FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time / Walk Forward Sunday • November 15, 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: Pastorale, Op. 19 César Franck
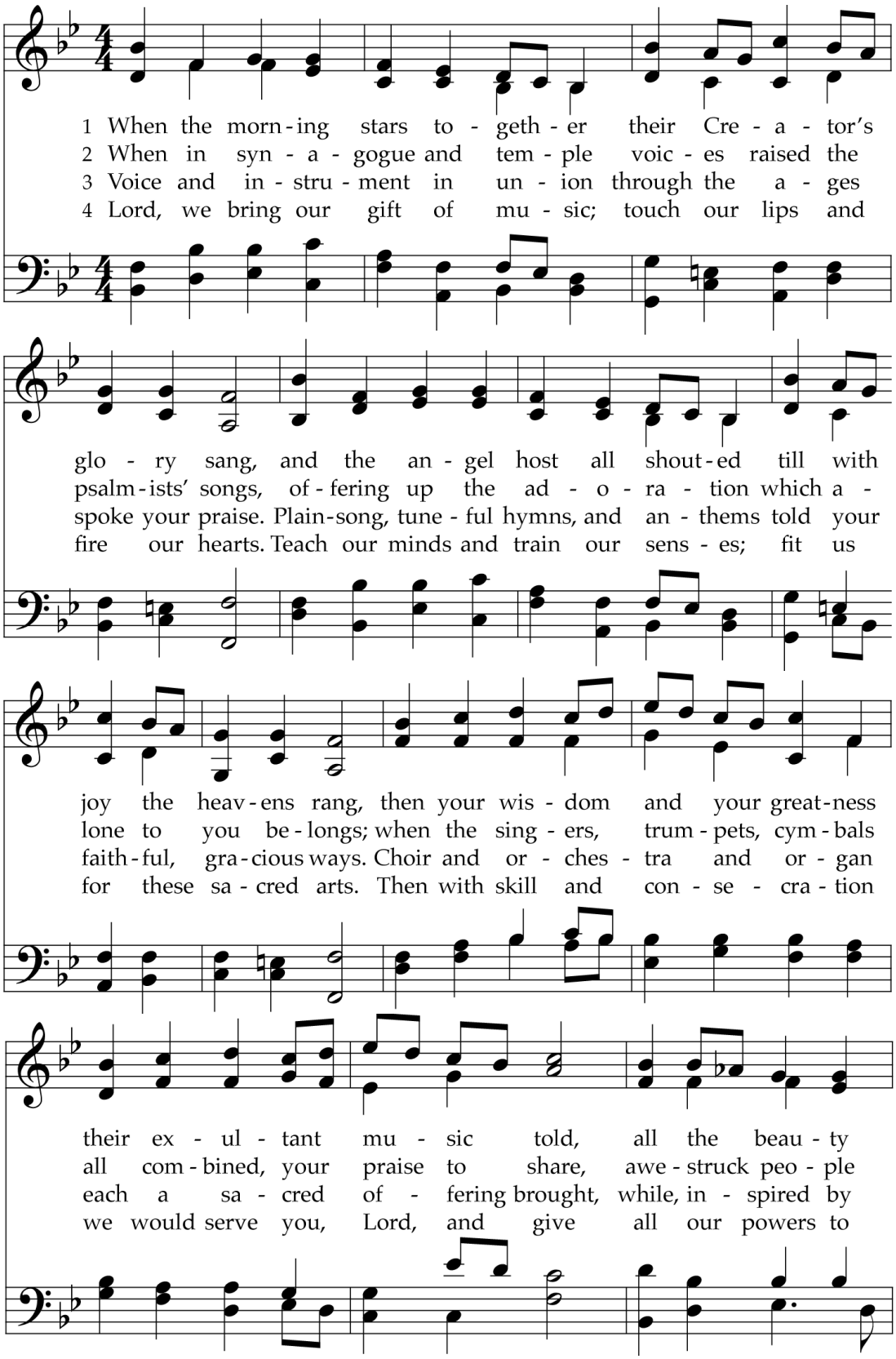
You are invited to listen for God's Spirit
speaking through the music of the Prelude
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

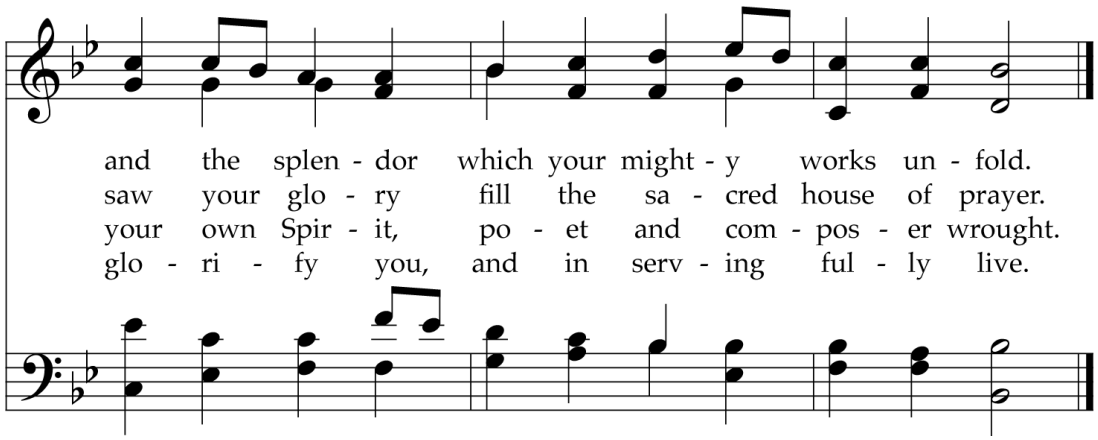
***Call to Worship** Fell Herdeg

Leader: We lift up our eyes to the Lord!
All: Knowing our Creator meets us in this time of worship.
Leader: We lift up our eyes to the Lord!
All: Trusting our Redeemer to meet us with forgiveness and renewal.
Leader: We lift up our eyes to the Lord!
All: Relying on our Sustainer to build us up for lives of love and service.
Let us worship together this day!

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

***Hymn No. 689:** When the Morning Stars Together *Weisse Flaggen*





Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Scott Herr

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 Fell Herdeg

Leader: We are a people who wander from the ways of God. We have not loved, served, and given of ourselves as we should. We have sinned. Let us then offer our prayer of confession, trusting in our Savior's infinite grace and mercy.

