



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Third Sunday after Epiphany • January 25, 2026 • 10:00am
178 OENOK 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: Blessed Jesu, at Thy Word; BWV 633 (from *Orgelbüchlein*) Johann Sebastian Bach

***Call to Worship (Psalm 27:1)** The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

All: whom shall I fear?

Leader: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

All: of whom shall I be afraid?

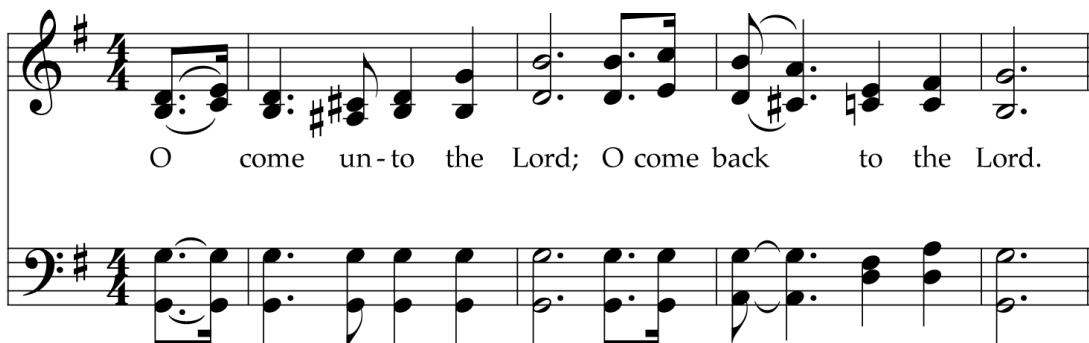
Leader: We gather in the presence of the Living God who calls us forward to new life.

All: Let us open our hearts and minds in worship to hear and respond to God's call.

***Hymn No. 416:** O Come unto the Lord

Korea

Refrain



1 No mat - ter how heav - y and how great your sins may
 2 Our Sav - ior is wait - ing your re - turn both night and
 3 No mat - ter how bur - dened and how beat - en you may

be, there are no sins that Christ our Sav - ior can - not
 day. Je - sus anx - ious - ly a - waits you, with
 be, the Lord will com - fort you great - ly with

bear, can - not ac - cept. The great depth of Je - sus'
 door kept o - pen wide, as one who waits through -
 hands that touch and heal. Come un - to Christ, who

lov - ing heart is far deep - er than the seas.
 out the night for a lost child to come back home.
 loves you so. Please come home; please come back home.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Leah Saulsberry

Call to Confession

Dede Bartlett

Leader: The prophet Isaiah writes, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined." Let us confess the darkness that is a part of our lives and world, and embrace the light of God's love and forgiveness. Let us pray:

Confession of Sin (unison)

Dede Bartlett

Gracious God, when despair and suffering overwhelm us, we cry out for you and feel abandoned. We doubt your presence and your promises. We believe you have turned away from us in anger. We ask why you have forsaken us. Lord, forgive us. Strengthen us in faith and fill our hearts with courage to turn to you and give us strength to live for you. Give us grace to hear your call and to obey your voice above all others...

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 103:17)

Dede Bartlett

Leader: "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." 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

Dede Bartlett

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.

THE WORD

Prayer for illumination (unison)

Dede Bartlett

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 9:1-4

Dede Bartlett

¹But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Solo:

“The people that walked in darkness”

George Friedric Handel

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.”

(Isaiah 9: 2)

Devin Mitchell - bass

Second Lesson – Matthew 4:12-23

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵‘Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.’ ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Following Jesus Today

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 720:

Jesus Calls Us

Galilee

1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest-less sea; day by day his sweet voice
vain world's gold-en store, from each i-dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -

sound-eth say-ing, "Chris-tian, fol-low me."
keep us, say-ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
be-dience, serve and love thee best of all.

