



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Second Sunday after Epiphany • January 18, 2026 • 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: XI (from *Treize Improvisations sur les Versets de Vêpres*) Pierre Cochereau

***Call to Worship** The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

All: We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.

Leader: Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.

All: Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.

Leader: Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.

All: Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!

***Hymn No. 716:** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending *Beach Spring*



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to
cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in
to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,
rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minute for Bible Study

Darlene Harmon

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Jen and Steve Van de Graaf

Call to Confession

Barb Achenbaum

Leader: Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to redeem and reconcile, to take away the sin of the world. We are invited to tell the truth about the places in need of healing and wholeness. Let us join in the communal act of repentance:

Confession of Sin (unison)

Barb Achenbaum

Saving God, we confess that we often have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to go our own way, and to put our trust in just about anything else but you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to translate and interpret your love in ways that others will understand. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds...

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (based on Psalm 40)

Barb Achenbaum

Leader: God inclines to us, rescues us and sets us again on solid ground. God has not withheld mercy from us. Trust in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God and know that you are forgiven! Hear and believe the good news.

All: 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

Barb Achenbaum

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.

Congregation greets one another and shares the peace of Christ

THE WORD

Prayer for illumination (unison)

Barb Achenbaum

Holy God, reveal yourself to us once again as we hear your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to follow where you lead, and answer your call. Amen.

First Lesson – Isaiah 49:1-7

Barb Achenbaum

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' ⁴But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.' ⁵And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.' ⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem:

Prayer to Jesus

George Oldroyd

Jhesu, since Thou me made and bought,
Be Thou my love and all my thought,
And help that I may to Thee be brought,
Withouten Thee I may do nought.

Jhesu, since Thou must do Thy will,
 And naething is that Thee may let,
 With Thy grace my heart fulfill,
 My love and my liking in Thee is set.

Jhesu at Thy will I pray that I might be,
 All my heart fulfill, with perfect love to Thee.
 That I have done ill Jhesu forgive Thou me,
 And suffer me never to spill Jhesu for pity.
 Amen.

(text by Richard Rolle: 1300-1349)

FPCNC Choir

Second Lesson – John 1:29-42

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' ³²And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.' ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Questions

The Rev. Scott Herr

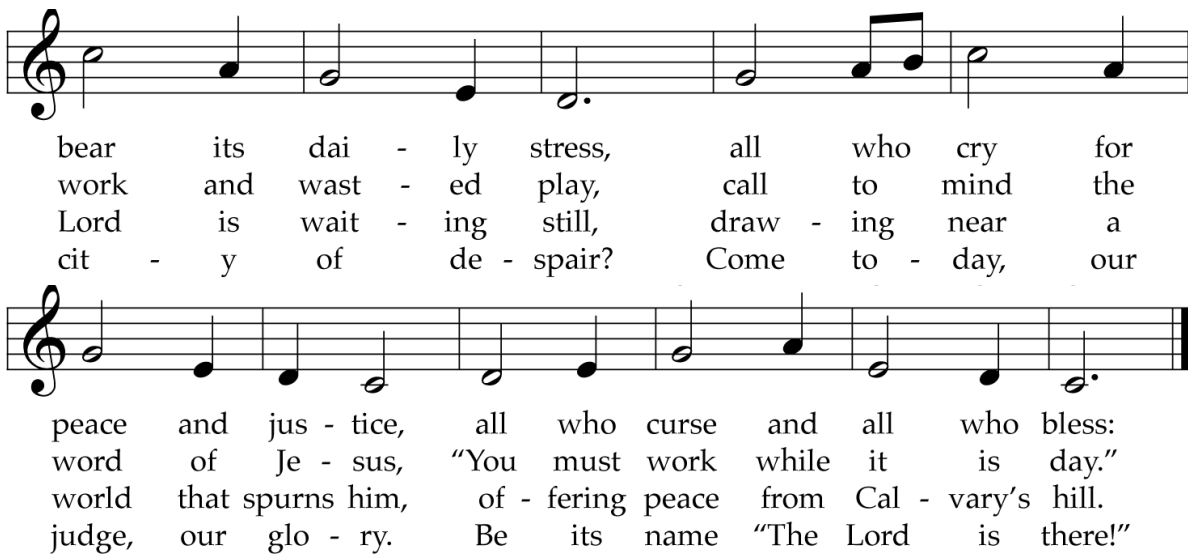
RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 351: All Who Love and Serve Your City