Confession of Sin (unison) Fell Herdeg

Loving God, you are generous in the many ways you have gifted us. We have so many blessings to be grateful for. Yet we are often motivated by fear, rather than our trust in you. We hold onto what we have, afraid we will never have enough. We become focused on protection rather than on your call to welcome and love others. We see our blessings as our own, rather than seeing your care in each gift. Forgive us, God of grace. Forgive us and restore us to your vision for the world we pray…
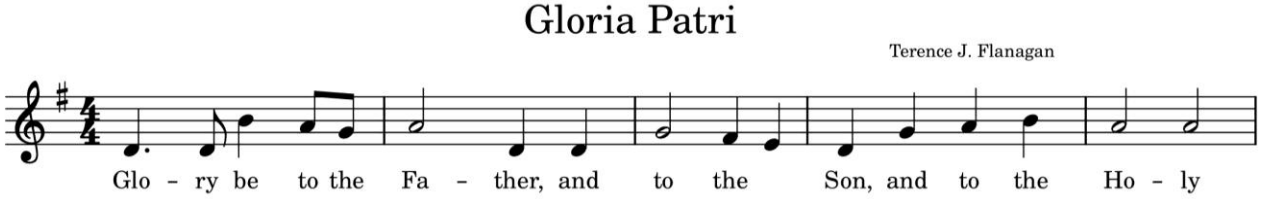
(silence for further individual reflection and repentance…)
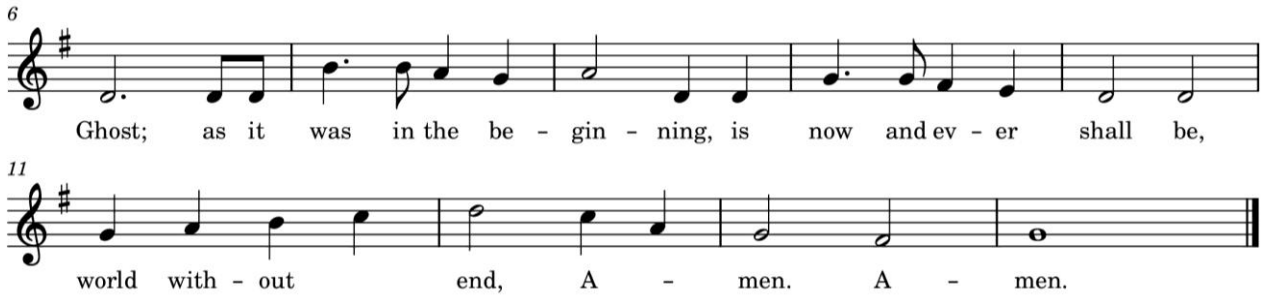
Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.
All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Fell Herdeg

Leader: I declare to you the Good News! Although we have sinned, in Jesus Christ we are graciously forgiven. Be at peace, and hear and believe the good news:
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen.

Gloria Patri





***Passing of the Peace** Fell Herdeg

Leader: In John 14:27, Jesus tells his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." 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) Fell Herdeg

Loving God, speak your Word to us in these words of Scripture and proclamation, and make clear to us your will for us your church. Amen.

First Lesson – I Thessalonians 5:1-11 Fell Herdeg

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything
written to you. [2]For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in
the night. [3]When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon
them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4]But you, beloved,
are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5]for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6]So then, let us not fall asleep as others
do, but let us keep awake and be sober; [7]for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are
drunk get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate
of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has destined us not for wrath but
for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us, so that whether we are
awake or asleep we may live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson – Matthew 25:14-30 The Rev. Scott Herr

[14]'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;
[15]to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then
he went away. [16]The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them,
and made five more talents. [17]In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more
talents. [18]But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and
hid his master's money. [19]After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts

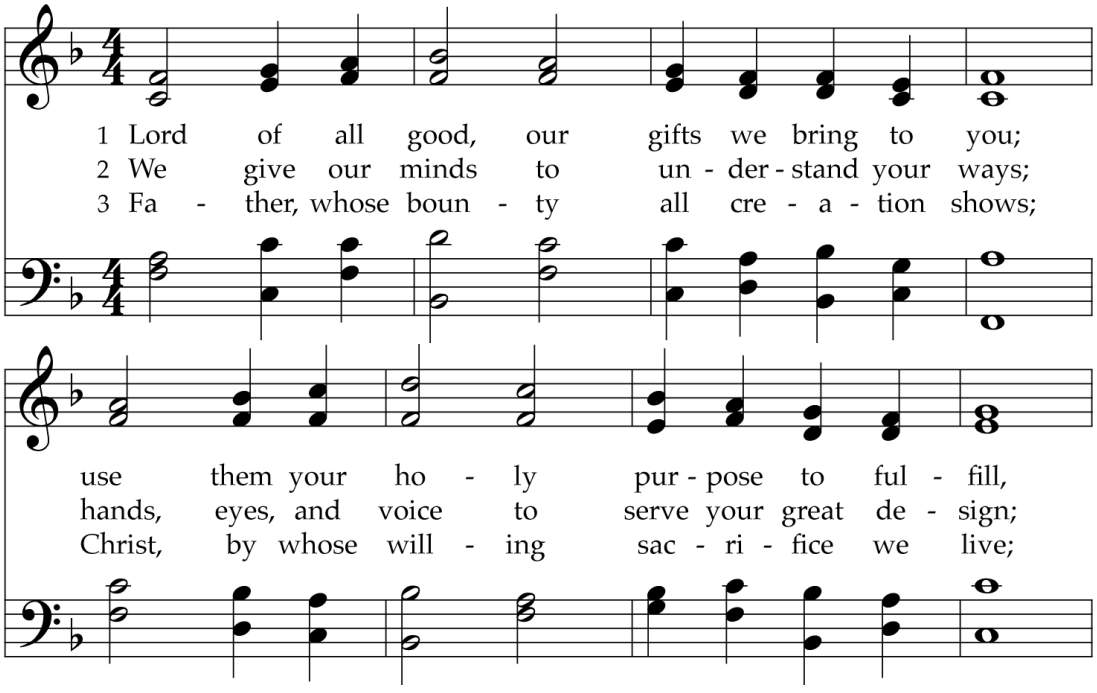
with them. [20]Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” [21]His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” [22]And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” [23]His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” [24]Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” [26]But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

