FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Thirty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time / All Saints' Day • November 1, 2026 • 10:00am
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

Grace and peace to you, and welcome!
Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here—
with whatever joys, questions, or tears you bring today—
as we worship God, who welcomes us all!

THE GATHERING

Prelude Sicilienne (from *Suite, Op. 5)* Maurice Duruflé

You are invited to listen for God's Spirit
speaking through the music of the Prelude
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

***Call to Worship** Armin Thies

Leader: Come join the great choir.
All: Angels and archangels,
Leader: Prophets, apostles and martyrs,
All: All the faithful of every time and place.
Leader: Join the choir and sing the song—
All: Blessing and glory and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever.

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

***Hymn No. 369:** Blessing and Honor *O quanta qualia*

Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Scott Herr

Minute for Mission AnnMay Arsenault
Donor Relations Manager | Bridgeport Rescue Mission

Blessing for our Younger Disciples Leah Saulsberry

Following the children's message, children are invited to join Leah for Sunday School or stay in Worship with their parents.

Call to Confession Armin Thies

Leader: See what love God has given us that we should be called God's children. Trusting our tenderest selves to that love, let us confess our sins.

Confession of Sin (unison) Armin Thies

We confess to being fools for thinking we can change the world—make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe and shelter themselves as you intended them to do. We confess to being fools for thinking we cannot change the world. We confess, O God, that we can't love enough yet loving is all we can do, so please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy, to love you.

--Inspired by "Love is the Measure" by Dorothy Day

(silence for further individual reflection and repentance…)

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.
All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Armin Thies

Leader: Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are blessed and forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri

***Passing of the Peace** Armin Thies

Leader: Christ will guide us to springs of living water and God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. My friends, receive the gift that only Christ can give. May the peace of 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) Armin Thies

Holy God, you have promised to bless those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. We come to your Word hungering for good news, thirsting for truth. Give us your blessing that we may hear and believe and be empowered to live as your children. Amen.

First Lesson – Revelation 7:9-17 Armin Thies

9After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation,
from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed
in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation
belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' 11And all the angels stood
around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces
before the throne and worshipped God, 12singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and
thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' 13Then
one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they
come from?' 14I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they
who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in
the blood of the Lamb. 15For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day
and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16They will
hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17for
the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of
the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson – Matthew 5:1-12 The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

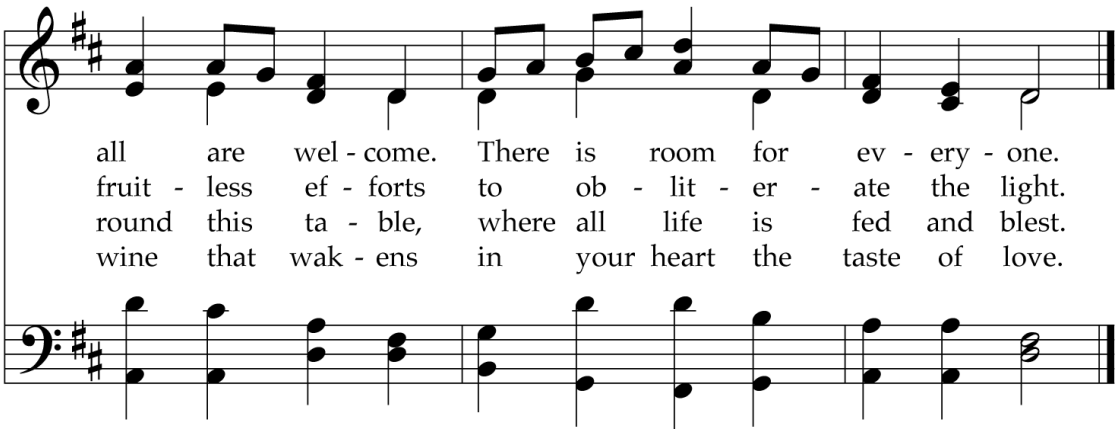
1When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came
to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 3'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will
be called children of God. 10'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and
utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is
great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy word.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *A House for Saints and Sinners* The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 506:** Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table *Copeland*



Call for the Offering Armin Thies

Leader: As those who know and celebrate the blessings of God, let us come with gifts that express our love. Let us bring to God our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Anthem O How Amiable Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord:
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, My King and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:
They will be alway praising thee.
The glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.
O prosper thou our handywork.
O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

(words taken from *Psalms 84 and 90*)

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)** Armin Thies

God of grace and glory, all that we have is a gift of your mercy. You shower blessings on us out of your goodness. You redeem us from evil and rescue us from the pit of our own selfishness. Accept what we offer—our time, our talents, our gifts of money, our very selves—and use it all to spread the good news of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Commemoration of Those Who Have Died This Past Year

In Memoriam for All Saints' Sunday (November 2, 2025 – November 1, 2026) we give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past and give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age. So, we give thanks for the members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. The names below represent members of this congregation, loved ones of members and from our community. (*After Worship all are invited to the Memorial Garden or Columbarium for a brief service of Commemoration of the Dead*.)

In Memoriam

Sue Klein (December 8) (friend of Maxine Gaddis)

Robert Kahler (December) (father of Allison Gurley)

Joan Taylor (January 10) (Member)

Tom Nissley (January 10) (Member)

Amy Fowler Granato (January 13) (sister of Julie Fowler)

James Marcotte (February 16) (brother-in-law of Jennifer & Steve Van de Graaf)

Anne Kniffin (March 5) (Member)

Debbie Lanza (March 8) (niece of Len and Cindy Graziano)

Paul Weaver (March 12) (friend of Dede and Jim Bartlett)

Vive Palmer (March 18) (cousin of Maxine Gaddis)

Marguerite Lynch (March 30) (mother of Denise Lynch)

Emily "Sandy" McKay Nissley (March 31) (Member)

John Fulkerson (February 8)

Stephen Dishart (April 7) (husband of Sue Dishart)

Bonnie Hicks (April 7) (friend of Barbara Wentzel)

Charles Cooper (April 20)

Natalie MacDonald (May 19) (Member)

George Drew (June 4) (brother of Sue Dishart)

