possible? Through the lectionary texts from the Gospel according to Luke and the prophet Jeremiah, we will reflect on what it means to follow Jesus and live into the new life which he promises, and to be reshaped and reformed by God's love. We are glad that you are joining us for worship, and pray you'll be spiritually renewed and socially reoriented for this next week of your life journey.

Today in worship, we celebrate the Sacrament of Communion also known as the Eucharist, a commemoration of Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Our communion bread is gluten-free and the cup is grape juice so that all who wish to partake of the Sacrament may do so.



## TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

**Sunday School will resume on September 14.**

**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**

Greetings from the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee. We hope that you, our church family, have had an enjoyable summer as we head into the Fall season. We send our heartfelt thanks to all of our church members who have stepped up to help and assist during worship services over the summer. 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 we move into the Fall months, we ask you to prayerfully consider signing up to serve during September, October and November. 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



## TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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>

Our **Welcome Table outside the Common Room** is 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 after worship during Coffee Hour.

**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. ***We collected \$39.50 of change this past month, for a total of \$64.50 so far. We plan to send the funds at the end of the calendar year to the NC Food Pantry.***



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

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## ABOUT TODAY’S MUSIC

This Sunday, our prelude is composed 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. We hear his joyous *Pièce d’Orgue*, BWV 572. No autograph of BWV 572 survives. The earliest extant manuscript copies of the piece originated in the 1710s (early version) and 1720s (revised version). The piece was most likely composed in the early years of Bach’s tenure at Weimar (1708–1717). The revised version must have been completed at least half a year before Bach moved from Köthen to Leipzig in the spring of 1723. Most printed editions entitle it a Fantasia, but many recitalists refer to it in their programs as *Pièce d’Orgue*, its title in all the contemporary copies; but this is possibly misleading, as there is little French about the music itself except the use of ninths and sevenths in the style of de Grigny (in the middle alla breve section) and the possible allusion to French plein jeu music (by the choice of the key of G major). The work could more accurately be described as a toccata, since it shares in the tradition of sectional toccatas (as conveyed by Buxtehude) in which a central contrapuntal section is surrounded by a toccata-like framework.

We welcome our FPCNC Choir’s return today and they offer music composed by **Sir John Milford Rutter** (b. 1945), an English composer, conductor, editor, arranger, and record producer, mainly of choral music. He was educated at Highgate School, where fellow pupils included John Tavener, Howard Shelley, Brian Chapple and Nicholas

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

Snowman. As a chorister there, Rutter took part in the first (1963) recording of Britten's *War Requiem* under the composer's baton. He then read music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a member of the choir. Whilst an undergraduate, he had his first compositions published. He served as Director of Music at Clare College from 1975 to 1979 and led the choir to international prominence. In 1981, Rutter founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, which he conducts, and with which he has made many recordings of sacred choral repertoire. He resides at Hemingford Abbots in Cambridgeshire and frequently conducts many choirs and orchestras around the world.

During Communion, we hear choral music composed by **Samuel Sebastian Wesley** (1810-1876), an English organist and composer. He is often referred to as S.S. Wesley to avoid confusion with his father Samuel Wesley. His middle name derived from his father's lifelong admiration for the music of Bach. After singing in the choir of the Chapel Royal as a boy, Samuel Sebastian embarked on a career as a musician and was appointed Organist at Hereford Cathedral in 1832. He moved to Exeter Cathedral three years later. He subsequently held appointments at Leeds Parish Church (now Leeds Minster) (from 1842), Winchester Cathedral (from 1849), Winchester College and Gloucester Cathedral (1865–1876). In 1839 he received both his Bachelor of Music degree and a Doctor of Music degree from Oxford. He became a Professor of Organ at the Royal Academy of Music in 1850. He died at his home in Gloucester on 19 April 1876 aged 65. There are memorial tablets to him in Exeter Cathedral and Winchester Cathedral, and his memorial at Gloucester Cathedral is in stained glass. His better-known anthems include *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace* – heard this morning – and *Wash me thoroughly*. Several of his pieces for solo organ have enduring value and continue to be played in recitals now and then. Of his hymn tunes the best-known are *Aurelia* – with which we begin this morning's Worship – and *Hereford*. While at Winchester Cathedral Wesley was largely responsible for the Cathedral's acquisition in 1854 of the Father Willis Organ which had been shown at The Great Exhibition, in 1851. The success of the exhibition organ led directly to the award of the contract to Willis for a 100-stop organ for St George's Hall, Liverpool, built in 1855. Wesley was the consultant for this major and important project. Wesley, with Father Willis, can be credited with the invention of the concave and radiating organ pedalboard. Their joint conception has been largely adopted as an international standard for organs throughout the English-speaking world and those exported elsewhere.