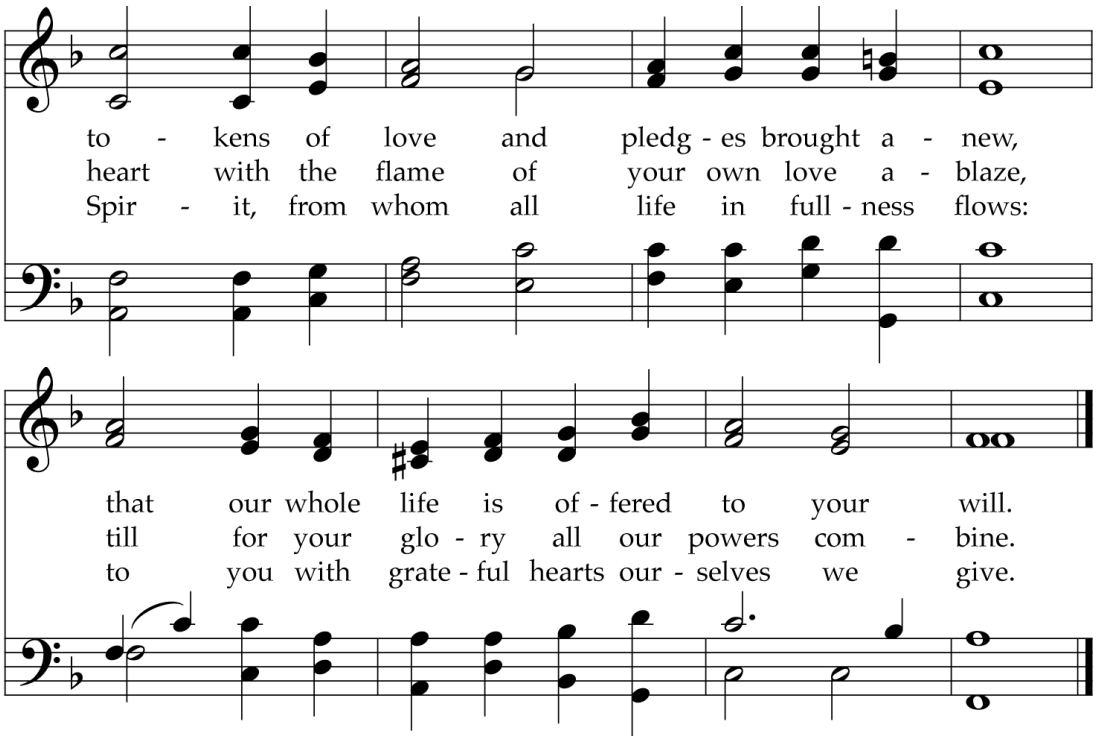
Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Your Destiny* The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith – Hymn No. 711:** Lord of All Good *Toulon*





Welcome and Reception of New Members Elder, Barb Achenbaum

Tessa Bone
Ryan Bone
Jackie Cook
Aaron Cooper
H. Fitzgerald Robertson
Kathy Wright

Elder: On behalf of the Session, Tess, Ryan, Jackie, Aaron, Fitz, and Kathy have learned what we believe and want to covenant with us to be received into the membership of this congregation.

Minister: Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20).

Remembering the words of our Lord and sure of God's presence with us now, we do this.

Friends, in baptism you were claimed by God, marked as Christ's own forever, and joined to His body by the Holy Spirit. You come to us then, not as strangers, but as friends in Christ and members of the household of God. We rejoice that you now desire to join this congregation in the Worship and mission of the Church. Please affirm your faith by answering these questions:

- Who is your Lord and Savior?
  Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.
- Do you trust in him?
  I do.
- Do you intend to be his disciples, to obey his word and to show his love?
  I do.
- Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, giving of yourself in every way, and will you seek the fellowship of the Church wherever you may be?
  I will.

*Asking the congregation:

- Do you, the members of the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, welcome these siblings who have witnessed to their faith in Jesus Christ, and promise to strengthen their ties with the household of God through your faithful fellowship and love?

We do.

***Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed, in Unison)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