Chris Gillespie (June 16) (friend of Maxine Gaddis)

Victor Lloyd Bradley, Sr. (July 14) (former member)

Marcia Bates (June 12) (94-year-old aunt of Jim Riehl)

Missy (June 27) (sister-in-law of Sarah Robinson)

Joe Achenbaum (July 23) (Joe is Whitney Gulden's father-in-law and cousin of Barbara Achenbaum's husband Jon)

Mary Kane White (August 27) (Member)

Marty Schmidt (September 5) (friend of Linda & Paul Martin)

Mary Dillon (September 13) (sister of Barbara Wentzel)

Julia Paige Martocchio (September 22) (Special Church attendee)

Elizabeth Ann "Libby" Butterworth (October 18) (wife of Tom Butterworth) (Member)

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to The Lord's Table The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving The Rev. Scott Herr

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

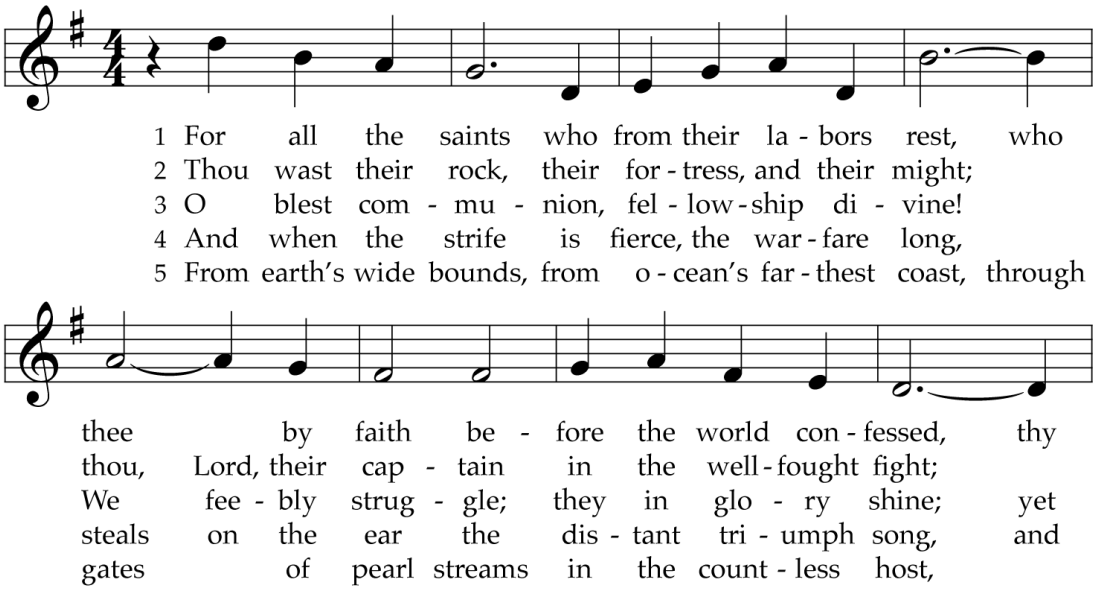
Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Prayer After Communion (unison)

Merciful God, in this feast, you have made us one with Christ and with that great multitude of the faithful, the ones who hunger and thirst no more and who worship you night and day. Lead us in your paths of righteousness, until we join that great choir, singing to your glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 326:** For All the Saints *Sine nomine*



***Benediction** The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

***Choral Amen**

***Ringing of the Church Bell**

***Postlude:** 1: Saint Paul, who, on his way to Damascus, experienced a vision of Christ, and was converted (from *Saints' Days*) Daniel Pinkham

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

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All are invited to the Memorial Garden or Columbarium for a brief service of Commemoration of the Dead.

Then join us in the Common Room 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 All Saints' Sunday, the day we remember and celebrate those we have known and loved who have died in the past year, but also the lives of all the saints and martyrs, extraordinary and ordinary, through the centuries. As we remember, we pray that we too may be counted among God's faithful. We are glad that you have chosen to join us today and pray that you will know Christ's deep and abiding love.

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.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

AnnMay Arsenault – Donor Relations Manager | Bridgeport Rescue Mission
Today we welcome AnnMay Arsenault, Donor Relations Manager at Bridgeport Rescue Mission, who will share the Mission's work and the many ways our community can come together to serve our neighbors in need.

AnnMay's work is rooted in relationships. She brings together donors, churches, corporations, community leaders, volunteers, and organizations with a shared purpose: turning compassion into meaningful action. Through donor cultivation, major gifts, community and church partnerships, special events, and outreach, AnnMay helps build the relationships and resources that allow Bridgeport Rescue Mission to reach people at some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

Founded in 1993, Bridgeport Rescue Mission serves thousands of individuals and families each year through hunger relief, residential recovery programs, family ministry, clothing and essential needs, and free healthcare through the Sage Healthcare Clinic. The Mission provides not only immediate help, but pathways toward stability, dignity, recovery, and renewed hope.

BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION
Expanding Hope. Rebuilding Lives.

For AnnMay, this work is deeply personal and grounded in faith. One of her strongest beliefs is that God has given each of us unique gifts, and with those gifts comes the opportunity and responsibility to use them in service to others. She believes we are called to see our neighbors in need, walk beside them, and remind them that they are not alone.

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 class 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.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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.