We close our Worship with music composed for the organ by **Frederick Lewis Swann** (1931-2022), an American church and concert organist, choral conductor, composer, and president of the American Guild of Organists. His extensive discography includes both solo organ works and choral ensembles he has conducted. Swann 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 New York City. 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. Swann lived in Palm Desert, California, where he was Artist-in-residence at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church from 2001 until his death in 2022. He was also formerly University Organist and Organ Professor at the University of Redlands prior to his retirement in 2018.

## MUSIC HAPPENINGS



### **Our historic Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ speaks again!**

A week and a half ago two Austin Pipe Organ technicians and I spent approximately 6 hours bringing our pipe organ back to life. The process began with reinstalling the main air reservoir (this was new with the Goulding & Wood 2002 renovation) followed by the static reservoir which is attached on the right side of the air reservoir (this is original from Aeolian-Skinner in 1968). A flexible wind sleeve (this moves up and down as the reservoir expands and contracts) was installed on top of the reservoir connecting it to the ceiling where the air enters the instrument. The six tension springs surrounding the expanding portion of the reservoir were then reinstalled, and then, finally, the connections from the blower to the reservoir were reinstalled.

At this point the instrument was turned back on to check the wind pressure. This is very crucial as the pipes were meant to speak properly (both regulation-wise and tuning-wise) to a certain pressure. We were fortunate to have no change in this, essentially meaning the instrument was in perfect tuning and playing condition.

Finally, the wooden flute pipes in the façade that were moved earlier this summer in preparation were reconnected to the windline and then retuned as the tuning stoppers were reconditioned when the pipes were moved.

I am grateful to Austin Organs for their time and help with this very important work and look forward to the completion of the whole pipe organ project in the near future.

**FPCNC Choir rehearsals have resumed on Thursdays at 7:00pm in the Choir Room!** Start your breathing exercises and sing in the shower! Our new season has begun this week. If you are considering singing, please join us as we begin preparing anthems for our new season. 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 ([terry@fpcnc.org](mailto:terry@fpcnc.org)).

**English Handbell Choir rehearsals resumes this week on Wednesdays at 4:30pm in the Sanctuary!** Now is the time to 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. If you have any questions, please reach out to Terry ([terry@fpcnc.org](mailto:terry@fpcnc.org)).



TODAY



# *Rally Day Picnic & Celebration!*

**Sunday, September 7, 11:30am**

○ ————— ○

**Please join us for worship, fun,  
food, live music, lawn games, and  
Ol' Faithful rides directly following  
the worship service at 10 am!**

**All are welcome!**

## JOINING THE FPC STAFF

### **Welcome Leah Saulsberry our new Sunday School Director to the First Presbyterian Church!**

Leah was born and raised in central Illinois and grew up attending church and parochial school. In 2014, Leah and her family moved to Woodbridge, CT where she began high school at Amity Regional High School. She went on to Fairfield University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish with minors in Health Studies, Educational Studies, and Latin American/Caribbean studies. Shortly after graduating from Fairfield, Leah began her career working in the community at Boys and Girls Village in Bridgeport as a Parent Educator, teaching families about child development and positive parenting practices. Currently, Leah works full-time as a Patient Ambassador at Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, NY. She assists patients and families throughout their lengthy hospital stays by providing support and assistance, hosting educational and social events, and serving as a neutral third party between families and medical staff.



In her free time, Leah enjoys creative outlets such as music, photography, baking, and crafts. She loves spending time with close friends and family, and snuggling with her pets.

Leah has years of experience in childcare and teaching Sunday school, along with a strong knowledge of child development. She likes to keep things creative and fun, and she can't wait to meet your little ones!

## THIS WEEK

### FPC OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, September 8 – Friday, September 12: 9:00am – 5:00pm



**The Men's Gathering** is reconvening again after the 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 topics suggested by participants last spring. We will begin with Scott leading a discussion of "Flourishing in God's Kingdom/Joy and Happiness" this **Wednesday, September 10th at 7:00am**. Get your coffee

and Bible and join us on-line for a catch up after the summer and a discussion to help you flourish in this new season! Men's Gathering meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (except for December). Contact Wendy [wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org) or Mark Magnusen [mmagnusen@yahoo.com](mailto:mmagnusen@yahoo.com) for the Zoom link to join the meeting. See you then!

**Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies**, led by Darlene Harmon, meets **every Wednesday from 10:00am-11:30am** and will start this **Wednesday, September 10**. After the summer break, 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!



## THIS WEEK (Cont'd)

Goodwill collection truck will be here this coming **Saturday, September 13 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.)**



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**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.



**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 on 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.***

**Time to dance Scottish!** The Purple Heather Dancers will start their fall season of Scottish Country Dance classes right here at the First Presbyterian Church. This is great exercise for mind and body and lots of fun. They start off the season slowly with review of steps and easy dances. This is part of the Presbyterian heritage so come join us on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm. Wear comfortable clothes and soft-soled indoor shoes – kilts are not required 😊. Contact Sandra for more information at: [purpleheatherdancers@gmail.com](mailto:purpleheatherdancers@gmail.com)



## MISSION & OUTREACH

### New Covenant Center

We have one more available date for this fall to help prep and serve food at the New Covenant Center **Saturday, October 4**. Please use Sign-up Genius or call the church office to let us know if you are willing and able to help. **There are available slots for October: 4-6 people to help meal prep (2-4:00pm) and 3-4 people to serve the meal (4:15-5:45pm).** Sign up and see what time slots are available here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5AE28A7FF2-newcovenant> or reach out to Steve Van de Graaf ([stevevdg01@gmail.com](mailto:stevevdg01@gmail.com)) or Wendy ([wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org)) if you are interested.



## SAVE THE DATE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

# FPCNC: Open Mic Night Schedule

You are invited to an evening to share music  
and/or poetry!

**17**

SEPT

## September Open Mic Night

Featured Performer: Frank Critellia

**22**

OCT

## October Open Mic Night

Featured Performer: Liz Reed

**19**

NOV

## November Open Mic Night

Featured Performer: Luke Molina

**17**

DEC

## December Open Mic Night

Featured Performer: Lara Schuler



7:00 to 9:00 p.m. followed by an  
open jam session

Walk-ins Welcome

Contact Nick Depuy at  
[nickdepuysite@gmail.com](mailto:nickdepuysite@gmail.com)  
to sign up and for more information



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

# CHRIS HAYS

## SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

**10 AM** WORSHIP GUEST PREACHER

**11:30 AM** ADULT FORUM

**DISCUSSING: THE WIDENING OF GOD'S MERCY: SEXUALITY WITHIN THE  
BIBLICAL STORY**

Christopher B. Hays is D. Wilson Moore Professor of Old Testament and  
Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Father and son, Richard and Christopher  
Hays, both world-renowned theologians,  
remind us of a dynamic and gracious God  
who is willing to change his mind,  
consistently broadening his grace to include  
more and more people. Those who were  
once outsiders find themselves embraced  
within the people of God, while those who  
sought to enforce exclusive boundaries are  
challenged to rethink their understanding of  
God's ways.

Lunch and Childcare provided.



[WWW.FPCNC.ORG](http://WWW.FPCNC.ORG)

ALL ARE WELCOME!



SAVE THE DATE

# Cantata Sunday

*with Soloists, Choir and Baroque Orchestra*

Celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of J.S. Bach's



Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild

## Cantata 79

written for Reformation Sunday 1725

October, 26, 2025, 10:00am Worship

Terence J. Flanagan, Conducting    Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Preaching



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

178 Oenoke Ridge Rd | New Canaan, CT 06840  
[www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org) | 203-966-0002



 **ROTARY CLUB OF NEW CANAAN**  
**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION!**  
**LOBSTERFEST**  
**Thursday & Friday**  
**September 25 & 26, 4:00pm-8:00pm**



**Indoor & Outdoor Seating at Waveny**  
**Live Entertainment  
and Family Fun**  
**Dine in or Take Away  
Meals for Kids  
and Adults**  
**Proceeds support  
local non-profits**

 Tickets: Use QR code or  
[www.newcanaanrotarylobsterfest.org](http://www.newcanaanrotarylobsterfest.org)





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](http://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:** Mary Eleanor Morris (Janet Lanaway's mother) who is 94 years old, fell and broke her hip and is in a hospital in Canada; family and friends of Roy Pfeil who died on August 23 after a three-year battle with cancer.


