



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

First Sunday of Lent • February 22, 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:

Méditation

Maurice Duruflé

*Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 32)

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: The steadfast love of God always surrounds us,
All: even in the wilderness!
Leader: The Spirit of the Lord always leads us into new life
All: even through difficult times of testing and temptation.
Leader: The communion of saints supports and encourages us.
All: Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!

*Hymn No. 165:

The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt uns, Herr

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - bate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minute For Mission

Steve Van de Graaf

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Leah Saulsberry

Call to Confession

Cindy Graziano

Leader: In these times of testing, let us pause to examine our own hearts, looking for how we have failed to live up to that which God has commanded.

Confession of Sin (unison)

Cindy Graziano

Merciful God, you know all about our troubles. Your Son was tested in the wilderness, tempted by the powers and principalities of the age. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Cindy Graziano

Leader: Friends, this statement is completely reliable and should be universally accepted: Christ came to rescue sinners. Hear and believe the good news:

All: **In Jesus Christ, are forgiven! In Jesus Christ, we are made righteous! Amen.**

*Gloria Patri

Gloria Patri

Terence J. Flanagan



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly
6 Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be,
11 world with - out end, A - men. A - men.

*Passing of the Peace

Cindy Graziano

Leader: Through Christ God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, by making peace through the blood of the Cross. May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

THE WORD

Prayer for illumination (unison)

Cindy Graziano

Still-speaking God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear, and by hearing, grow in faith and love. Amen.

First Lesson – Genesis 2:15-17

Cindy Graziano

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem:

Lord, for thy tender mercies sake

John Hilton

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake lay not our sins to our charge;
But forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives;
to decline from sin, and incline to virtue,
that we may walk in an upright heart before thee this day and evermore.

FPCNC Choir

Second Lesson – Matthew 4:1-11

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him,

'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." ' ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' ⁷Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." ' ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

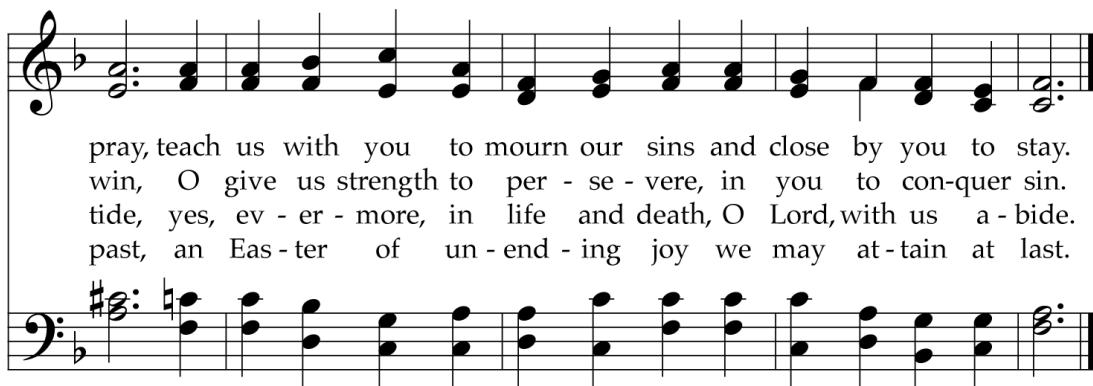
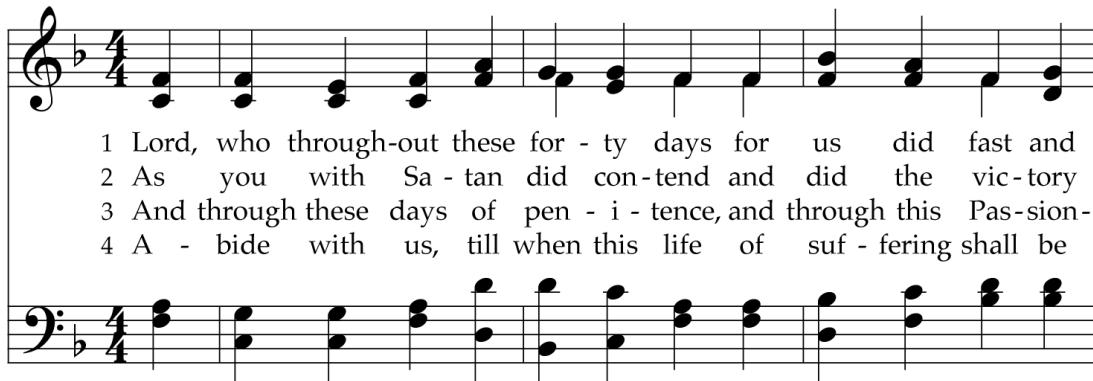
Finding the Way...

