



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

Sixth Sunday of Easter • May 10, 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.*

*\*PLEASE STAND IN BODY AND/OR SPIRIT.*

## THE GATHERING

**Prelude:**

Praeludium in G, BWV 568

Johann Sebastian Bach

*We suggest you allow the music to bring you into a meditative spirit and the quiet stirrings of the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

**\*Call to Worship**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: We gather to celebrate the God of wonder and majesty!

**All: Awesome God, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth.**

Leader: We gather to celebrate Jesus Christ, who was dead and buried, and now is risen indeed!

**All: Jesus, renew our hope in your great power and love.**

Leader: We gather to celebrate the Holy Spirit, our promised comforter and guide!

**All: Come Holy Spirit! Fill us with your presence and peace.**

Leader: We gather to celebrate the ancient hope of Christians:

**All: God is with us and will never let us go.**

**\*Hymn No. 2:**

Come, Thou Almighty King

*Italian Hymn*

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy  
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful,  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred  
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing; help us to praise:  
 might - y Lord, our prayer at - tend.  
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.  
 prais - es be, hence ev - er - more!

Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
 Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;  
 Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,  
 Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come, and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.  
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.  
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

**Welcome and Announcements**

The Rev. Scott Herr

**Minute for Music**

Terence J. Flanagan

**Blessing for our Younger Disciples**

Leah Saulsberry

**Call to Confession (Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16)**

Armin Thies

Leader: The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and humility, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**Confession of Sin (unison)**

Armin Thies

**Ever-present God, we come before you knowing we have ignored your promised Holy Spirit living within us. Therefore, we forfeit peace and bear needless worry. We become confused and deaf to your voice of truth. We struggle with obedience to your Word and fight an overwhelming sense of**

**loneliness. Forgive us! Help us to remember that we are never alone, that you are with us and for us, by the power of your Spirit abiding in us...**

*(silence for personal reflection and repentance...)*

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon (Romans 8:31-32)**

Armin Thies

Leader: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

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  
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be,  
world with - out end, A - men. A - men.

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

Armin Thies

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.

*Congregation greets one another and shares the peace of Christ.*

## THE WORD

### **Prayer for illumination (unison)**

Armin Thies

**Come Holy Spirit! As the Scriptures are read and the Word proclaimed, bear witness to the truth in our hearts and minds, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **First Lesson – Acts 17:22-31**

Armin Thies

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is

Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” <sup>29</sup>Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** If ye love Me, keep My Commandments Thomas Tallis

If ye love Me, keep My Commandments, and I will pray the Father,  
and He shall give you another comforter,  
that He may abide with you forever, E'en the Spirit of truth  
*(St. John 14: 15-17)*

FPCNC Choir

**Second Lesson – John 14:15-21**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

<sup>15</sup>If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*The Spirit of Truth*

The Rev. Scott Herr

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 282: Come Down, O Love Divine**

*Down Ampney*

1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn  
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,  
and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.  
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.  
O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,  
And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place  
and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

**Prayers of the People**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

**The Lord's Prayer (unison)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our**

debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Call for the Offering**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: In great gratitude to God that we are never left to our own devices, let us give joyfully and generously for God's work in the world.

**Offertory:**

The Gift of Love

Arranged by Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, spirit come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen

(text based on I Corinthians: 13)

FPCNC Men Singers

**\*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)**

Armin Thies

**O Lord our maker, defender, redeemer and friend, accept and multiply the gifts we give today to be for your glory and for the good of your people. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Hymn No. 450:**

Be Thou My Vision

*Slane*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,  
 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.  
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

**\*Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

**\*Choral Amen**

**\*Ringing of the Church Bell**

**\*Postlude:**

Fugue in G, BWV 577

Johann Sebastian Bach

CCLI #11412435 / ONE LICENSE, License A-734274

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

### **TODAY IN WORSHIP**

**Welcome to Worship with the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan on this Sixth Sunday of Eastertide** the season when we as a congregation are exploring what it means to live with faith in the *crucified-risen Lord*. Today we will be exploring how Jesus has promised to be near to us, and has promised that the Holy Spirit will come alongside us and mediate God's presence and truth to us. Through the lens of the lectionary readings, first the Acts text (written by Luke), and the gospel according to John text, we will explore what it means when Paul says to the Athenians that God is "not far." We are glad you are with us, and pray you will experience the grace of God's welcome and be able to worship in Spirit and in Truth.

