



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

Pentecost Sunday • May 24, 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:**

Allegro (from *Concerto No. 1, Opus 11*)

Richard Strauss

Terence D. Flanagan – French horn

*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 (based on Acts 2:1-4)**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: All together in one place;

**All: they heard the rush of a violent wind;**

Leader: it filled the entire house.

**All: Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared and rested on each of them;  
they were filled with the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord,

**All: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,  
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed  
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,  
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, to wor - ship, sing, and pray.  
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.  
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.  
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,  
 What u - ni - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?  
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.  
 O give us ears to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.  
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.  
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.  
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Leah Saulsberry

## Call to Confession

Chris Cluett

Leader: God's Spirit is alive and at work among us, gathering us for worship, calling us to return to God through prayer, praise and confession. Let us pray together.

## Confession of Sin (unison)

Chris Cluett

**Spirit of the Living God, we admit that too often we prefer to stay behind locked doors and wait. You call us to act boldly, but fear keeps us quiet and timid. We confess our lack of courage, splintered by uncertainty and second-guessing. Forgive us for all the times we shrink from your call. Embolden us to dream beyond what we know and imagine the world as beloved community. Let your Spirit fill us, and empower us to declare your goodness and love for all. Grant that we might be Christ's body with steady conviction. Guided by your Holy Spirit, help us to embody the values and ethics of your kingdom...**

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon (Acts 2:21)

Chris Cluett

Leader: The good news is declared to you this day, that "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

Chris Cluett

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: **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)

Chris Cluett

**Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, Holy God, that we might hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.**

**First Lesson – Acts 2:1-21**

Chris Cluett & Ferial Aldag

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. <sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Lesson – John 20:19-23**

The Rev. Barbara Esterly

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*What does this mean?*

The Rev. Scott Herr

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### Confirmation

The Rev. Scott Herr

Thomas Michael Godina

**Minister:** Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Confirmation is the church recognizing and affirming the mustard seed of faith in those who have come of age and want to confirm the faith of the vows made at baptism. God gives us faith to trust in Jesus Christ. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, justice, and peace. As we celebrate confirmation this day, let us remember our own baptism with joy.

### Presentation for Reaffirmation of Baptism

Jennifer Van de Graaf

**Elder:** Thomas Godina is presented by the Session to make his public profession of faith, reaffirming the baptismal covenant into which he was baptized. We rejoice with you as you claim again the promises of God which are yours through your baptism and rejoice in your desire to declare your faith, and to share with us in our common ministry. Do you desire to have your faith confirmed?

**Candidate: I do.**

### Profession of Faith

The Rev. Barbara Esterly

**Minister:** Thomas: In baptism you were claimed by God, marked as Christ's own forever, and joined to his body by the Holy Spirit. You come to us then, not as a stranger, but as a friend in Christ and member of the household of God. We rejoice that you now desire to join this congregation in the worship and mission of the church. Please answer the following questions:

**Minister:** Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**Candidate: I do.**

**Minister:** Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Candidate: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

**Minister:** Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**Candidate: I will.**

**Minister:** Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

**Candidate: I will.**

### \*The Congregation's Covenant

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

**Minister:** Do you, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture this young man, and by word and deed, with love and prayer, will you encourage him to know and follow Christ and be a faithful member of his Church?

**All: We do and we will.**

Minister: Then with the whole Church, let us confess our faith together.

All: **I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayer for Confirmand**

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minister: O Lord, uphold Thomas by your Holy Spirit. Daily increase in him your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Candidate: **Amen.**

**Welcome**

Jennifer Van de Graaf

Elder: Through his baptism and confirmation, Thomas is now received into the communicant membership of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

All: **With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in Christ. Amen!**

Elder: Go and serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**\*Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 280: Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us**

*Ebenezer*

1 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; come with  
2 We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the  
3 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us

Pen - te - cos - tal power; give the church a  
 grace of yes - ter - years; for to - mor - row's  
 words of fire and flame. Help our fee - ble

strong - er vi - sion; help us face each cru - cial hour.  
 un - known path - way, hear, O Lord, our hum - ble prayers.  
 lips to praise you, glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name.

Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion, Je - sus Christ, the  
 In the church - 's pil - grim jour - ney you have led us  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One: what

Cor - ner - stone, still the church is called to  
 all the way; still in pres - ence move be -  
 mys - ter - y! We would sing our loud ho -

mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.  
fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.  
san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

**Prayers of the People**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

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

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

**Call for the Offering**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Leader: God's Spirit is among us making all things new. Let us participate in this new creation by offering our gifts to God.

**Offertory:**

Peace I Leave with You

Walter L. Pelz

Peace I leave you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

(John 14:27)

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)**

Chris Cluett

**You give with open hands, Most Generous God, sharing gifts as seed to sow. We gather these offerings, asking only that they might take root and flourish — to tend your Kingdom, to nurture your beloved community. Let our acts be not merely ritual but a commitment: a shaping of the world in your image, one generous gesture at a time. Amen.**

## SENDING

\*Hymn No. 296:

Go in Grace and Make Discipled

Wondrous Light



1 Go in grace and make dis - ci - ples. Bap - tize in God's  
2 Go and fol - low Christ's ex - am - ple, not to van - quish,  
3 Go in Pen - te - cos - tal spir - it, man - y tongues and



ho - ly name. Tell of death and res - ur - rec - tion; Eas - ter's  
but to heal. Mend the wounds of sin's di - vi - sions. Ser - vant  
man - y gifts. Feed the hearts of hun - gry peo - ple. Spread the



vic - tory now pro - claim. Christ's com - mis - sion sends us forth  
love to all re - veal. Roles and ranks shall be re - versed;  
gos - pel that up - lifts. Till the day of Christ's re - turn,



to the na - tions of the earth. Go in grace and  
jus - tice flow for all who thirst. Go and fol - low  
as dis - ci - ples, teach and learn. Go in Pen - te -



make dis - ci - ples, mid - wives for the world's re - birth.  
Christ's ex - am - ple. Forge a world of last made first.  
cos - tal spir - it: let God's flame of wit - ness burn.

\*Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

\*Choral Amen

\*Ringing of the Church Bell

\*Postlude:

*Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten, BWV 642*  
(He who will suffer God to guide him, from *Orgelbüchlein*)

Johann Sebastian Bach

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***We encourage you to stay for the musical conclusion of our Worship together.***

***Then 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 Pentecost Sunday** when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh and the birth of the church. Today we also have the privilege of welcoming into the communicant membership of the church Thomas Godina who has been meeting with Scott weekly since October to learn about who we are, what we believe and how we live out our faith. Please pray for Thomas as he takes this step of faith, as confirmation is not a destination, but a gateway to a lifetime of following the way of Jesus. We will also remember how the Spirit comes to us and leads us out of ourselves to be for others, sharing our faith in word and deed. We are glad you are with us today, and pray that you will experience the grace of God's welcome, and be spiritually refreshed and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

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

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

Adults or older teens who want to come be part of the fun of Sunday School, we need you! Join us and bring your own sense of wonder and joy as we learn together what it means to be part of God's big family. Let us know of your interest by filling out this form: <https://fpcnc.breezechms.com/form/Teachers2024-25>, or reach out to Leah Saulsberry at [leahs@fpcnc.org](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)).

## STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THOMAS MICHAEL GODINA

I, Thomas Godina, believe that faith exists to guide me and help me throughout life. I believe that God is the creator of all things, including me, heaven, and earth. I believe that He loves everyone and everything unconditionally. I believe that God's word was passed down through Jesus Christ, His only Son, and that Jesus' teachings were written in the books of the Bible. I believe it is right to love everyone as you would love your neighbor and to help anyone in need. I believe that every person was made in God's image, even if they look different from one another. I believe that the Church is not simply a place, but a community of people who come together to worship and grow in faith. I truly believe in all of this yet I wonder about space and other planets and if God created them too. I want to continue growing in my faith and living by these beliefs throughout my life.

### **John 20:29**

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

- This scripture seems applicable to where I am in my faith journey. I have many questions, yet my heart compels me to believe.

### **Psalm 91 - Assurance of God's Protection**

<sup>1</sup>You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

<sup>2</sup>will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'

<sup>3</sup>For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;

<sup>4</sup>he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

<sup>5</sup>You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup>or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

<sup>7</sup>A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

<sup>8</sup>You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling-place,

<sup>10</sup>no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

<sup>11</sup>For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup>On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

<sup>13</sup>You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

<sup>14</sup>Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

<sup>15</sup>When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them.