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 166: Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian



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 is generous and calls us to offer our time, talents and resources back to God, the giver. God has modeled this generosity by giving us all that we are and all that we have. Love and gratitude lead us to give abundantly.

Offertory Solo:

The Bird's Song (from *The Pilgrim's Progress*)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
 he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
 he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
 for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

(words from the *Book of Psalms*)

Lisa Flanagan – soprano

*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.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Cindy Graziano

Take these, our gifts, tithes and offerings, O God. Use them for your glory and kingdom's expansion. May our time, talent and treasure go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the sick. As Christ's body, use us too, in giving new life to the broken places of our world. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 167:

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,



for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
 fast - ing with un - ceas-ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

***Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

***Choral Amen**

***Ringing of the Church Bell**

***Postlude:**

Toccata, Op. 29

Joseph Callaerts

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to worship on this First Sunday of Lent, the “Holy Spring” of the church and a five week season of reflection and repentance to help us prepare for Holy Week and to celebrate more fully Easter new life! This year, we will be using the lectionary texts but also a kind of spiritual “compass” that Scott has found helpful in his life’s faith pilgrimage. Each week, in addition to the biblical texts, we will also consider the questions: “Does it give life, or take life away?” “Does it expand your world, or shrink it?” “Does it lead you more deeply into mystery and paradox, or black and white reality?” “Does it set you free to give yourself away to something bigger than yourself, or enslave you to the fear of ‘not enough?’” and finally, “Does it bring joy, or despair?” The purpose of Lent, after all, is to lead us into new life! We are glad you are joining us for worship, and pray you will experience the grace of God’s welcome here, and be spiritually renewed and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

Sunday School! Join us as we explore Bible stories and all our questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the world around us. We will explore these themes through discussion, crafts, music, and other visual media. Children begin worship in the Sanctuary with their families then following the Blessing for Young Disciples, we move to our Sunday School classes upstairs in the Bliss House and then return to the Sanctuary towards the end of worship.

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

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>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:  	DONATE: 	FPCNC YouTube Channel: 
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ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our organ prelude is composed by French composer, organist and pedagogue **Maurice Duruflé** (1902-1986). In 1912, he became a Chorister at the Rouen Cathedral Choir School, where he studied piano and organ with Jules Haelling. At age 17, upon moving to Paris, he took private organ lessons with Charles Tournemire

(whom he assisted at Ste-Clotilde until 1927), Guilmant and Vierne. In 1920 Duruflé entered the Conservatoire de Paris, where he took courses in organ with Gigout, harmony with Jean Gallon, fugue with Caussade, and composition with Ducas. He also graduated with first prize in piano accompaniment. In 1927, Louis Vierne nominated Maurice Duruflé as his Assistant at Notre-Dame. Duruflé became Titular Organist of St. Étienne-du-Mont in Paris in 1929, a position he held for the rest of his life. In 1943, he became professor of harmony at the Conservatoire de Paris, where he worked until 1970.

Our choir's offertory anthem is composed by **John Hilton** (ca. 1599-1657), an English early Baroque composer. His father was probably the church musician and composer John Hilton the elder, who died in Cambridge in 1609. Hilton junior became Organist at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster in 1628. In 1635, Hilton was Lutenist to Charles I. He is best known for his books *Ayres or Fa-Las for Three Voices* and *Catch That Catch Can*.

