

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 | 203-966-0002

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time / Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026 • 10:00am

*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!*

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

THE GATHERING

Prelude

Konzert in B-Dur, HWV 290, Op. 4/2
Sinfonia – Allegro – Adagio e staccato – Allegro ma no presto

Georg Friedrich Händel

*Call to Worship

Cindy Graziano

Leader: We gather here to worship God.
All: We are here, with heart, soul and mind.
Leader: We gather here as Christ's body.
All: We are neighbors, learning how to love each other.
Leader: The Holy Spirit gathers us in to be sent out again.
All: We are here to worship and to be transformed, reformed and renewed.
Leader: Let us worship the Triune God!

*Hymn No. 275:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Verses 1-3)

Ein feste Burg

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -
fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Scott Herr

Blessing for our Younger Disciples

Leah Saulsberry

Today, after the announcements, a prayer will be offered for the children while in their seats, then the children will go directly to Sunday School from the Sanctuary. All children are invited to join Leah for Sunday School, or remain in the Sanctuary with their parents to enjoy the Cantata.

Call to Confession

Cindy Graziano

Leader: We recognize the well-worn paths of sin in our lives and the world. Let us confess our sin together, so that we may delight in God's laws of love.

Confession of Sin (unison)

Cindy Graziano

Holy God, we are often good at following rules while neglecting the heart of your commandments. We place ourselves in the congregation of the righteous, but take our seat among the scoffers. We seek approval of our friends, family, and others whose opinions we value, forgetting that our

call is to please you. You call us to be free, but we settle for bondage to society's expectations and keeping up with the Joneses. You call us to be holy, but we settle for self-righteousness. You call us to be just, but we cannot shed our biases. You call us to love our neighbors, but we have been satisfied to keep them at arm's length. You created us to love you with soul, heart, and mind, but we have held parts of ourselves back. Have mercy on us, God. Watch over our ways, redirect our paths, and help us love you with abandon. Set us free to be instruments of reconciliation through your law of love...

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

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Cindy Graziano

Leader: The gospel we proclaim is good news for us all: God's mercy is eternal. We are made blameless through Jesus Christ. Freed from sin's power over us, we can bear the fruit of God's love and righteousness. So friends, hear and believe the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen!

Gloria Patri

Gloria Patri

Terence J. Flanagan

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly

6 Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be,

11 world with - out end, A - men. A - men.

THE WORD

Prayer for illumination (unison)

Cindy Graziano

Holy God, by the power of your Spirit, help us meditate on your law and commandments. As your Word is read today, help us be fully present – heart, soul, and mind – and show us your way of love. Amen.

Scripture – John 8:31-36

The Rev. Scott Herr

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' ³³They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?' ³⁴Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Cindy Graziano

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

Cindy Graziano

Leader: We are called to love God with all that we are, and all that we have. As God has given so generously to us, we are invited to return our gratitude by offering the gifts of our labor, lives and love.

Offertory Solo

Be Thou My Vision

arranged by Edward J . Tipton

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be; Thou in my dwelling, and I one with thee.

High King of heaven, when vict'ry is won, May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Ryland Angel – tenor

***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)**

Cindy Graziano

Generous God, we bring our gifts to you. May these gifts yield the fruits of your Spirit, meeting scarcity with your abundance, and fear with your love. Use our offerings and our lives in love and service. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Cantata 80: Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*Johann Sebastian Bach*

1. Choral

*Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,
ein gute Wehr und Waffen.
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,
die uns itzt hat betroffen.
Der alte böse Feind,
mit Ernst ers itzt meint,
groß Macht und viel List
sein grausam Rüstung ist,
auf Erd ist nicht seins gleichen.
(Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, verse 1)*

1. Chorus

A mighty fortress is our God,
a trusty shield and weapon.
He helps us as we toil and plod,
and grants his interception.
The ancient evil foe,
he hates us men so,
with cunning great might,
his awesome armor tight,
on earth he has no equal.
(A Mighty Fortress is our God, verse 1)

2. Aria B und Choral S

*Alles, was von Gott geboren,
ist zum Siegen auserkoren;*

*Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan,
wir sind gar bald verloren.*

*Es streit' vor uns der rechte Mann,
den Gott selbst hat erkoren.*

*Wer bei Christi Blutpanier
in der Taufe Treu geschworen,
siegt in Christo für und für.*

Fragst du, wer er ist?

*Er heißt Jesus Christ,
der Herre Zebaoth,
und ist kein andrer Gott,
das Feld muß er behalten.*

(Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, verse 2)

2. Aria B and Chorale S

*All who were by God created,
are to triumph dedicated.*

*Man's power, Lord, is faint indeed,
too soon we go asunder.*

*For us a man does nobly plead,
whom God has sent hereunder.*

*He who Jesus' banner bears,
baptized in his faith instated
wins in spirit anywhere.*

What has made his fate?

