



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Church Family,

April is upon us! And what a glorious month on God's Acre this will be!

We are smack dab in the middle of Lent, with four truly wonderful Sundays of worship and fellowship to share in together. Here are our plans:

Sunday, April 3, Jody and the choir will be presenting Maurice Duruflé's Requiem at the 10:00am service. They will be accompanied by a string quintet, harp, tympani, and organ with guest conductor Scott Cranston.



Sunday, April 10, is Palm Sunday. This is the day we remember and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and launches us into our Holy Week observances. Come early to get your palms!

Sunday, April 17 is Easter! This is the one Sunday of the year when our worship times shift to accommodate people's schedules. We offer a Sunrise Service at 6:00am on the front steps of our Meeting House, we have traditional services at 9:00am, and 11:00am, and this year we will offer an all-town Easter Egg Hunt for the children at 10:15am, in-between our two services.

Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24 our dear friend and former pastor, Allen Hilton, will join us for our "God's Acre 4.0" weekend. We will take time to learn from our past history while preparing for our fourth century as a congregation. We hope that you will join us for our Saturday workshop and brunch, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, and participate in Sunday worship as Allen weaves the theme of our weekend into the fabric of the Emmaus resurrection story in the Gospel of Luke.

As you can see, April is an exciting month for us on God's Acre. I know that public school break falls directly on Holy Week, but we hope that all of our church members and friends will partake in our church offerings in person or virtually as everyone is able. I would also love for you to make this moment and the Easter season a time when you invite our newest neighbors to town to church. Asking new people about their plans for Easter is an easy way to see if they have a place to worship and a community to engage in during this most sacred of Christian seasons.

Yours in Christ,
Chapin

*For everything there is a season, and a time
for every matter under heaven:*

A time to be born, and a time to die;

*A time to plant, and a time to pluck up
what is planted;*

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

*A time to throw away stone, and a time to
gather stones together;*

*A time to embrace, and a time to refrain
from embracing;*

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to throw away;