Our soprano soloist, Lisa Flanagan, will sing offertory music composed by **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958), an English composer. His works include operas, ballets, chamber music, secular and religious vocal pieces and orchestral compositions including nine symphonies, written over sixty years. Strongly influenced by Tudor music and English folk-song, his output marked a decisive break in British music from its German-dominated style of the 19th century. Throughout his life he sought to be of service to his fellow citizens, and believed in making music as available as possible to everybody. He wrote many works for amateur and student performance. He was musically a late developer, not finding his true voice until his late thirties; his studies in 1907–1908 with the French composer Maurice Ravel helped him clarify the textures of his music and free it from Teutonic influences. Vaughan Williams is among the best-known British symphonists, noted for his very wide range of moods, from stormy and impassioned to tranquil, from mysterious to exuberant.

Our organ Postlude is music composed by **Joseph Callaerts** (1830-1901), a Belgian organist, carillonneur, composer and music teacher. He was an important member of the Belgian school of organ playing. Joseph Callaerts (sometimes referred to as Jozef) was born in 1830 in Antwerp, and spent nearly all of his life in that city. He started learning music when he was a boy, singing in Antwerp's Choir of the Cathedral of Our Lady. As a young man, he studied the organ with Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens at the Brussels Royal Conservatoire. Starting in 1850, Callaerts served as the Organist at the Jesuit College in Antwerp. In 1855 he became the Organist at Antwerp Cathedral and in 1863 he became Carillonneur of the city of Antwerp. From 1867 on, he taught organ and harmony at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp.

Did you know...

On Wednesday, February 11, our electrician Kieran O'Connell and I were joined by a technician from Verdin Clocks and Bells and our Tower Bell operating system was upgraded. The last time work was done was in 1997, and components of the striking mechanism of the bell were reaching life expectancy and needed attention. (The Verdin Company did the initial work on our bell and subsequent upgrade.) In order to upgrade, new wiring and cable was required. This process began some months ago with the purchase of the wire and cable needed to replace what existed. Kieran worked over many weeks, crawling around the building to install the new material. The bell's new operating system now resides inside the Women's Changing Room/Music Library. The completed work will ensure many, many years of continued operation of our bell. We will now hear, along with our peal every Sunday morning at the conclusion of Worship, a more somber tolling feature for funerals and memorial services. As well, our bell will now chime every day of the week at 12:00 Noon and 6:00pm. It is our hope that anyone present during these times will pause for a moment to enjoy the wonderful sound that the bell has to offer. *Terence J. Flanagan, Director of Music and Fine Arts*



TODAY

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 in the Common Room immediately following the 10:00am Worship Service.

Grab some coffee/tea and lunch before the meeting starts. Childcare will also be provided.

An Agenda, 2025 Annual Report, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes and other documents will be provided for everyone at the meeting. To review these documents online beforehand, check either the February 13 or February 20 Tidings emails.

All are welcome! We hope you can all stay for our Annual Meeting and lunch!

CONCERT @ FPC LATER TODAY

Sunday, February 22 at 3:00pm – you won’t want to miss it!

Orchestra Lumos presents *The Best of All Possible Winds*

A special program to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America

Join us this afternoon in the Sanctuary after morning Worship and our Annual Meeting/lunch to hear some of the finest woodwind players in the area – flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn! An exciting program celebrating America and its 250 years features works by **Leonard Bernstein, William Grant Still, Charles Ives, Amy Beach, John Philip Sousa, and more.** In addition, you will have the opportunity to hear our Director of Music and Fine Arts, Terence J. Flanagan play our Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ solo and with the woodwinds.



STEWARSHIP CAMPAIGN 2026

2026 Stewardship Update:

The 2026 Stewardship Campaign has concluded. We are thrilled to report that we raised \$926,000! Exceeding our campaign goal of \$920,000. Much of the success of the final weeks of the campaign is due to the Pledge Match Challenge which was offered by two generous donors. The Challenge raised over \$140,000 during the final five weeks of the Campaign.

The Stewardship team wants to thank everyone in the Congregation who has contributed or pledged since the start of the Stewardship Campaign in November. The overall participation has been great. Everyone should be proud of our combined support for First Presbyterian!

Even though the Campaign is officially over, if you have not yet pledged for 2026, you can still do so. There are pledge cards at the back of the Sanctuary, and you can also pledge online at <https://fpcnc.org/pledges>. Or contact Wendy in the Church office.