Charlestown



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
 2 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 3 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 4 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our
 peace and jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:
 word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
 world that spurns him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
 judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Prayers of the People

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

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

Leader: God doesn't desire our sacrifices or offerings. God's desire is for us to be partners in the redeeming and reconciling work of God on earth. We have been given all we need to fulfill that call, and so we are invited to generously share what God has given us. Freely we have received, now freely let us give.

Offertory Anthem:

Jubilate Deo

Benjamin Britten

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, 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

FPCNC Choir

*Doxology (No. 606)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old Hundredth

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

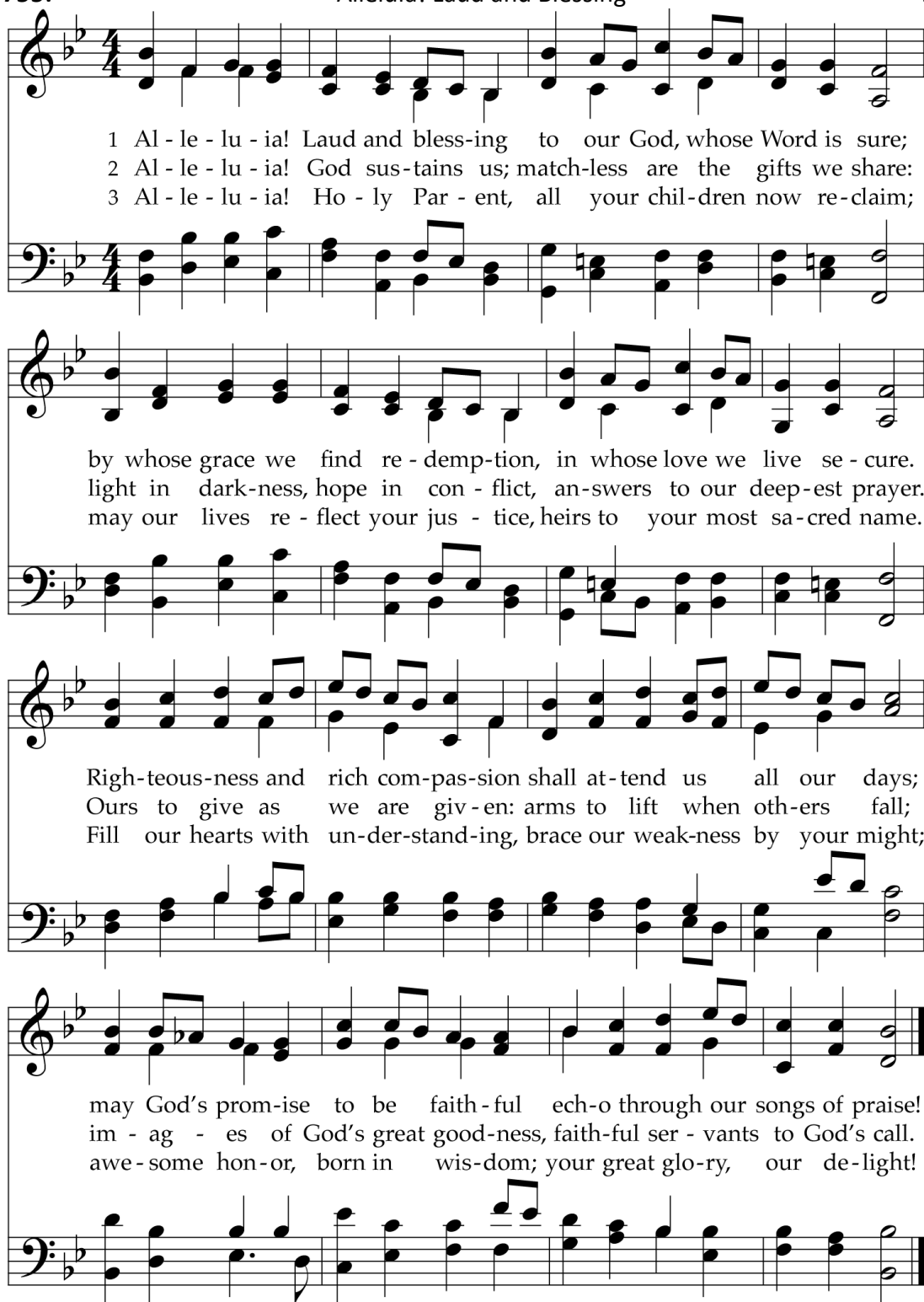
Holy God, we are not lacking in any gift, and we give you thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hearts and lives as a joyful response for your steadfast love. Translate and transform our thoughts, words and actions to become a beacon of hope, a word of life, and a balm of healing for all of creation; in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 755:

Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

Weisse Flaggen



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Laud and bless-ing to our God, whose Word is sure;
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! God sus-tains us; match-less are the gifts we share:
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Ho - ly Par - ent, all your chil-dren now re-claim;

by whose grace we find re - demp-tion, in whose love we live se - cure.
 light in dark-ness, hope in con - flict, an-swerns to our deep-est prayer.
 may our lives re - flect your jus - tice, heirs to your most sa-cred name.

Righ-teous-ness and rich com-pas-sion shall at-tend us all our days;
 Ours to give as we are giv-en: arms to lift when oth-ers fall;
 Fill our hearts with un-der-stand-ing, brace our weak-ness by your might;

may God's prom-ise to be faith-ful ech-o through our songs of praise!
 im - ag - es of God's great good-ness, faith-ful ser - vants to God's call.
 awe-some hon-or, born in wis-dom; your great glo-ry, our de-light!

***Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

***Choral Amen:**

***Ringing of the Church Bell**

***Postlude:**

Toccata

Michèle Leclerc

CCLI #11412435 / ONE LICENSE, License A-734274

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

Don't forget to stop by the Welcome Table to see what's happening in our community.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to worship with the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan on this Second Sunday after the Epiphany. Today we will reflect on how challenging it is to interpret how God speaks to us and calls us forward to new life. Through the lectionary texts from Isaiah and the gospel according to John, we will be looking at how God calls us to be a “covenant for the people,” a “light to the nations,” and servant leaders in our community. How do we translate God’s good news of self-giving love in ways that people might understand in today’s world? We don’t want to over-think this, but there are clues to how this is done even in our texts from thousands of years ago! Come and see! We are glad that you are with us and pray that you will be spiritually refreshed and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

Flowers in Church today are given by his family in loving memory of Tom Nissley.

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>

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.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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? Prayer Cards are located in the back of the church adjacent to the Sanctuary entrance. Before worship, please give the completed Prayer Card to either Scott, Mary or one of 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).

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 continued support to the New Canaan Food Pantry.



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

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DONATE:



ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This Sunday's organ prelude is by **Pierre Eugène Charles Cochereau** (1924-1984), a French organist, improviser, composer, and pedagogue. Cochereau was Titular Organist of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris from 1955 to his death in 1984 and was responsible for a controversial renovation/transformation of the Cavaillé-Coll organ of the cathedral in the 1960s realised by Jean Hermann and the Boisseaus Jean-Loup and Robert. He was regularly pushing for more changes to combine the French symphonic style with the 18th century style of the Clicquot dynasty. In 1938, Cochereau took lessons with Marie-Louise Girod, a student of Marcel Dupré. He continued his organ studies with André Fleury and Paul Delafosse, whom Cochereau succeeded as Titular Organist at Saint-Roch in Paris in 1942. Cochereau entered the Conservatory of Paris in 1943 and left in 1949. In 1949, at age 26, Pierre Cochereau was appointed Director of the Le Mans Conservatory, a term he occupied for seven years. In 1955, he succeeded Léonce de Saint-Martin (1886–1954) as Titular organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, after applying to the post just days before the deadline. In 1961, Cochereau became director of the Nice Conservatory (the conservatoire now bears his name), which he left in 1979, accepting the Directorship of the Lyon Conservatory. Pierre Cochereau had a worldwide reputation as a concert organist and especially as a brilliant improviser. In his improvisations, Cochereau had created a musical language that was eminently personal, recognizable as of the opening notes.