<sup>16</sup>With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

- This Psalm makes me think of the poem "Footprints in the Sand" which reminds me that God is my protector and is always with me.

### **Isaiah 40:31 – God's People are Comforted**

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

- This passage is another reminder of God's comfort and that with trust in God we can find the strength to endure and continue on in faith even in hard times.

## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

On this Pentecost Sunday, we hear music for the French horn composed by **Richard Georg Strauss** (1864-1949), a German composer and conductor known for his tone poems and operas. A leading figure of the late Romantic and early Modern era, and a successor to Richard Wagner and Franz Liszt, he combined, along with his friend Gustav Mahler, subtleties of orchestration with an advanced harmonic style. A prominent conductor in Western Europe and the Americas, Strauss enjoyed quasi-celebrity status as his compositions became standards of orchestral and operatic repertoire. In 1882–83, Strauss wrote his *Horn Concerto No. 1 in E♭ major, Op. 11* in two versions, one for piano accompaniment and one with an orchestra. The horn part is the same. The premiere with piano accompaniment was given in 1883 at Munich, and that with orchestral accompaniment in 1885 at Meiningen. In 1942, towards the end of his life, Strauss wrote a second horn concerto.

Our FPCNC Choir's offertory anthem is composed by **Dr. Walter L. Pelz** (b. 1926), a longtime Bethany College music professor and renowned Lindsborg musician. Dr. Pelz's career at Bethany College began in 1969 when he taught theory, composition, piano, and organ, directed choirs, and was the College Organist. He was named the Billue-Burnett Distinguished Professor of Music, a position he held until he took early retirement in 1989 to devote more time to composing and performing. Dr. Pelz regularly performs recitals and in festivals and appears as a clinician for organ and choral workshops throughout the United States. Dr. Pelz has composed several hundred works and is affiliated with nine publishers.

Our organ postlude is music composed by **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1650-1785), music from his *Orgelbüchlein (Little Organ Book)*, BWV 599–644, a set of 46 chorale preludes for organ. Bach's apparent plan was for a collection of 164 settings of chorale tunes sung during the Church year so that each part of the year was represented. However, only 46 of these were completed. The manuscript, which is now in the Staatsbibliothek, leaves a number of tunes as missing or "ghost" pieces. The title page reads: *Little Organ Book: In which a beginning organist receives given instruction as to performing a chorale in a multitude of ways while achieving mastery in the study of the pedal, since in the chorales contained herein the pedal is treated entirely obbligato. In honour of our Lord alone that my fellow man his skill may hone. Composed by Johann Sebastian Bach, Capellmeister to his Serene Highness the Prince of Anhalt, Cöthen.*

## THIS WEEK @ FPC

### **FPC Office Hours**

- Monday, May 25 – **OFFICE CLOSED – MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**
- Tuesday, May 26 – Friday, May 29 (9:00am – 4:30pm)

## THIS WEEK @ FPC (Cont'd)

**The next Men's Zoom Gathering is this Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00am.**

We will discuss another challenging subject, immigration, from a biblical perspective as well as our own. What is God's will and word for us in regard to prudent immigration laws, personal or national hospitality to immigrants, church engagement, and to governmental laws and policy? Who is our neighbor? Who are 'the least of these?' What is a home, a nation? How should a nation balance mercy and security? Importantly, we will focus on some biblical references on immigration, legal and illegal immigrants, aiding immigrants, defining our neighbor, and relevant national security and cultural concerns. And, we must also consider Truth and Justice as we focus on Love.


# MEN'S GATHERING

We could start with the basic affirmation that our biblical ancestors were refugees and immigrants—and that biblically—we are all aliens, strangers, and refugees. Demographically, many families on the east coast, and certainly New England, have histories of immigrant ancestors going back as far as the 1600's. Many families may be first or second generation immigrants. So, we are all connected to immigration from some point.

Let's share our perspectives on those subjects. Once again, we can only 'scratch the surface.' We should not be disappointed if we do not identify new solutions, but we can have a broad discussion, and, hopefully, our Christian fellowship will be edifying for everyone.