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: Let us return a portion of the gifts we have received as a way to pledge our lives in service to Christ's way and to show care and compassion for those most in need.

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

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)**

Dede Bartlett

Holy God, we present these offerings to you in faith. We trust that you will bless and use them to further Christ's ministry and serve those in need. May these gifts bless those we know are suffering and those known only to you. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 170:**

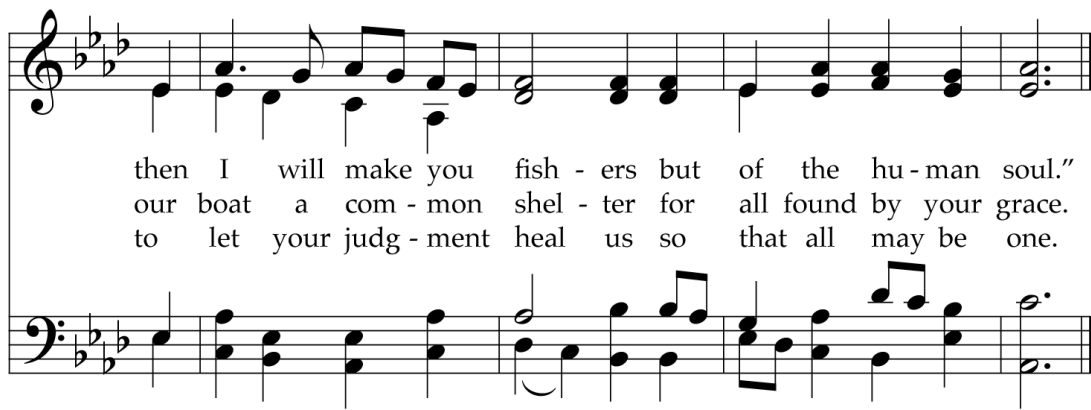
You Walk along Our Shoreline

Wie lieblich ist der Maien

1 You walk a - long our shore-line where land meets un-known sea.
2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we cry the king-dom's name;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.
We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth.
we work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain.

And if you still will fol-low through storm and wave and shoal,
We spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh-ters and God's sons,



*Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

*Postlude: Lord Jesus Christ, be present now, BWV 632 (from *Orgelbüchlein*)
Johann Sebastian Bach

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to worship on this Third Sunday after the Epiphany as we reflect on what it means to hear and respond to God's call. We will be exploring "the call" to each of us through the lens of the two lectionary texts from Isaiah and Matthew and how we respond to the good news of the Kingdom. We are glad you are joining us for worship via LiveControl, and pray you'll be spiritually renewed and socially reoriented as we move through the season of Epiphany!

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.

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.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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

Today's organ music is composed by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750), a German composer and musician of the late Baroque period and a master of counterpoint. Bach has been known as one of the greatest composers of classical music. We hear two chorale settings from the *Orgelbüchlein* (*Little Organ Book*), BWV 599–644, a set of 46 chorale preludes for organ. Bach's apparent plan was for a collection of 164 settings of chorale tunes sung during the Church year so that each part of the year was represented. However, only 46 of these were completed. The manuscript, which is now in the Staatsbibliothek, leaves a number of tunes as missing or "ghost" pieces. The *Orgelbüchlein* as Bach left it contains about 80 minutes of music which span the liturgical calendar. Each setting takes a Lutheran chorale, adds a motivic accompaniment, and quite freely explores form.

Our bass soloist, Devin Mitchell, sings music by **George Frideric Handel** (1685-1759), a German-British Baroque composer well-known for his operas, oratorios, anthems, concerti grossi, and organ concerti. We hear a solo from his *Messiah*, HWV 56, an English-language oratorio composed in 1741. The text was compiled from the *King James Bible* and the *Coverdale Psalter* by Charles Jennens. It was first performed in Dublin on 13 April 1742 and received its London premiere a year later. After an initially modest public reception, the oratorio gained in popularity, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music. Handel wrote *Messiah* for modest vocal and instrumental forces, with optional alternative settings for many of the individual numbers. The autograph manuscript of the oratorio is preserved in the British Library.