*Jesus is his name,
our God, the Lord of Host,
whose glory is the most,
there is none else beside him.*

(A Mighty Fortress is our God, verse 2)

Devin Mitchell – bass, Lisa Flanagan – soprano

3. Recitativo B

*Erwäge doch, Kind Gottes,
die so große Liebe,
da Jesus sich
mit seinem Blute dir verschriebe,
womit er dich
zum Kriege wider Satans Heer und wider
Welt, und Sünde
geworben hat!
Gib nicht in deiner Seele
dem Satan und den Lastern statt!
Laß nicht dein Herz,
den Himmel Gottes auf der Erden,
zur Wüste werden!
Bereue deine Schuld mit Schmerz,
daß Christi Geist mit dir sich fest verbinde!*

3. Recitativo B

*O child of God, consider
the enormous caring,
that Jesus with
his very blood did offer for you,
that you would join
in triumph over Satan's hords and all the
world's temptations,
he asked of you.
Do not make in thy spirit,
for Satan or the wicked, place!
Let not your heart,
God's haven in the world of nature,
become a desert!
Repent thy evils ways with sorrow,
that Christ and thou in spirit be united!*

Devin Mitchell – bass

4. Aria S

*Komm in mein Herzenshaus,
Herr Jesu, mein Verlangen!
Treib Welt und Satan aus,
und laß dein Bild in mir erneuert prangen!
Weg, schnöder Sündengraus!*

4. Aria S

*Come dwell within my heart,
Lord Jesus, my attraction!
Make Satan's world depart,
and by your image be my satisfaction.
Go, take your sinful art!*

Lisa Flanagan – soprano

5. Choral

*Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär
und wollten uns verschlingen,
so fürchten wir uns nicht so sehr,
es soll uns doch gelingen.
Der Fürst dieser Welt,
wie saur er sich stellt,
tut er uns doch nicht,
das macht, er ist gericht't.
Ein Wörtlein kann ihn fällen.
(Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, verse 3)*

6. Recitativo T

*So stehe dann bei Christi
blutgefärbten Fahne,
o Seele, fest
und glaube, daß dein Haupt
dich nicht verläßt,
ja, daß sein Sieg
auch dir den Weg zu deiner Krone bahne!
Tritt freudig an den Krieg!
Wirst du nur Gottes Wort
so hören als bewahren,
so wird der Feind gezwungen auszufahren,
dein Heiland bleibt dein Hort.*

5. Chorale

*Though devils ravaged everywhere
determined to devour us,
we will not wander in their lair,
we shall escape their powe'r thus.
The master of doom,
howe'er he may fume,
can not do us harm
despite his cruel arm.
A little word shall fell him.
(A Mighty Fortress is our God, verse 3)*

6. Recitative T

*So stand beneath Lord Jesus'
crimson bloody banner,
oh spirit, fast,
you shall not be abandoned
by your Lord,
but know his triumph
will prepare the way to your salvation!
Go joyfully to fight!
Just listen to God's word,
just heed it and preserve it,
the foe shall be compelled to flee before you,
your Savior is your strength.*

Nikolas Brannan – tenor

7. Duetto A T

*Wie selig sind doch die,
die Gott im Munde tragen,
doch selger ist das Herz,
das ihn im Glauben trägt!
Es bleibt unbesiegt
und kann die Feinde schlagen
und wird zuletzt gekrönt,
wenn es den Tod erlegt.*

7. Duet A T

*How blessed are the ones
who know to use their mouth to speak of God,
more blessed yet the hearts,
that have the will for faith!
Those havens shall not die
but shall the foeman vanquish,
and shall at last be crowned
when they, in death, be freed.*

Jamie Ratcliffe – alto, Nikolas Brannan – tenor

8. Choral

*Das Wort sie sollen lassen stahn
und kein Dank dazu haben.
Er ist bei uns wohl auf dem Plan
mit seinem Geist und Gaben.
Nehmen sie uns den Leib,
Gut, Ehr, Kind und Weib,
laß fahren dahin,
sie habens kein' Gewinn;
das Reich muß uns doch bleiben.
(Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, verse 4)*

8. Chorale

*God's word shall be our only plan,
our only compensation.
He only, in his bounty,
can deliver our foundation.
Were they to take our life,
land, limb, child, and wife,
ignore ye the horde,
they shall have no reward;
His realm will be within us.
(A Mighty Fortress is our God, verse 4)*

SENDING

*Hymn No. 275:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Verse 4)