Our FPCNC Choir's first anthem is by **George Oldroyd** (1886-1951), an English organist, composer of organ and choral music, and a teacher of Anglican church music. Oldroyd studied with the organist and composer Arthur Eaglefield Hull and took violin lessons from Johann Rasch and Frank Arnold. He graduated with a B.Mus (1912) and D.Mus (1917) at the University of London. In the middle of his studying he spent a year in Paris as the Organist of St George's English Church. He was Organist of St. Alban's Church, Holborn from 1919 to 1920, and then of St Michael's Church, Croydon from 1920 until his death in 1951. Both are churches firmly rooted within the Anglo-Catholic tradition in the Church of England. In the 1920s he taught at Trinity College, London, and from 1933-1948 was Director of Music at Whitgift School in Croydon. From 1944 he was Dean of the Faculty of Music at London University, becoming King Edward Professor of Music from 1951.

Our FPCNC Choir's offertory anthem is by **Edward Benjamin Britten** (1913-1976), an English composer, conductor, and pianist. He was a central figure of 20th-century British music, with a range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. He studied at the Royal College of Music in London and privately with the composer Frank Bridge. Britten first came to public attention with the a cappella choral work *A Boy Was Born* in 1934. With the premiere of *Peter Grimes* in 1945, he leapt to international fame. Over the next 28 years, he wrote 14 more operas, establishing himself as one of the leading 20th-century composers in the genre. In addition to large-scale operas for Sadler's Wells and Covent Garden, he wrote chamber operas for small forces, suitable for performance in venues of modest size. Britten's other works range from orchestral to choral, solo vocal, chamber and instrumental as well as film music. He took a great interest in writing music for children and amateur performers. Britten was a celebrated pianist and conductor, performing many of his own works in concert and on record.

Our postlude music is by **Michèle Leclerc** (1939-2006). After having finished her studies with Jean Langlais, she received the prize virtuosity at the Schola Cantorum de Paris. The same year she also won the Charles Tournemire Grand Prix for interpretation and improvisation by the Association des Amis de l'Orgue de Paris. Afterwards she went on to study improvisation with Pierre Cochereau. In 1974 she was a finalist of the International Organ Compétition Grand Prix de Chartres. Michèle Leclerc was Titular Organist at the Cathédral of Sens and the Lutherienne Church des Billettes in Paris. Apart from her engagement as a teacher at the Schola Cantorum of Paris, Michèle Leclerc devoted herself to the training of Organiste at the Académie d'Orgue in Masevaux. In 1991, she succeeded Yves Devernay as organ professor at the Valenciennes National Conservatory.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2026

2026 Stewardship: Generous Pledge Match offered through the first week in February

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign is still underway, and we are still striving to achieve our pledge goal of \$920,000. Right now, we are just above 80 percent of our target. To help us achieve 100 percent, a very generous donor has offered to match any new pledges or pledge increases received between now and the first week of February (up to \$100,000). Therefore, if you have not yet pledged for 2026, please do so now and your pledge will be matched. And if you have pledged, please consider supplementing your pledge. All supplemental pledge dollars will be matched, too. There are pledge cards at the back of the Sanctuary, and you can also pledge online at <https://fpcnc.org/pledges/>. Or you can contact the office and give Wendy your pledge directly. Thank you in advance and Happy New Year.

Blessings from the Stewardship Team

Year-End 2025 Contribution Statements

Coming soon are your 2025 Year-End Contribution Statements. These were mailed on January 12. If you don't receive them by January 30, please call the office.