Thank you and Blessings from the Stewardship Team

THIS WEEK @ FPC

MEN'S GATHERING

MEN'S GATHERING will meet via Zoom this **Wednesday, February 25** from **7:00–8:00am** and our guest speaker will be Bob Spangler. Bob and his family are long-time New Canaan residents and members of FPCNC. Bob has been actively involved in our church for many years, and he is currently our Co-Clerk of Session and an integral member of our Finance and Fundraising committees. Bob has also served in several roles in the New Canaan

community over the years including long stints on the Board of Finance and Board of the YMCA. And in his day job, Bob leads RBC Capital's Municipal Finance and Community Investment groups based in NYC.

This Wednesday, Bob will lead us in a discussion about affordable housing finance, the State of CT requirements and some of the affording housing projects in our community. 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, contact Mark (mmagnusen@yahoo.com), Scott (scott@fpcnc.org) or Wendy (wendy@fpcnc.org).

Men's Gathering meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The next Zoom meeting dates are:

- Wed, March 11 @ 7:00am (Zoom)
- Wed, March 25 @ 7:00am (Zoom)
- Wed, April 8 @ 7:00am (Zoom)
- Wed, April 22 @ 7:00am (Zoom)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

Open Mic Night

FPCNC Open Mic: Diverse Expressions
Featured Performance by Glenn Roth

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

Thursday,
February 26

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
nickdepuy@site@gmail.com
to sign up and for more information

THIS MONTH

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!



A Century of Black History Commemorations – From Negro History Week to Black History Month

2026 marks 100 years of national Black history commemorations, honoring the vision of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the founders of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), now ASALH. In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week, creating a movement that transformed how America and the world recognize the

contributions of people of African descent. What began as a week-long observance has grown into Black History Month, a cornerstone of American and global culture. For its 100th theme, ASALH invites the world to reflect on the power of remembrance and how Black history commemorations have transformed identity, inspired progress, and preserved truth against erasure. From the Haitian Revolution and Juneteenth to today's cultural landmarks, these observances remind us that to understand the modern world, one must understand Black history. As the nation also approaches the 250th Anniversary of U.S. Independence, ASALH calls for a continued commitment to telling an inclusive and accurate history, especially amid efforts to erase it. A legacy that began in 1926 continues today. Learn more about the theme: <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>

LENT AT FPC

The Lenten season is here! We marked the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Worship Service this past Wednesday, February 18, as we enter this season of preparation for Easter. This year, our theme is *Finding the Way...* Each Sunday, in addition to the lectionary texts, we will be using a kind of spiritual “compass” to help you discover the way of Jesus along your life’s faith pilgrimage. On each of the five weeks leading up to Holy Week, we will reflect on one of the five questions:

- 1) “Does it give life, or take life away?”
- 2) “Does it expand your world, or shrink it?”
- 3) “Does it lead you more deeply into mystery and paradox, or black and white reality?”
- 4) “Does it set you free to give yourself away to something bigger than yourself, or enslave you to the fear of ‘not enough?’ and finally,
- 5) “Does it bring joy, or despair?”

The purpose of Lent, after all, is to lead us into new life! And hopefully along with the biblical lessons, these questions will help us find our way to the new life God intends for us and all people.

You are also welcome to pick up Lenten devotionals, One Great Hour of Sharing coin fish banks for your children to help save, and brown bags/grocery items for food pantry donations. We have also set up the Labyrinth in the Sanctuary for you to experience prayer using the Labyrinth.

LENT AT FPC (Cont'd)

Lenten devotional booklets are here – for individuals or families! Please pick up either devotional below at the table by the main Sanctuary entrance and share one with a friend.



40-Day "Love Builds Up" Family Challenge

For each of the six weeks of Lent, spend some time at the beginning of the week (Sunday night, maybe?) reading the Bible passage together. Talk as a family about that week's topic, using the conversation prompts included in this devotional if that helps. Commit to taking on an action or practice from that week, then just watch as the Realm of God fills, strengthens, and beautifies your house and the world!

Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent

The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. (Isaiah 14:7)

The word "Lent" comes from an old English word for "lengthen," and refers to the lengthening days of spring. Anticipating Easter, the church prepares with forty days of fasting and reflection, the better to celebrate the great feast when it comes. The word "sabbath" comes from an old Hebrew word for "to stop," and refers to pausing secondary activities (like work) to clear space for the primary ones (like relationships, delight, study, freedom, beauty, restoration – and resurrection). The poet Wendell Berry calls "the idea of sabbath...as rich and demanding an idea as any I know" – and over the decades, Berry has devoted many Sundays to writing "sabbath poems" that explore the depths of this rich, demanding idea. In this Lenten devotional, biblical texts walk hand-in-hand with Berry's sabbath vision of the natural world, and together they suggest simple, accessible practices you can try yourself, with your family or friends, or with your congregation.



Action and Contemplation for Lent... The Sanctuary is open for members Mon-Fri from 9:00am-5:00pm who want to spend time for prayer and meditation, using the Labyrinth or if you simply want to enjoy some quiet time sitting in the Sanctuary, you are welcome. This is a great opportunity to bring your food donations for the New Canaan Food Pantry, to pray for ourselves and our larger community. We believe prayer and service go together. **Instructions for the Labyrinth are posted or you can reach out to Scott or the church office for guidelines.** The Labyrinth is designed to lead one into private meditation via following the intricate path that takes us to the center.

It's not a maze, but a purposeful passage that may be entered into with gentle song, prayer, or quiet meditation. We ask that you remove your street shoes, so please wear socks or bring your slippers from home.

LENT AT FPC (Cont'd)

During the season of Lent (February 18 – March 29), our congregation collects a special offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing.** Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. This Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

To donate online, use the QR code located in the bulletin insert or in the below photo. You can also donate using the envelope included in your bulletin starting March 8 or they are available at the Usher's table throughout the season of Lent.



PDS 12138-26101

Text **OGHS** to **91999** to support these vital ministries, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN



Come Join Us! Holy Week Services

**Ash Wednesday
Service**

February 18, 12:00pm

Palm Sunday Service

March 29, 10:00am

**Maundy Thursday
Service**

April 2, 7:00pm

**Good Friday Community
Service @ Lutheran Church**

April 3, 6:00pm

**Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service**

April 5, 7:00am

**Easter Sunday
Breakfast**

April 5, 8:00am

Easter Sunday Service

April 5, 10:00am

**Easter Egg
Hunt**

April 5, 11:30am

All Are Welcome!

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT
www.fpcnc.org 203-966-0002 ext. 1

LENT AT FPC (Cont'd)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

ANNUAL LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Share the Spirit of Giving during Lent
Live Our Mission!

Bring your donated items to Church
throughout Lent starting on
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH –
PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

New Canaan Food Pantry suggested items needed:

- Non-Refrigerated Milk (Parmalat, Horizon, etc.)
- Pancake Mix (Complete)
- Cereal & Oatmeal (Small Tub or Box)
- Baking Items: Baking Mix, Oil, Flour, Olive Oil
- Crackers, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Taco Kits, and Hamburger Helper
- Canned Goods: Vegetables, Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Soup, Tuna, Chicken, Stew
- Ground Coffee (Regular & Decaf) & Tea
- Household: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Dish Soap, All-Purpose Cleaners
- Personal Care: Shampoo/Conditioner, Deodorant, Body Wash, Mouth Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream

Monetary donations always accepted and can be mailed to
Human Services at: 77 Main St, New Canaan CT 06840.
Please make checks payable to the "New Canaan Food Pantry".



Grab a bag with list of items from back of Church.
Bags donated by Walter Stewart's.

SAVE THE DATE

Welcome Visitors! We are delighted to welcome you to our Worship Service today – and every Sunday! First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan is a welcoming, worshipping, learning, celebrating, caring, giving, and serving community, reflecting the inclusive love of God, and nurturing each person's spiritual journey.



If you are interested in learning about joining our Church community, we invite you to participate in our upcoming Membership Events:

- **Sunday, March 8th** – Membership Orientation after Worship (We will discuss “who we are,” “what we believe,” “how we live out our faith” and “what First Presbyterian is about”. Lunch and childcare will be provided.)
- **Sunday, March 22nd** – New Members Welcomed at Worship

If you'd like to know more about Membership, please contact Membership Elder Barb Achenbaum at 203-273-6908 or barbachenbaum@gmail.com.