A time to tear, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 10

8:00am

Worship Service

Chapel

10:00am

Worship Service

Children's Palm Blessing, Meeting House

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 14, 8:00pm

Tenebrae Service

featuring the Chancel Choir, Meeting House

Easter Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

6:00am

Contemporary Sunrise Worship Service

Church Steps

- A light breakfast follows in the Parlor

9:00am

Traditional Worship Service

Meeting House

- Prelude begins at 8:45am

- Church School Chapel Service and Nursery Care available

11:00am

Traditional Worship Service

Meeting House

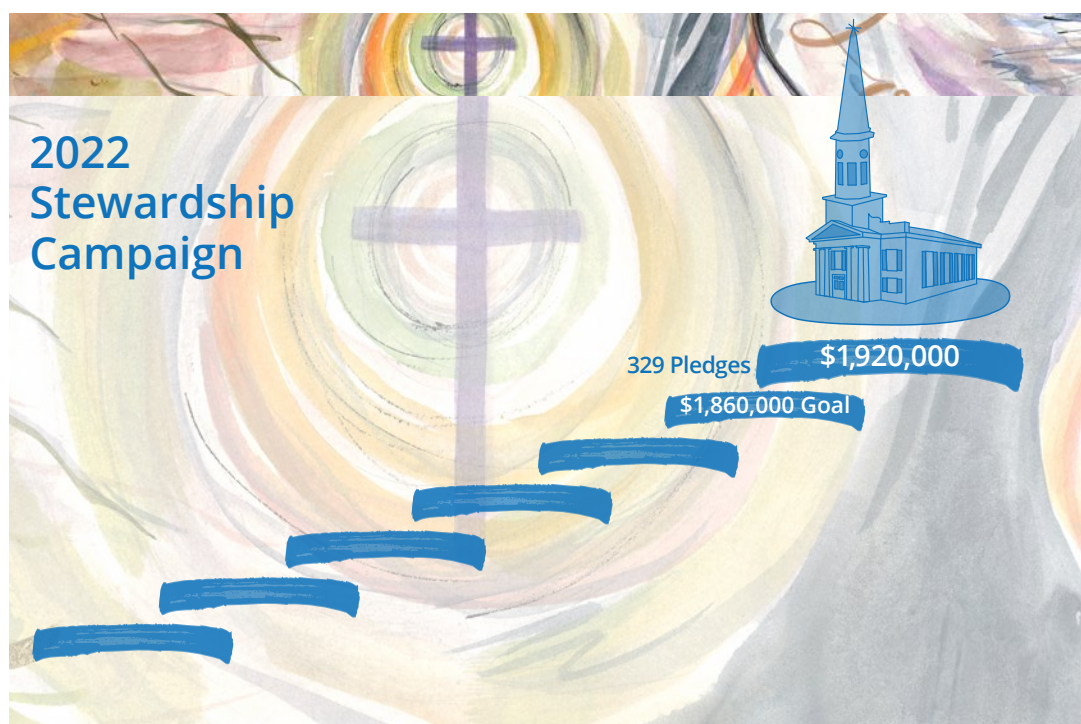
- Prelude begins at 10:45am

- Church School Chapel Service and Nursery Care available

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting and Stewardship Update

On March 6, the church conducted its annual meeting both in-person and via Zoom. We had solid attendance, active participation, and a successful meeting. The 2022 budget was passed with a forecast of approximately \$3.1 million in income and expenses for the year. The 2022 Stewardship Campaign continues to track well versus our goals. To date, we have 329 pledges (goal of 350) for a total of \$1.92 million, ahead of our goal of \$1.86 million. Thanks to all of you who have given so generously this year!



Women's Fellowship

Save the Date for our Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon Honoring our Women of Wisdom

Join us in honoring the Women of Wisdom on May 20 at 11:30 AM at the New Canaan Contry Club. More details to come!



Men's Fellowship

Springtime Family Hike - April 30 Sponsored by MG

All are welcome.

The Men's Fellowship Group is hosting a family hike the morning of April 30 – rain or shine! Our trail location will be shared closer to the hike date. Those that are interested can meet for breakfast before or stay for lunch afterwards. Last year we did a similar hike at the Leon Levy park in Salem. About 20 hearty soles had a great time. There will be an email invitation sent out or you can contact Don Moyle, (917-817-4684) donmoyle@gmail.com for more information.



The Fellowship Team Needs You!

If you are interested in hosting Fellowship Hour please contact Laurel Carr, laurel@godsacre.org for available dates.

TOP 5 MYTHS ABOUT FELLOWSHIP HOUR

1 Fellowship Hour is handled by a group that I'm not involved with. They have it under control already.

MYTH! Fellowship Hour is the responsibility and the joy of the entire congregation. Anyone who has ever grabbed a cookie after church knows how much it is appreciated. This lovely tradition occurs because of people who take the initiative to sign up. You are invited to be one of those people!

2 Hosting Fellowship Hour is stressful.

MYTH! Last anyone checked, there is no complaint box in Smith Hall for Fellowship Hour. You put out the snacks and keep the coffee flowing, and that's it. When the munchies are gone, it means you did a great job!

3 Hosting Fellowship Hour is expensive.

MYTH! The Fellowship Team provides the snacks, coffee, creamer, etc. Some folks enjoy making it a bigger affair with the occasional homemade banana bread, and hey, who minds that? Others happily rely solely on the provided snacks. Guess what? It gets eaten and enjoyed thoroughly either way!

4 I don't know anyone to host with, so I can't do it.

MYTH! You can suggest that any group you are associated with host Fellowship Hour, it is so much fun to do this way, with lots of hands and friends. You can also contact anyone on the Fellowship Team and we will be happy to help you find a friend or family who would like to share the responsibility!

5 I don't know how the coffee machine works and I'm worried everyone will get cranky if they have to wait for their caffeine.

MYTH! There are instructions in the kitchen that are easy to follow. Any of the Fellowship Team will be happy to give you a tutorial on the coffee machine or answer any other kitchen questions. In addition, there are LOTS of people at coffee hour each week who have done it before. They are always glad to lend a hand. In fact, some people jump in and brew a pot (or four) of coffee without even being asked. It truly is a team mentality - you're not alone!

Children's Ministry in March



Rev. Kibbie leads distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday for children and family service. Children's choirs sing at Ash Wednesday worship. Miss Sydney leads the 3rd and 4th grade in music! Confirmands sort jackets, and prepare food for Midnight Run!