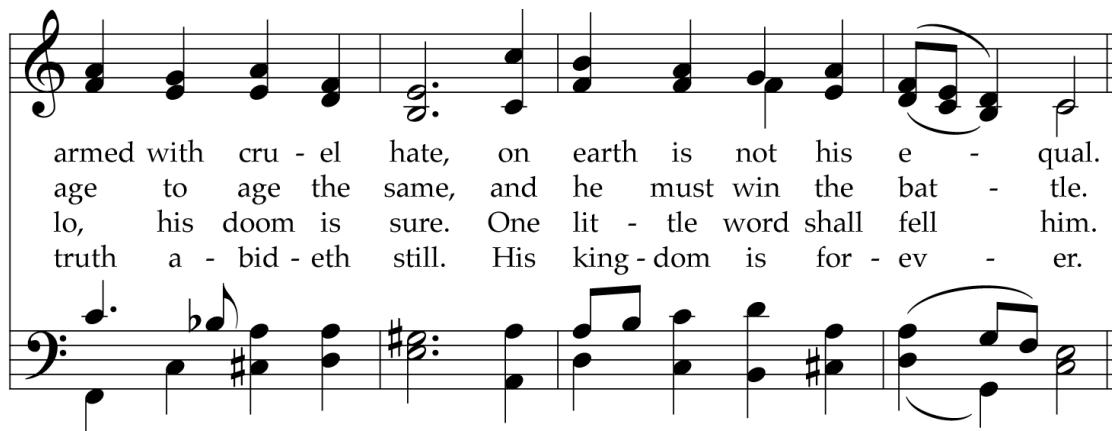
Ein feste Burg

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we
him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's



***Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

***Ringing of the Church Bell**

Postlude

Alla Hornpipe (from *Wassermusik*, BWV 349)

Georg Friedrich Händel

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Join us in the Common Room after worship for a time of Fellowship, refreshments and a music themed Coffee Hour. We wish to thank Lisa Flanagan for her efforts in planning and making this possible.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Our FPCNC Choir and Section Leaders:

Soprano: Carole Clarkson, Allison Gray, *Lisa Flanagan

Alto: Betsey Miller, *Jamie Ratcliffe, Sherry Tate

Tenor: *Nikolas Brannan, Maxine Gaddis

Bass: Terence D. Flanagan, Jim Lucie, Mark Magnusen, *Devin Mitchell, Howard Palmer

*section leader

Our Guest Singers:

Meg Bowles – soprano

Megan Friar, Catherine Miller – alto

Ryland Angel, Andy Chapo – tenor

Garrett Artman, Jerry Boryca, Daniel McNickle, Richard Price – bass

Our Orchestra:

Nelva TeBrake, Rachel Evans, Karl Kawahara – violin I

Theresa Salomon, Marka Young, Sarah Kenner – violin II

Kristina Giles – viola

Loretta O'Sullivan – cello

Jonathan Luik – bass

Sarah Davol, Pablo O'Connell – oboe

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to Worship with the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan on this Reformation Sunday, a poignant holiday in the Protestant Church Calendar when we both celebrate the gift of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, but also lament the division that exists in the Body of Christ because of our differences and protestations. Today we will enjoy Bach's Cantata based on Martin Luther's famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and perhaps a better way to focus on the mightily loving God of all people to whom we offer our thanks and praise. We will enjoy the message through music and the lectionary texts from Jeremiah and the Gospel according to John. We are glad that you're joining us today and pray you'll experience the grace of God's welcome and be spiritually refreshed and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

We begin today's Worship Service with music composed by **Georg Friederich Händel** (1685-1759). We hear his *Organ Concerto, Op. 4/2, HWV 290*. It is from a set of six organ concertos for chamber organ and orchestra composed in London between 1735 and 1736 for the composer's oratorio seasons (also in 1735 and 1736) and published in 1738 by the printing company of John Walsh. Written as interludes in performances of Handel's oratorios in Covent Garden, they were the first works of their kind for this combination of instruments and their performances gratified the public. It was in 1735 that the London newspapers announced the first organ concertos. These concertos have served as a model for later composers.

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God), BWV 80 is a chorale cantata for Reformation Day by Johann Sebastian Bach. The first Leipzig version of the church cantata, BWV 80b may have been composed as early as 1723, some five months after Bach had moved to Leipzig. Some years later he reworked the cantata one more time, writing an extended chorale fantasia as its opening movement. The text of the BWV 80a version was written by Salomon Franck and contained one stanza of Martin Luther's hymn *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*; for his chorale cantata versions, BWV 80b and 80, Bach added the complete text of this Lutheran hymn.

Bach scored the cantata for four vocal soloists, a four-part choir and a Baroque chamber ensemble of up to three oboes of different kinds, strings and continuo.

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott was published in 1821, the first of Bach's cantatas published after his death. The Bach Gesellschaft edition appeared half a century later, and included an extended instrumentation by Wilhelm Friedemann.

Bach wrote the cantata in Leipzig for Reformation Day, celebrated annually on 31 October. In composing this work, Bach reused an earlier cantata, *Alles, was von Gott geboren*, BWV 80a, which he wrote in Weimar for the third Sunday in Lent and based on a text published in 1715 by Salomon Franck. This work, on which the Leipzig versions were based, was one of a few in which Bach quoted the same hymn twice, in a closing chorale and in an instrumental cantus firmus in the opening movement. In BWV 80a, he used the second stanza of Luther's hymn *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God), which is *Mit unser Macht ist nichts getan* (With our might nothing is done), for the closing chorale. Bach could not use the earlier work at its intended time in Leipzig, because cantata music was prohibited there during Lent.

The hymn *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* was written by Luther in the late 1520s and became a symbol of the Reformation, adapted in compositions through the centuries, such as in Mendelssohn's *Reformation Symphony*, Meyerbeer's opera *Les Huguenots*, and Debussy's *En blanc et noir*.