**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.

## TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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](mailto: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](mailto:marythies75@gmail.com)).

## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning, our prelude and postlude music are composed by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750). In February of 1723, Bach was appointed Cantor of St Thomas's Church in Leipzig. The position had been vacant since the death of Johann Kuhnau the previous year. Initially, Georg Philipp Telemann was picked by the town council to be his successor, but he refused when offered a pay rise in Hamburg. Johann Christoph Graupner, at that time Kapellmeister in Darmstadt, was chosen in the second round, but failed to be released by his employer. Accordingly, J.S. Bach became the new Cantor and Director Musices of Leipzig with effect from 1 June. Bach's duties as Cantor of St Thomas's included the weekly performance of cantatas at church services on Sundays and feast days. This amounted to about sixty cantatas for each ecclesiastical year. According to his son Carl Philipp Emanuel, Bach wrote five annual cantata cycles, although just under three have come down to us. Bach's first Leipzig cantata cycle has survived almost in its entirety, but the identities of the librettists are largely unknown. With the exception of a few older compositions from Bach's Weimar period, the cantatas from the first Leipzig cycle were all newly written compositions. Even though Bach received assistance from senior choirboys in connection with rehearsals and the time-consuming copying-out of parts by hand, his workload for the weekly cantatas must have been immense.

Our FPCNC Choir's anthem is composed by **Thomas Tallis** (c. 1505-1585), an English composer of High Renaissance music. His compositions are primarily vocal, and he occupies a primary place in anthologies of English choral music. Tallis is considered one of England's greatest composers, and is honoured for his original voice in English musicianship. No record of Tallis related to his career exists before 1531, when he is named in the accounts of the Kent Benedictine house Dover Priory. He was employed there as the Organist, responsible for directing chants from the organ. Tallis's whereabouts are not known for the several months after this until mention is made of his being employed at St Mary-at-Hill in London's Billingsgate ward. Records show he was paid four half-yearly payments from 1536 to 1538, with the last payment being specified for services—as either a singer or an organist—for the year up to 25 March 1538. Around 1538, Tallis was appointed to serve at Waltham Abbey in Essex towards the end of 1538. When the abbey was dissolved in March 1540, Tallis left. By the summer of 1540 Tallis had moved to the formerly monastic but recently secularised Canterbury Cathedral, where his name heads the list of singers in the newly expanded choir of 10 boys and 12 men. He remained there for two years. Tallis's employment in the Chapel Royal probably began in 1543. Tallis served at court as a composer, teacher and performer for Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I. He was first designated as an Organist at the chapel after 1570, although he would have been employed as an Organist throughout his career.

For our offertory, we hear music composed by **Hal H. Hopson** (1933-2025), an American composer and church musician. He had over 3000 published works, which comprise almost every musical form in church music. With a special interest in congregational song, he continued to make a significant contribution to the new repertoire of hymn tunes and responsorial psalm settings as evidenced by the proliferation of his settings that are included in newly published hymnals and psalm collections. Hopson was active as a conductor and clinician, having conducted choral festivals and workshops in United States, Europe, and Asia.

CONCERT LATER TODAY @ FPC



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF  
NEW CANAAN**

**THE BEST OF ALL  
POSSIBLE WINDS**

May 10 at 3:00pm

*It's Mother's Day - bring Mom to the concert!*

*Buy one ticket, get Mom's ticket at half-off  
with code MOM50 at checkout.*



**orchestraLUMOS.org | 203-325-1407x1**

***Later this afternoon (Sunday, May 10) at 3:00pm***

**Orchestra Lumos presents *The Best of All Possible Winds***

**A special program to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America**

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

***Using QR Code above, buy one ticket and get your 2nd ticket half off with code: MOM50 at checkout.***

## THIS WEEK @ FPC

### FPC Office Hours:

**Monday, May 11 – Tuesday, May 19:** *Scott out of the office*

If you have any Pastoral Care needs during this time, please reach out to Wendy in the Church office.