Children's Ministry in April



I invite you to join us on April 3 and April 10 for Stations of the Cross for Children. Your kids will get to ride a stuffed donkey while their friends wave palms and shout Alleluia, see a foot washing, receive coins and hear about Judas' betrayal, hammer nails into a cross, and talk about the meaning of the empty tomb while wrapping friends in toilet paper like a mummy.



On Easter Sunday, April 17, at 9:00am and 11:00am there will be a Children's Chapel during each service where we will celebrate the joy of Easter. Our Annual Easter Eggstravaganza is on!!

Easter Sunday at 10:15am. Whether you come every week, or if you haven't been in a while, we hope you will join us! This is your spiritual home, and home for your children and grandchild-

dren. May the love, joy, and peace of Christ be with you! Blessings, Kibbie
Please join us for Stations of the Cross, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday!

Palm Sunday
April 10 at 10:00am



Egg Hunt
April 17 at 10:15am



Easter
April 17 at 9am and 11am



Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

Our Easter Eggstravaganza
Egg Hunt has a new date -
Easter Sunday, April 17!

Come and join us on the church
lawn at 10:15am between the 9:00am
and 11:00am Easter services to find
fun-filled eggs and take your family
photo! Please bring your own basket
for hunting. See you there!

Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

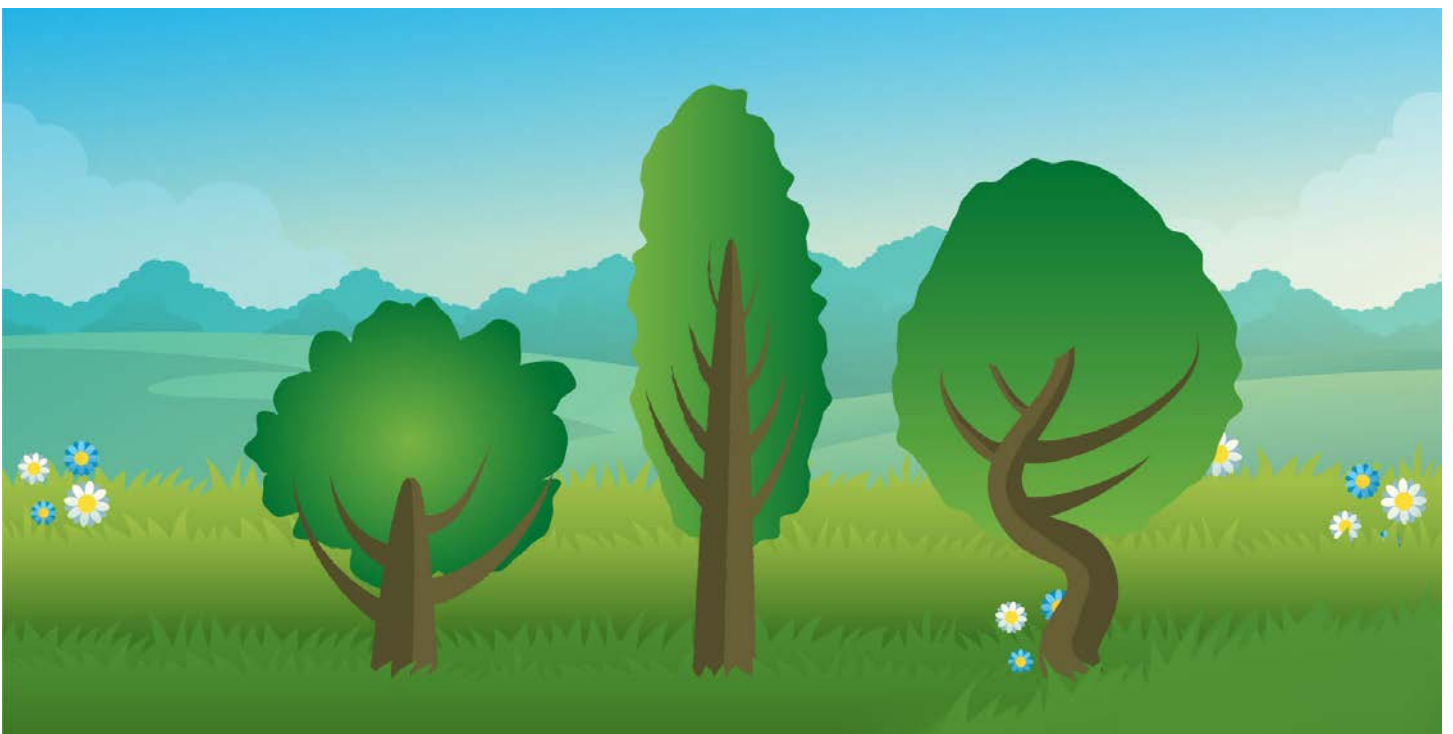
Sunday, April 17
10:15am
Church Lawn



Spring Musical - "The Tale of Three Trees"

Children's Choirs will sing next during
the 10:00am Service on April, 24, including
a preview song from their upcoming
musical, "The Tale of Three Trees."