It is not known when Bach composed the elaborate opening movement of the final version. Dürr suggests 1735, because in that year Bach wrote *Wär Gott nicht mit uns diese Zeit*, BWV 14, which had an opening chorus of a comparable structure and was also based on a hymn by Luther. The final version includes all stanzas of the hymn but is nonetheless not in the format of Bach's second cantata cycle begun in 1724; in that chorale cantata cycle, each cantata relies exclusively on one Lutheran hymn.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

In 1723 Bach was appointed Thomaskantor (Director of Church Music) in Leipzig, where he was responsible for the music at four churches and the training and education of boys singing in the Thomanerchor. He took office in the middle of the liturgical year, on the first Sunday after Trinity, 30 May 1723. In the new position, Bach decided to compose church cantatas for almost all liturgical events for the first twelve months; they became his first cantata cycle. The occasions were Sundays, except for the silent times of Advent (before Christmas) and Lent (before Easter), and additional feast days; several feasts of saints were observed in Leipzig, and each of the high holidays (Christmas, Easter and Pentecost), was celebrated three days in a row. The following year, Bach went on to write a second cantata cycle, now basing each on a Lutheran hymn. Christoph Wolff described the endeavour, in his book *Johann Sebastian Bach: The Learned Musician*, as "a most promising project of great homogeneity, whose scope he was able to define himself". Bach slowed down in his third year on the post, beginning to perform cantatas also by other composers. During this year, he composed *Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild* for Reformation Day.



J. S. Bach statue outside of Thomaskirche

Reformation Day is a feast in memory of the beginning of the Reformation on 31 October 1517. The bicentenary of the event happened while Bach was court composer in Weimar, but he composed no music for the occasion. He used Martin Luther's hymn *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* (A Mighty Fortress is our God), which became associated with the Reformation, in Weimar for a Lenten cantata, *Alles, was von Gott geboren*, BWV 80a, in 1715. There is no evidence of a cantata performance for the occasion in 1723, and it is doubtful whether Bach performed an early version of *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, BWV 80, derived from the Lenten cantata, in 1724; thus *Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild* may have been his first work for the occasion.

We conclude our Worship today with yet more music composed by **Georg Friederich Händel**, music from his *Water Music*. The *Water Music* (German: *Wassermusik*) is a collection of orchestral movements, often published as three suites, composed by Händel. It premiered on 17 July 1717, in response to King George I's request for a concert on the River Thames. The first performance of the *Water Music* is recorded in The Daily Courant, the first British daily newspaper. At about 8 PM on Wednesday, 17 July 1717, King George I and several aristocrats boarded a royal barge at Whitehall Palace, for an excursion up the Thames toward Chelsea. The rising tide propelled the barge upstream without rowing. Another barge, provided by the City of London, transported about 50 musicians who performed Handel's music. Many other Londoners also took to the river to hear the concert.



According to The Courant, "the whole River in a manner was covered" with boats and barges. On arriving at Chelsea, the king left his barge, then returned to it at about 11 PM for the return trip. The king was so pleased with *Water Music* that he ordered it to be repeated at least three times, both on the trip upstream to Chelsea and on the return, until he landed again at Whitehall. Handel's orchestra is believed to have performed from about 8 PM until well after midnight, with only one break while the king went ashore at Chelsea.

Handel (left) and King George I on the River Thames, 17 July 1717; painting by Edouard Hamman

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a German composer and musician of the late Baroque period. He is known for his orchestral music such as the *Brandenburg Concertos*; instrumental compositions such as the *Cello Suites*; keyboard works such as the *Goldberg Variations* and *The Well-Tempered Clavier*; organ works such as the *Schübler Chorales* and the *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor*; and vocal music such as the *St Matthew Passion* and the *Mass in B minor*. Since the 19th-century Bach revival he has been generally regarded as one of the greatest composers in the history of Western music.



J. S. Bach window in Thomaskirche

The Bach family already counted several composers when Johann Sebastian was born as the last child of a city musician, Johann Ambrosius, in Eisenach. After being orphaned at the age of 10, he lived for five years with his eldest brother Johann Christoph, after which he continued his musical education in Lüneburg. From 1703 he was back in Thuringia, working as a musician for Protestant churches in Arnstadt and Mühlhausen and, for longer stretches of time, at courts in Weimar, where he expanded his organ repertory, and Köthen, where he was mostly engaged with chamber music. From 1723, he was employed as Thomaskantor (cantor at St Thomas's) in Leipzig. While there, he composed music for the principal Lutheran churches of the city, and for its university's student ensemble Collegium Musicum. From 1726, he published some of his keyboard and organ music. In Leipzig, as had happened during some of his earlier positions, he had difficult relations with his employer, a situation that was little remedied when he was granted the title of Court Composer by his sovereign, Augustus III of Poland, in 1736. In the last decades of his life, he reworked and extended many of his earlier compositions.