**Our Men's Gathering** will meet via Zoom this **Wednesday, May 13th from 7:00–8:00am** and our guest speaker will be Michael Reeves. Michael and his wife Julie and their family were long-time New Canaan residents and members of FPCNC. We're very happy that Michael continues to join our meetings after their move to North Carolina a few years ago. Michael and his family are now active members of Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church in Chapel Hill, NC, where they helped to start a fellowship for empty nesters called Next Chapter.

In consideration of the United States' 250th birthday, Michael will be sharing the story of "The War of the Regulation," an early 1770s protest of taxation without representation and corrupt government in Piedmont North Carolina that pitted Scotch Irish Presbyterian, Quaker and Moravian settlers against the established English colonial government. Come and join us for virtual but very real fellowship and learning. All men are welcome and feel free to invite any friends. We look forward to seeing you this Wednesday morning at 7!

Questions, contact Wendy [wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org), Mark [mmagnusen@yahoo.com](mailto:mmagnusen@yahoo.com) or Scott ([scott@fpcnc.org](mailto:scott@fpcnc.org)) 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 meeting dates are:

- Wed, May 27 @ 7:00am (Bible Study – Zoom)
- Wed, June 10 @ 7:00am (Bible Study – Zoom)
- Wed, June 24 @ 12:00pm (In-Person Lunch & Meeting)

**Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies**, led by Darlene Harmon, meets **every Wednesday from 10:00am-11:30am**. This week they are having lunch at Barbara Wentzel's home for lunch and it will be their last Bible Study until September. If you're interested in joining the group this Fall, please reach out to Darlene or Wendy in the Church office. Everyone is invited!

**REMINDER: Goodwill collection truck will be here this Saturday, May 16 from 9:00am-1:00pm in the FPCNC parking lot – we pushed the date 1 week due to the St. Mark's Fair on Saturday, May 9.** 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. **(Goodwill truck is here the 2nd Saturday of every month until November 14.)**



# LET'S TALK NEW CANAAAN

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

## EDITOR'S NOTES



Last Saturday evening, ten of us from FPCNC attended the RAM Council annual gala. We were there on your behalf, because FPCNC was honored by that organization, as were Scott, Wendy, Kate and Matt who have helped to provide hospitality. You will see the plaque on the table in the Common Room foyer. Our church has provided meeting space for the NCHS kids who are members of RAM Council, the faculty sponsors and parents. Our Common Room has been claimed as their living room. RAM Council provides substance-free activities, healthy alternatives to substance abuse, and an opportunity to build leadership skills through hosting educational forums. This is an organization we are proud and delighted to support.



## EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

### **FPCNC's 52nd annual Scottish Heritage Service & Ceilidh was a great day for our congregation!**

Thanks be to God for this lovely tradition and for calling together our faith community for a glorious day of worship and celebration! We had approximately 246 parishioners and guests enjoy our special service, including a wonderful sermon and communion. Approximately 148 attended our ceilidh, an event highlighting our church's heritage and culture, and the spirit and pageantry of Scotland!

Our special day of worship and splendor showcased the Mount Kisco Scottish Pipes and Drums playing stirring traditional hymns and the children processing in the Kirkin' o' the Tartans – a traditional blessing of tartan cloths representing a blessing of the clans. This was immediately followed by a festive reception in the Common Room featuring Highland Dancing, Shortbread, a fellowship buffet, a bouncy castle and lawn games, Scottish Country Dancing by the Purple Heather Dancers, and the infamous presentation of the Haggis. It was truly a day to remember!

A big thank you to the Scottish Heritage Committee and to the many church members, pastors and staff who offered their time, talents and energy to make this day possible!!

Prior to Sunday, May 3rd, the celebrations started with the Scottish Heritage Committee kickoff Party at the Johnsons.



Then to help promote Scottish Heritage Sunday, a few people with traditional Scottish attire walked Elm Street downtown to pass out flyers and Jonathan Henken played his bagpipes.



And on Friday, May 1, the Shortbread crew made some outstanding and tasty shortbread treats.





## EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

**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 at [wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org) or 203-966-0002 ext 1. **REMINDER – applications are due by May 15th!**

**Thank you to those of you who filled in the Church Survey from Holy Cow – 97% of our congregation who regularly attend responded, which is a tremendous response rate.** We had a four hour meeting in person last weekend with a representative from Holy Cow Consulting who took us through the data findings. We will be distilling this information into a 30 minute presentation to deliver to the congregation after our 10am service on June 14th. Once you have seen the top line data from the survey results, you will be invited to a listening circle at a later date, where we will discuss the themes, to understand what you told us in more detail.



All the survey information was anonymous and it was very valuable to get your honest feedback. The good news is that the vast majority of you are positive about the welcoming and supportive nature of this church. Some of you may wish to say more, so while there is no obligation to attend, the Session would love to hear your thoughts. These listening circles will be throughout the summer. The intention is that by the end of summer we will have heard the qualitative commentary and added that to the quantitative data to inform our strategic plan for the Church moving forward. Thank you again for coming with us on this journey and please ask any questions you may have to any member of Session.



### **News from the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee**

Spring is in the air as we move into May. We are most thankful to those who continue to sign up to assist during Sunday morning worship. We've had a wonderful group assisting in worship this year and we appreciate your service. However, it is a busy time of year for everyone and we find lots of empty slots on the Sign Up Genius for the next few weeks. Ushers, greeters, readers and communion servers are always needed. Please take a look at your calendar for May and June and we ask you to consider signing up to help. This is a great way to get to know members and friends of the congregation while, at the same time, assisting our church staff during worship.

**SIGN UP** here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday> or on our church website ([www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org)) and select a date that works best for you. Please

reach out to Jan Lucie, Armin Thies or Linda Martin of the Worship Committee for any questions or call Wendy in the church office.

## EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

### Lost and Found:

If any of the below items are yours or you know who they belong to, please call Wendy in the Church office.



## SAVE THE DATE

 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

Get Some Spring In Your  
Step This **May** At FPCNC!

|                  |                        |  |
|------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>3</b><br>MAY  | <b>10:00</b><br>AM     | <b>Scottish Herritage Sunday</b>                             |
| <b>6</b><br>MAY  | <b>7:00</b><br>PM      | <b>NCHS Choirs Concert</b>                                   |
| <b>10</b><br>MAY | <b>3:00</b><br>PM      | <b>Orchestra Lumos Concert</b>                               |
| <b>16</b><br>MAY | <b>9-1:00</b><br>AM-PM | <b>Goodwill Truck Donations</b>                              |
| <b>27</b><br>MAY | <b>7:30</b><br>PM      | <b>Holden Evening Prayer (St. Michael's Lutheran Church)</b> |
| <b>28</b><br>MAY | <b>7:00</b><br>PM      | <b>Open Mic Night</b>  |

Please Plan to Join Us for Some or All of These Events!

 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

# Open Mic Night

FPCNC Open Mic: Diverse Expressions  
Featured Performance by Stephen Peter Rodgers

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


Thursday,  
May 28

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
followed by an  
open jam session

178 Oenoke ridge,  
New Canaan CT

Walk-ins Welcome

Contact Nick Depuy at  
[nickdepuysite@gmail.com](mailto:nickdepuysite@gmail.com)  
to sign up and for more information



## **2026 Young Families Service Calendar**

### **First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan**

*All service events will take place during Sunday School*

#### **June 14: The Crayon Initiative**

**The Activity:** A collection drive for broken or unwanted crayons from your home, school, or local restaurants. Families drop them in a central bin to be recycled into something wonderful. Start collecting now!

**Our Partner:** [The Crayon Initiative](#) recycles discarded crayons into new, easy-to-grip crayons for children's hospitals to support art therapy and reduce pediatric stress.

#### **August 16: Community Cafe**

**The Activity:** An opportunity for kids to donate and package food for the families of children hospitalized at Blythedale Children's Hospital.

**Our Partner:** [Blythedale Children's Hospital](#) "Community Café" offers nourishing meals to families of hospitalized children in a warm, welcoming environment. By addressing food insecurity, it eases a significant burden for vulnerable families, reduces feelings of isolation, and creates a space where caregivers can connect with others facing similar challenges.