Calling all Lads and Lassies to join the 2026 Scottish Heritage Committee to help organize this year's Scottish Sunday, planned for Sunday, May 3, 2026.

Scottish Sunday is one of the highlights of our church year - and we need your help to make it happen! This much-anticipated annual Service brings our Presbyterian cultural heritage and celebration into our church. It's a day filled with memorable worship, fabulous music, joyful dance, and excellent food and libations!

Joining the committee is a wonderful way to contribute to the life of our church in a hands-on, enjoyable way. It's a chance to help sustain a tradition that brings distinction to the church, strengthens fellowship, and creates an experience people talk about long after the last toast and bagpipe tune.

If you enjoy working with others, value tradition, and like being part of something truly special, we would love to have you on this year's committee (and you don't need to be Scottish to join the fun!) We encourage and respectfully ask all our former committee members to re-engage with us this year, as well as new joiners with new energy and new ideas. All are welcome! We promise a good time will be had by all!



Please let Patty von Jena / Nancy LaBadie, or Wendy know in the office if you would like to join the committee.



MISSION & OUTREACH

Community Service Project

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Food Packing Event for Young Families and Congregants of all ages

**Saturday, March 7 from 9:00–11:00am
at the New Canaan High School**

RSVP's are required by February 27. Interested? Please reach out to Nancy LaBadie nancydlabadi@gmail.com or Wendy wendy@fpcnc.org so we can secure our participation numbers. Ages 5+ can volunteer!

Feeding kids. Feeding spirits. Empowering communities.

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.



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. Still needed for March 7 — 2-3 Cooks and 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>



EDITOR'S NOTES



Adult Forum Recordings

To watch previous Adult Forums, you can check out our YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN6ar2AUqiXmUnDmAPG61KA>.

We recently posted videos on our YouTube channel of the last 2 Adult Forum talks:

- January 11, 2026 (Greg Cootsona – <https://youtu.be/apdP3KK5H1A>)
- February 1, 2026 (Georgette Bennett – <https://youtu.be/-ATbhqCZDLc>)

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.

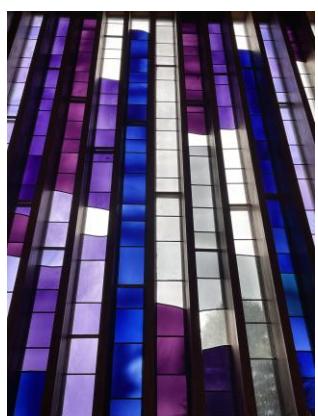
The online scammers are getting very crafty and sophisticated in their trickery. Please take time to always check the sender email (@fpcnc.org) and, no matter what the content of the email, if it is not from the church address (@fpcnc.org), bad actors are using our identities to trick you and commit 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 2026 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 occurs 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 https://www.newcanaan.info/online_services/emergency_call_out_system/index.php.

The town of New Canaan Human Services maintains a vulnerable resident outreach registry. In the event of a town-wide emergency, Human Services staff will contact those residents wishing to receive a wellness call. If you are a NC resident 65+ and/or homebound/disabled and would like to have your name added to the Registry, go to https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/human_services/index.php. Follow the directions there or call Marcella Rand, the Adult and Senior Services Coordinator, 203-594-3083.



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.

CONCERT @ FPC



COMMUNITY



Winter Coat Drive



Midnight Run - Donations Needed

Let's support the Congregational church as they collect items for their upcoming Midnight Run on February 28.

Please donate winter coats, sweaters, and sweatshirts (L or XL, men's and women's), as well as new T-shirts, underwear (L or XL), and/or heavy socks. A donation box is located at the back of the FPC Sanctuary until Tuesday, February 24.

Your donations are appreciated and will be most welcome during this harsh winter. Any Questions, please reach out to Steve Van de Graaf or Wendy in the Church Office.