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.

THIS WEEK @ FPC

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!



Open Mic Night

FPCNC Open Mic: Diverse Expressions
Featured Performance by Nick Depuy



You are invited to an evening
to share music and/or poetry
(originals and covers welcome)!

Thursday,
January 29

Open Mic, 7-8:30 pm
Featured Performance,
8:30-9 pm

178 Oenoke ridge,
New Canaan CT

Signups required, please
email Nick Depuy at
nickdepuysite@gmail.com
to sign up and for more information

NEXT SUNDAY



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

GEORGETTE BENNETT

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

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

178 OENOKE 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!

SAVE THE DATE

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 8 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!



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Sip, Savor & Share the Love – Please join us for a Sweet Start to Valentine's with Yummy Treats & Floral Arranging Basics Workshop

Calling all Congregants and Friends of FPCNC!! Come celebrate community and connection, and bring home a floral bouquet! You're welcome to join us for a Valentine's Breakfast Tea/Coffee in the Common Room, where you'll find good food, sweet treats, great company, and warm fellowship as we celebrate God's love



When: Thursday, February 12 – 10:00-11:30am

Must RSVP by February 9 to guarantee supplies: Wendy (wendy@fpcnc.org or 203-966-0002 ext. 1)

Organized by: Congregational Life

MISSION & OUTREACH



Community Service Project: Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Food Packing Event for Young Families and Congregants of all ages is on **Saturday, March 7 from 9:00 - 11:00 am** at the New Canaan High School. **RSVP's are required.** Interested? Please reach out to Nancy LaBadie or Wendy in the office.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian nonprofit whose mission is to "feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit". We will help hand-pack nutritionally complete meals which

will be distributed through partner organizations to reach malnourished children.

This is a simple and impactful family-friendly activity and system to combat hunger with food, faith and hope, one meal at a time. All ages can attend and ages 5+ can volunteer!



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>

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

Your 2025 Year-End Contribution Statements were mailed on January 12. If you don't receive them by end of January, please call the office.

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, jriehl@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

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.

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 also provided below.

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/>



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: Navigators@waveny.org

In collaboration with



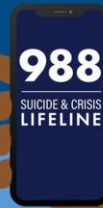
NEW CANAAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

**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.



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

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.


New prayers and concerns: healing prayers for Ferial Aldag who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on Friday, January 23

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); for Kristen Englund (baptized and confirmed at FPC) who underwent successful transplant surgery on Monday, January 12; for the family of Amy Fowler Granato (Julie Fowler's sister) who died January 13; 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; healing prayers for Anne Kniffin; 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); 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 of Tom Nissley who died Saturday, January 10; 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); for the family of Joan Taylor who died Saturday, January 10; 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 25

10 am Worship Service **ONLINE ONLY**

MONDAY, January 26

OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED DUE TO STORM

TUESDAY, January 27

Holocaust Remembrance Day

9:30, 10:30, 11:30 Jumpin' Jams (Tate Barn)

10:30 am Staff Leadering Weekly Meeting

7 pm Guitar Jam (Common Room)

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

WEDNESDAY, January 28

10:00 am Weekly Bible Study

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 29

3:30 pm Special Church

7 pm Open Mic Night (Common Room)

7 pm FPC Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

FRIDAY, January 30

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

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SATURDAY, January 31

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

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

10am–2pm Charis Chamber Voices Dress Rehearsal

1-5 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SUNDAY, February 1

9 am Music Rehearsals

10 am Worship Service

11:15 am Coffee Hour

11:30 am Adult Forum – Georgette Bennett (Moral Courage in Dark Times: Identity, Violence, and the Will to Survive)

CALENDAR – FEBRUARY thru MARCH

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

Lay Reader: Dede Bartlett

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

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