Bach enriched established German styles through his mastery of counterpoint, harmonic, and motivic organisation, and his adaptation of rhythms, forms, and textures from abroad, particularly from Italy and France. Bach's compositions include hundreds of cantatas, both sacred and secular. He composed Latin church music, Passions, oratorios, and motets. He often adopted Lutheran hymns, not only in his larger vocal works, but for instance also in his four-part chorales and his sacred songs. He wrote extensively for organ and for other keyboard instruments. He composed concertos, for instance for violin and for harpsichord, and suites, as chamber music as well as for orchestra. Many of his works employ the genres of canon and fugue.

We are using baroque instruments today. If you are not familiar with these instruments, the sound produced by the strings is sweeter, in my opinion, perhaps richer, than our modern-day instruments. Please do not hesitate to visit the musicians afterwards to look at and ask questions about these instruments. In as much as we are using Baroque instruments, the cantata will be performed in Baroque pitch; simply put, it will sound one half-step lower than the key it is written in.

It is my hope that you will enjoy this wonderful music and appreciate the beauty it has to offer. I am delighted for the opportunity to make it possible and wish to thank those who have donated to our Friends of Music Fund. It is because of their generosity that today's music is enjoyed by all.



J. S. Bach designed this monogram for himself, hoping that he would be appointed Court Composer to the Elector of Saxony (hence the crown).

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### TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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

## TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

**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](mailto:scott@fpcnc.org)) or Wendy ([wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto: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.



## TODAY

# Want to get Involved???

## Volunteer Opportunity Week Four:

Sunday, Oct 25th:



### **New & Lightly Used Coats Drive for Bridgeport Rescue Mission**

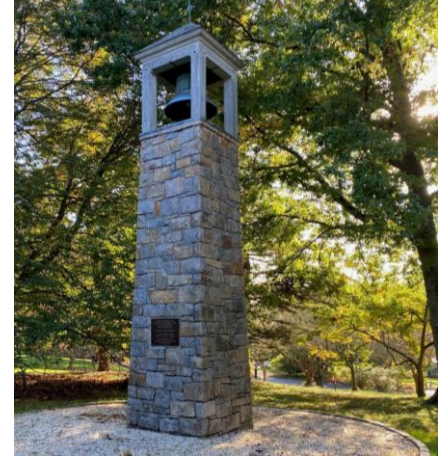
Help by bringing **new & lightly used coats** drive for Bridgeport Rescue Mission, in any quantity, to add to the collection boxes at the back of the Sanctuary.

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2027

### Stewardship 2027 has begun!

|                      |                                               |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Last Sunday - Oct 18 | <b>Stewardship Launch</b>                     |
| Nov 8                | <b>Stewardship Committee Q&amp;A w/ Lunch</b> |
| Nov 15               | <b>Stewardship Walk Forward Sunday</b>        |

**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.



### THIS WEEK @ FPC

**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!

### **PARKING LOT UPDATE – PLEASE READ!**

Weather permitting, we will be painting the asphalt parking lot next week as follows:

- Wednesday, October 28
  - Starting at 2:30pm, the entire parking lot will be barricaded for painting
  - Please remove all vehicles from the lot prior to 2:30pm
  - The lot will be closed for the remainder of the day Wednesday
  - The front and the circular driveways and the shoulder along Oenoke Ridge will be available for parking
  - Please park only in these areas
  - Please DO NOT breach the barriers to the work area – surface will NOT be drivable
- Thursday, October 29
  - The parking lot barriers will be removed first thing in the morning
  - The entire parking lot will be available for parking as usual

If any car is left in the lot after 2:30pm on Wednesday, October 28, it will be towed at the owner’s expense. Questions or concerns, please contact Jim Riehl (203-940-1305 or [jriehl@fpcnc.org](mailto:jriehl@fpcnc.org)). **THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

### NEXT SUNDAY



**Daylight Savings is next Sunday, November 1 at 2:00am – don’t forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday night.**

## ALL SAINTS' DAY

**All Saints day is Sunday, November 1** when we will honor and 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 the community. **PLEASE REVIEW THE BELOW LIST** and if there is anyone that you would like added to the list or the detail updated, please contact Wendy in the Church Office **by Thursday, October 29th.***

### **In Memoriam for All Saints Sunday (Nov. 2, 2025 – Nov. 1, 2026)**

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)

LOOKING AHEAD



# 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](http://www.fpcnc.org)

## MISSION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

### October is Mission Month!

Today, Sunday, October 25th –

New & Lightly Used Coats for Bridgeport Rescue Mission  
– collecting until Sunday, November 1st



**BRIDGEPORT  
RESCUE MISSION**  
*Expanding Hope. Rebuilding Lives.*

Next Sunday, November 1st –

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

### **Fall Greetings from the Worship, Music and Fine Arts Committee**

It certainly is looking like Fall outside as we see the changing colors of the trees and mother nature preparing for the colder weather. The good news is that there are still many weeks to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and we hope that you are able to take advantage of those opportunities. We also hope that you were able to come and enjoy the Pipe Organ Dedicatory Recital on October 4<sup>th</sup> by our own very talented organist, Terry Flanagan. The music was wonderful as our beautiful new pipe organ was showcased. Thanks to Terry, Terence and Lisa for organizing the program and the lovely reception following.