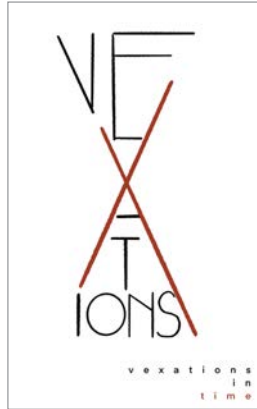
Rehearsals are underway for the Spring Musical, "The Tale of Three Trees" by Allen Pote and Tom S. Long, which will be on May 18, for the residents of the New Canaan Inn. Details about a dress rehearsal performance for the church will be announced soon! If your child is interested in participating, we still have space for non-speaking roles, such as Lumberjacks and Fisherfolk! Remaining rehearsals are select Sundays after church and Wednesdays from 4:00-4:30pm. Please email sydney@godsacre.org to get involved.



Sydney Anderson leads Creative Meditation Event in NYC

April 1, 8:00pm - April 2, 2:00pm

When our Director of Children's Music and Drama is not teaching the children of our church, she is designing interactive musical events for people of all ages and experience levels. If you like to express yourself through any artistic discipline (e.g., painting, writing, singing, dancing), consider supporting this community-based exercise in creative catharsis. Audiences and performers will join together to harness the power of spontaneous collaboration as we move into a much-welcomed but sometimes scary "new normal." For more information on how to support or to participate, visit www.vexationsintime.com or email sydney@godsacre.org.



Requiem by Maurice Duruflé Sunday, April 3

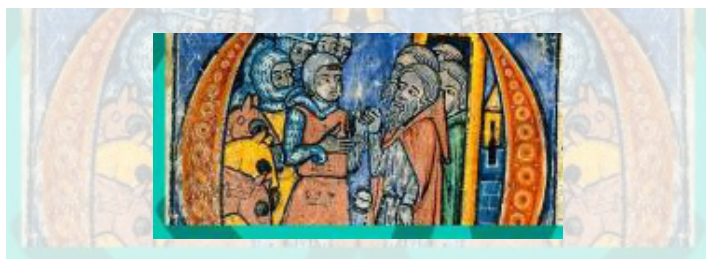
A 10 minute prelude will precede the service

The Chancel Choir will present Maurice Duruflé's, Requiem during the 10:00am service on Sunday, April 3. There will be a 10 minute prelude before the service to include more music of the work. The Chancel Choir will be conducted by Scott Cranston and accompanied by a string quintet, harp, tympani, and organ.



Aram Tchobanian, tenor, in Recital Saturday, April 9


Bruno Walter Auditorium, Lincoln Center, New York City
Aram Tchobanian, tenor section leader in the Chancel Choir, will present a solo recital featuring female composers. This is free and open to the public although reservations are required. For more information and tickets, please contact Jody Blaine Davis at music@godsacre.org or visit <https://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2022/04/09/faucon>.




Lenten musical moments

You are invited to Wednesday recitals during Lent from 12:30 – 1:00pm. This contemplative music will be given by Chancel Choir section leaders and guests. Join us for 30 minutes in the Meeting House and invite a friend. These are free and open to the public.

April 6 Greer Lyle, *soprano*
April 13 Linda Maranis, Karl Hedrick, *piano*



Greer Lyle
soprano



Linda Maranis
pianist



Karl Hedrick
pianist



Palm Sunday

April 10

The Chancel Choir is accompanied by guest trumpeters as we celebrate the Procession into Jerusalem. Hear Chancel Choir sing festive anthem from Georg Frederick Handel's *Messiah*, "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates," and Paul Lindsley Thomas' "Shout the Glad Tidings."

Maundy Thursday

April 14

Service of Tenebrae

8:00pm

The Chancel Choir will present anthems for this somber and beautiful occasion of the Last Supper. Hear a variety of music and composers: "O Ye People" by Pablo Casals, "Ubi Caritas" by Marcel Duruflé, "Drop, Drop Slow Tears" by Robert Graham, and "Lamb of God" arr. by F. Melius Christiansen.

Easter Day

April 17

9:00am and 11:00am services

A 15 minute prelude will precede these services

Hear the Chancel Choir with trumpets, trombones, tympani, and organ proclaim the joyous resurrection. Music sung by the Chancel Choir will include the glorious "Hallelujah Chorus" from Georg Frederick Handel's *Messiah* followed by Charles-Marie Widor's "Toccata" from Fifth Symphony arranged for organ, brass, and percussion.

• SAVE THE DATES •

Wednesday, April 20 at 4:00pm

Greer Lyle, soprano, in recital at Sprague Hall, Yale University, New Haven.



Saturday, June 4 at 7:00pm

Mary Bradley Clarke Fund Benefit Concert with reception following. Childcare provided.



OG and Pardners' in San Antonio

OG had a wonderful ride in San Antonio. The homes of Carlotta and Joann were transformed, and so were we all. We were glad to be back in the saddle and once again on the mission trail. Thank you for your blessings and prayers!



Lenten Food Collection

Little Free Pantry of Stamford

In the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors, the Little Free Pantry of Stamford offers food and other necessities free of charge from the small outdoor and always open pantry located at St. John's Lutheran Church. As a Lenten practice, we will partner with LFP supplying their most difficult to collect items. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, please bring small jugs of laundry detergent, bar soap, shampoo/conditioner, hand soap, dish soap, and paper goods such as toilet paper and paper towels and feminine care products to the bin in Smith Hall. Contact Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org.



Can a Stephen Minister Help You? Prayer Shawl Ministry Seeking New Knitters

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Stephen Ministers are living examples of Christ caring for people through people. Our church has been proud to be a Stephen Ministry Church since 2006, and we have 25 active Stephen Ministers. If you or someone in your family needs a Stephen Minister, please contact Beth Baker, BethCudaBaker@gmail.com or Rev. Kibbie Laird kibbie@godsacre.org.

The prayer shawl ministry is a wonderful group of ladies who gather to share their lives, knit, and bring hope and comfort to others. In 2021 we gifted 42 prayer shawls that were lovingly blessed and became beloved by family members around the country, and a few were even mailed overseas. If you would like to join the prayer shawl ministry, whether you knit or would like to learn. We would love to teach you! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 10:00-11:30am in the parlor.

And if you would like to gift one of our beautiful prayer shawls to a friend or family member who could use one, we would love to have you come in and choose one. Please email Rev. Kibbie Laird at kibbie@godsacre.org.



FLOWER MINISTRY

Where the Flowers Grow

One of the joys of arranging the altar flowers is choosing them! There are a few places the flowers come from. Depending on the time of year, flowers might be chosen from the arranger's own garden. Very often, however, we buy them at a local flower market. Walking into a huge refrigerated room, we find hundreds of magnificent blooms. Sometimes we've been asked to choose something particular to honor an event or loved one. Other times, we can choose something to work with the season or biblical passage, and it's not unusual to pick something we love. These blooms are brought to the flower room at church and turned into an arrangement, then later broken down and delivered by the deacons to church

members. Let us know if you would like to donate something special to the church or if you might enjoy joining our team of arrangers.

Easter Flowers

The tradition and beauty of our annual floral display will be organized by the Flower Ministry Team. The congregation is invited to make contributions given in celebration of the season and/or in memory of loved ones. Contributions and bulletin listings should be sent to Tracy Goldman, office@godsacre.org by Wednesday, April 6. The flowers will be on display Easter Sunday.



Births

Dave & Martha Burnham
welcomed son,
David Hunter Burnham, Jr.
"Hunter"
on February 17, 2022.



Matteo Aleksandar Lazich
born on
February 27, 2022.
Proud parents are
Dimitrie Lazich and wife,
Maria D'Amato.

In Loving Memory

Aurora Grace Carroll, daughter
of Zak and EmmaRae Carroll,
returned to Jesus' loving arms
on February 18, 2022.

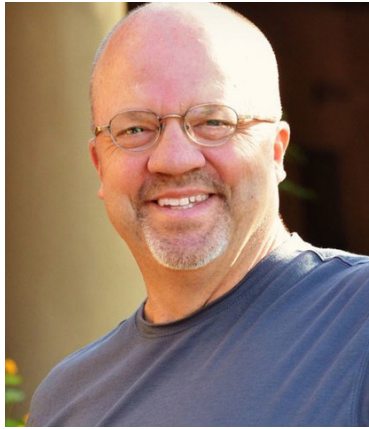


God's Acre 4.0

A weekend of discernment with Allen Hilton

On the weekend after Easter, April 23-24, we hope you will join Dr. Allen Hilton, former pastor, and friend of this church, for a weekend

of discernment. We will gather as a congregation to imagine together what shapes our devoted commitment to God and one another, as outlined in our church covenant, as we move forward post-Covid. We will begin to envision a new season as a church on God's Acre. On Saturday, we come together for a



workshop and brunch from 8:30am to 12:30pm. On Sunday, during worship, Allen will weave the theme of our weekend into the fabric of the Emmaus resurrection story in the Gospel of Luke.

Our Covenant Background

In 1629, the fledgling congregation of The Congregational Church of Salem, Massachusetts, decided to formalize their commitment to one another in a covenant. These faithful folk of Salem could not have known that their words would become a way station to the American experiment that would take shape in the Declaration of Independence and ultimately

WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Workshop & Brunch, 8:30am-12:30pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton,
8:00 & 10:00am

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Fellowship, Conversation, and Recap,
11:15am-12:30pm

in the U.S. Constitution. They only knew that true and generative Christian community needs a purposeful commitment to one another and to the God who calls us. Their words were simple.

“We Covenant with the Lord and one with another; and do bind our selves in the presence of God, to walk together in all his waies, according as he is pleased to reveale himselfe unto us in his Blessed word of truth.”

We still speak these words to this day. In our divided 21st century American days, with social fault lines abounding, a group of people who “bind our selves...to walk together,” come what may, is a strange and superb thing. And yet The Congregational Church of New Canaan founded a century after Salem’s covenant is committed to just such an audacious hope.

Reading John for Lent New Members Welcome

Join us in person or via Zoom as we consider the Last Supper and Resurrection as we read in the Gospel of John and walk into Holy Week together.

- **Monday Morning Bible Study** will meet April 4 and 11 from 7:00-8:00am in the Library
- **Women’s Bible Study** will meet Tuesday, April 5 and 12 from 9:30-10:30am in the Parlor



OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Ministers

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner, x1
Senior Minister

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, x2
Acting Associate Minister of Children,
Youth, and Families

Staff

Sydney Anderson, x821
Director of Children's Music and Drama

Kelly Leather Antonson, x824
Senior Youth Director

Erik Burns, x834
Youth Director

Laurel Carr, x833
Director of Communications

Sarah Haddad, x826
Church School Coordinator

Dr. Jo Deen Blaine Davis, x827
Director of Music Ministries

Tracy Goldman, x829
Administrative Assistant

Karl Hedrick, x839
Organ Scholar

Anthony Jones
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, x832
Director of Missions and Outreach

Caroline Leather, x835
Associate Director of Operations

Shean-Mei Sheu, x823
Director of Finance

Church Lay Leadership

David Carlson
Chair, Board of Trustees

Hoyt Davidson
Chair, Board of Deacons

Barbara Clayton
Chair, Nominating and Governance

Lonnie deMarco
Chair, Personnel



The Congregational Church
of New Canaan

23 Park Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 966-2651
www.godsacre.org

We are a Stephen Minister Church

Newsletter Submissions

If you are planning on contributing to the May newsletter, please submit by April 19. Email submissions to: laurel@godsacre.org.

myConnect Corner

Become part of myConnect, our online church community!

Within myConnect you can:

- view an online directory
- interact with groups
- set up and manage your online giving
- view giving statements
- register for events
- find ways to volunteer

Two ways to login:

1. Visit www.godsacre.org/myconnect
2. Go to www.godsacre.org and click "myConnect@God's Acre" in the upper left corner.

Need an Account?

Click "Sign Up Here" on the login page, enter your info, and look for our email to get started.

Questions?

Contact laurel@godsacre.org