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

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

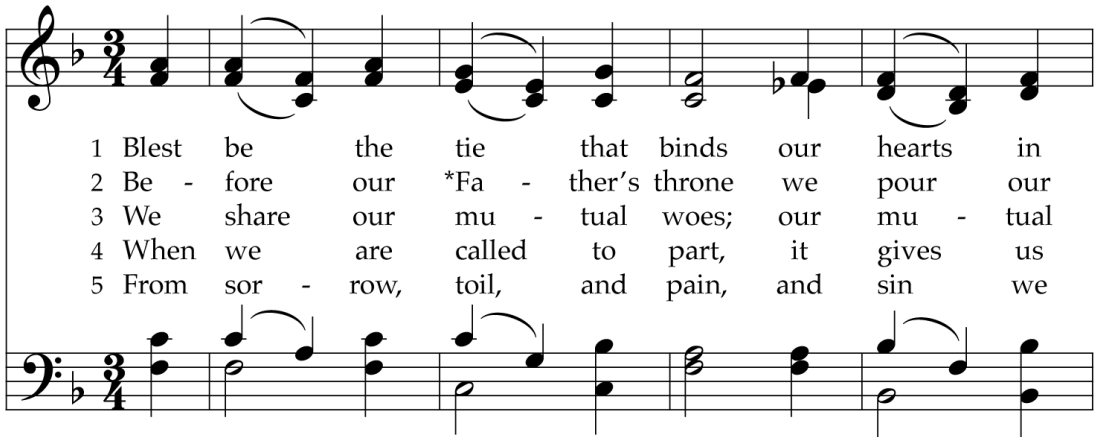
***Unison Prayer** The Rev. Scott Herr

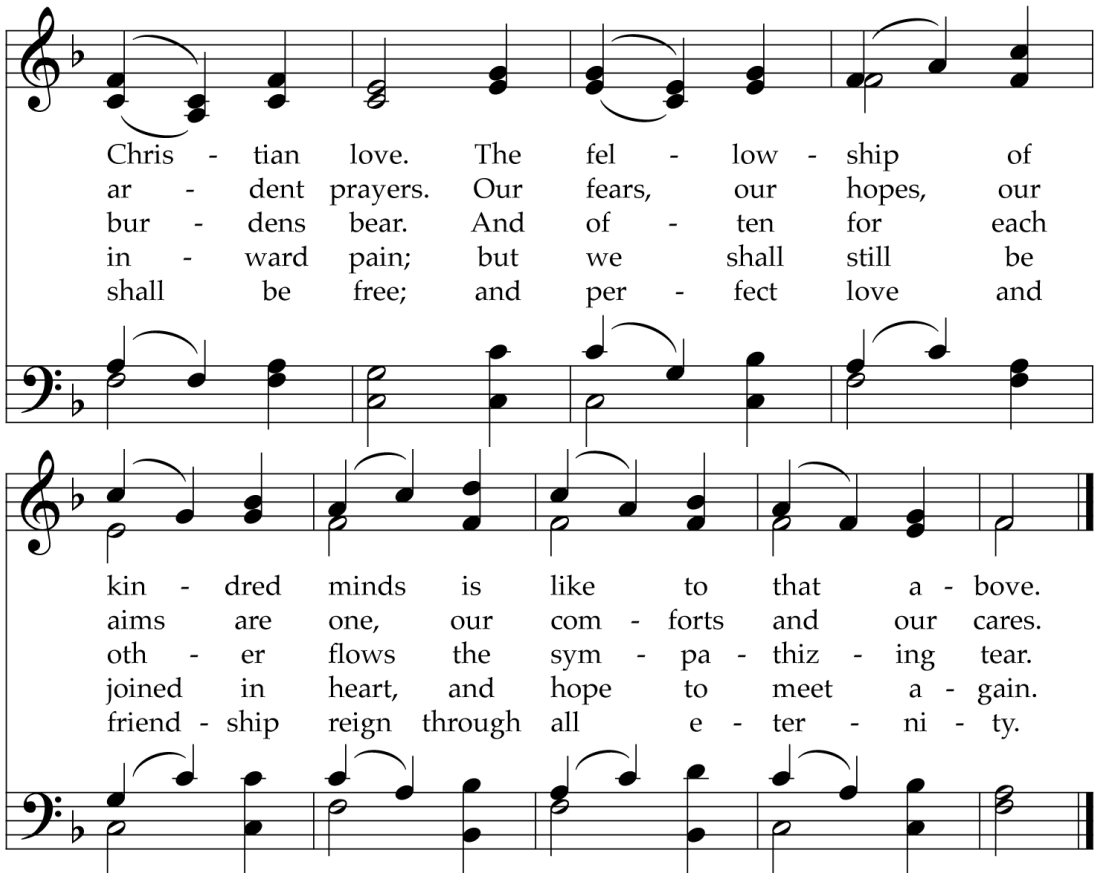
Gracious God, we praise You for calling us to be a servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank You for choosing to add to our number these brothers and sisters in faith, and for the gift of ever expanding community. Together, may we live in Your Spirit, and better love one another and our neighbors, that we may give honor to Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.

***Welcome and Blessing of New Members** Elder, Barb Achenbaum

We welcome you to this ministry of Jesus Christ, and charge you to live spiritually, love inclusively, learn continuously, and leave a legacy. Go and serve the Lord with joy!

***Hymn No. 306:** Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verse 1) *Dennis*





Prayers of the People 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

Call for Walking Forward to offer our Pledges, as well as our offerings The Rev. Scott Herr

Having heard of God's gracious love and care for all creation, now is an opportunity to come before the Lord to make our commitment to God through the ministry and mission of this congregation. We come freely to give ourselves first to the Lord, and then to pledge what we can of our time, talent and treasure, remembering that all that we are and all that we have is but a gift from God.

(All who are able and willing are invited at this time to walk forward and put their pledges, tithes and offerings in the basket before the Communion Table. The Choir will lead the procession and sing their anthem as we walk forward. Please ask one of the ushers to take your pledge forward if you wish or are unable.)

Offertory Anthem: Treasures in Heaven Joseph W. Clokey

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,
Where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal,
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
Ask, and it shall be given you;

Seek, and ye shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you,
For everyone that asketh receiveth,
And he that seeketh findeth,
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

(Matthew 6: 19-21, 7:7-8)

FPCNC Choir

***Doxology (No. 606)** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow *Old Hundredth*

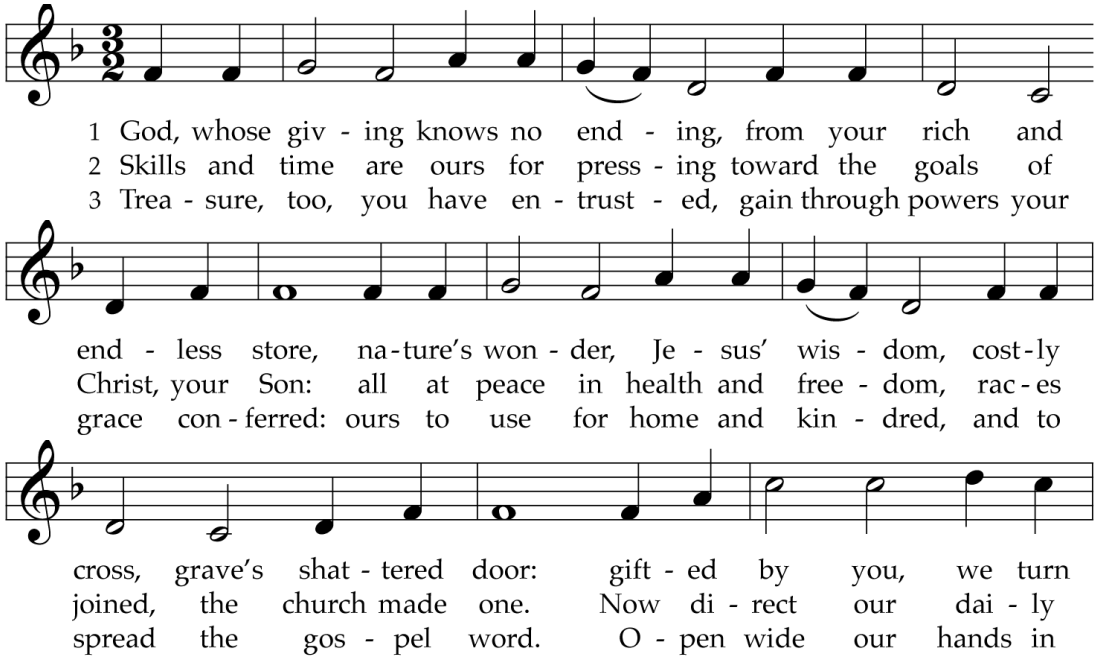
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

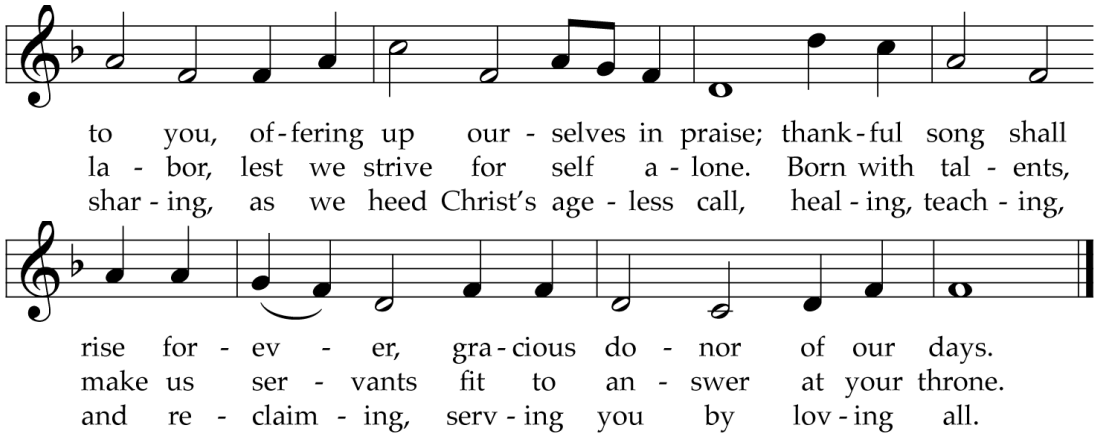
***Our Pledge and Prayer of Dedication (unison)** Fell Herdeg

God of grace and God of glory, we acknowledge that we are part of a church family that has shown generations of generosity over the past 70 years. We acknowledge that we are not owners but stewards of the ministries and missions of this church, and the facilities that make it possible. We thank you for your faithfulness, and pledge ourselves and our time, talent and treasures, to continue to accomplish your work in the world. We dedicate these gifts given this day, that even our gifts might bring the hope and light of your love to all who need it; in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and for Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 716:** God Whose Giving Knows No Ending *Beach Spring*





***Benediction** The Rev. Scott Herr

***Choral Amen**

***Ringing of the Church Bell**

***Postlude:** Final (from *Grande Pièce Symphonique, Op. 17*) César Franck

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

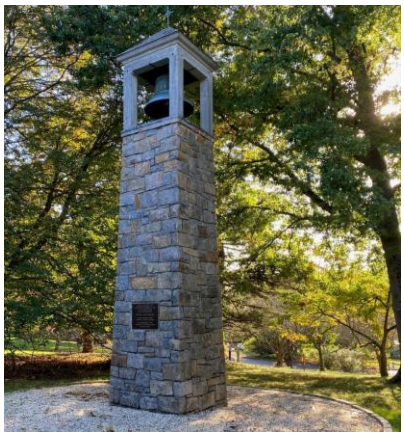
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Join us in the Common Room after Worship for a time of fellowship, meet our new members and enjoy some cake.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Welcome to Worship with the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan on this 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, and for our Congregation, "Walk Forward Sunday" (otherwise known as Stewardship Pledge Sunday). Today we invite you to reflect on your stewardship of life, and how your understanding of your destiny impacts how you make decisions about your time, talent and treasure. Through the lens of the Matthean Parable of the Talents and Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica, we will consider God's plans for us, and that we are not destined for wrath, but for salvation! We are glad you are here, and pray you will experience the grace of God's welcome and be spiritually renewed and socially reoriented for the week ahead.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)



Walk Forward Sunday – Not only is this a day on which we receive a lot of pledges, but for many of us who walk forward, it is also an expression of the congregation's coming together to pledge our commitment to God, to each other, and to our community for the coming year. If you have already delivered your pledge to the church, you are still encouraged to walk forward with one of the extra pledge cards that are provided in your bulletin today as a symbol of your participation. The Choir will lead the walk forward procession. The pledge cards can also be used by any Congregant who can't find the ones they received in the mail! Today we will be placing both our pledges and our tithes, gifts and offerings in the basket at the steps of the Chancel. All should feel free to come forward when they are ready, or remain seated to enjoy the Choir's offertory anthem. If you are not ready to pledge today, we hope you will be able to do so soon. The Stewardship team needs your participation in order to plan First Presbyterian's programs for the 2027 year. Thank you in advance!

The flowers this morning are in memory of Natalie J. MacDonald, a member of the First Presbyterian Church since 1963, who passed away on May 19, 2026.

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.



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.

TODAY IN WORSHIP (Cont'd)

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.

TODAY'S MUSIC



This morning, our organ muisic is composed by **César Franck** (1822-1890), a French Romantic composer, pianist, organist, and music teacher born in present-day Belgium. He studied privately in Paris from 1835, where his teachers included Anton Reicha. He gained a reputation as a formidable musical improviser, and travelled widely within France to demonstrate new instruments built by Aristide Cavaillé-Coll. In 1859, he became Titular OIrganist at the church Sainte-Clotilde, a position he retained for the rest of his life. He became Professor at the Paris Conservatoire in 1872; he took French nationality, a requirement of the appointment.

Our anthem is composed by **Joseph Waddell Clokey** (1890-1960), an American educator, organist and composer of sacred and secular music in the first half of the 20th century. A student of Edgar Stillman Kelley, he served as Dean of the School of Fine Arts at his alma mater, Miami University, from 1939 until 1946, and had previously been Professor of Organ at Miami University (1916–1923) and Pomona College. Clokey's father (also named Joseph Clokey) was a Presbyterian pastor, and this was certainly an influence on the younger Joseph Clokey's focus on sacred music. He was one of the most widely sung composers in churches during the 1950s.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tessa & Ryan Bone



Our family moved from the San Francisco Bay Area to New Canaan about a year and a half ago to be closer to family. Ryan grew up in New Canaan, and Tessa is also from the East Coast, so it has been fun to share the traditions and magic of four seasons with our boys and watch them grow up near their grandparents. We have three boys: Grady (5), a kindergartener at West Elementary; Nolan (4), in the 4s class at First Presbyterian Nursery School; and Conrad (2), in a 2s program at Connecticut Friends School in Wilton.

We first attended a Service at First Presbyterian shortly after moving and felt welcomed right away. Since then, we've loved getting to know people through coffee hours and church events. What has meant the most is seeing our boys find a place here, whether in Sunday School (thank you, Ms. Leah!), dressed as shepherds in the Christmas pageant, or helping carry the tartan on Scottish Sunday. We're grateful for the warmth you've all shown us and for the friendships our family has found. First Presbyterian has become a special part of our lives in New Canaan!



Jackie Cook

Jackie was born in Wheeling, West Virginia and lived with her family there for over 40 years. She followed the family tradition of attending Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. She created her own Major – Recreation Studies – and it proved very useful in her career. Jackie was the Youth Supervisor on Celebrity Cruise Lines, where she kept kids entertained as they cruised the Caribbean. Stops included St. Thomas, St. John, and Jamaica. Her favorite was the Bahamas. She still loves the gorgeous pink sand and the crystal-clear water.

Back in West Virginia, Jackie joined her Grandma Betty's Antiques business, High Button Shoe. When her sister started the Jack and Jill Pet Sitting business, Jackie jumped in. She helped with the doggie daycare, dog walking, and also pet sitting. She especially enjoyed playing with puppies. Her favorite was her own pup, Baby Girl, a miniature Schnauzer.

When her sister decided to move her business to New Canaan in 2010, Jackie and her Mom followed her. The business continues to thrive. Recently, Jackie has taken more time to pursue her own interests. She visited the First Presbyterian Church when she first moved to town but has become very engaged in the last few years. She is delighted to be becoming an official member!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (Cont'd)



Aaron Cooper

Aaron Cooper moved to New Canaan with his family in 2018 to become Head of School at New Canaan Country School. He has worked with elementary and middle school - aged children throughout his career as a teacher, coach, and administrator. Now that his daughters - Julia (20) and Charlotte (18) - are out of the house on the next steps of their educational journeys, Aaron has decided to engage in a spiritual journey of faith and community, and that has drawn him to FPCNC. Aaron and his wife Kara spend time in the Adirondacks in the summer with their daughters, hiking and generally being outside as much as possible. In his spare time, Aaron likes to run, cycle, travel, and go on hikes with Baxter, the family's Irish Doodle.

H. Fitzgerald "Fitz" Robertson



Originally from Brooklyn, New York, I have come to Connecticut, and First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan by way of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Princeton, New Jersey. I grew up with my mother, father, and brother between Pelham (Westchester), and Brooklyn (NYC). Through school, and local communities, I experienced a range of Protestant and Catholic traditions, while as a family we attended predominantly African American "American Baptist Churches". I attended Seton Hill University, a small, private, Catholic, liberal arts university outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where I earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with concentrations in Entrepreneurial Studies, Marketing & Human Resource Management, and minors in Finance & Sociology. I attended Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, where I earned the degrees of Master of Divinity (MDiv), with a concentration in Christian-Jewish Studies, and Master of Christian Education and Formation (MACEF). At PTS, I largely focused on Biblical Studies, and I explored the practical, and social dimensions of faith life, especially the intersections of race, sexuality, and gender. During my training, I also had the opportunity to work as a Chaplaincy Intern at Ann Klein Forensic Center (a carceral, secured state psychiatric hospital), and as a Chaplaincy Intern at Princeton University's Chapel. I have also worked at the intersection of entrepreneurship, and social justice, most recently in the spaces of minority business consulting, and globally sourced, fair trade fashion accessories. I have deeply enjoyed participating in the community, and worship of FPCNC. My mother, my brother, and my dog Ruach (רוּחַ) "Ru" have also enjoyed visiting FPCNC, and I am very excited to join in the life of this wonderful church community.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (Cont'd)

Kathy Wright



I grew up in Orange, CA. I attended the First Presbyterian Church in Orange. I was raised by my aunt and uncle and graduated from Orange High, the University of Redlands (BA), and Stanford University (MA's in Education and English). I taught at West Valley Community College (English), University of Santa Clara (English), and tutored at Norwalk Community College (English and ESL). Worked as a lifeguard and water sports teacher at Darien YMCA. I love to read, and I love dogs. I attended the "Fish" Presbyterian Church in Stamford for 31 years and the Brick Presbyterian Church in the Upper East Side of NYC for 17 years. My husband and I have a summer home near Saranac Lake, NY, and when there I visit the First Presbyterian Church. We moved to New Canaan in July 2025 and began visiting this church at that time.

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

WE WILL HAVE A RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY immediately after the service today (Sunday, November 22nd) to open up the new Accessibility Ramp and ADA approved Bathroom. Please gather in the Common Room where we will cut a ribbon at the doorway into the Common Room as well as another Ribbon at the entrance to the Accessibility Ramp from the Hallway from the Sanctuary to the Bliss House. Cutting Two Ribbons will allow for first time access from both ends of the new ramp. We will offer a brief prayer of dedication and encourage everyone to explore the new addition to our physical plant. We are deeply grateful for all who have contributed to the Capital Campaign to make this improvement possible, and we look forward to years of improved mobility and access for all people!



THIS WEEK @ FPC

FPC Office Hours

Monday, November 16: OFFICE CLOSED *(*Wendy vacation)*

Tuesday, November 17 – Friday, November 20: 9:00am – 5:00pm

*While the office is closed, you can leave a voice message for Wendy at 203-966-0002 ext 1 or email her at wendy@fpcnc.org. For any Pastoral Care needs during this time, please reach out to Scott at scott@fpcnc.org or at 203-921-7536.

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!



Our next MEN'S GATHERING will be in-person this Wednesday, November 18 from 11:45am-1:30pm at the Manse (171 Jonathan Road). We're excited to have Fell Herdeg as our featured guest. Fell is the CFO at Ridgefield Academy and he and his wife Cara and their family are longtime residents of New Canaan. Fell has been involved in volunteering locally and he is currently the Board Chair of the Waveny Park Conservancy. Fell is also a bassist and vocalist and started his working life for several years as a full-time touring musician. He became a member of FPCNC last year and naturally you can always find him sitting close to the musicians on Sundays in church. We're looking forward to hearing Fell share about his family, career and faith.

Come and enjoy a delicious lunch, fellowship and great conversation. All men are welcome, and feel free to invite a friend or two. ***Please RSVP to Wendy in the Church Office (wendy@fpcnc.org / 203-966-0002 ext 1) as soon as possible as we need to have an accurate count for lunch.*** We look forward to seeing you in-person at 11:45am this Wednesday at the Manse.



NEXT SUNDAY – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Charting Our Future

The congregation is encouraged to participate in an **Adult Forum on Sunday, November 22 from 11:30am–12:45pm**, which includes a light lunch, to discuss where it is we would like to go as a congregation, what can we do to sustain our church's current success and what outward facing actions should we consider to grow our presence in the broader community.

We'll start with a quick review of the results from the *Holy Cow!* survey we conducted earlier in the year, which showed strong support for our current direction and indicated that we are "well positioned to take some strategic risks." Then we'll seek your feedback on some initiatives the Session has been reviewing that the church might implement over the next few years. Finally, we'll discuss the resources required to bring those ideas to life, including the option of calling for a new full time, or part time, Associate Pastor. Please put this important meeting on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there!

You should have received an email on Friday providing some detail about the Adult Forum and attachments to review. If you didn't receive that email or see the information included in the weekly Tidings email, please reach out to Wendy in the Church Office.

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS @ FPC



MISSION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

THANK YOU again for your wonderful generosity to make October Mission Month a success.

Please remember to keep the recipients of these donations in your hearts throughout the year and consider additional donations or volunteering for these worthy charities:

Bridgeport Rescue Mission (*146 lbs of coats and warm clothing)*
New Covenant Center (*455 personal hygiene and toiletries items)*
The Undies Project (*212 undies, bras and tees)*
The Diaper Bank of CT (*3,450 Diapers)*

New Covenant Center

Our final 2026 New Covenant Center in Stamford, CT cooking & serving concluded Saturday, November 7th! Thank you all for your support and volunteering to feed those in need.

We are scheduled to cook & serve the 1st Saturday of March, April, May, Sept, Oct and Nov in 2027. Mark your calendars! If you're interested in helping cook or serve, check out Signup Genius here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A5AE28A7FF2-newcovenant#/ or reach out to Steve Van de Graaf (stevedg01@gmail.com).



Thank you for your dedication to make the world a kinder, safer and a healthier place. Any questions, please reach out to Steve Van de Graaf (stevedg01@gmail.com).

(pictured left to right: Scott, Rafael (NCC Kitchen Manager), Keith, Mary, Debera, Wendy, Denise and Jim)

FAMILY MINISTRIES

2026 Young Families Service Calendar

First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

All service events will take place during Sunday School

December 13: Soles4Souls Shoe Drive

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

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

Questions? Reach out to us at Michael.Winslow.Peterson@gmail.com, Bonnie.Licero.Peterson@gmail.com, and Leahs@fpcnc.org

EDITOR'S NOTES

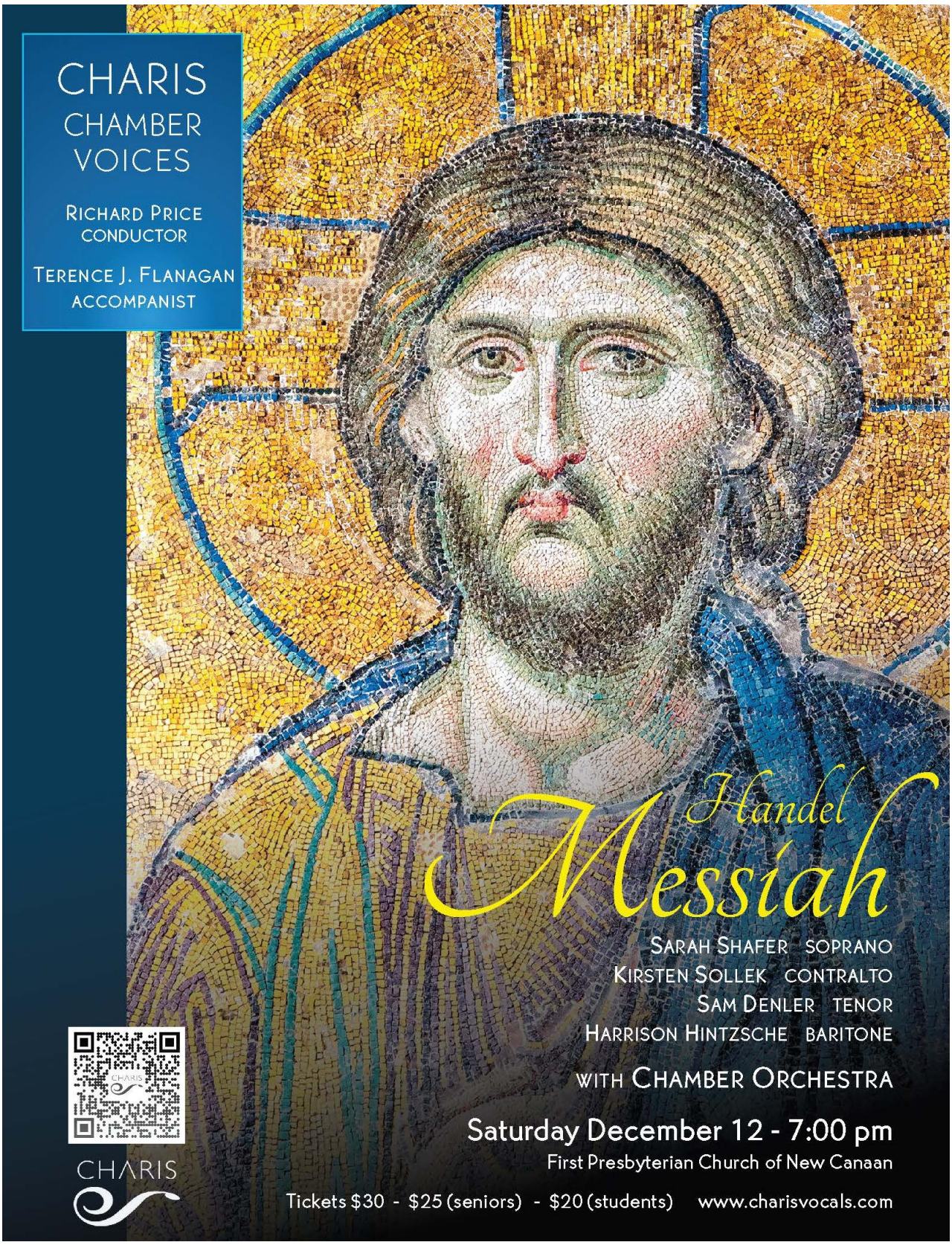
STIGA Ping-Pong Table Available

The church is having to part with the below pictured STIGA Ping-Pong Table that was previously in the Tate Barn. We'd love to find a new owner quickly and hopefully someone from the church or the town could use it?! This table is in excellent condition, comes with paddles and balls and is valued at over $500. If you or someone you know could use it and if they can arrange to pick it up, the church will accept a donation of $150 or your best offer. Please contact Wendy in the church office at 203-966-0002 ext 1 or wendy@fpcnc.org.





UPCOMING CONCERT @ FPC



November is National Family Caregiver Month and Alzheimer's Awareness Month

In recognition of these important awareness months, the **Navigator Program** is offering ***free events*** for people living with dementia and their caregivers to connect, find support, and celebrate the dedication, resilience and compassion of dementia caregivers.

NOV 5, 12, 19

Golden Trooper's Equine Therapy RSVP
Hands-on, unmounted interaction with horses that fosters connection, learning, and joy.
11:00 am-12:00 pm
New Canaan Mounted Troop

NOV 17

AWEN Horticulture Therapy RSVP
Discover the fascinating world of fungi and their connections to everyday life through stories, sensory exploration, and a delicious mushroom tasting.
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
New Canaan Library - Kend Kitchen

NOV 18

CaringKind Nourish Care Partner Wellness Day RSVP
Take time for yourself, connect with other care partners and enjoy relaxation and nature
10:00 am- 1:00 pm
Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan

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

For more information contact the Waveny Navigators
navigator@waveny.org
(203) 594-5289

Coping with the Long Goodbye: Attention to Dementia Grief and Loss

Dementia can bring a profound sense of loss that unfolds over time. As a loved one's memory, abilities, and ways of connecting begin to change, care partners may find themselves grieving many losses along the journey. Often referred to as the "long goodbye," this experience can evoke a range of emotions, including sadness, uncertainty, isolation and loneliness.

Join our panel of experts for a thoughtful discussion on the emotional impact of dementia and practical strategies for navigating grief throughout the caregiving journey.

Panelists
Mary Ross, PhD, RN
Daniel DeLoma, M.Th., MSPC, PC, APBCC-HPC
Sheila Russo, LCSW
Chris DiElsi, LMSW, CDP

Moderator
Kathleen Benevento, CDP
Executive Director,
Navigator Program for Dementia



Date, Time & Location
November 18, 2026, 6-7:00pm
New Canaan Historical Society
13 Oenoke Ridge
New Canaan, CT 06840

Waveny LIFECARE NETWORK
NAVIGATOR

Registration Information
Email **Navigator@waveny.org**,
call **203-594-5289**,
or scan the QR code

First Presbyterian Church Presents

Amanda Mole

Organ Concert

Monday, November 16 | 7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
1101 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT



Tickets $20
Scan to Purchase

About the Event

Acclaimed concert organist Amanda Mole comes to First Presbyterian Church for a special performance featuring the works of Bach, Mendelssohn, and Vierne on the church's magnificent Visser-Rowland organ, one of Fairfield County's finest and most celebrated pipe organs.

fishchurch.org | info@fishchurch.org | (203) 324-9522 | Photo by Gerry Szymanski

STAYING PUT *in* NEW CANAAN

Helping older New Canaan residents live confidently at home and stay engaged in the community by providing practical services and social connections.

JOIN ▼ SUPPORT ▼ VOLUNTEER

203.966.7762
info@stayingputnc.org
stayingputnc.org

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

ADVOCACY, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY AWARENESS

DVCC

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER
SINCE 1980



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.

New prayers and concerns: Josephine Markell (Jim Riehl's 106-year old Aunt) who passed away on November 8; Kathy Edwards, who is recovering from shoulder surgery; Dennis Swanson who had a fall; Arie Van Harwegen Den Breems.

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; 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; David Johnson (Elsbeth Johnson's son); Denise Lynch; 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 15
9 am **Music Rehearsals**
10 am **Worship Service, New Member Reception & Stewardship 2027 Walk Forward Sunday**
11:15 am **Ribbon Cutting & Coffee Fellowship**
11:30 am **Coffee Concert (Sanctuary)**

MONDAY, November 16
OFFICE CLOSED
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons
4:30-6 pm Performing Arts Conservatory
7 pm Purple Heather Dancers (Common Room)

TUESDAY, November 17
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 18
10 am Weekly Bible Studies (Parlor)
11:45 am Men's Gathering In-Person Lunch
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

WEDNESDAY, November 18
4:30 pm FPC English Handbells Rehearsal
6-8 pm Performing Arts Conservatory
7 pm Open Mic Night (Common Room)

THURSDAY, November 19
3:30 pm Special Church
7 pm FPC Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, November 20
9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 3:30, 4:30 Jumpin' Jams (Lawn)
2-9 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SATURDAY, November 21
9:15 am A.A. Group (closed)
10:30 am A.A. Group (open)
2-5 pm Wilton Studios–Music Lessons

SUNDAY, November 22
9 am **Music Rehearsals**
10 am **Worship Service**
11:15 am **Coffee Fellowship**
11:30 am **Adult Forum – Congregational Meeting on Discernment (includes light lunch)**

CALENDAR – NOVEMBER and DECEMBER

Friday, November 27, 4pm	**Elizabeth "Libby" Butterworth Memorial Service followed by reception in 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)**
Wednesday, December 2, 1pm	**Pastoral Care Team Meeting (Parlor)**
Sunday, December 6, 10am	**Second Sunday of Advent**
Tuesday, December 8, 7pm	**Session Meeting (6:30pm dinner)**
Saturday, December 12, 7pm	**Charis Chamber Voices Concert @ FPC (Sanctuary)**
Sunday, December 13, 10am	**Third Sunday of Advent**
Monday, December 14, 7pm	**Deacon Meeting (Zoom)**
Wednesday, December 16, 7am	**Men's Gathering (Zoom)**
Wednesday, December 16, 7pm	**New Canaan High School Choirs Concert @ FPC**
Friday, December 18, 5pm	**FPC Christmas Party (@ MANSE)**
Sunday, December 20, 10am	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Thursday, December 24, 5pm	**Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant**
Thursday, December 24, 6:30pm	**Christmas Eve Caroling @ Gods Acre**
Thursday, December 24, 10pm	**Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service**

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The First Presbyterian Church Choir with:

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

Lay Reader: Fell Herdeg

Ushers: Jim Ely and Janet Lanaway

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:**