THIS WEEK @ FPC

FPC Office Hours:

Monday, January 19: **OFFICE CLOSED (MLK Holiday)**

Tuesday, January 20: **9:00am – 5:00pm**

Wednesday, January 21: **OFFICE CLOSED**

Thursday, January 22 and Friday, January 23: **9:00am – 5:00pm**



The Interfaith Council of New Canaan is proud to host its 24th Annual Celebration of the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The United Methodist Church of New Canaan, 165 South Avenue

The Service will include inspiring music and speakers from the ABC House, New Canaan, and special keynote speaker, Rev. Richard Williams, the Executive Director of Pivot Ministries

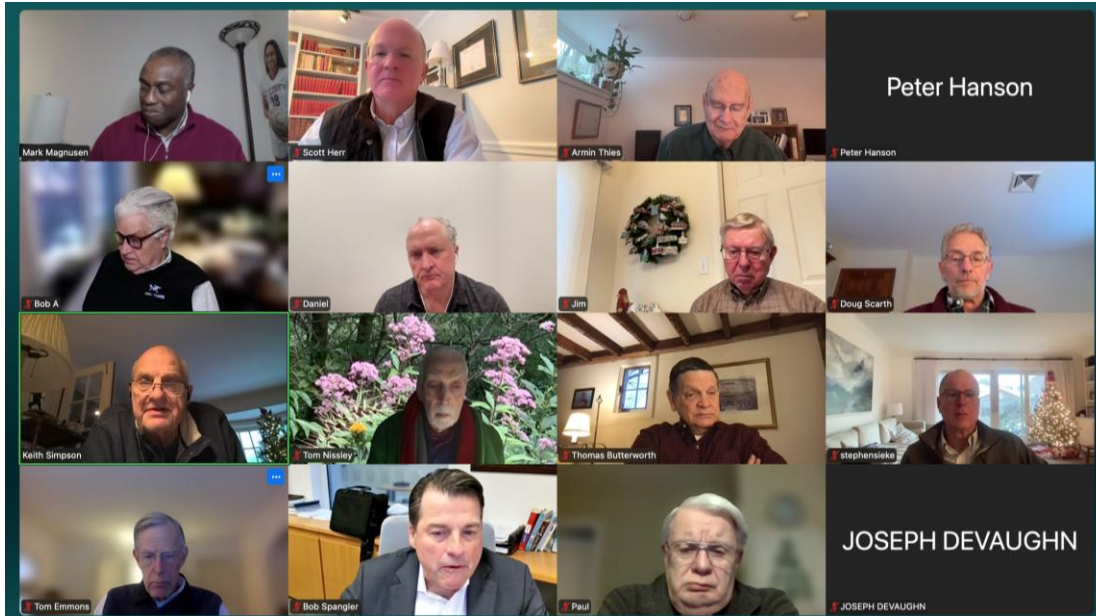
A reception will follow the Service.

Donation Proceeds will benefit the New Canaan Food Bank and Non-perishable Food Donations will also be gratefully accepted.



THIS WEEK @ FPC (Cont'd)

MEN'S GATHERING will meet via Zoom this Wednesday, January 21st from 7:00–8:00am and our guest speaker will be Tom Butterworth. Tom and his wife Libby are long-time residents of New Canaan and have been FPCNC members for several years. Tom was elected to New Canaan's Town Council in 2017 and prior to that he had an interesting background and career in law and financial and benefits planning. Come and join us for virtual but very real fellowship and learning. All men are welcome and feel free to invite any friends. We look forward to seeing you this Wednesday morning at 7! Questions, please contact Mark (mmagnusen@yahoo.com) or Scott (scott@fpcnc.org).



Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies, led by Darlene Harmon, meets every Wednesday from 10:00am-11:30am. We are currently studying King Solomon and Proverbs. 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!

SAVE THE DATE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

GEORGETTE BENNETT

AUTHOR OF HALF-JEW – FULL LIFE A HOLOCAUST STORY THAT
SPEAKS TO TODAY

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

178 OENOKÉ RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

11:30 AM ADULT FORUM

DISCUSSING: MORAL COURAGE IN DARK TIMES: IDENTITY, VIOLENCE, AND THE WILL TO SURVIVE

In this talk, Dr. Georgette Bennett shares the extraordinary story at the heart of her new book, *Half-Jew – Full Life*, about her third cousin-in-law Gary “Pips” Phillips. Born in inter-war Berlin to an Aryan mother and a Jewish father, Pips could have been spared the worst of the Nazi war on Jews. But the very week that the Nuremberg laws were enacted, he chose to become a bar mitzvah.