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT
www.fpcnc.org 203-966-0002 ext. 1



THE SONO COLLECTION
TEEN MOVIE night
FRIDAY
February 27, 5-7:30pm
FREE ENTRY
THE SONO COLLECTION
LEVEL 2, NEAR BLOOMINGDALE'S
100 N. WATER ST. NORWALK, CT 06854
Free food, prizes, & the
chance to connect with local
organizations that serve
teens, so register today!
SCAN HERE



NEW CANAAN CONNECTICUT

New Canaan Health Department
77 Main Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 594-3037
newcanaan.info

Lunch and Learn: Disease and Vaccination

Join Shannon Vallerie from the New Canaan Health Department and Harrison Pierce, M.D., for a presentation exploring diseases and vaccinations. We will discuss how vaccines work, their effectiveness and adverse reactions. Lunch provided by Staying Put. Free to register, spots are limited! Call 203-594-3620 to secure your seat.

Where: Lapham Center
When: March 10, 2026 at 12:00 PM



Health Department
Phone: [203-594-3020](tel:203-594-3020)
Email:
amy.lehaney@newcanaanct.gov

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



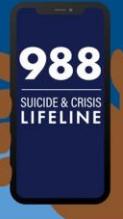
NEW CANAAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

**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.newcanaanbha.org.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

New prayers and concerns: for the family of James Marcotte (Jennifer & Steve Van de Graaf's brother-in-law) who died Monday, February 16; Dan McEvoy for upcoming surgeries on his Achilles tendon; Bonnie Hicks (Barbara Wentzel's close friend) is seriously ill and in the hospital.

Continued prayers and concerns: Ferial Aldag, recovering from knee replacement surgery; 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; 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); Anne Kniffin; Denise Lynch; 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; Howard Palmer; for the family and friends of Viv Palmer (Maxine's cousin) who is in hospice care; 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>

PSNE Community Prayer: For Noroton Presbyterian Church, its Members, Session, Seekers, and the Community of Darien, CT

GROW IN FAITH

 SILVER HILL HOSPITAL If you know of someone in urgent need of mental health support, please remember the resource that our town has in the New Canaan Urgent Assessment Program. The town, in partnership with Silver Hill Hospital, is prepared to offer psychiatric assessment and tailored referral for ongoing care. The Program serves children, teens and adults who are New Canaan residents free of charge. To schedule an intake call, email NCUA@silverhillhospital.org 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, February 22

9 am **Music Rehearsals**
10 am **Worship Service**
11:15 am **Coffee Hour**
11:30 am **Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Lunch**
3 pm **Orchestra Lumos Concert**

MONDAY, February 23

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Tate Barn)
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers

TUESDAY, February 24

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, February 25

7 am Men's Gathering (Zoom)
10:00 am Weekly Bible Study
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsal

THURSDAY, February 26

3:30 pm Special Church
7 pm Open Mic Night (Common Room)
7 pm FPC Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

FRIDAY, February 27

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

SATURDAY, February 28

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

SUNDAY, March 1

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

CALENDAR – MARCH Thru APRIL

Saturday, Mar 7, 9:00-11:00am	Service Project: Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Food Packing Event
Saturday, Mar 7, 2:00-6:00pm	New Covenant Center (Prep and Serve Meals)
Sunday, Mar 8, 11:30am	New Member Orientation Class
Sunday, Mar 8, 4:00pm	Charis Chamber Voices Concert
Sunday, Mar 22, 10:00am	New Member Reception
Thursday, Mar 26, 7:00pm	Open Mic Night
Sunday, Mar 29, 10:00am	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday, Apr 2, 7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service (Communion)
Friday, Apr 3, 6:00pm	Good Friday Community Service (@ New Canaan Lutheran Church)
Saturday, Apr 4, 2:00-6:00pm	New Covenant Center (Prep and Serve Meals)
Sunday, Apr 5	Easter Sunday 7:00am Sunrise Service (followed by breakfast) 10:00am Sunday Service (followed by Easter Egg Hunt)

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir

with:

Lisa Flanagan – soprano, Jaime Ratcliffe – alto, Nikolas Brannan – tenor, Daniel McNickle – bass

Greeters: Debera Prosek and Keith Simpson

Lay Reader: Cindy Graziano

Ushers: Mark Chmiel and Jim Ely

Cross Bearer: Stephan von Jena

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:



FPC YouTube Channel:

