

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENWICH



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 2025
10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

A god who let us prove his existence would be an idol.

Dietrich
Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE

Prelude on Sine Nomine
Jesse Pieper, organ

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

Down in My Heart
All-Age Family Choir

George William Cooke
(1884-1951)

OPENING CHIMES

WELCOME

The Rev. Andre Castillo

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Spirit and the Church say, "Come."

All: **The people of the Word say, "Come."**

One: Let everyone who is thirsty come;

All: **Receive the gift of the water of life.**

One: The Lord's name be praised.

All: **Let us worship the Lord!**

*HYMN 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Lindley G. DeGarmo

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ, your Son, we pray.

*MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Beloved people of God, believe the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE PATRI

GLORIA

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen,*

Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Tara Church

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elder Kate

Minchin

*Pierce Machlin
Son of Page and Jeff Machlin*

Presentation
Thanksgiving over the Water
Baptism
Welcome

SOLO

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

John Carl

Ylvisaker

Sarah Knott, mezzo-soprano

(1937-2017)

Jesse Pieper, piano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Peggy Whitlock

Gracious God, we gather in your holy presence in order that we might hear your voice and be led in the way in which you would have us go. To that end, we ask that the words or our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight. O Lord, you are our Rock and our Redeemer. Have your way in this place today; in Jesus' name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

p. 548 OT

***HYMN 451**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

SCRIPTURE

Luke 16:19-31

p. 79 NT

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Burden of Proof

Rev. Castillo

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

ANTHEM

A Scottish Blessing
Chancel Choir
Dr. Caroline Worra, flute
Jesse Pieper, piano

David Blackwell
(b. 1961)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING

Ritual of Friendship: *Please sign the red fellowship pad in your pew and pass it to your neighbor.*

ANTHEM

“If with all your hearts” from *Elijah*
Fred Schlick, tenor
Dr. Caroline Worra, piano

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

***DOXOLOGY**

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN**

Faith Be Made Complete

Tune: 761,
BEECHER
Lyrics: Andre
Castillo

Here we kneel before the Father; earth and heav'n to Him
belong.
We proclaim His awesome power and respond in grateful song.
For His love surpasses knowledge; its dimensions fill our hearts:
Breaking chains of former bondage, freeing us to do our part.

Not without us, but within us, God desires to work His good,
Calling people to His service, that His love be understood.
Jesus gives us holy talents, that our legacy would be:
Those who rise to meet the challenge and proclaim,
"Christ set us free!"

Let us toss aside our failings and the sin that weighs us down,
Trusting in Christ's love prevailing and His all-enduring crown.
Jesus is the perfect Author, writing hymns of victory.
So, we bow before His altar, that our faith be made complete.

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen
Chancel Choir

John Stainer
(1840-1901)

POSTLUDE

Fantasia and Imitatio in B minor, BWV 563
Jesse Pieper, organ

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

** Please stand as you are able.*

WELCOME

We are delighted you are joining us in worship! Founded on Easter Sunday in 1881, First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich embraces our mission to nurture and empower people in all stages of life to be Christ's disciples and to actively serve those in need. All children may join the Time for Young Disciples during the service and then be dismissed together for Sunday School in Room 343. Nursery care is available in Room 220 for children under three.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Dr. Lindley G. DeGarmo; Rev. Andre Castillo; Dr. Caroline Worra, Minister of Music; Tara Church, Director of Children's Ministry; Jesse Pieper, piano/organ; Chancel Choir; All Age Family Choir; Fred Schlick, tenor; Sarah Knott, mezzo-soprano; Kate Minchin, elder; Peggy Whitlock, reader.

Usher Team. 3: Steve Waters (Captain), James Waters (Deputy), Abe Cary, Tony Kane, Kathy Myer, Ellie Ritch Galatioto, Justine Schwartz, Jackson Waters, Vaughn Waters, Sandy Waters.

Cover Art: "Rich Man in Hell and the Poor Lazarus in Abraham's Lap" by Hans Schüfelein (1480-1539)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our siblings locally and abroad who are living in areas torn by natural disasters and war; Cassandra Fountain, Ki Lee, Adrienne & Don Perry, Nancy Raker, Charlene Roberson, Eric Moy, and Elly Schafer. We extend the love and prayers of the congregation to Kimberly Arth and her family upon the death of her father, Jack Fogarty; to Elisabeth (Jesse Pieper's wife) and her brother Thomas upon the death of their mother, Deborah Graves-Shoup; and to Carolyn Hahn-Re upon the death of her mother (Anita Allen).

BIBLE STUDY

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., all are invited to join Interim Pastor Lindley DeGarmo online for discussion of the Scripture reading(s) for the upcoming Sunday's sermon. No prior preparation is required, and participants are welcome to join in each week as they are able. Zoom Meeting ID: 859 0258 1495. Passcode: 296934. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85902581495>

MUSIC NOTES

Wednesday, October 1 – Community Night
Sunday, November 2 – 2:00 p.m. - All Saints Day Concert
Saturday, December 13 – 4:00 p.m. – Carols by Candlelight Concert
Friday, April 3 -7:00 p.m. – Good Friday Requiem
Wednesday, May 6 – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner Theater Extravaganza

Dr. Caroline Worra - FPCG Music Minister

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Join us for fellowship and book discussion in the Church Library on the 4th Floor. We gather at 9:15 a.m. for coffee and discussion starts at 9:30 a.m. Contact Colleen Giambo at cgiambo@gmail.com for further information. Here are the Women's Book Group selections for this fall. We will not meet in August.

October 24 (Revised Date)	Wild Dark Shore, by Charlotte McConaghy
November 21	The History of Sound, by Ben Shattuck

MISSION ENGAGEMENT

Pacific House Cooks: Join the FPCG team to cook and serve meals for men and young male residents of Pacific House on the second Thursday of every month. Cook in the FPCG kitchen from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. or serve at Pacific House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Contact Carol Barber: cbarber@cyburban.com or at (914) 490-6621.

Drivers Needed for Call-A-Ride: Have a few hours a week to assist elderly members of our community? Drivers are needed! Email or call Terry Lohmeyer: terryhl@aol.com (203) 249-9412.

FLOWER DONATIONS

Donations of flowers to honor a loved one or commemorate a special occasion are always welcome and help to beautify the Sanctuary. On Mondays, the deacons distribute the flowers to members and friends who might need some cheering. If you would like to make a dedication one Sunday, please be in touch with Erin Moore in the business office (erin@fpcg.org or (203) 869-8686). You may also sign up for a donation online [Flower Dedications](#) or by scanning the QR code.

LOST AND FOUND

Please check the items on the lost and found rack in the coat room as they will all be donated to charity on October 1st. Thank you.

FALL NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND RECEPTION

Interested in becoming a member of FPCG? Please join us for our fall new member orientation session on **Sunday, October 19 at 4:00 p.m.** We'll gather for light refreshments in the church library (4th floor) at 4:00 p.m. and begin our one-hour orientation at 4:30 p.m. (Childcare is provided.) Those attending orientation will be welcomed and received by the congregation during worship on **Sunday, October 26 at 10:00 a.m.**

To RSVP for the orientation session, please contact Emily Sternberg at emily@thesternbergs.net.

If you haven't done so already, please scan and complete the new member interest form found here so we have your contact information.

INTERFAITH BLOOD DRIVE

Fall back into the habit of donating blood. Come to give blood with the Red Cross at our Interfaith drive and get a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Come to First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich (1 West Putnam Avenue) on Saturday, November 1 from 8:00 am to 1:15 pm. Sign up now at rcblood.org/donate and use code FPCG, use the QR code, or call 800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS

As Deacons, our ministry is one of compassion, witness, and service. It includes services such as hospital visits, meal deliveries, an altar flower to celebrate a birth, arranging rides to worship and generally being available to hear any concerns or questions. We warmly invite you to reach out on your behalf, or perhaps on behalf of another church member who may benefit from a meal, a visit, or just a word of encouragement.

Contact the church office at (203) 869-8686 X 110, or one of our pastors, or email our Deacon Moderator, Julie Mather (matherct@msn.com). Your wellbeing is important to us.

FIRST 4 FOOD - Imagine the warmth and comfort of homemade soups delivered right to your door! Our dedicated volunteers are ready to bring love and care to members recovering from physical, emotional, or other challenging situations. Need a meal? Feeling inspired to cook or deliver? Reach out to Renie Blair at (203) 637-1807 and be part of this heartwarming initiative.

FIRST SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION - We are offering rides to and from church on the FIRST SUNDAY of each month so that members can participate in Communion, worship, and fellowship. Call Bob Giambo (914) 434-4832 to arrange transportation. We look forward to having you join us.

FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE BIBLE

Join the women of FAB for a group led Bible Study, Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. in the library beginning October 8th, for a 6-week study of *Traveling Light: The Promise of Psalm 23* by Max Lucado. *Traveling Light* offers encouragement and tools to release our burdens of fear, worry, and discontent so we can live into the uplifting promise of Psalm 23. Lucado reminds us that the Lord is asking us to, "Set it down, child. I'll carry that one." What if we took God up on his offer? We might find ourselves traveling a little lighter. FAB is a weekly, multigenerational women's group for fellowship and conversation. Feel free to attend one or all of our meetings. RSVP to Renee Lux (reneelux@gmail.com).

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Calling all 8th Grade Students – Confirmation Kicks Off This Fall

Sunday, October 5 from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Lunch provided, parents included, friends are always welcome.

RSVP to Andre Castillo@FPCG.org

FALL ACADEMY PROGRAMS

FPCG Excursion to the NYC Ballet: Masters at Work I

The Goldberg Variations and *Tchaikovsky Suite No. 3*

Round-trip transportation from FPCG to Lincoln Center

Saturday, October 4 - 11:15 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Join the Academy for our fall excursion to Lincoln Center to see two of New York City Ballet's most revered talents, Jerome Robbins and George Balanchine, celebrated in this double bill. *The Goldberg Variations* by Johann Sebastian Bach is a “choreographic tour de force” by Robbins that plays homage to Bach’s epic scores, unifying the traditions of classical and modern movements in one monumental ballet. In *Tchaikovsky Suite No. 3* by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Balanchine opens each section on a romantic note, “culminating in a radiant majestic finale.”

Our itinerary is to depart from FPCG at 11:15 a.m. with time on your own for lunch prior to the 2 p.m. performance in the David H. Koch Theater. To save your place, use the bar code provided for payment or send your check for \$ 157/pp to FPCG with the notation “Ballet.” Academy excursions are self-funded. Youth are welcome but church policy requires minors under 18 be accompanied by a chaperone.

Sundays, September 14, October 5 and October 19

Miracles and Wonder - Rev. Dr. Lindley DeGarmo - Edna Anderson Chapel at 11:30 a.m.

This three-part course will explore the latest book by renowned scholar Elaine Pagels, *MIRACLES AND WONDER: THE HISTORICAL MYSTERY OF JESUS*. Blending biblical scholarship with spiritual reflection, Pagels invites readers to consider the enduring power of Jesus’s miracle stories—not as supernatural proof, but as meaningful expressions of compassion, healing and hope. The class is designed for both readers of the book and those engaging through lecture and discussion. Each session will include a brief lecture by Rev. Dr. Lindley DeGarmo summarizing Pagels’s insights, followed by open conversation and reflection. **Session 1, The Mystery and the Message**, examines how miracle stories were understood in the ancient Jewish and Greco-Roman world, and how early Christians used them to proclaim God’s nearness and mercy. **Session 2, History, Faith and the Stories We Tell**, explores the Gospels not as biographies but as theological documents shaped by communal trauma and resilience, especially after the destruction of the Temple. **Session 3, Wonder and Meaning in Our Time**, reflects on what “miracle” might mean today—through Pagels’s personal lens of loss and renewal—and how ancient stories can still inspire justice, imagination, and healing.

VOLUNTEER FAIR

Help build the FPCG Community by serving on Committees or Missions, hosting a Harvest Dinner, or joining the Sunday School or music worship teams! **Sign-up during Fellowship Hour Sunday, October 5, 2025**

COMMUNITY NIGHT

Family Style Dinner Begins at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Children's Programming:

Begins 5:00-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room - Bible crafts, stories, games and fellowship for ages 4 and up. Childcare for 0-3 years is available in Room 121 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Music:

5:00 p.m. - Youth – 4th Floor Choir Room 5:30 p.m. - Children – 4th Floor Choir Room

Bell Choir:

5:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Steeple Band:

6:30 p.m. - 4th Floor Choir Room

Chancel Choir:

7:15 p.m. – 4th Floor Choir Room

LEADERSHIP

Session

Rev. Dr. Lindley G. DeGarmo, Moderator

Rev. Andre Castillo, Associate Pastor

Laura Geffs, Clerk of Session

Wayne Atwell

Lynda Cha

Lilian Eng

Lee Ganshaw

Layne Grindal

Jim Joyella

Ryan Kim

Debra Mecky

Kate Minchin

Mary M. Paretti

Brian Pennington

Elizabeth Peyton

Stephanie Schnabel

Sue Sproule

Emily Sternberg

Nancy Yao

Session members may be contacted at session@fpcg.org. Messages go to all Session members.

Board of Deacons

Julie Mather, Moderator

Hamish Allan

Olivia Allan

Wayne Atwell

Renie Blair

Diane Brown

Carolyn Cleveland

Margaret Copprue

Bob Giambo

Carolyn Hahn-Re

Liz Harden

Barbie McKelvey

Catherine Stahl

Chris Zadik

Deacons may be contacted at deacons@fpcg.org. Messages go to all deacons.

Clergy & Staff Contacts

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Rev. Andre Castillo, Associate Pastor	andre.castillo@fpcg.org	Ext. 119
Dr. Caroline Worra, Minister of Music	caroline.worra@fpcg.org	Ext. 120
Tara Church, Director, Children's Ministries	tara@fpcg.org	Ext. 118
Heather Antonissen, Director, Bell Choirs	heather.antonissen@fpcg.org	
Jestin Pieper, Organ Associate	jestin.pieper@gmail.com	
Erin Moore, Director of Operations	erin@fpcg.org	Ext. 123

