



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Second Sunday of Lent • March 1, 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:

Praeludium in h, BWV 544

Johann Sebastian Bach

***Call to Worship (Psalm 121)**

Stephan von Jena

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills--

All: from where will my help come?

Leader: My help comes from the Lord,

All: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved;

All: he who keeps you will not slumber.

Leader: He who keeps Israel

All: will neither slumber nor sleep.

Leader: The LORD is your keeper;

All: the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

Leader: The sun shall not strike you by day,

All: nor the moon by night.

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all evil;

All: he will keep your life.

Leader: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

All: from this time on and forevermore.



1 Hear, O Lord, my plea for jus - tice; lis - ten
 2 Test my heart for its af - flic - tion; pu - ri -
 3 Keep me, Lord, in sure pro - tec - tion, as the
 4 In its wake, send vin - di - ca - tion; to its



to my heart - felt prayer. In your just de -
 fy my soul with fire; let my mor - tal
 ap - ple of your eye. Shel - ter me be -
 dark - ness, show your face. Bring me to my



lib - er - a - tion may I find re - demp - tion there.
 tongue speak wis - dom, righ - teous - ness be my de - sire.
 neath your shad - ow when my hour of death draws nigh.
 res - ur - rec - tion clothed in gar - ments of your grace.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Leah Saulsberry

Call to Confession

Stephan von Jena

Leader: We need God’s help. Therefore, let us approach God’s throne of grace and honestly confess all that keeps us from right relationship.

Confession of Sin (unison)

Stephan von Jena

Gracious God, as we wander through the wilderness this Lent, we are aware of our need for your presence, your love, your guidance on life’s journey. Forgive us for turning away from you. Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don’t run deep enough and don’t last. Forgive us for our decisions that don’t give life, but take life away. Help us as we journey through Lent to turn back to you and your ways. Grant us your forgiveness and grace...

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

Leader: In Jesus’ name we pray.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (from John 3:17)

Stephan von Jena

Leader: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Friends, hear and believe the good news:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and 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

Stephan von Jena

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)

Stephan von Jena

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts — a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen.

First Lesson – Genesis 12:1-4a

Stephan von Jena

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him;

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson – John 3:1-17

The Rev. Scott Herr

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can

do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’³ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’⁴ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.’⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.’⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.”⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’⁹ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’¹⁰ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?’¹¹ ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.’¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?’¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Expanding Your World

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 187: Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-prepare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Call for the Offering

Stephan von Jena

Leader: God gives generously. Let us honor God by giving generously from all we have received.

Offertory Anthem:

Drop, Drop, Slow Tears

Kenneth Leighton

Drop, drop, slow tears, And bathe those beauteous feet
 Which brought from Heaven The news and Prince of Peace:
 Cease not, wet eyes, His mercy to entreat;
 To cry for vengeance Sin doth never cease.
 In your deep floods Drown all my faults and fears;
 Nor let His eye See sin, but through my tears

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.**

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

The Rev. Scott Herr

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these tithes and offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing, and the underserved. Amen.

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to The Lord's Table

The Rev. Scott Herr

Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Music during Communion: We shall walk through the valley in peace

Arranged by Moses Hogan

We shall walk in peace.

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

For Jesus Himself will be our leader.

We will meet our loved ones there.

There will be no more trials there.

FPCNC Choir

Prayer After Communion (unison)

The Rev. Scott Herr

Gracious and Loving God, thank you for welcoming and feeding us again at your table. Too often we feel not worthy, and we are grateful that you have come not to condemn but to save us. Expand our world and strengthen us to show your love for those in our world, some who are very different from us. May we, with all the saints, be dispensers of your grace in any way we can; with Christ, in Christ, through Christ and for Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 182:

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kingsfold

The musical score is written for a soprano voice and a piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear cadence at the end. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea-ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life-giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav-eling days are done.

*Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

*Choral Amen

*Ringing of the Church Bell

*Postlude:

Fuga in h, BWV 544

Johann Sebastian Bach

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to worship on this Second Sunday of Lent. We continue our journey tracing the steps of Jesus and his 40 days in the wilderness. For the next few Sundays we take an excursion from the Gospel according to Matthew and pick up some stories from the Gospel according to John! The gospel text contains perhaps the most well-known Bible verse of all time: John 3:16. We will explore the expansive love of God through the lens of both lectionary texts, and additionally, we will reflect on the question, "Will it expand your world, or shrink it?" We are glad you are joining us, and pray you will experience the grace of God and be spiritually refreshed and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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

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.

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).

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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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| <p>Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:</p>   | <p>DONATE:</p>  | <p>FPCNC YouTube Channel:</p>  |
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ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, we hear **Johann Sebastian Bach's** (1685-1750) well known Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV 544, written sometime between 1727 and 1731, during his tenure in Leipzig. Unlike most other organ preludes and fugues of Bach, the autograph fair copy of the score survives. The autograph manuscript shares the same watermark and style of handwriting as the Prelude and Fugue in E minor, BWV 548, which points to a composition period of 1727-1731. For nearly one hundred years, the work circulated in manuscript copy form. In 1812 an anonymous editor for the Vienna firm Kunst-Und Industrie Comptoir published BWV 544 for the first time in the first printed collection of Bach's free organ works Six Preludes and Six Fugues for Organ or Piano with Pedal by Johann Sebastian Bach. The rights and plates for this work were sold around 1817 to Johann Riedl who continued to print the work. In the 1820s the rights were transferred to Steiner Verlag and then to Tobias Haslinger, both of whom re-engraved and printed new editions. The work is central in Felix Mendelssohn's Bach revival; he learned BWV 544 from the leading early 19th century organist Johann Gottlob Schneider, the son of a pupil of Bach, and later owned the Riedl edition and edited his own publication in the 1850s.

Our FPCNC Choir's offertory anthem is composed by **Kenneth Leighton** (1929-1988), a British composer and pianist. His compositions include church and choral music, pieces for piano, organ, cello, oboe and other instruments, chamber music, concertos, symphonies, and an opera. He had various academic appointments in the Universities of Leeds, Oxford and, primarily, Edinburgh. In 1951, he was awarded a Mendelssohn Scholarship, which enabled him to study with Goffredo Petrassi in Rome. In 1968, he moved to Oxford University, where he succeeded Edmund Rubbra as Fellow in Music of Worcester College. Leighton returned to Edinburgh as Reid Professor of Music in 1970, holding the chair until his death in 1988. After the spell in Italy, his life was dominated by composing, which continued uninterrupted. While Leighton wrote a good deal of church music, and has occasionally been categorised too reductively as a church-music composer, he was not a church-goer or member of any congregation, nor even conventionally religious. His interests were in literature and love of nature and countryside.

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC (Cont'd)

Our Communion Music is an arrangement by **Moses George Hogan** (1957-2003), an American composer and arranger of choral music. He was best known for his settings of spirituals. Hogan was a pianist, conductor, and arranger of international renown. Over his lifetime, he published 88 arrangements for voice, eight of which were solo pieces. Moses was an accomplished pianist by the age of nine. The family attended the A.L. Davis New Zion Baptist Church in New Orleans. Hogan's father, of the same name, was a bass singer in the church choir while Hogan's uncle, Edwin B. Hogan, was the Minister of Music and Organist. Hogan was musically educated from a young age, first enrolling in Xavier University Junior School of Music. In his sophomore year of high school, he was accepted to New Orleans Center for Creative Arts High School and was in its first graduating class of 1975. Hogan was awarded a full scholarship to the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he studied piano and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Music degree. Immediately after graduation, he began graduate studies at the Juilliard School of Music, which he did not complete, and later went to study classical music in Vienna. In 1980, he formed the New World Ensemble and began arranging choral music. In 1993, he founded the Moses Hogan Chorale. In 1997, he founded the Moses Hogan Singers.

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



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!

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**

Interested? We'd love to have you! Please contact Nancy LaBadie nancydllabadie@gmail.com or Wendy wendy@fpcnc.org to see if there are any slots available. 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.



LENT AT FPC

The Lenten season is here! We marked the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Worship Service on Wednesday, February 18, as we entered 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.