This story meshes with Dr. Bennett’s own story. A child of the Holocaust, born into a bombed-out apartment building in Budapest. Although her parents miraculously survived, they went through all the horrors of the Nazi machine. That background inspired the work to which she has devoted the last 33 years of her life: interreligious relations, human rights, and conflict resolution. Prior to that, she had a groundbreaking career as a sociologist/criminologist who always had an interest in the links between religion and violence.

Lunch and Childcare provided.



WWW.FPCNC.ORG

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Souper Bowl of Caring – 3 more Soup Chefs needed.

It is time to prepare for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring event to fight hunger. On Sunday, February 8th after church, coffee hour will become soup hour! Enjoy fellowship with a warm bowl of soup before the big game (and take some frozen pints home for later). At \$5 per bowl/pint, we raised over \$1000 last year and would like to top that this year! To ensure we have enough soup, we are seeking 3 or 4 more volunteers to make soup. Each soup chef makes 8 quarts (or more) of soup ahead of time (freezing some – in church-supplied pint containers). We then warm up 8 crock-pots worth during church on February 8th. Can you help? Let Lisa Flanagan know (917-653-3127, DoRaeMe@me.com). Some soup suggestions: lentil, split pea & ham, hearty vegetable, carrot ginger, tomato basil, minestrone. Other soups are welcome, just check with Lisa who is ensuring variety. Thanks in advance!



THANK YOU FPC !



Community, Generosity and Joy. Accompanied by Beautiful Music.



Andy Armstrong and New Canaan Chamber Music
performed a beautiful and inspiring concert for our safe house residents
and families just before Christmas. It was a night to remember!



**20 Adults.
32 Children.**
All enjoyed a
magical evening.



Thank you!

With much gratitude to:

- Andy Armstrong & Friends
- First Presbyterian Church
New Canaan.
- Community members who
organized dinner and gifts.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Recent SCAM emails

You might have received an email from Scott explaining about a recent email scam or directly from scammers asking for you to respond with a conversation or help getting gift cards, etc.

Please note that the FPC staff will ONLY use our church email (i.e. scott@fpcnc.org, terry@fpcnc.org, iriehl@fpcnc.org, leahs@fpcnc.org or wendy@fpcnc.org) to communicate with you. We will NEVER solicit money or gift cards from you. Correspondence from any other email is a SCAM and should be deleted.

The online scammers are getting very crafty and sophisticated in their trickery. Please take time to always check the sender email (@fpcnc.org) and, no matter what the content of the email, if it is not from the church address (@fpcnc.org), bad actors are using our identities to trick you and commit fraud.

If you receive something that you think is from one of the FPC Staffers and looks suspicious, please do not hesitate to call the office to clarify the email content/email address.

Thank you from the FPC Staff

Thank you. Wow! We must be doing something right here at FPCNC: over 250 in person and online worshippers for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service and a nice gain in attendance for the 10:00pm Lessons and Carols Communion service; 22 people of all ages helped tell the story of Jesus' birth in costume and dialogue at the 5:00pm service; and 18 people stayed after Sunday's service two weeks ago to help put away the Advent/Christmas decor. Thank you to all who participated in these events! *Jan Lucie, Chair WMA*

INCLEMENT WEATHER 2025/26 SEASON

It's that time of year when we need to be cautious about driving in bad weather. The Church Office will follow the NC Public Schools regarding any delays or closures. We will try to update our website in a timely manner to notify everyone of office closures or you can view the NCPS website at: <https://www.ncps-k12.org/page/school-closings-delays-and-early-dismissals>

If bad weather is occurring on a Sunday, please watch for an email from the church with details or check out our website www.fpcnc.org. REMINDER: Please refer to the [Emergency Preparedness Guidelines](#) document and if you haven't already, please sign up with the town for alert messages [here](#).