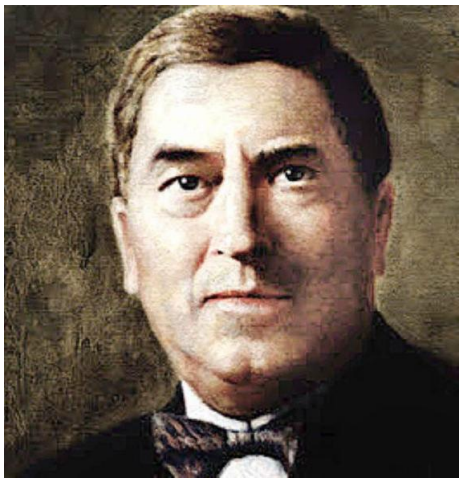
Young children learn by observing the adults around them. Children acquire the "language" of worship by listening to and observing the words the adults around them say, much like how they learn their native tongue. Quite simply, children learn to worship by regularly being in Worship. **So families with 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.**

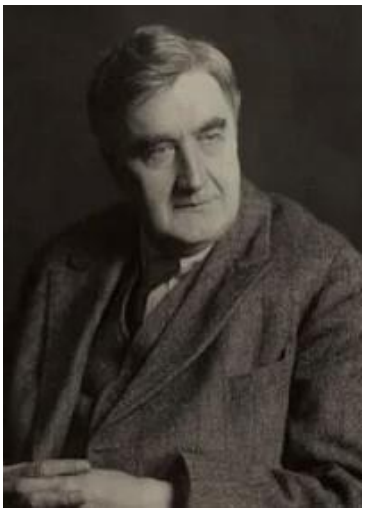
Have a prayer request? Prayer Cards are located in the back of the church adjacent to the Sanctuary entrance. Before Worship, please give the completed Prayer Card to either Scott or one of the Ushers. These requests will be included in our Prayers of the People for that Sunday. You will have the option 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 Scott (scott@fpcnc.org) or Wendy (wendy@fpcnc.org).

Cents-ability – ***The Cents-ability jar has a temporary location at the Welcome Table during construction.*** 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.

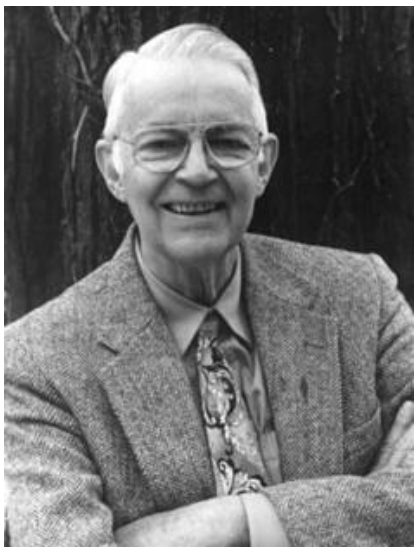
ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC



This morning, our organ prelude is music composed by **Maurice Gustave Duruflé** (1902-1986), a French composer, organist, musicologist, and teacher. He attended Rouen Cathedral Choir School from 1912 to 1918, where he studied piano and organ with Jules Haelling, a pupil of Alexandre Guilmant. The choral plainsong tradition at Rouen became a strong and lasting influence. At age 17, upon moving to Paris, he took private organ lessons with Charles Tournemire, whom he assisted at Basilique Ste. Clothilde, Paris until 1927. In 1920 Duruflé entered the Conservatoire de Paris, graduating with first prizes in organ with Eugène Gigout, harmony with Jean Gallon, fugue with Georges Caussade, piano accompaniment with César Abel Estyle and composition with Paul Dukas. In 1927, Louis Vierne nominated him as his Assistant at Notre-Dame. Duruflé and Vierne remained lifelong friends. Duruflé became Titular Organist of St-Étienne-du-Mont in Paris in 1929, a position he held for the rest of his life. In 1943 he became Professor of Harmony at the Conservatoire de Paris, where he worked until 1970; among his pupils were the revered organists Pierre Cochereau, Jean Guillou and Marie-Claire Alain.



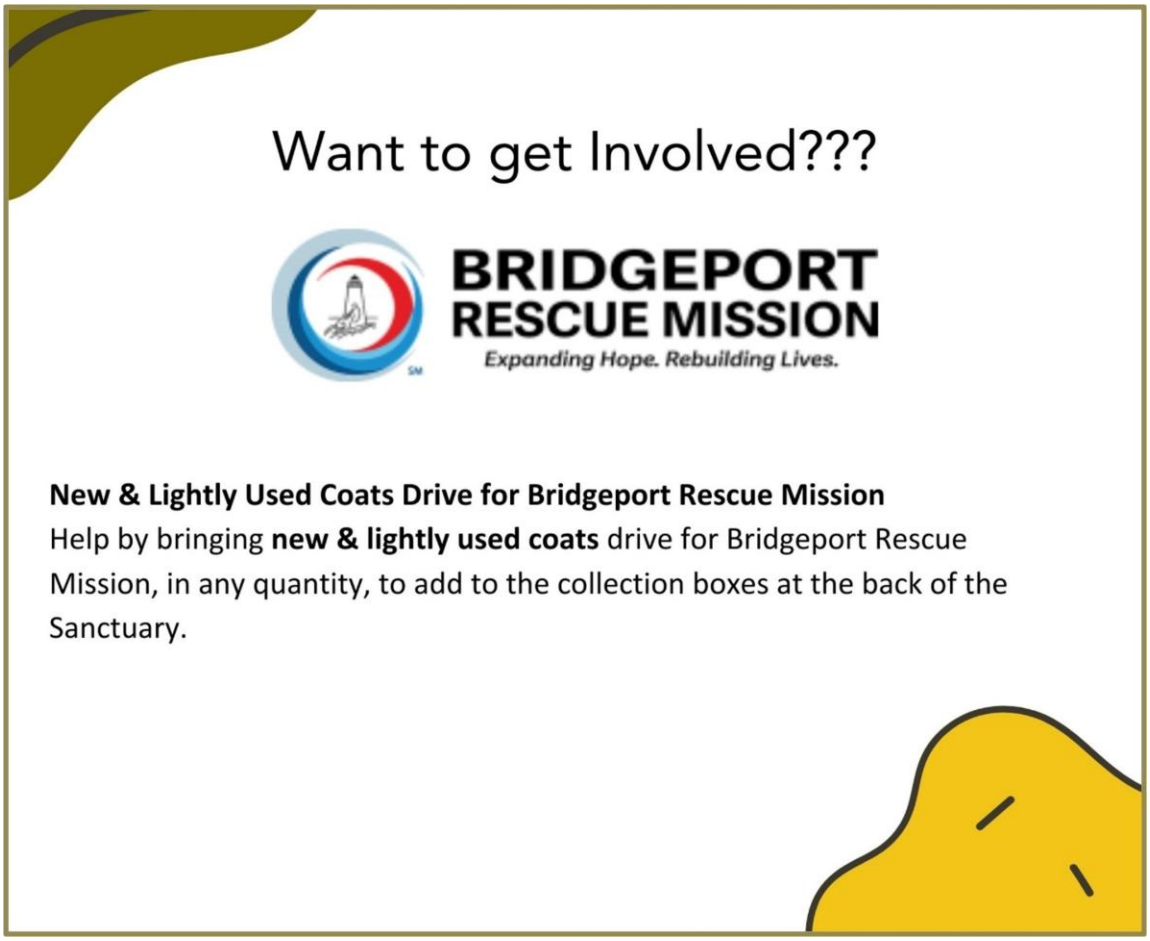
Our offertory anthem is composed by **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958), an English composer. His works include operas, ballets, chamber music, secular and religious vocal pieces and orchestral compositions including nine symphonies, written over sixty years. Strongly influenced by Tudor music and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