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)

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

40-DAY "LOVE BUILDS UP" FAMILY CHALLENGE



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.



UPDATE: an additional handout of Wendell Berry Poems that follows along with the "Sabbath Poetry of Lent" is also available at the table by the main Sanctuary entrance.

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.



**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**

*What does the Lord require of you?
...to do justice*

*and to love kindness and to walk
humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

*Responding to Christ's call to ministries of
compassion for the world's most vulnerable.*



PDS12138-26-101



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



LENT AT FPC (Cont'd)



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.fpnc.org 203-966-0002 ext. 1



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.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Volunteer for New Covenant Center!

Cooks and Servers are still needed for:

- Sat, April 4th
- Sat, May 2nd

New Covenant Center (NCC) is located in Stamford. Cooking is from 2:00–4:00pm, Serving is from 4:00–5:45pm. Mark your calendars and reserve your spots for Fall NCC cooking and serving on Saturdays Sept 9, Oct 3 and Nov 7.

Sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5AE28A7FF2-newcovenant>, or contact Wendy in the church office or Steve Van de Graaf at stevevdg01@gmail.com for additional information.

**NEW
COVENANT
CENTER**

focused on
hunger prevention
and social services
for a better life

A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES



EDITOR'S NOTES

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.



The Orientation Class and receiving New Members were previously scheduled for March but has been postponed until a later date. Dates will be provided once confirmed. If you are interested in learning about joining our Church community and Membership, please contact Membership Elder Barb Achenbaum at 203-273-6908 or barbachenbaum@gmail.com.



News from the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee

The season of Lent is upon us as we journey towards Easter Sunday and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are thankful to those who continue to sign up to help on Sunday mornings. However, we are always in need of ushers, greeters, readers and communion servers to lead us in joyful celebration. Please consider logging into 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 kind assistance and always welcome new participation!

EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

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*

CONCERT NEXT SUNDAY @ FPC



The poster features a central image of a woman in a blue and gold robe playing a harpsichord. The background is a textured, golden-brown pattern. The text is overlaid on a dark blue background.

Eternal Light

**CHARIS
CHAMBER
VOICES**

JEREMY WIGGINS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TERENCE J. FLANAGAN
ACCOMPANIST

WINTER CONCERT
Sunday, March 8 - 4:00 pm



Depression's Role in Dementia: A Two-Part Clinical Series

Recent research has shifted the understanding of depression's role in dementia from not only a symptom, but also a risk factor. In fact, having a history of depression, even decades earlier, is now strongly correlated with a two-fold increase in dementia risk.

Join us for 2 informative discussions with local clinicians who will explore the link between dementia and depression, address the challenges of delineating between them and review their clinical roles in treating both dementia and depression.

Where **The New Canaan YMCA**
564 South Ave
New Canaan, CT 06840

When **Part One:**
Thursday March 5
6:30PM–8PM



The Panelists from Stamford Health Geriatric Assessment Center:

Dr. Marco Michael MD, Geriatric Psychiatrist

Dr. Seo Angela Choi DO, Geriatrician and Palliative Care Specialist

Amy Riccotta LCSW, RYT
Geriatric Social Worker

Moderator:

Dr. Peter Hasapis MD
Navigator Program Medical Advisor
New Canaan Medical

To RSVP Call or Email:
203-594-5289
Navigator@waveny.org



COMMUNITY (Cont'd)



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.



Health Department
Phone: [203-594-3020](tel:203-594-3020)

Email: amy.lehaney@newcanaanct.gov

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

First Presbyterian Church Presents

MUSIC BY WOMEN COMPOSERS

Featuring
Kevin Bailey, Organ • Aimee Toner, Flute

Saturday, March 14 • 7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church • 1101 Bedford Street, Stamford

No Ticket Required • Freewill Offering Will Be Collected



Celebrating Women's History Month

COMMUNITY (Cont'd)



From celebrating our donors to trees and pumpkins, a Swap Shop story, Midnight Run, and our recyclable of the month, here's a look at how small actions across Planet New Canaan are creating meaningful impact.

Christmas TreeCycle

Now in our 6th year, Planet New Canaan, together with the Exchange Club of New Canaan, New Canaan Department of Public Works, and Service League of Boys, helped collect over **900 Christmas trees**—100 more than last year— at Steve Benko Pool. Instead of heading to landfills, these trees are now mulch on local trails and natural buffers along riverbanks—giving each one a second life that supports our environment.

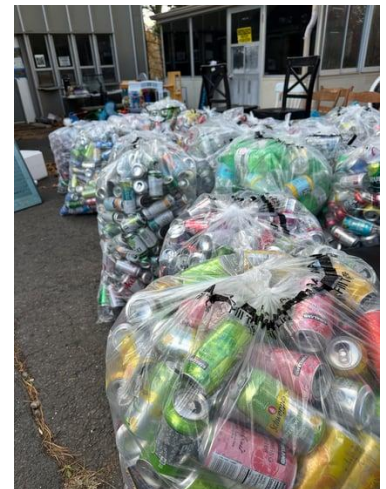


Pumpkin Reclamation

When Halloween ends, most pumpkins head to landfills. Now in our **5th year**, Planet New Canaan is giving pumpkins a better ending. Hundreds of residents dropped off pumpkins at Kiwanis Park, sending them to farms in Connecticut and Massachusetts—where cows and pigs happily feast. It's a win-win for farmers, animals, and the planet!

Redeemables For Good

In 2025, **Planet New Canaan** launched its Redeemables Shed next to the Swap Shop. In just a few months, residents donated thousands of bottles and cans—raising over **\$1,000** for the New Canaan Food Bank. Future proceeds will support additional local groups, including Strays and Others. Bring your rinsed plastic bottles and aluminum cans (No glass!) and help turn recyclables into community support.



Thank You to Our Donors!

Your support powers everything we do—from reclaiming pumpkins and Christmas trees to keeping the Swap Shop thriving. We were so glad to celebrate with you at the Planet New Canaan Paddle Party. **Thank you** for helping turn small actions into big local impact.



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.


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) recovering from transplant surgery; Chris Harris (Dede Trefts' lifelong and beloved friend) is in the last stage of a very long battle with cancer; Bonnie Hicks (Barbara Wentzel's close friend) is seriously ill and in the hospital; 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; for the family of James Marcotte (Jennifer & Steve Van de Graaf's brother-in-law) who died Monday, February 16; Josephine Markell (Jim Riehl's 106-year-old aunt); Dan McEvoy for upcoming surgeries on his Achilles tendon; 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 Calvary United Presbyterian Church, its Members, Session, Seekers, and the Community of Fall River, MA.

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, March 1

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

MONDAY, March 2

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

TUESDAY, March 3

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

WEDNESDAY, March 4

10:00 am Weekly Bible Study
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsal

THURSDAY, March 5

3:30 pm Special Church
7 pm FPC Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

FRIDAY, March 6

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

SATURDAY, March 7

9am-12pm Feed My Starving Children (NCHS)
9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)
1-5 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
2-6pm New Covenant Center (Stamford, CT)

SUNDAY, March 8

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service
11:30am Coffee Hour
4:00 pm Charis Chamber Voices Concert @ FPC

CALENDAR – MARCH Thru APRIL

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 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 (@ St. Michael’s Lutheran Church of NC) |
| 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) |
| Sunday, Apr 12, 11:30am | Adult Forum – Daniel DeLoma (Waveny LifeCare) <i>“Meditative Heartbeat Therapy”</i> |
| Sunday, Apr 19, 11:30am | Adult Forum – Gina Blum, Executive Director of Staying Put in New Canaan |

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

Lisa Flanagan, Meg Bowles – soprano, Jaime Ratcliffe, Jennifer O’Neil – alto,
Nikolas Brannan, Evan McCormack – tenor, Bruce Kramer, Richard Price – bass

Greeters: Sue Sherwood and Jennifer Van de Graaf

Lay Reader: Stephan von Jena

Ushers: Mark Chmiel and Bob Spangler

Communion Preparer: Jan Lucie

Communion Servers: Peg Bull and 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>

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:</p>   | <p>DONATE:</p>  | <p>FPC YouTube Channel:</p>  |
|--|---|--|