#### **October 18: Hygiene Kits**

**The Activity:** Kids will assemble gallon-sized Ziploc bags with travel-sized toiletries (soap, toothbrush, socks, granola bars) to be distributed to local neighbors in need.

**Our Partner:** [The Salvation Army](#) and local shelters use these kits to provide immediate dignity and basic hygiene essentials to members of our community who need them most.


#### **December 13: Soles4Souls Shoe Drive**

**The Activity:** A donation drive for gently used shoes that children have outgrown or that are no longer being worn by family members. A perfect way to close out the year by giving to others.

**Our Partner:** [Soles4Souls](#) turns unwanted shoes into opportunity by providing relief to disaster victims and supporting small-business employment in developing nations.

Questions? Reach out to us at [Michael.Winslow.Peterson@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.Winslow.Peterson@gmail.com),  
[Bonnie.Licero.Peterson@gmail.com](mailto:Bonnie.Licero.Peterson@gmail.com), and [Leahs@fpcnc.org](mailto:Leahs@fpcnc.org)

## COMMUNITY



The advertisement features a large, stylized outline of a handbag. Inside the bag, the text reads: "Bags of Hope" in a cursive font, followed by "MOTHER'S DAY DRIVE" in a simple font. Below this, it says "Donate a gently used handbag" and "and we will fill it with essential toiletries to support women in local shelters and community programs." In the center, there are images of various skincare products: Eucerin SPF 35, Eucerin Advanced Hydration SPF 50, Aquaphor, and another Eucerin product. A small note says "\*Sample items may vary". In the top right corner, there is a circular logo for "CONNECTICUT DERMATOLOGY" with "New Britain" and "Hartford" written around it. At the bottom, there are two orange boxes: the left one says "Collection Dates: April 1 – April 30" and the right one says "Contact Maribeth Devine Beiersdorf Inc 475-257-0067 For donation drop off".

### **Bags of Hope: Used Purse Drive at Elite Dermatology**

Elite Dermatology is collecting gently used purses at their office (38 East Ave, New Canaan, CT) or drop them off to Wendy in the church office as she has a collection started. ***They have extended their donation drive to Tuesday, May 12.***

Once the drive is complete, their sponsor, Beiersdorf Inc., will generously fill each donated bag with essential toiletries to support women in local shelters and community programs.

We are really excited about this project! Last year, Elite Dermatology donated the most bags of any dermatology practice, and we are determined to reach (or even beat!) that goal again this year to help as many women as possible.

If you or anyone you know has any purses they are looking to part with, please feel free to drop them off at the office whenever you're in the area.



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.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](http://www.newcanaanhba.org).



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN**

**CALENDAR – UPCOMING WEEK**

**SUNDAY, May 10**

9 am Music Rehearsals  
10 am Worship Service – Mothers’ Day  
11:30 am Coffee Hour  
3 pm Orchestra Lumos Concert @ FPC

**MONDAY, May 11**

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

**TUESDAY, May 12**

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, May 13**

7 am Men’s Gathering (Zoom)  
10 am Weekly Bible Study (B. Wentzel’s home)  
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

**THURSDAY, May 14**

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

**FRIDAY, May 15**

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

**SATURDAY, May 16**

9 am Goodwill 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  
9am-12pm Let’s Talk New Canaan (Lapham Center)

**SUNDAY, May 17**

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

**CALENDAR – MAY and JUNE**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, May 19, 7:00pm     | Session Meeting (Common Room)                         |
| Wednesday, May 20, 6:00pm   | Deacons In-Person Meeting & Dinner (Common Room)      |
| Wednesday, May 27, 7:00am   | Men’s Gathering (Zoom)                                |
| Wednesday, May 27, 6:00pm   | RAM Council (Common Room)                             |
| Wednesday, May 27, 7:30pm   | Holden Evening Prayer (St. Michael’s Lutheran Church) |
| Thursday, May 28, 7:00pm    | Open Mic Night  |
| Wednesday, June 10, 7:00am  | Men’s Gathering (Zoom)                                |
| Wednesday, June 24, 11:45am | Men’s Gathering (In-Person Lunch and Speaker)         |

**THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE:**

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

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

**Greeter:** Becky Roth

**Lay Reader:** Armin Thies

**Ushers:** Jim Ely and Chris Cluett

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