**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 Magnusen's friend); Peter Brannigan, who is a friend of Jen & Steve Van de Graaf; Betty Drew (Sue Dishart's mother); Peter Findlay (Mimi Findlay's brother-in-law); 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); Jeanette Johnstone (Rebecca Roth's sister) who is recovering from surgery; Josephine Markell (Jim Riehl's 105-year-old aunt); Mary (Barbara Wentzel's sister); Sandy Nissley; Marlene Powers who broke her wrist; for the family, friends and Community of 12-year-old Brisley Reyes (former student of Rebeca Roth) who was tragically killed in a hit-and-run crash on August 2; Terry Ritz (Jim Riehl's brother-in-law) who is hospitalized with pneumonia; John Robinson (Darlene Harmon's brother) who has lung cancer; Nancy Russell (Linda Martin's sister) who is suffering from lung failure and awaiting a lung transplant; for the family of Joan Scherman (Mark Magnusen's friend) who died the week of August 11; for the family and friends of Elizabeth Smith (Scott's aunt), mourning her death on Wednesday, August 13; Mindy Starr-Pfahler (Wendy Starr's cousin); family and friends of Abe Tenorio (Maxine Gaddis' friend) who died on August 12; 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:** The faithful work of the PSNE Roundtable, and for its members: Mildred McNeill, Barbara Riihmaki, Nicole Aronson Champagne, Nancy Baseel, Dallas Bradel, Peter Cameron, Kate Carlisle, Scott Herr, Rachelle Lee, Dean Lindsey, John Merz, Mark Montgomery, Deborah Packard, David Pak, Philip Phiri, Joan Withers Priest, 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](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 7**

9 am Music Rehearsals  
10 am Sunday Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hour & **RALLY DAY**

#### **MONDAY, September 8**

9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)  
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons  
5-7pm NC Chamber Music Board Mtg  
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers

#### **TUESDAY, September 9**

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

#### **WEDNESDAY, September 10**

10 am Weekly Bible Studies  
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons  
4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsals  
6:30 pm RAM Council program

#### **THURSDAY, September 11**

3:30 pm Special Church  
7 pm FPCNC Choir Rehearsals (Choir Room)

#### **FRIDAY, September 12**

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

#### **SATURDAY, September 13**

9am-1pm Goodwill Truck (Parking Lot)  
9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)  
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)

#### **SUNDAY, September 14**

9 am Music Rehearsals  
10 am Scottish Pilgrimage Worship Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Elder/Deacon Installation  
Sunday School resumes  
11:30 am Coffee Hour

### CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER thru NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7:00pm	Open Mic Night
Saturday, Sept. 20, 5:00pm	Charis Chamber Voices Sip & Sing
Sunday, Sept 21, 10am/11:30am	Christopher Hays (Guest Preacher and Adult Forum discussing his book: <i>The Widening of God's Mercy: Sexuality Within the Biblical Story</i> )
Saturday, Oct 4	New Covenant Center (2:00pm prepare food, 4:00pm serve meal)
Sunday, Oct 5, 11:30am-1:00pm	New Member Orientation Class
Sunday, Oct 12, 10:00am	Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, Oct 19, 10:00am	New Member Reception
Sunday, Oct 19, 11:30am	Adult Forum – Kathleen Benevento discussing: <i>Waveny LifeCare Network Navigator Program: A Community-Based Service for Caregivers of Individuals with Alzheimer's and Other Dementias</i>
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)
Saturday, Nov 1	New Covenant Center (2:00pm prepare food, 4:00pm serve meal)
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:** Barb Achenbaum and Sue Sherwood

**Lay Reader:** Jennifer Frazer

**Ushers:** Jim Ely and Jennifer Van de Graaf

**Communion Preparer:** Mary Lee Lesko

**Communion Servers:** Barb Achenbaum, Chris Cluett and Bob Spangler

### **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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