Our organ postlude is music composed by **Daniel Rogers Pinkham Jr.** (1923-2006), an American composer, organist, and harpsichordist. He studied organ performance and music theory at Phillips Academy with Carl F. Pfatteicher. At Harvard University, he studied with Walter Piston; Aaron Copland, Archibald T. Davison, and Arthur Tillman Merritt were also among his teachers. There he completed a Bachelor's Degree in 1942 and a Master's in 1944. He also studied harpsichord with Putnam Aldrich and Wanda Landowska, and organ with E. Power Biggs. At Tanglewood, he studied composition with Samuel Barber and Arthur Honegger, and subsequently with Nadia Boulanger. Pinkham taught at the Boston Conservatory beginning in 1946, and at the New England Conservatory of Music from 1959 until his death in 2006; while there, he created and chaired the program on early music performance. He also taught at various times at Simmons University, Boston University, and Harvard University. For forty-two years, Pinkham was the Organist of King's Chapel in Boston, a position which gave him much exposure to and opportunity to write church-related music; the Sunday evening concert series he created there celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007. He was also a frequent guest on the E. Power Biggs program on the CBS Radio Network. He performed regularly with the Boston Symphony Orchestra as an organist and as a harpsichordist, and he performed extensively with noted violinist Robert Brink.

TODAY

COATS AND WARM CLOTHING DRIVE – EXTENDED UNTIL TODAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2027

Stewardship 2027 has begun!

Sun, Oct 18	***Stewardship Launch***
Next Sun, Nov 8	***Stewardship Committee Q&A @ 11:30am***
Sun, Nov 15	***Stewardship Walk Forward Sunday***

Stewardship Dedication Sunday will be November 15. In the coming weeks, please take time to reflect on our theme of "Built on a Strong Foundation: 70 years of Faith in Action" and on the abundance of blessings God has showered upon you. Please prayerfully complete the 2027 Pledge Card which were mailed the week of October 19. There are extra Pledge Cards with the Ushers and at the entrance table or you can complete the pledge form online here: https://fpcnc.org/pledges/. Then, on November 15, please join us in bringing the completed Pledge Card to Worship and "Walk Forward" with your card during Service, or you can mail it back to the church before November 15. We pray that you will join us in committing ourselves anew to the ministry and mission of Christ through our congregation and be more generous stewards of the abundance we have received.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. The polls in Connecticut will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join the Men's Gathering via Zoom this Wednesday, November 4th from 7:00–8:00am for a Post MidTerm conversation on Healing the Nation. Please read 2 Chronicles 7:14, II Corinthians 5:18-20, and Revelations 22: 1-7 in preparation for a conversation Scott will lead. What is the role of the church in the ministry of reconciliation, and what is our role at this time in the life of our nation? Get your caffeine and join us this Wednesday at 7:00 for a robust conversation and how we move forward together as God's people. All men are welcome and feel free to invite any friends.

Men's Gathering meets twice a month on Wednesdays. Upcoming dates are:

- Wed, November 18 @ 12:00pm (In-Person Lunch & Meeting)
- Wed, December 2 @ 7:00am (Bible Study – Zoom)
- Wed, December 16 @ 7:00am (Guest Speaker – Zoom)

Questions, contact Mark (**mmagnusen@yahoo.com**) or Scott (**scott@fpcnc.org**) or Wendy (**wendy@fpcnc.org**)**.**

Wednesday Weekly Bible Studies, led by Darlene Harmon, meets **every Wednesday from 10:00am-11:30am**. They are discussing 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 MONTH @ FPC

Our Last Goodwill collection truck for the season will be here on Saturday, November 14 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 will return April 10th and will be here every 2nd Saturday of each month.)**

Goodwill WESTERN & NORTHERN CONNECTICUT

Music @ First

Coffee Concert

Dvořák's Ten Biblical Songs

Scripture readings by Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr and Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Terence J. Flanagan, piano
Lisa Flanagan, soprano
Jamie Ratcliffe, alto
Nikolas Brannan, tenor
Devin Mitchell, bass

Sunday, Nov. 15 - 11:30 am

Enjoy Coffee Hour after Worship then return to the Sanctuary for a 30-40 minute program

First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan
178 Oenoke Ridge - New Canaan CT 06840 - www.fpcnc.org

MISSION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

October is Mission Month!

EXTENDED to today, Sunday, November 1st –
New & Lightly Used **Coats** for **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**
AnnMay Arsenault from Bridgeport Rescue Mission will present our Minute for Mission.

Please contribute generously!

Previous Sundays

October 18th – **Toiletries** Drive for the **New Covenant Center**
The congregation donated 455 personal hygiene and toiletries items!
October 11th – Kids and Adult **Underwear** Drive for The Undies Project
The congregation donated 212 undies, bras and tees!
October 4th – **Diapers and Baby Formula** Drive for the Diaper Bank of CT
The congregation donated 3,450 Diapers!

Thank you to everyone who donated!

EDITOR'S NOTES

Parking Lot Update
Despite our rainy summer which pushed work out into October, the parking lot has now been patched and seal coated, with individual parking spaces and directional arrows painted on the asphalt.

Thank you to all FPCNC stakeholders for jumping through multiple parking hoops as the work was completed! Enjoy our new and improved parking lot!

Daylight Savings Time
Ended at 2:00 AM this morning. If you haven't changed your clocks, you probably arrived at church an hour early for Worship. Don't forget to Fall Back!

Lost and Found items: If you recognize these or know who they might belong to, please contact Wendy in the Church office.

Blue/Gray Glasses found in Sanctuary

Pink Mug found in Common Room

Camouflage JBL Speaker found in Common Room

EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

Fall Stroll – Saturday, October 24

Church members and friends enjoyed a beautiful Fall Stroll last Saturday, visiting Great Island in Darien - 60 acres of coastal land nestled along Long Island Sound. The pathways were smooth, and the near-peak fall foliage provided a stunning backdrop as we walked past wetland meadows, beautiful coves, and mature woodlands. We took a short break at the Pink House – a home built as a nursery for the Island's tiniest residents – where we enjoyed yummy seasonal treats of farm-fresh apples, apple cider, donut holes, and apple turnovers overlooking gorgeous Ziegler's Cove.

EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

FPC Accessibility Project Update:
Work is well underway on the new Accessible Ramp and Restroom. You will notice the courtyard between the Kitchen and the Sanctuary Hallway is currently a construction site. The new foundation, ramp and floor are in place along with insulation, walls, roof, windows, etc. as of last week – see the progress in photo. When the project is completed later this Fall, we will have a new and much more accessible path from the Sanctuary Hallway to the Common Room.

Please note that while the accessibility project construction is in progress exclusive use of the back driveway (by the Memorial Garden and Columbarium) via the NC Nature Center driveway has been promised to Turner Construction until further notice. Please avoid use of the rear driveway for parking or building access. To access the Memorial Garden or Columbarium, please park in the Visitors parking spaces on the circular driveway or the large parking lot. You can then walk around to the back by way of the sidewalk to the left of the Sanctuary doors. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause. Any questions or concerns, please contact Wendy in the church office.

Drywall, taping and sanding completed. Starting to paint ceiling and walls.

SPECIAL CHURCH @ FPC

A Place of Grace – Special Church – Seeking Volunteers

Special Church was founded in 1986 by parents seeking a religious experience meaningful to their special needs children. It truly is a place of grace! Our banner in the Common Room describes our church perfectly!

Faith Fellowship Fun

We invite you to consider joining us in this wonderful weekly experience. We meet each week on Thursdays from 3:30-5pm beginning our gathering with Words of the Week. Each one of our participants has their own Words Book and one member gets a chance to be our reader each week whether they can read or not. After the reading we embellish the page with a sticker (sometimes many!) that relates to our topic.

The second segment varies. We create art and are reassured that there are no mistakes in art! Some weeks we perform acts of kindness and other weeks we have a celebration! A few acts of kindness projects we do each year are creating Valentines Day Cards for the home bound and those in assisted living (including some FPC members). We also make cards for Veterans Day to thank those who served our country in the military as well as making thank you cards for the organization Honor Flights for those who served in wartime.

During our final half hour we sing with exuberance, play instruments and sometimes even dance. Our crafts are fun, but the singing is especially full of happy faces and voices that fill our hearts. Every soul responds to music, and we fill the room with a joyful noise! We are so fortunate to have Matt Hennessy, a board-certified music therapist from RhythmHearts Creative Arts Therapy, leading us each week. Our gathering ends with singing our "5 o'clock song" to help close the program.

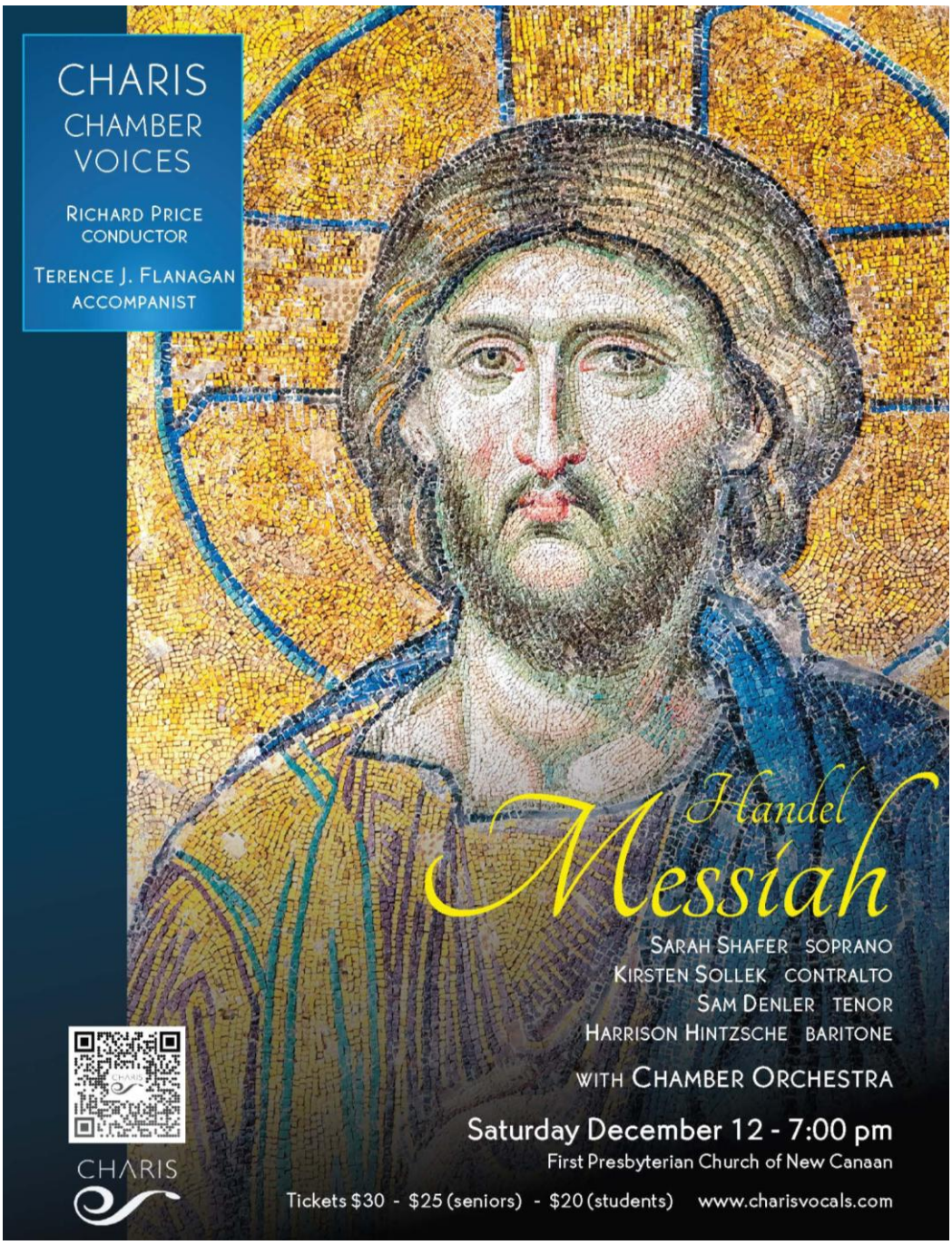
Our participants are happy to come together each week to share each other's company and to see one another as well. The space we have shared at First Presbyterian Church for 40 years is perfect and the time we share is short but so meaningful. Our volunteers Kate, Scottie and Nancy have been leading Special Church for many years. Nancy heard about Special Church in 2003 shortly after the passing of her special needs sister-in-law. She was invited to visit, went once and she's still here! Kate has been volunteering for almost 10 years since she retired, and before that, was grateful to have an employer who allowed her one day a month to volunteer alongside Nancy. This one day a month has been joyful, and Kate has treasured the time to live joyfully in their world for an hour and a half. This time with the group is fun, caring, nurturing and kind. We've shared hugs, laughter and sometimes tears. Kate is grateful to be a small part of the 40-year history of Special Church and she hopes we can bring in some new volunteers who can share our joy and keep it going! And Scottie shared that Special Church is a special place and time for her to find God's Love and Peace in her busy life. Scottie is thankful every week that Nancy led her to this wonderful group and community. This group is a blessing and Scottie is so joyful to share and glad to invite others to participate.

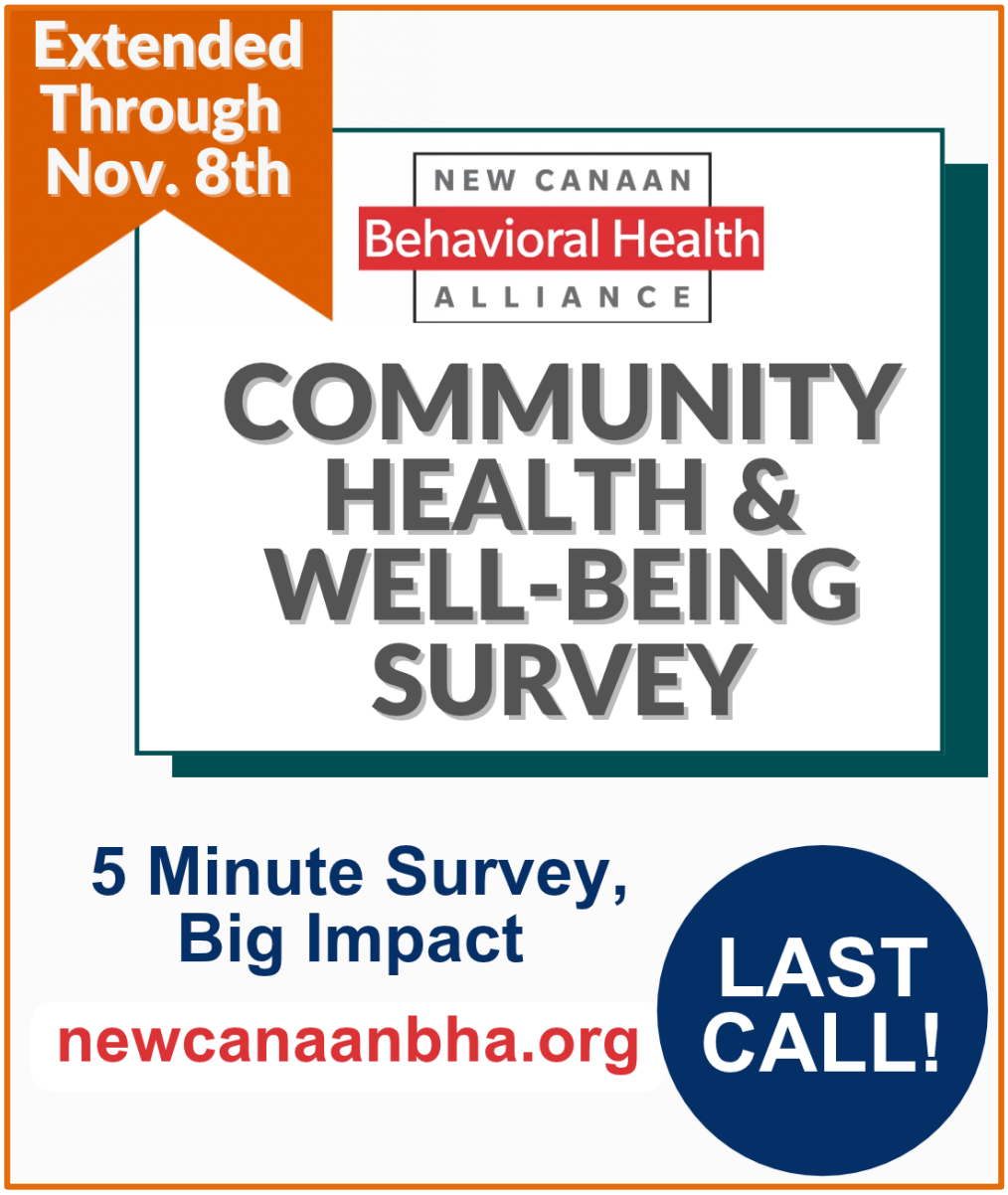
Our members are not defined by their special needs but rather by the kind and loving people that they are. They all have a special place in our hearts.

We hope that this message has peaked your interest, or even better, touched you in some way. We are actively seeking additional volunteers, and we are hoping that you will consider joining us. Please contact Wendy Starr in the church office and she will put you in touch with us. We look forward to meeting you and having any of you join us on one or multiple Thursdays.

Peace and joy to all! Love, Kate, Scottie and Nancy

UPCOMING CONCERTS @ FPC




Extended Through Nov. 8th
NEW CANAAN
Behavioral Health
ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELL-BEING SURVEY
5 Minute Survey, Big Impact
newcanaanbha.org
LAST CALL!

New Fund Launched to Support Domestic Violence Survivors

DOMESITC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR SUPPORT FUND

NEW CANAAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In response to the recent increase in domestic violence incidents, the New Canaan Abuse Prevention Partnership, in collaboration with the New Canaan Community Foundation and local service partners, has announced the creation of a new fund to help New Canaan survivors of domestic violence address urgent practical needs as they work toward safety, stability, and independence.

The DV Survivor Support Fund will help cover essential costs like safe housing, basic needs, and childcare, working alongside trusted referral partners including New Canaan Human Services and the Domestic Violence Crisis Center.

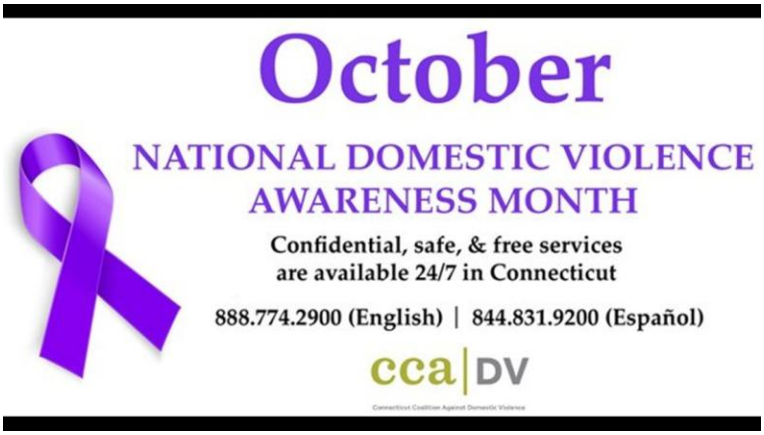
"This new fund is similar to The Touch A Life Fund, which has a long track record of providing emergency financial assistance for New Canaan residents, but is tailored to respond to the specific needs of families experiencing violence."

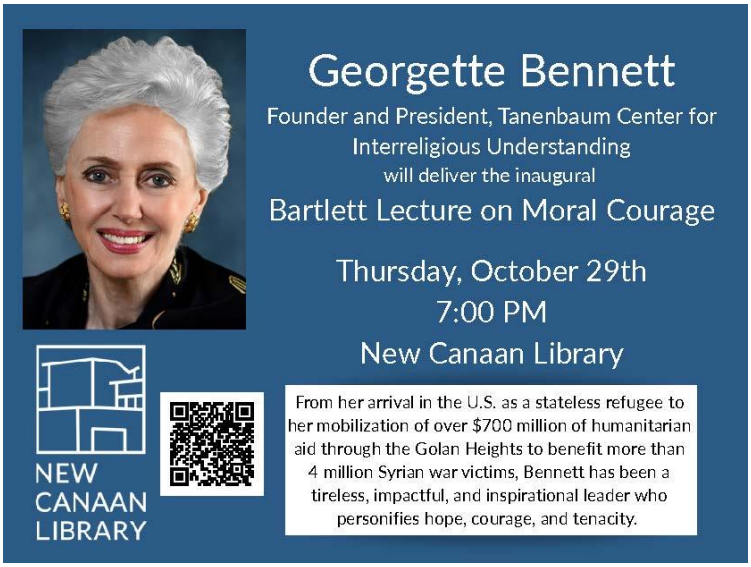
Lauren Patterson, President and CEO, NCCF

Support the Fund

Read more in the New Canaanite →

If you or someone you know needs support, the Domestic Violence Crisis Center's 24-hour hotline is available at 203-588-9097, and the Connecticut statewide hotline, Safe Connect, at 888-774-2900. Anyone in immediate danger should call 911.





Anyone interested in contributing to the fund should contact Lauren Patterson of the New Canaan Community Foundation at lpatterson@newcanaancf.org or donate online directly with the DVVC Fund here: https://godonate.akoyago.com/newcanaancf/fund/dv-survivor-support-fund

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. Add the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) to your phone now—it could save a life later. Trained crisis counselors are available to talk 24/7/365.

NEW CANAAN Behavioral Health ALLIANCE

Finding the right behavioral health support for yourself, family member or a friend can feel overwhelming. The New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance (NCBHA) is excited to announce the launch of its website. New Canaan Human Services, NCCF and Silver Hill Hospital have partnered with over 30 local agencies and organizations to encourage, develop and support a greater community awareness of behavioral health issues and resources in our area. To talk directly to someone that can help navigate available resources, or just to see what behavioral health events are happening around the area, visit www.newcanaanbha.org.

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

Continued prayers and concerns: Alison Bell (50-yr old disabled since birth) suffering from an undiagnosed and increasingly painful stomach ailment; Judy Bentley; for the family of Elizabeth Ann "Libby" Butterworth who died Sunday, October 18; Chris in the final stages of a 20-year battle with an incurable immune disorder; Cody (friend of Mary Ann Meils' son); prayers of healing for Betty Drew (Sue Dishart's mother); Kristen Englund recovering from transplant surgery; John Florio (Nik Brannan's Grandfather, Mary Jane Brannan's father); Bill Grant (friend of Dede Trefts McEvoy) as he is undergoing a second round of radiation for cancer; Nick Guthrie; Chris Harris (Dede Trefts' lifelong and beloved friend) is in the last stage of a very long battle with cancer; Nate Heide (Natasha Moore's niece's fiancé) has germ cell cancer and currently undergoing chemotherapy; Dan Hodges; Beth and Phil Hunter (California friends of Denise and Jim Riehl) who are dealing with an unexpected health diagnosis; David Johnson (Elsbeth Johnson's son); Denise Lynch; Josephine Markell (Jim Riehl's 106-year-old aunt); Marlene Powers; John Robinson (Darlene Harmon's brother) who has lung cancer; the Sands Family (friends of Charlie and Sarah Robinson) as two of their family members are presently battling potentially life ending diseases (glioblastoma and dementia & kidney failure, respectively); Holly Schmidt (friends of Linda/Paul Martin) as she was recently diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing treatment; Ken Stringfellow (Kate Stringfellow-Ziance's brother); J. Stuart Stringfellow (Kate Stringfellow-Ziance's father); Courtney Brown Wentzel (daughter-in-law of Barbara Wentzel);

We continue to pray for the families and friends of the victims who have been affected by gun violence.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is our presence around the world when disasters happen. Through them we are on the ground around the world, responding to the enormous needs following wildfires, hurricanes and earthquakes and during war. PDA Giving: https://pcusa.org/giving/stewardship-funds-development/ways-give

GROW IN FAITH

SILVER HILL HOSPITAL If you know of someone in urgent need of mental health support, please remember the resource that our town has in the New Canaan Urgent Assessment Program. The town, in partnership with Silver Hill Hospital, is prepared to offer psychiatric assessment and tailored referral for ongoing care. The Program serves children, teens and adults who are New Canaan residents free of charge. To schedule an intake call, email NCUA@silverhillhospital.org or call Silver Hill Hospital admissions at 1-866-542-4455 and indicate that you are asking about the New Canaan Urgent Assessment Program. For more details use this link: https://silverhillhospital.org/new-canaan-urgent-assessment-program/

Pastoral Care Team:

Do you know of someone who might appreciate a phone call or visit, someone who is lonely or mourning? Our congregation has a team of people who are ready to reach out to church members of all ages who are facing a life crisis. They may be in declining health, shut-ins, living in a care facility, grieving, or struggling with a significant change in their circumstances. Our Pastoral Care Team, made up of Ferial Aldag, Peg Bull, Debera Prosek, Ellen Sisson, The Rev. Mary Thies and Barbara Wentzel, is ready to provide pastoral care to church members who are dealing with such a situation. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry or if you have questions about the work of the team, please call the church office 203-966-0002 (ext 1).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

CALENDAR – UPCOMING WEEK

SUNDAY, November 1
9 am **Music Rehearsals**
10 am **Worship Service & All Saints' Day**
11:30 am **Coffee Hour**

MONDAY, November 2
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
4:30-6 pm Performing Arts Conservatory
6:30 pm Deacon Meeting/Potluck (@ Manse)
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers (Common Room)

TUESDAY, November 3
ELECTION DAY
9:30, 10:30, 11:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)
10:30 am Staff Leadership Meeting
3-5 pm Performing Arts Conservatory
8 pm Men's A.A. Group (closed)

WEDNESDAY, November 4
7 am Men's Gathering (Zoom)
10 am Weekly Bible Studies (Parlor)
1 pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsal
6 pm Staying Put-Volunteer Appreciation Event
6-8 pm Performing Arts Conservatory

THURSDAY, November 5
3 pm NC Chamber Music Concert
6:30 pm RAM Council Program
7 pm FPC Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, November 6
9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
7 pm NC Chamber Music Concert

SATURDAY, November 7
9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)
10:30 am Charis Chamber Voices Rehearsals
2-6 pm New Covenant Center (Prepare/Serve Meals)
2-5 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SUNDAY, November 8
9 am **Music Rehearsals**
10 am **Worship Service**
11:30 am **Coffee Hour and Stewardship 2027 Q&A**

CALENDAR – NOVEMBER and DECEMBER

Tuesday, November 10, 7pm	**Session Meeting (6:30pm dinner)**
Saturday, November 14, 11am	**Natalie MacDonald – Memorial Service & Interment**
Sunday, November 15, 10am	**Stewardship 2027 Walk Forward Sunday**
Sunday, November 15, 11:30am	**Coffee Concert – Dvorak's *Ten Biblical Songs***
Wednesday, November 18, 7am	**Men's Gathering (Zoom)**
Wednesday, November 18, 7pm	**Open Mic Night (Common Room)**
Sunday, November 29, 10am	**First Sunday of Advent**
Sunday, November 29, 4:30pm	**Advent Party & Christmas Decorating**
Wednesday, December 2, 7am	**Men's Gathering (Zoom)**
Tuesday, December 8, 7pm	**Session Meeting (6:30pm dinner)**
Saturday, December 12, 7pm	**Charis Chamber Voices Concert @ FPC (Sanctuary)**
Wednesday, December 16, 7am	**Men's Gathering (Zoom)**
Wednesday, December 16, 7:00pm	**New Canaan High School Choirs Concert @ FPC**
Friday, December 18, 6:00pm	**FPC Christmas Party (@ MANSE)**

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

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

Greeters: Janet Lanaway and Sue Sherwood

Lay Reader: Armin Thies

Ushers: Jim Ely and Stephan von Jena

Communion Preparer: Mary Lee Lesko

Communion Servers: Armin Thies and Jennifer Van de Graaf

All Saints' Day Candle Lighters: Andrew Mezo and Fell Herdeg

MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

OUR PASTOR

The Reverend Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor

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

2026-2027 SESSION ELDERS AND DEACONS

SESSION ELDERS

Bob Spangler (Clerk) • Barb Achenbaum • Tom Butterworth • Jim Ely • Terence D. Flanagan (Youth)
Angela Johnson • Nancy LaBadie • Janet Lanaway • Jan Lucie • Mark Magnusen • Bonnie Peterson
Mike Peterson • Steve Van de Graaf • Patty von Jena • Stephan von Jena

DEACONS

Debera Prosek (Moderator) • Ferial Aldag • Sue Benko • Carole Clarkson • Chris Cluett • Sue Dishart • Kathy Edwards
Lisa Flanagan • Julie Fowler • Thomas Godina (Youth) • Victoria Mezo • Jo Ann Nerenburg • Sherry Tate

SIGN UP to Read, Usher or Greet https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:	**DONATE:**	**FPC YouTube Channel:**