News from the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee

As we move through the winter season, please consider helping with our worship. We need ushers, greeters and readers to lead us in joyful celebration. Please consider logging into the **Sign-Up Genius** found on the church website (www.fpcnc.org) to find a Sunday that works for you. To find out more about how you can help, please speak with Jan Lucie, Linda Martin or Armin Thies of the Worship Committee or call Wendy in the church office.

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

We are grateful for all your participation.

EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

32 women members and friends of the congregation met for fellowship and brunch this past Wednesday in the Common Room to “reset and refuel” for 2026. The only agenda item for the occasion was to enjoy genuine conversation and good food and to spend time with someone you didn’t know well beforehand. Everyone passed with flying colors!

All who were able to attend agree that we weaved a lot of love and laughter into our fellowship time together and enjoyed the community and connection!



EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

Adult Forum – January 11 with Greg Cootsona was well attended and for those that were there we hope you found the talk interesting and thought provoking. Please check the January 16 Tidings email to link to Greg's Sermon Notes, the PowerPoint slides from the Adult Forum along with links to subscribe to the AI and Faith Newsletter and Podcast.

AI and Faith Newsletter sign up - <https://aiandfaith.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=b81b246be785da6909a11373a&id=601c78c9c6>

AI and Faith Podcast - <https://aiandfaith.org/aif-podcast/>

MISSION & OUTREACH



We have renewed our commitment to **New Covenant Center** to purchase, prepare and serve dinner six times in 2026 at their Stamford facility. **These are scheduled for the 1st Saturday of March, April, May, Sept, Oct and Nov in 2026.** What's needed: 2-3 cooks and 2-4 servers. Mark your calendars and reserve your spot now for shopping, cooking and/or serving! For more information, please reach out to Steve Van de Graaf or Wendy in the church office.

Sign up Here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5AE28A7FF2-newcovenant>



YL younglife

NC YL



All are invited to join us
as we grab a cup of coffee,
walk & pray for students!

Prayer

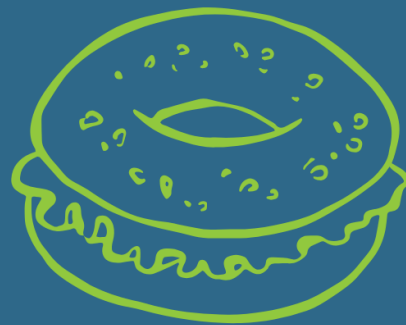
- Coffee
- Bagels
- Prayer

WALK

FRIDAY, 1/23

6:30 - 7 AM

NEW CANAAN HIGH SCHOOL
TRACK



COMMUNITY (Cont'd)



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



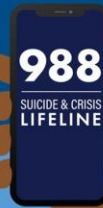
NEW CANAAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

**Domestic violence doesn't take a break
for the holidays.**



**If you or someone you know needs help, call DVCC's
24-hour hotline at 203.588.9097 or visit the website
at DVCCCT.org for more information.**

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



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.newcanaanhba.org.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.


New prayers and concerns: for the family of Amy Granato (Julie Fowler's sister) who died January 13; healing prayers for Anne Kniffin; for the family of Tom Nissley who died Saturday, January 10; for the family of Joan Taylor who died Saturday, January 10; for Ferial Aldag who will be having knee replacement surgery on Friday, January 23; for Kristen Englund (baptized and confirmed at FPC) who underwent successful transplant surgery on Monday, January 12.