A word of gratitude to all who continue to sign up to assist on Sunday mornings during Worship. We know that Scott and our church staff appreciate your service to the congregation. Your participation on Sunday mornings is invaluable.

Sign up using **Sign-Up Genius** here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4AAAAD2AA31-sunday#/> for a Sunday that works best for you. We look forward to seeing you all in church on Sunday mornings this Fall followed by coffee hour for a time of fellowship and conversation.

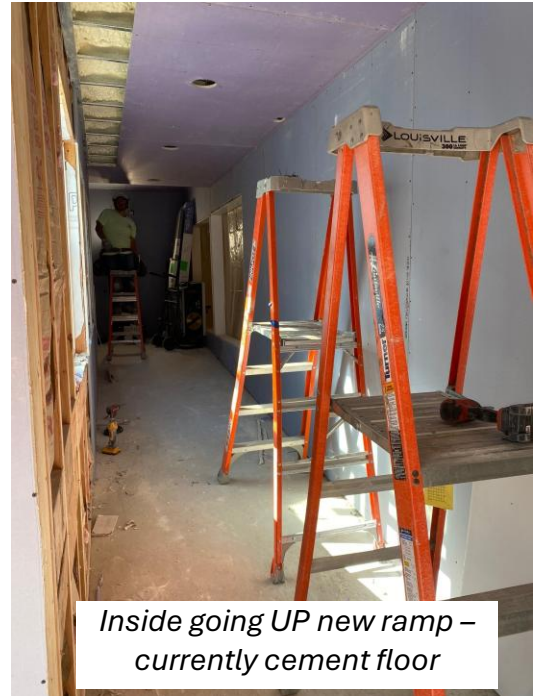


## EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd)

### **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.



*Inside going UP new ramp –  
currently cement floor*



*Windows in Ramp hallway – looking  
towards back side of Church.*



*Landing area above ramp –  
accessibility bathroom to left –  
Common Room entrance top right.*

## 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*



New Canaan  
Chamber Music

Andrew Armstrong, Artistic Director

## Romance in the Air

3pm November 5 & 7pm November 6  
First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Children's Concert 3pm November 8  
Suzuki Music Schools, Westport

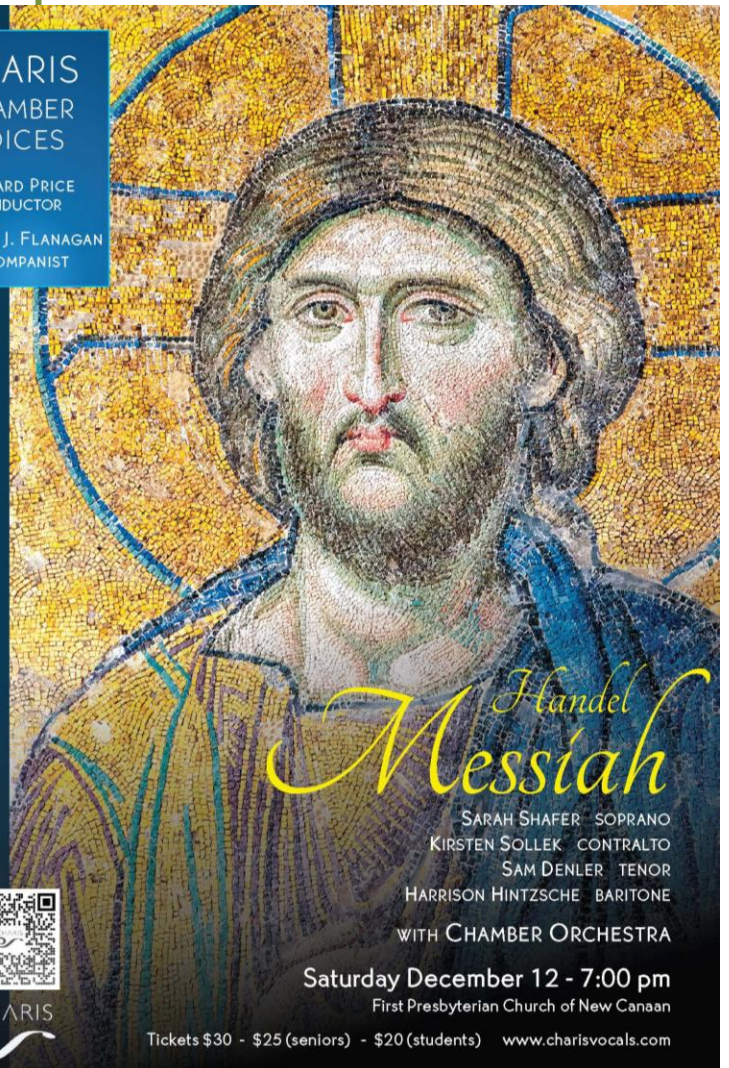
**Tickets at [newcanaanchambermusic.org](http://newcanaanchambermusic.org)**

Demarre McGill, Flute  
Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, Oboe/English Horn  
Yoonah Kim, Clarinet  
Harrison Hollingsworth, Bassoon  
David Byrd-Marrow, French Horn  
Terence J. Flanagan, Organ

### CHARIS CHAMBER VOICES

RICHARD PRICE  
CONDUCTOR

TERENCE J. FLANAGAN  
ACCOMPANIST



## Handel *Messiah*

SARAH SHAFER SOPRANO  
KIRSTEN SOLLEK CONTRALTO  
SAM DENLER TENOR  
HARRISON HINTZSCHE BARITONE

WITH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**Saturday December 12 - 7:00 pm**

First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Tickets \$30 - \$25 (seniors) - \$20 (students) [www.charisvocals.com](http://www.charisvocals.com)



CHARIS



## **Navigator Program in partnership with the NAAD Center**

**Learn Breathing & Meditation  
Techniques from Home**

A gentle virtual workshop for  
dementia caregivers and  
individuals living with brain  
change

**Monday October 26,  
2026**

**6:30-7:30 PM  
Via Zoom**

- ▶ Guided breathing practices
- ▶ Gentle mindfulness exercises
- ▶ Guided visualization



RSVP Via QR Code  
Above or email/call  
Navigators at contact  
information to the  
Right.

**We hope you will join us for this peaceful  
and restorative evening.**

Zoom link will be sent upon registration

(203)594-5289    [navigator@waveny.org](mailto:navigator@waveny.org)

<https://naadcenter.com/>

## COMMUNITY (Cont'd)



### **NEW CANAAN Election Information – Registration, Voting and Absentee Ballots**

**Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. The polls in Connecticut will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Visit NC Town Website for more information: [https://www.newcanaan.info/T8\\_R641.php](https://www.newcanaan.info/T8_R641.php)

Visit this same website to view your **VOTING DISTRICT** and **VOTING LOCATION** map.

New Canaan voters will cast ballots for contested seats on the Board of Education and Town Council, and for uncontested seats – First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Board of Assessment Appeals, and Constables.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS** are available at the Town Clerk's office as of October 3.

For any questions about Absentee Ballots call 203-594-3070.

**EARLY VOTING** – Early Voting allows for in-person voting at New Canaan Town Hall from October 20 through November 2. The Early Voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except for October 28 and 30 when the hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information about Early Voting, go here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/sots/election-services/early-voting/early-voting>

#### **VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES**

##### **Friday October 18 – For Voting on Election Day**

- Deadline for voter registration by mail; must be postmarked.
- Deadline for voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles, at the close of business.
- Deadline for voter registration online, by 11:59 p.m.  
To register online, go here: <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>
- Deadline for voter registration in-person, 8:00 p.m.

**SAME DAY REGISTRATION** is available for those who missed an earlier deadline and wish to register on the same day that they vote. You may register in person and cast your ballot on the same day at Town Hall during the Early Voting period or on Election Day November 4.

Hours for Same Day Registration during the Early Voting period are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except for October 28 and 30 when the hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

##### **Monday November 3**

For residents whose qualification by age, citizenship, residence, or returning military was attained after October 18, there will be a limited voter registration session on November 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

**For any questions about voter registration**, call 203-594-3060 or 203-594-3096 or go here:

[https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/registrars\\_of\\_voters/index.php](https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/registrars_of_voters/index.php)

#### **WHERE TO VOTE**

Those who are already registered to vote may confirm their registration and polling place by going here:

<https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx>

## COMMUNITY (Cont'd)



**NEW CANAAN  
COMMUNITY  
HEALTH &  
WELL-BEING  
SURVEY**

**RETURNS  
OCTOBER 1 TO 31**

Two years ago, 1,490 of you took the survey.  
45+ organizations came together to build  
responsive programs.

**Now, did we close those  
gaps? Only you can tell us.**

**Take 5-Minute Survey Today!**

[newcanaanbha.org](https://newcanaanbha.org)



### **Your Voice, Again: The Community Health & Well-being Survey**

As proud members of the New Canaan Behavioral Health Alliance, a coalition of more than 45 local organizations, we are supporting the return of the [\*\*Community Health & Well-Being Survey, open October 1 to 31.\*\*](#)

The first round, in October 2024, drew 1,490 responses from roughly 10.5 percent of New Canaan adults. It found that 47 percent of residents were unsure or unaware of where to seek help for a mental health issue, and that one in three parents did not know where to turn if their child was struggling. In response, Survey Response Grants to six local initiatives, funding workshops and mindfulness circles for parents and free support groups for residents raising children while caring for aging parents. The Alliance also formed a standing work group to help residents find the help that already exists here. This second round is the one that can show what has changed.

The survey is anonymous, takes 5 to 10 minutes, and is open to all New Canaan residents 18 and older and parents of students in New Canaan schools. Every adult in a household is encouraged to respond separately, and parents with children at home will be asked a few additional questions about their children's health and well-being. Take it at [www.newcanaanbha.org](https://www.newcanaanbha.org), or pick up a paper copy throughout October at the New Canaan Library, New Canaan YMCA, Lapham Center or Walter Stewart's. Results will be posted at [www.newcanaanbha.org](https://www.newcanaanbha.org) and shared at public events. Every voice counts! If you need a hard copy of the survey, they are available at the back of the Sanctuary with the Ushers or contact Wendy in the Church Office (203-966-0002 ext 1 / [wendy@fpcnc.org](mailto:wendy@fpcnc.org).)

## COMMUNITY (Cont'd)

### New Fund Launched to Support Domestic Violence Survivors



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](mailto:lpatterson@newcanaancf.org) or donate online directly with the DVVC Fund here: <https://godonate.akoyago.com/newcanaancf/fund/dv-survivor-support-fund>**

# October



## NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Confidential, safe, & free services  
are available 24/7 in Connecticut

888.774.2900 (English) | 844.831.9200 (Español)

**cca|DV**  
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence



## Georgette Bennett

Founder and President, Tanenbaum Center for  
Interreligious Understanding  
will deliver the inaugural

Bartlett Lecture on Moral Courage

Thursday, October 29th  
7:00 PM

New Canaan Library



From her arrival in the U.S. as a stateless refugee to her mobilization of over \$700 million of humanitarian aid through the Golan Heights to benefit more than 4 million Syrian war victims, Bennett has been a tireless, impactful, and inspirational leader who personifies hope, courage, and tenacity.

## COMMUNITY (Cont'd)



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**

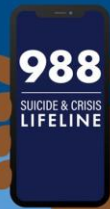
**Email: Navigator@waveny.org**

*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](https://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).

## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Please keep the following people in your hearts.

**NEW prayers and concerns:** for the family of Elizabeth Ann “Libby” Butterworth who died Sunday, October 18; Prayers of healing for Betty Drew (Sue Dishart’s mother)

**Continued prayers and concerns:** Alison Bell (50-yr old disabled since birth) suffering from an undiagnosed and increasingly painful stomach ailment; Judy Bentley; Chris in the final stages of a 20-year battle with an incurable immune disorder; Cody (friend of Mary Ann Meils’ son); 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); for the family of Julia Paige Martocchio, age 31, who died on September 22 (Julia attended Special Church here at FPC for many years); 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](mailto: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, October 25**

**8 am** Music Rehearsals  
**10 am** Worship Service with Cantata 80  
**11:30 am** Coffee Hour & Music themed Reception

#### **MONDAY, October 25**

2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons  
4:30-6 pm Performing Arts Conservatory  
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers (Common Room)

#### **TUESDAY, October 27**

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, October 28**

10 am Weekly Bible Studies (Parlor)  
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons  
4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsal  
6-8 pm Performing Arts Conservatory  
7 pm Guitar Club Rehearsal

#### **THURSDAY, October 29**

11:30 am Staying Put Halloween Lunch  
3:30 pm Special Church  
7 pm FPC Choir Rehearsal

#### **FRIDAY, October 30**

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

#### **SATURDAY, October 31**

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

#### **SUNDAY, November 1**

*2 am Daylight Savings – Fall Forward*  
**9 am** Music Rehearsals  
**10 am** Worship Service & All Saints' Day  
**11:30 am** Coffee Hour

### CALENDAR – NOVEMBER and DECEMBER

**Monday, November 2, 6:30pm**

**Wednesday, November 4, 1pm**

**Thursday, November 5, 3pm**

**Friday, November 6, 7pm**

**Saturday, November 7, 2-6pm**

**Sunday, November 8, 11:30am**

**Tuesday, November 10, 7pm**

**Saturday, November 14, 11am**

**Sunday, November 15, 10am**

**Sunday, November 15, 11:30am**

**Wednesday, November 18, 7pm**

**Sunday, November 29, 10am**

**Sunday, November 29, 4pm**

**Tuesday, December 8, 7pm**

**Saturday, December 12, 7pm**

**Wednesday, December 16, 7:00pm**

**Friday, December 18, 6:00pm**

**Deacon Meeting and Potluck Dinner (@ MANSE)**

**Pastoral Care Team Meeting (Parlor)**

**NC Chamber Music Concert @ FPC (Sanctuary)**

**NC Chamber Music Concert @ FPC (Sanctuary)**

**New Covenant Center (Prepare and Serve Meals)**

**Stewardship 2027 Presentation/Q&A w/ Lunch**

**Session Meeting (6:30pm dinner)**

**Natalie MacDonald – Memorial Service & Interment**

**Stewardship 2027 Walk Forward Sunday**

**Coffee Concert – Dvorak's *Ten Biblical Songs***

**Open Mic Night (Common Room)**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Advent Party & Christmas Decorating**

**Session Meeting (6:30pm dinner)**

**Charis Chamber Voices Concert @ FPC (Sanctuary)**

**New Canaan High School Choirs Concert @ FPC**

**FPC Christmas Party (@ MANSE)**

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

The First Presbyterian Church Choir

**Greeters:** Patty and Stephan von Jena

**Lay Reader:** Cindy Graziano

**Ushers:** Jim Ely and Jennifer Van de Graaf

**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>

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