Please get your morning coffee and your Bible and participate in our Zoom call. Contact Wendy [wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org) or Mark Magnusen [mmagnusen@yahoo.com](mailto:mmagnusen@yahoo.com) for the Zoom link to join the discussion. We look forward to seeing and sharing with you then!

MAY 27 - 7:30 PM



Holden  
Evening  
Prayer

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF PRAYER  
AND QUIET REFLECTION.  
A TIME TO PAUSE, CONNECT,  
AND FIND PEACE.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
5 OENOKE RIDGE  
NEW CANAAN, CT



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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Congregational Special Meeting on Sunday, June 14 @ 11:30am in the Common Room.** Join us at 11:30am to (1) review and vote on revisions to the church's bylaws (most are non-substantive, although included are amendments to conform the bylaws to the current Book of Order, allowing for electronic participation in meetings, clarifications on terms of office, etc.); (2) get the details on our 2026 Capital Campaign (materials to come in early June) and (3) hear about the findings from the Holy Cow Church Survey. A light lunch and childcare will be provided.

The participation level on the Holy Cow! Church Survey was amazing. Roughly 97% of our regular attendees responded, which is a tremendous response rate. During the Congregational Meeting we will distill the survey results into a 30-minute presentation.

Once you have seen the top-line data, you will be invited to various listening circles we will offer in July, August and early September (to provide timing flexibility during the summer vacation season). While all the survey information was anonymous, some of you may wish to participate more in the dialogue and the Session would love to hear your thoughts in person.

The intention is that by the end of the listening sessions we will have heard the qualitative commentary and add 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 of any member of Session.

The vote on revisions to the church's bylaws, as articulated below. *A few copies of the revised Bylaws are in the back of the Sanctuary – please see one of the Ushers.*

### **Substantive Differences Between the Proposed Bylaw Revision and the Present Bylaws**


#### **The Bylaw Revision:**

- Provides for electronic participation in congregational meetings
- Changes sections of the bylaws to conform to the present Book of Order
- Clarifies the voting procedure for election of elders and deacons
- Clarifies the terms of office for elders and deacons
- Explicitly grants the Session and Board of Deacons permission to establish their own special rules of order for their meetings.

#### **Non-substantive Differences**

- The language has been simplified.
- The intended meaning of sections has been made more explicit.
- The number of redundancies within the bylaws has been reduced.
- Some sections that duplicate the rules in the Book of Order have been deleted.

## LOOKING AHEAD (Cont'd)



### Here's Your Summer-y Of FPCNC Events

<b>27 MAY</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>St. Michael's Holden Evening Prayer</b>
<b>28 MAY</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Open Mic Night</b>
<b>14 JUNE</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Congregational Meeting</b>
<b>21 JUNE</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Brownie &amp; Ice Cream Social</b>
<b>24 JUNE</b>	<b>11:45 AM</b>	<b>In-Person Men's Gathering</b>
<b>25 JUNE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>United In Harmony St. A's Service</b>
<b>27 JUNE</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>NC 250th Parade</b>
<b>19 JULY</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Peaches On The Patio</b>
<b>13 SEPT</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Rally Day</b>



## Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 21

11:30 am, during  
Coffee Hour

Join us for Ice Cream,  
Brownies, & Fellowship

All Are Welcome!



## 4th Annual Peaches on the Patio

Sunday, July 19

11:30 am, during  
Coffee Hour



## *Rally Day Picnic & Celebration!*

Sunday, September 13, 11:30 am

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Please join us for 10 am Worship.  
Then after service join us for fun,  
food, live music, lawn games, and  
O' Faithful rides.

All Ages Are Welcome!

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

# 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)

CANTATA 80 @ FPC – SAVE THE DATE

# Cantata Sunday

*with Soloists, Choir and Baroque Orchestra*



Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

## Cantata 80



October 25, 2026, 10:00am Worship

Terence J. Flanagan, Conducting

Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Preaching



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN

178 Oenoke Ridge Rd | New Canaan, CT 06840  
[www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org) | 203-966-0002



**Speaker: Donna Fedus**



## Caregiver Training Workshop:

### Successful Communication Given Alzheimer's Logic

Repeated questions, word finding difficulty, and mixed-up memories. These are just a few of the communication issues experienced throughout Alzheimer's and dementia. Join us for this virtual workshop to learn the skills and strategies you need to respond with greater confidence.

Facilitated by Borrow My Glasses and sponsored by Waveny LifeCare Network, this virtual interactive workshop is designed to:

- Explain Alzheimer's and dementia logic so you can speak their language
- Examine communication strategies to connect through all disease phases
- Discuss the emotional impact of communication changes

**DATE**  
June 10, 2026

**TIME**  
6:30- 8:00 PM

**LOCATION**  
Zoom Meeting Link

**About the Speaker:** Donna Fedus is gerontologist and founder of Borrow My Glasses, an education company focused on aging and caregiving from a new perspective. Critical to Donna's mission is offering alternatives to the tragedy narrative that often surrounds aging, caregiving, and dementia.

### To Register:

- Scan the QR code or click on the registration link **HERE**
- You must register to receive a zoom link for this workshop. The zoom link will be sent to you closer to the event.
- Please register by June 8, 2026



**Questions? Contact The Navigators: Navigators@waveny.org 203-594-5289**

**Or REGISTER HERE:**

[https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=zzKfTw\\_ICk6Vy9yJxEKiHDffl7YbsGhLmB4\\_VkxcQNIUQ\\_VRWTvg5Vzc3TE8wWFIEQzVXNjBEN081NC4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=zzKfTw_ICk6Vy9yJxEKiHDffl7YbsGhLmB4_VkxcQNIUQ_VRWTvg5Vzc3TE8wWFIEQzVXNjBEN081NC4u&route=shorturl)



# UNITED IN HARMONY

*Celebrating Freedom of Religion  
and Diversity in America*

Presented by Interfaith Council of New Canaan

THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH, 2026

AT 7:00 PM

St. Aloysius Church  
21 Cherry Street,  
New Canaan



A joyful celebration bringing together **New Canaan's faith communities** to celebrate **America's 250th** anniversary—honoring **religious freedom, unity, and diversity** through music, readings, and reflection.

Featuring musicians, community leaders, and clergy from across New Canaan.

**Apple Pie and Ice Cream  
Social to Follow!**





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



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN**

**CALENDAR – UPCOMING WEEK**

**SUNDAY, May 24**

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

**MONDAY, May 25**

**OFFICE CLOSED – MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY**

7 pm Purple Heather Dancers

**TUESDAY, May 26**

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

**WEDNESDAY, May 27**

7 am Men’s Gathering (Zoom)  
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons  
6 pm RAM Council program (Common Room)  
7:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer (St. Michael’s)

**THURSDAY, May 28**

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

**FRIDAY, May 29**

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

**SATURDAY, May 30**

9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)  
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)  
2-5 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

**SUNDAY, May 31**

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

**CALENDAR – JUNE thru SEPTEMBER**

<b>Wednesday, June 10, 7:00am</b>	<b>Men’s Gathering (Zoom)</b>
<b>Sunday, June 14, 11:30am</b>	<b>Congregational Special Meeting (w/ light lunch &amp; childcare)</b> <b>Holy Cow Survey presentation and Adopt Revised By-Laws</b>
<b>Sunday, June 21, 11:30am</b>	<b>Fathers’ Day &amp; Annual Ice Cream Social w/ Brownies</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 24, 11:45am</b>	<b>Men’s Gathering (In-Person Lunch and Speaker)</b>
<b>Thursday, June 25, 7:00pm</b>	<b>United in Harmony – Celebrating Freedom of Religion and Diversity in America (St. A’s in New Canaan) Presented by Interfaith Council of NC</b>
<b>Saturday, June 27, 9:30am</b>	<b>NC 250 town parade (lumberyard lot step-off point)</b>
<b>Sunday, July 19, 11:30am</b>	<b>Annual Peaches on the Patio</b>
<b>Sunday, September 13, 11:30am</b>	<b>RALLY DAY</b>

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

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

Lisa Flanagan – soprano, Jamie Ratcliffe – alto, Nikolas Brannan – tenor, Cliff Townsend – bass

**Greeter:** Linda Martin and Jennifer Van de Graaf

**Lay Readers:** Ferial Aldag, Chris Cluett, and The Rev. Barbara Esterly

**Ushers:** Mark Chmiel and Paul Martin

**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> 
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