Continued prayers and concerns: Kevin Bedford (Mark Magnusen's friend); Judy Bentley; Mary Dillon (Barbara Wentzel's sister) who had a stroke; Betty Drew (Sue Dishart's mother); Chris Harris (Dede Trefts' lifelong and beloved friend) is in the last stage of a very long battle with cancer; Dan Hodges; Sue Hoffman (Peg and Sherm Bull's friend) diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer; David Johnson (Elsbeth Johnson's son); for the family of Robert Kahler (Allison Gurley's father) who died the end of December; for the family and friends of Sue Klein (Maxine's friend) who died December 8; healing prayers for Denise Lynch; Layla Magnusen, recovering from knee surgery; Sarah, James and Rowan Marcotte (Jen Van de Graaf's sister and family); Josephine Markell (Jim Riehl's 106-year-old aunt); Matthew (Terry's nephew) and his family as they deal with his recent diagnosis; Missy (Sarah Robinson's sister-in-law) and her two daughters, Lexi and Maggie. Missy has been diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer; Sandy Nissley; for the family and friends of Viv Palmer (Maxine's cousin) who is in hospice care; Mickie Richards (friend of Jen & Steve Van de Graaf); John Robinson (Darlene Harmon's brother) who has lung cancer; Nancy Russell (Linda Martin's sister); Mindy Starr-Pfahler (Wendy Starr's cousin); Ken Stringfellow (Kate Stringfellow-Ziance's brother); J. Stuart Stringfellow (Kate Stringfellow-Ziance's father); 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>

GROW IN FAITH

 **SILVER HILL HOSPITAL** If you know of someone in urgent need of mental health support, please remember the resource that our town has in the New Canaan Urgent Assessment Program. The town, in partnership with Silver Hill Hospital, is prepared to offer psychiatric assessment and tailored referral for ongoing care. The Program serves children, teens and adults who are New Canaan residents free of charge. To schedule an intake call, email NCUA@silverhillhospital.org or call Silver Hill Hospital admissions at 1-866-542-4455 and indicate that you are asking about the New Canaan Urgent Assessment Program. For more details use this link: <https://silverhillhospital.org/new-canaan-urgent-assessment-program/>

Pastoral Care Team:

Do you know of someone who might appreciate a phone call or visit, someone who is lonely or mourning? Our congregation has 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, Barbara Wentzel and The Rev. Mary Thies, is ready to provide pastoral care to church members who are dealing with such a situation. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry or if you have questions about the work of the team, please call the church office 203-966-0002 (ext 1).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

CALENDAR – UPCOMING WEEK

SUNDAY, January 18

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service
11:30 am Coffee Hour

MONDAY, January 19

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 am MLK Service (Methodist Church)
3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Tate Barn)
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers

TUESDAY, January 20

9:30, 10:30, 11:30 Jumpin' Jams (Tate Barn)
10:30 am Staff Leadering Weekly Meeting
8 pm Men's A.A. Group (closed)

WEDNESDAY, January 21

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 am Weekly Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, January 21

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 22

3:30 pm Special Church
6 pm South Avenue Cottage Board Meeting
7 pm FPC Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

FRIDAY, January 23

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

SATURDAY, January 24

9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)
1-5 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SUNDAY, January 25

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service
11:15 am Coffee Hour

CALENDAR – JANUARY thru MARCH

Tuesday, Jan 27	Holocaust Remembrance Day
Thursday, Jan 29, 7:00pm	Open Mic Night
Sunday, Feb 1, 11:30am	Adult Forum – Georgette Bennett (Moral Courage in Dark Times: Identity, Violence, and the Will to Survive)
Thursday, Feb 5, 3:00pm	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
Friday, Feb 6, 7:00pm	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
Sunday, Feb 8, 11:30am	Souper Bowl of Caring
Wednesday, Feb 18, 12:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday, Feb 22, 11:30am	First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan – Annual Meeting & Lunch
Sunday, Feb 22, 4:00pm	Orchestra Lumos Concert
Thursday, Feb 26, 7:00pm	Open Mic Night
Saturday, Feb 28, 4:00pm	New England Chamber Orchestra Concert
Sunday, Mar 8, 11:30am	New Member Orientation Class
Sunday, Mar 22, 10:00am	New Member Reception
Thursday, Mar 26, 7:00pm	Open Mic Night
Sunday, Mar 29, 10:00am	Palm Sunday Service

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir

with:

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

Greeters: Linda Martin and Victoria Mezo

Lay Reader: Barb Achenbaum

Ushers: Jim Ely and Andrew Mezo

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 and Jennifer Van de Graaf (Co-Clerks) • 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 and Kathy Edwards (Co-Moderators) • Ferial Aldag • Sue Benko • Carole Clarkson • Chris Cluett
Sue Dishart • Lisa Flanagan • Terence D. 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>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:



DONATE:

