



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Easter Sunday • April 5, 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 worshiped 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:

Chorale Prelude on *Llanfair*
Sharagan and Fugue
Entrata Festiva

Virga Jesse

Anton Bruckner
McNeil Robinson
Alan Hovhaness
Flor Peeters

*Christus vincit,
Christus regnat,
Christus imperat.*

Christ o'erpow'reth,
Christ reigneth,
Christ doth doth command.

***Welcome and Call to Worship**

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minister: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Minister: This is the day that the Lord has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Minister: Light out of darkness!

All: Life out of death!

Minister: Hope out of despair!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured,
4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King,
Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing.
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Children are invited to attend Sunday school following the children's message.

Those who wish to attend will go upstairs with Leah and helpers and return to the Sanctuary before communion.

Call to Confession

Jan Lucie

Leader: The joyful Good News of Easter points us to God’s resurrection power. Let us confess all that may bind us and keep us from new life, so we may know the grace of new life through Christ.

Confession of Sin (unison)

Jan Lucie

People: **Loving God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

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

Leader: In Jesus’ name we pray.

People: **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Jan Lucie

Leader: We sing “But the pains which he endured, our salvation have procured.” And we claim and proclaim the Good News together.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and given new life. 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**

Jan Lucie

Leader: The first words of the risen Christ to his followers were, “Peace be with you.” May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Please share that peace with one another.

Congregation greets one another and shares the peace of Christ.

THE WORD

Reading – Matthew 28:1-10

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

With Fear and Great Joy

The Rev. Scott Herr

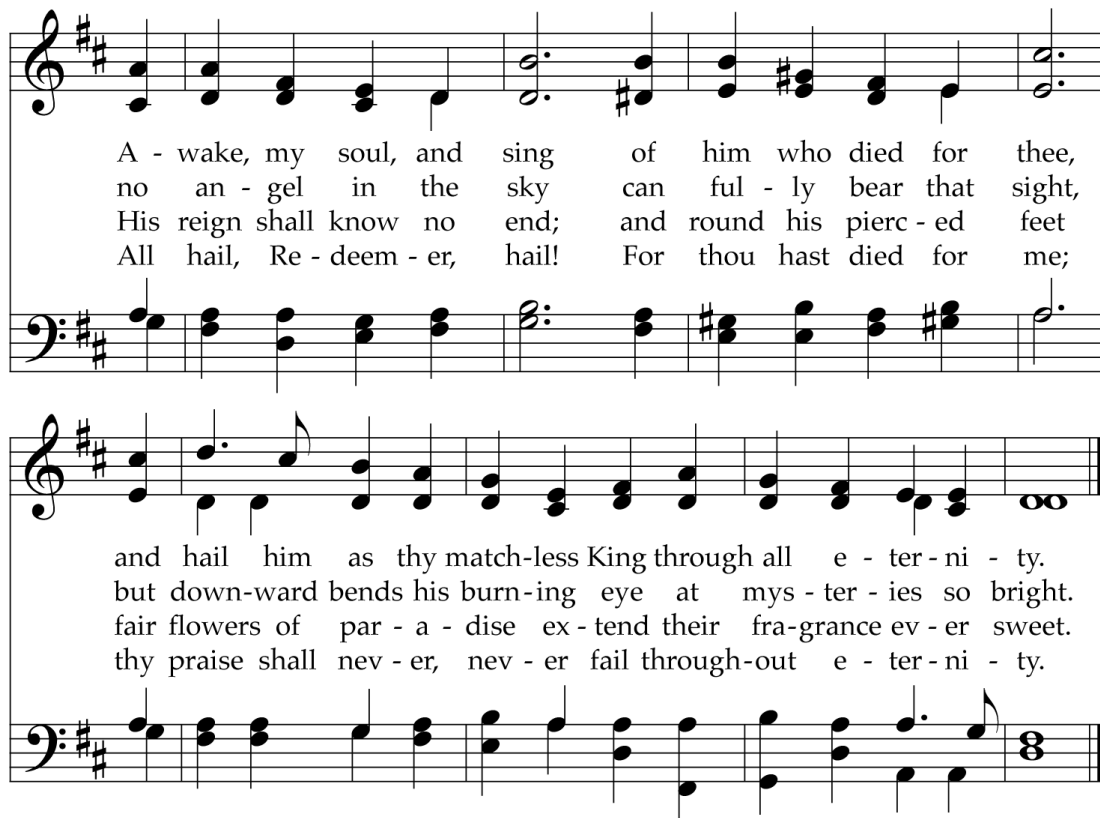
RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 268: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His reign shall know no end; and round his pier - ed feet
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Call for the Offering

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: Give thanks to God for God is good. Let us gratefully give of our offerings to the glory of God and in praise of Christ's life-giving ministry and mission.

Offertory Anthem:

This Joyful Eastertide

Alec Wyton

This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and sorrow.
My love, the crucified, Hath sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now hath Christ arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest, And for a season slumber:
Triumph from east to west Shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now hath Christ arisen.

Death's flood hath lost his chill, Since Jesus cross'd the river:
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver.
Had Christ, that once was slain, Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now hath Christ arisen.

FPCNC Choir and brass

***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.**

God of the empty tomb, Your grace astounds us, Your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless the work of this congregation. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into Your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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

The Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Communion Music:

Heilig

Felix Mendelssohn

*Heilig, Heilig, Heilig
ist Gott der Herr Zebaoth!
Alle Lände sind
seiner Ehre voll.
Hosianna in der Höh.
Gelobt sei der da kommt
im Namen des Herrn.
Hosianna in der Höh.*

Holy, holy, holy
is God the Lord Sabaoth!
All the nations are
full of Thy renown,
Sing hosanna, sing on high.
Give praise to Him who comes
in name of the Lord.
Sing hosanna, sing on high.

"I know that my redeemer liveth" (from *Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.
For now hath Christ risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep.

(Job 19:25, I Corinthians 15:20)

FPCNC Choir, Lisa Flanagan – soprano

Prayer After Communion (unison)

The Rev. Scott Herr

God of new life, we give You thanks and praise that You, who rolls stones away from empty tombs and liberates us from our fears and doubts, have welcomed us at Your table and fed us with this spiritual food. We celebrate Your risen Son. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and strengthen us, in the power of Your Holy Spirit, to run in faith, hope, and love; in Christ, with Christ, through Christ and for Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***Hallelujah Chorus (from *Messiah*)**

George Frideric Handel

All are invited to join in singing with the FPCNC Choir, Organ, Brass and tympani

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ;

and He shall reign for ever and ever.

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

(from *Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16*)

***Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

Postlude:

Toccata (from *Symphonie V, Op. 42*)

Charles-Marie Widor

After the Postlude, join us in the Common Room for a time of fellowship, coffee/tea and snacks and the start of this year's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

CCLI #11412435 / ONE LICENSE, License A-734274

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to Worship on this Easter Sunday, when Christians around the world celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the Good News that is at the heart of Christian faith, and the basis for our hope and the source of our strength to live into the new heaven and new earth initiated by the Living Lord of love. Today we reflect through the lens of the Corinthians and Luke texts with the reality of the Good News of Easter and the reality of our lives and world. We are glad you are with us and pray you will experience the grace of God's welcome and be spiritually renewed and socially reoriented for the coming week.

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.

After Worship don't forget to join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt outside immediately following our Worship Service. All children are invited to participate. Join us in the Common Room for coffee, juice and light snacks and gather for an organized start before the children find their Easter Eggs.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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).

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.



ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

We wish to welcome and thank our guest singers: Meg Bowles – soprano, Jennifer O'Neill – alto, Evan McCormack, tenor and Richard Price – bass for joining us today. We thank our Easter Brass as well: William MacDonald and Fish Brosmer on trumpet, Matteo Paoli and Timmy Grabow on trombone. In addition, a special thanks to David Nyberg for not only playing tympani, but allowing the use of his beautiful drums. We are grateful for your presence and help in making our Easter celebration extra special!

On this most festive of Sunday mornings, we enjoy a celebratory prelude offered by our brass, your Music Director at the organ, and our FPCNC Choir and tympani. We begin with our brass playing music by Austrian composer and organist **Joseph Anton Bruckner** (1824-1896), best known for his symphonies and sacred music, which includes Masses, Te Deum and motets. Bruckner's compositions helped to define contemporary musical radicalism, owing to their dissonances, unprepared modulations, and roving harmonies. Bruckner was critical of his own work and often reworked his compositions. There are several versions of many of his works. We then hear a piece written for the pipe organ composed by **McNeil Robinson** (1943-2015). In 1962, he came to New York City to study at the Mannes College of Music as a full scholarship student. In 1965 he entered Juilliard where he studied organ and composition. While still a student Neil gained two notable positions in New York: Organist of Park Avenue Synagogue and Organist of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Neil came to the Park Avenue Synagogue in 1965 at the invitation of the famous Cantor David Putterman to whom he had been recommended by Leonard Bernstein and Jack Gottlieb, and he remained at Park Avenue Synagogue until he retired in 2012. As his private studio increased, he also assumed a faculty position at Mannes. In 1984 at the invitation of John Walker, he joined the faculty of Manhattan School of Music, later becoming Chair of the Organ Department after John moved to Pittsburgh in 1991, a position which Neil held at the time of his death. Next, our brass play again, music by American composer **Alan Hovhaness** (1911-2000). He was one of the most prolific 20th-century composers, with his official catalog comprising 67 numbered symphonies (surviving manuscripts indicate over 70) and 434 opus numbers. The Boston Globe music critic Richard Buell wrote: "Although he has been stereotyped as a self-consciously Armenian composer, his output assimilates the music of many cultures. What may be most American about all of it is the way it turns its materials into a kind of exoticism. The atmosphere is hushed, reverential, mystical, nostalgic." Finally, our FPCNC Choir, brass, tympani and I join forces to conclude our Easter prelude with festive music by Belgian composer, organist and academic teacher **Franciscus Florentinus Peeters, Baron Peeters** (1903-1986). He was Director of the Conservatorium in Antwerp, Belgium, and Organist at Mechelen Cathedral from 1923 to his death in 1986. When sixteen years old, he began his studies at the Lemmens Institute in Mechelen (since moved to Leuven), which was named after the nineteenth-century organist Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens. In 1923 he became an Organ Teacher at the institute; simultaneously he acquired the position of Chief Organist at the St. Rumbold's Cathedral in Mechelen, which he held for most of the rest of his life. The Mechelen Cathedral organ of 6,606 pipes was built in 1958 to Peeters' specifications.

For our offertory music, we hear music composed by **Alec Wyton** (1921-2007). He was educated at the Royal Academy of Music, London and Oxford University. In 1950 he took a position as Organist Choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis, MO. From 1954 to 1974 he was Organist and Master of the Choristers at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Headmaster of the Cathedral Choir School. He taught at Union Theological Seminary in NYC and was Chairman of the Organ Department at Westminster Choir College, Princeton. He was Minister of Music at St. Stephen's Church, in Ridgefield, Conn., from 1987 until his appointment as Minister of Music Emeritus in 2004; and he was Founder and Chairman of the Church Music Department of the Manhattan School of Music.

During our Communion time, our FPCNC Choir and soprano Lisa Flanagan will provide music. First we hear choral music composed by **Felix Mendelssohn** (1809-1847), a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. Mendelssohn's compositions include symphonies, concertos, piano music, organ music and chamber music. He was recognised early as a musical prodigy, but his parents were cautious and did not seek to capitalise on his talent. Mendelssohn enjoyed early success in Germany, and revived interest in the music of Johann

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC (Cont'd)

Sebastian Bach, notably with his performance of the St Matthew Passion in 1829. He became well received in his travels throughout Europe as a composer, conductor and soloist; his ten visits to Britain form an important part of his adult career. His essentially conservative musical tastes set him apart from more adventurous musical contemporaries, such as Franz Liszt, Richard Wagner, Charles-Valentin Alkan and Hector Berlioz. The Leipzig Conservatory, which he founded, became a bastion of this anti-radical outlook. He is now among the most popular composers of the Romantic era. Next, we hear music composed by German-British Baroque composer **George Frideric Handel** (1685-1759), a solo from his *Messiah*. *Messiah*, HWV 56 is an English-language oratorio composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel. The text was compiled from the King James Bible and the Coverdale Psalter by Charles Jennens. It was first performed in Dublin on 13 April 1742 and received its London premiere a year later. After an initially modest public reception, the oratorio gained in popularity, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music. The autograph manuscript of the oratorio is preserved in the British Library. We will conclude our Easter festivities today with everyone joining in singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* from this work.

We finish our morning Worship with what could be argued the best-known toccata by French organist, composer and teacher of the late Romantic era **Charles-Marie-Jean-Albert Widor** (1844-1937). As a composer he is known for his ten organ symphonies, especially the toccata of his fifth organ symphony, which we hear today. As of 2022, he is the longest-serving Organist of Saint-Sulpice in Paris, a role he held for 63 years (January 1870-31 December 1933). He also was Organ Professor at the Paris Conservatory from 1890 to 1896 (following César Franck) and then he became Professor of Composition at the same institution, following Théodore Dubois.



Easter Flowers



In Loving Memory Of

Their parents, **George & Emilie Thompson**, and **Perry & Midge Bartlett** by Dede and Jim Bartlett

Sonya Hamln, Lily Ann Hoge, Gayla Lindquist, Geoffrey Bell dear friends of Dede and Jim Bartlett

Steve Benko, beloved husband, father and public servant by the Benko family

My son **Scott Kiernan** and my husband **Julian Brix** by Kay Kiernan Brix

Robert Brownley by Anne and family

Loved ones, family and friends by Peg and Sherman Bull

Roger E. Clark by Kate (Clark) Boldon, his children, and grandchildren

Andrew M. Clarkson by his family

John A. Edwards Jr. and her parents **Milton & Connie Coe** by the Edwards family

Robin Beckett Emmons by Thomas Emmons

Peter R. Adams and David B. Findlay, Jr. by Mimi Adams Findlay

Great-Grandmother **Arlene W. Young** and Grandparents **Terence J. Flanagan, Allen & Elitia Besecker**
by Terence J. Flanagan

My dad **Thomas Arthur Duncan** by Lisa Flanagan

Our loved ones gone from our families but not forgotten with love, Len and Cindy Graziano

Chuck Gulden, Alan Wentzel, and loved ones by the Gulden/Wentzel family

Our parents, **Lois & SL Swenson**, and **Betty & Paul Hanson** by Karen & Peter Hanson

Elizabeth Smith by Scott Herr

Lanah's parents, **Gordon and Marilyn Jones** and her brother **Robert Wynne Jones** by the Holden family

George Hooker by his family

My mother, **Mary Ann Marston Jackson** by Lynn Jackson and family

John Lanaway by Janet Lanaway and family

Her parents, **Betty & Clement Brown** by Mary Lee Lesko, and his parents, **Jean & Ted Lesko** by Jim Lesko

James Emory and **Thomas Pater** by Jessica Lister

Our parents, **James & Phyllis Russell** and **Reginald & Noreen Martin** by Linda and Paul Martin

George H. Megrue and **Kevin S. Megrue** by Suzanne Megrue and family

Len Nerenburg and **Fannie & Peter Marrone** by Jo Ann Nerenburg

Constance & Donal O'Brien, Donal O'Brien, Jr., Donal O'Brien III and **Nancy & George Slight** by their families

Her mother, **Cathleen Licero** by Bonnie Peterson and family

Roy Sumner Pfeil, George & Linda Post by The Rev. Susan M. Pfeil and Anneliese Pfeil Posen

Maxine & Tracey Mackle and Rodger Reeves by Julie, Michael, Spencer, Kate and Vivi Reeves

Helen & Louis Dahle, Julia & James Riehl Sr, David Kispert Sr, Dominique Schieck, and **Charles Stewart** by Riehl family

Kathryn & Charles Cunningham by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren

Robert Schneider by his family

Her husband, **Peter Schurman**, and her brother, **Don Calhoun** by Judy Schurman

Anne Kniffin by Ellen Taylor Sisson

Roger C. Smith and their parents by Nell Smith

Craig Tate, William & Hazel Graham, Elizabeth & Richard Krebs, and **John & Evelyn Tate** by Sherry Tate

Her parents, **Margret & William Marple** by Mary Marple Thies, and his mother, **Eleanor Kamphoefner** by Armin Thies

Joyce Thompson & James Marcotte by the Van de Graaf Family

Ronald Watkins by his family

In Honor Of

In loving honor of our parents by Kim and Scott Herr

Betty Lou Reeves by Julie, Michael, Spencer, Kate and Vivi Reeves

Pat & Coby Van de Graaf and **David Thompson** by the Van de Graaf Family

Barbara Wentzel on her 85th Birthday by her family

TODAY



Join Us For Our Easter Egg Hunt

Kids of all ages can enjoy the fun of finding dozens of eggs in the gardens at FPCNC.
Come join us!

Sunday, April 5th

Egg Hunt starts immediately following worship.



BAPTISM RECOGNITION

It is with great joy that we announce the Baptism anniversaries for those ceremonies that took place in 2024 and 2025. Celebrate with these families today, Easter Sunday. The list of children includes:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Baptism/Naming:</u>
Kieran Russell Stafford	03/02/2025
Wynne Sanford Holden Jr	04/13/2025
Gray Rizzo	04/13/2025
Mack Rizzo	04/13/2025
Samuel Herdeg	06/29/2025
Collin Brian Hagstrom	08/10/2025
Stephen Michael Gardner	02/04/2024
Madeleine Joy Gardner	02/04/2024
Sofia Swanberg	05/05/2024
Lillian Evans Peterson	06/23/2024
Haley Kain Peterson	06/23/2024
James Lawrence Curtis	06/23/2024
Charles Parker Curtis	06/23/2024
Freya Ann Lister	12/29/2024

THIS WEEK @ FPC

FPC Office Hours:

Monday, April 6: *Office Closed*

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 10: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Join the **MEN'S GATHERING** this Wednesday, April 8 from 7:00-8:00am via Zoom when **Steve Sieke** will share his experience, as a co-leader with Marian Sieke and Scott Herr, leading the "Being With" course at FPCNC this past Fall. Developed by theologian Sam Wells at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Being With is a 10-week introduction to Christian faith. Rather than do this through a traditional Bible study format, the core principle is that God's greatest desire is simply to "be with" us in Jesus and for us in turn to "be with" one another. The course builds deep "being with" connections within the group by offering a non-judgmental space for people to share their views and stories related to the theme of the week. The gift of the "Being With" experience was feeling the presence of God in the here and now.



All men are welcome and feel free to invite any friends. We look forward to seeing you this Wednesday morning at 7am! Contact Wendy wendy@fpcnc.org or Mark Magnusen mmagnusen@yahoo.com for the Zoom link to join the meeting. See you then!

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

- Wed, April 22 @ 7:00am (Bible Study – Zoom)
- Wed, May 13 @ 7:00am (Speaker Michael Reeves – Zoom)
- Wed, May 27 @ 7:00am (Bible Study – Zoom)

Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies, led by Darlene Harmon, meets **every Wednesday from 10:00am-11:30am**. We are currently studying Genesis. Please come at 9:45am to share a cup of tea/coffee and snack in the Parlor/Library. We hope you can come join us! Everyone is invited!

THIS WEEK @ FPC (Cont'd)

Spring Cleaning! Goodwill collection truck will be here this Saturday, April 11 from 9:00am-1:00pm in the FPCNC parking lot. Bring donations of clothing, furniture, and household items in good condition. Receipts for tax purposes will be available. Goodwill Industries provides vocational services for people with disabilities and special needs. (The Goodwill truck is here every 2nd Saturday of each month until November 14.)



EDITOR'S NOTES

Knobloch Scholarship: Thanks to the generosity of one of our distinguished members, Bill Knobloch, the First Presbyterian Church is offering to any Fall 2026 matriculated college student who is a member of the congregation the opportunity to apply for a \$2,500 scholarship to be used for college or university study costs. Application forms are available by contacting Wendy in the church office (203-966-0002 ext. 1 / wendy@fpcnc.org). **Application deadline is May 15th.**

Thank you everyone for donating towards another successful **Annual Lenten Food Drive**. We collected over **59 bags of food** and they were delivered to the NC Food Pantry at St. Mark's this past Wednesday, April 1.



Thank you to everyone that submitted a Congregation Assessment Survey. We know this took time out of your busy schedules, but we received a great number of responses. We will have an adult forum later in May or early June after the Session meets with Holy Cow to get their assessment on our collective responses to the survey.

News from the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee

With the arrival of Spring we are thankful to those who continue to sign up to assist during Sunday morning worship. However, we are always in need of ushers, greeters, readers and communion servers as we continue through April following Easter and then move into the month of May. 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.



SIGN UP here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

We are grateful for all your kind assistance and always welcome new participation!

SAVE THE DATE



DANIEL DELOMA

VISITING NURSE/HOSPICE AND WAVENY LIFECARE NETWORK
CHAPLAIN, M.TH., MSPC, PC, APBCC-HPC

APRIL 12, 2026

178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

11:30 AM ADULT FORUM

DISCUSSING: INTEGRATIVE
APPROACHES IN PALLIATIVE
AND HOSPICE CARE:
ENHANCING COMFORT,
PRESENCE, AND
CONNECTION

LUNCH AND
CHILDCARE
PROVIDED

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Spring Stroll!

Please join us for an easy, Spring Stroll on wide, smooth pathways, great for kids through seniors and every age in between!

Greenwich Point Park/Tod's Point
Saturday, April 18

9 am – meet at FPC parking lot for carpool

10 am – stroll starts if you drive yourself

11-11:45 am – coffee/treats
provided by Congregational Life

RSVP to church office by **April 16**
So we can provide food.

As of 3/31, Dogs are unfortunately
no longer allowed in the park.

For those who may be concerned
with the number of steps, we're
happy to bring a wheelchair to
stroll with you! Contact the church
office.



GINA BLUM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STAYING PUT IN NEW CANAAN

APRIL 19, 2026

178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN CT

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

11:30 AM ADULT FORUM

DISCUSSING:
THERE'S
NO PLACE
LIKE HOME:
STAYING PUT IN
NEW CANAAN

LUNCH AND
CHILDCARE
PROVIDED

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Open Mic Night

FPCNC Open Mic: Diverse Expressions
Featured Performance by Anne Marie Menta Trio

Thursday, April 23

Open Mic, **7-8:30 pm**

Featured Performance, **8:30-9 pm**

2 song limit and a 7-minute
max time allowance

You must **sign up** before the
event or in person the
night of the event
between 7-8 pm

Contact Nick Depuy at
nickdepuysite@gmail.com to
sign up



178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan CT

SAVE THE DATE (Cont'd)



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN**

Scottish Sunday

May 3rd @ 10 AM

**Mount Kisco Scottish Pipes & Drums
Highland Dancers
Kirkin' o' the Tartans and Kilts
Shortbread and Haggis
Bouncy Castle
Great Scot!**

**Mark your calendars and invite family and friends
to this year's big event!**



**For additional information or to join the Scottish Sunday Committee, contact
Nancy nancydllabadie@gmail.com or Patty pvonjena@gmail.com.**

MISSION & OUTREACH

**NEW
COVENANT
CENTER**

focused on
hunger prevention
and social services
for a better life

A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

New Covenant Center – Saturday, May 2!

Can you help with prepping and/or serving a meal at New Covenant Center in Stamford, CT? **For May 2nd we need**

your help – we're looking for 4 people to help cook the meal from 2:00-4:00pm and 5 people to help serve the meal.

Sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5AE28A7FF2-newcovenant>, or contact Wendy in church office or Steve Van de Graaf stevevdg01@gmail.com. Mark your calendars and reserve your spots for Fall NCC cooking and serving on Saturdays Sept 9, Oct 3 and Nov 7.



Photo (L to R): Stan Jaworowski, Paul Van de Graaf, Allison Gurley, and Tom Emmons

UPCOMING CONCERTS @ FPC



New Canaan Chamber Music
Andrew Armstrong, Artistic Director

Clarinet Meets Classical Accordion!



Yoonah Kim, clarinet



Ryan Corbett, accordion



Andrew Armstrong, piano

Thursday, April 16 at 3:00 PM | Friday, April 17 at 7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan
newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets

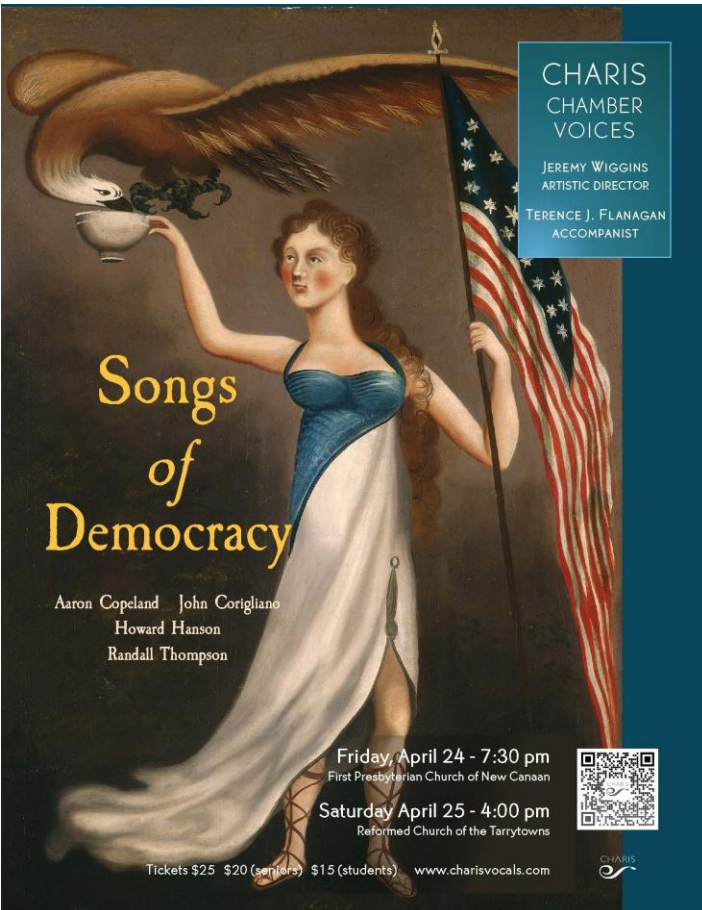
NEW CANAAN HIGH SCHOOL

**SPRING
CHORAL
CONCERT**



ROOTS

MAY 6, 2026 - 7:00PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NEW CANAAN



**Songs
of
Democracy**

Aaron Copland · John Corigliano
Howard Hanson
Randall Thompson

**CHARIS
CHAMBER
VOICES**


JEREMY WIGGINS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TERENCE J. FLANAGAN
ACCOMPANIST

Friday, April 24 - 7:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Saturday April 25 - 4:00 pm
Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns

Tickets \$25 \$20 (seniors) \$15 (students) www.charisvocals.com



On Friday, April 24th at 7:30pm, Charis Chamber Voices will perform their final concert of the season. Accompanied by FPCNC's own Terence J. Flanagan, *Songs of Democracy* marks the approaching 250th anniversary of the United States through music that reflects the American spirit and the many voices that shape it. From the folk sounds of Zion's Walls and Shenandoah to the powerful poetry of Dylan Thomas in John Corigliano's Fern Hill, this program explores themes of memory, hope, and community. Works by Howard Hanson, Roy Ringwald, André Thomas, Randall Thompson, and Cecil Effinger draw on American texts and ideals, offering moments of reflection, celebration, and gratitude for the freedoms we share. FPCNC staff singers Nik Brennan, Lisa Flanagan and Devin Mitchell are part of the group. You might also see a colonial soldier (Terence D. Flanagan) as you pass through the doors. Charis's famous wine and cheese reception will follow each concert. Obtain your tickets via the QR code to the left or at the door. Thank you for your support!

COMMUNITY



Depression's Role in Dementia

PART 2:

SPEAKER

Dr. Stephanie J. Towns, PsyD, ABPP
Associate Professor
Training Director, Neuropsychology Division
Yale School of Medicine, Neurology

Basics of Cognitive Decline and the Link to Depression for Older Adults

Join us for an informative lecture with Dr. Stephanie Towns who will provide education about terminology related to cognitive decline and the providers who can assess and treat the causes. Dr. Towns will also share information about the most common causes of cognitive decline in older adults and everyday strategies for keeping brains healthy as we age. In addition, Dr. Towns will review depression's role in dementia and how depression is identified and treated in those living with cognitive decline.

Dr. Towns earned her doctorate in psychology at Antioch University New England. She completed her internship at James A Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, FL and her postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology and brain imaging at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She is currently an associate professor of clinical neurology at Yale School of Medicine and the neuropsychology division training director.

April 7, 2026 6:30PM-8PM

New Canaan Library
Bartlett Auditorium
151 Main Street
New Canaan, CT 06840



Waveny Lifecare Network's
NAVIGATOR
Alzheimer's & Dementia at Home for New Canaan

New Canaan Announces America250 New Canaan Celebration

As the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Town of New Canaan is launching a community-wide celebration to honor this historic milestone. The New Canaan 250th Planning Committee is organizing a series of events from June 14 – November 11, 2026, highlighting the Town's history, civic leadership, and enduring community spirit as part of America's Semiquincentennial celebration. Local organizations, businesses, and community groups are invited to participate by hosting events and activities that reflect New Canaan's rich heritage and patriotic tradition.



Signature Events – Two major community-wide events anchor the celebration:

- **NC250 Parade – June 27, 2026, at 9:30am** (Rain date: June 28, 2026, 1:00pm) For more information on the parade contact Parade Co-Chair Lisa Melland at (203) 966-5016.
- **Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular – July 4, 2026, at Waveny Park.** Tickets will go on sale in June!

You can contribute in two ways:

- 1) Supporting the Celebration **Donate via PayPal:** <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/MZNXVGA2F3Q6G>
- 2) Tax deductible donations may be made to the NC Chamber of Commerce Charitable Foundation by mailing a check to: New Canaan Chamber of Commerce PO Box 214 New Canaan, CT 06840

LET'S TALK NEW CANAAN

A Community
Conversation
Across Political
Differences

Saturday, May 16
9:00AM – Noon
Lapham Center



A guided morning of deep listening, storytelling, and connection across political differences.

- Build empathy
- Strengthen community
- Open to all New Canaanites



Led by
Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton

*Come curious.
Leave connected.*

Sponsored by The New Canaan Clergy Association



Waveny Lifecare Network's

NAVIGATOR

Alzheimer's and Dementia at Home for New Canaan

Providing support and guidance to those impacted by Alzheimer's and dementia in New Canaan

All Communications Confidential

- 24/7 access to dedicated Alzheimer's and dementia specialists
- Complimentary grant-based program
- Exclusive respite apartment
- Exclusive social model adult day programming
- Expedited access to Waveny's continuum
- Access to trusted resources outside of Waveny
- Wellness checks and safety assessments
- Education on disease progression and healthcare resources available
- Assistance with insurance and public benefits
- Coordination of care, advance care planning, discharge planning
- Emotional support
- Alzheimer's and dementia caregiver support group
- Dedicated mobile app

Contact us for a consultation
Phone: 203-594-5289
Email: Navigator@waveny.org

In collaboration with



NEW CANAAN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



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



Add this number to your phone now.
It could save a life later.

NIMH 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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

CALENDAR – UPCOMING WEEK

SUNDAY, April 5

7 am Sunrise Service (Memorial Garden)
8 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service – Easter Sunday
11:30 am Coffee Hour
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

MONDAY, April 6

Office Closed

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

TUESDAY, April 7

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

WEDNESDAY, April 8

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, April 9

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

FRIDAY, April 10

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

SATURDAY, April 11

9 am Goodwill Donation Truck (FPC Parking Lot)
9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)
2-5 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SUNDAY, April 12

9 am Music Rehearsals
10 am Worship Service
11:15 am Coffee Hour
11:30 am Adult Forum – Daniel DeLoma
(Waveny LifeCare/Hospice)

CALENDAR – APRIL Thru MAY

Monday, April 13, 7:00pm	Deacons Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 14, 7:00pm	Session Meeting (Common Room)
Wednesday, April 15, 6:30pm	RAM Council (Common Room)
Thursday, April 16, 12:00pm	New Canaan Rotary Lunch/Meeting (Common Room)
Thursday, April 16, 3:00pm	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
Friday, April 17, 7:00pm	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
Saturday, April 18, 9:00am	Spring Stroll – Tod’s Point (Greenwich, CT)
Sunday, April 19, 11:30am	Adult Forum – Gina Blum, Executive Director of Staying Put in New Canaan
Thursday, April 23, 7:00pm	Open Mic Night
Friday, April 24, 7:30pm	Charis Chamber Voices Concert
Sunday, April 26, 11:30am	New Members’ Orientation Class (Parlor)
Saturday, May 2, 2:00-6:00pm	New Covenant Center (Prep and Serve Meals)
Sunday, May 3, 10:00am	Scottish Heritage Sunday
Sunday, May 10, 3:00pm	Orchestra Lumos Concert (<i>Rescheduled from February 22</i>)
Tuesday, May 19, 7:00pm	Session Meeting (Common Room)
Wednesday, May 20, 6:00pm	Deacons InPerson Meeting & Dinner (Common Room)
Wednesday, May 27, 6:00pm	RAM Council (Common Room)
Wednesday, May 27	Holden Evening Prayer (St. Michael’s Lutheran Church)
Thursday, May 28, 7:00pm	Open Mic Night

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

Lisa Flanagan – soprano, Jaime Ratcliffe – alto, Nikolas Brannan – tenor, Devin Mitchell – bass

Greeters: Barb Achenbaum and Sue Sherwood

Lay Reader: Jan Lucie

Ushers: Tom Butterworth, Andrew Mezo, Bob Spangler, and Jennifer Van de Graaf

Communion Preparer: Jan Lucie

Communion Servers: Chris Cluett, Cindy Graziano, Janet Lanaway, Bob Spangler, Armin Thies,
and Steve Van de Graaf

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> 
--	---	--