



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Church Family,

I want to bring your attention to three items of importance this month:

- Our upcoming Annual Meeting
- The beginning of the Lenten Season
- Adjustments in our mask policy

On March 6, we will host our 289th Annual Meeting right after our 10:00 worship service. We will plan to be underway no later than 11:15am. While we hope as many people as possible will attend in person, we will offer the opportunity for church members to participate virtually via Zoom. If you wish to participate via Zoom, you must RSVP to receive the link. After your RSVP is received, a meeting link will be sent to you. Please RSVP to caroline@godsacre.org no later than Thursday, March 3. The Zoom link will be sent out on Friday, March 4. Thanks to the glory and goodness of God, combined with the good efforts of our church family, we have a very good story to share about managing through 2021 while planning for 2022!



Additionally, Lent begins on March 2, with an Ash Wednesday Service for children and families at 5:00pm in the Chapel and our traditional service at 8:00pm in the Meeting House. Lent is a season for deep personal introspection and more intentional faith practice that can enhance our life of faith and more fully connect us to the Lord. Being intentional and disciplined during Lent can also enhance our Easter experience, so I want to invite you into this important and evocative journey by participating in one of our Ash Wednesday services.

Finally, with the adjustment of the town and school policy on mask-wearing, we are making parallel adjustments in our program life at church. For the past two years, we have deferred to the guidance of the town on COVID protocols for all adult gatherings, and we have followed the lead of our schools so that kids would have consistent safety protocols in place, whether at school or church. Our policy has been that masks are strongly

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8*

Continued on page three

Lent on God's Acre Holy Week

ADULT FORMATION

Art and Faith

This I Believe Lenten Workshop
March 9, 16, and 30, 7:00-8:00pm

Lenten Bible Study

The Gospel of John
Mondays, 7:00-8:00am,
Tuesday Women's, 9:30-10:30am
Contact Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Family and Youth Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 2, 5:00-5:30pm, Chapel

Family Bingo Night

Friday, March 4, 5:00-7:00pm, Smith Hall
RSVP to Sarah Haddad
churchschool@godsacre.org

Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 3, 11:15am, Church Lawn
Contact The Rev. Kibbie Laird, kibbie@godsacre.org

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Dinner Parties

Saturday, March 26, 6:30-9:30pm
RSVP to Dawn Doak, dawn.norris@gmail.com

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Lenten Collection

Little Free Pantry of Stamford
March 9 - April 17
Contact Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org

WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday Traditional Service

Wednesday, March 2, 8:00pm, Meeting House

MUSIC

Lenten Musical Moments

Wednesdays 12:30pm, Meeting House
March 9 Antonio Abate, *tenor*
March 16 Anne Maguire, *mezzo soprano*
March 23 Sydney Anderson, *soprano*
March 30 Hans Tashjian, *bass*
April 6 Greer Lyle, *soprano*
April 13 Keyboardists:
Linda Maranis, Karl Hedrick, *piano*
Jo Deen Blaine Davis, *organ*

Requiem by Maurice Duruflé

Sunday, April 3, 10:00am, Meeting House
A 10 minute prelude will precede the service.
Contact Jody Davis, music@godsacre.org

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



Upcoming Annual Meeting

The Trustees are reviewing the financial results for 2021. Last year's results, and the budget for 2022, will be presented at the upcoming Annual Meeting on March 6, 2022. Please join us for a full update from our Deacons and Trustees, nominating recommendations, and a review on our Raymond Trust. Contact Caroline Leather, caroline@godsacre.org to RSVP and receive the Zoom link.



From the Pastor's Study

Continued from page one

encouraged for all indoor church activities but only mandatory for unvaccinated people and our children and youth. Now, in line with state and town health department guidance, we are shifting to a "mask optional" guideline for all church events for church members and friends of any age. If wearing a mask in public feels most prudent to our folks, we invite you to continue that safety practice; if being unmasked is preferable, we support that choice as well. However, we encourage you to access us virtually if you feel unwell or have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID. I hope that the days of going to work sick, to church sick, or sending kids to school unwell, are behind us. The lack of colds and flu passed around these past two winters has been a gift to all of us!

I hope to see you at Annual Meeting and during Lent, and I hope you will consider inviting any of your new neighbors to church as we make our March (pun intended) toward Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Chapin

Ash Wednesday Traditional Service

March 2, 8:00pm
Meeting House

We invite you to join us for our Traditional Ash Wednesday Service on March 2, at 8:00pm in the Meeting House. This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare your mind and heart for the Lenten season.



Children's Ministry in March

Souper Bowl Sunday a Huge Success

Church School students wore jerseys of every kind and sport to church on Sunday, February 13, and competed in the Bible Bowl on Superbowl Sunday. The children brought a lot of canned food items to support Open Doors Shelter. So it was a win-win for everyone!



Guess who won the Bible Bowl 2022? This year it was the boys and the winning question was: Can you name all four Gospels?



Ash Wednesday Children and Youth Family Service

5:00pm on March 2, 2022

This worship service is designed for children in 7th grade and under and their families. We hope Lent will be a meaningful time for you and your family. Come for the imposition of ashes, communion, and contemplative worship. We will focus on how we can grow closer to God during this season and what it would look like to walk closer with Jesus.



Miss Sydney sings and makes music each week in Church School!



The Third and Fourth Grade class listens to the Bible Lesson of the Day read by Ms. Rosa.



Children and Family Bingo Night

Come join us for Family Bingo Night on Friday, March 4 at 5:00pm in Smith Hall. There will be pizza, prizes, and fun for all!

Please RSVP by March 2. Registration is required, and this is not a drop-off event. Reach out to Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org to RSVP or with any questions.

From: Mrs. Alerie J. Harney
184 Dale Street / P.O. Box 182
Allendale, S. C. 29810

Good Afternoon,

My heart is heavy at this moment,
but God has allowed me to express
my appreciation to Children, who
assisted with my Parish assignment.

I had an amazing group and
Mr. Roberto. They were very very
respectful youth. I hope to connect
with each of my youth at some point
in the future; to continue to thank
them.

Mr. Roberto and Mrs. Carlisle were
great with the youth. May God Bless
your travels back to your destinations
Thanks to Mrs. Lettie Lewis + staff for
selecting me for this project.
So all of you who hear this message...
You're all Super Heroes + Stay Safe Love
Mrs. Alerie J. Harney

Join us March 13 for Youth Sunday



and a Mission Sponsor Celebration





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.

- March 9** Antonio Abate, *tenor*
- March 16** Anne Maguire, *mezzo soprano*
- March 23** Sydney Anderson, *soprano*
- March 30** Hans Tashjian, *bass*
- April 6** Greer Lyle, *soprano*
- April 13** Keyboardists:
Linda Maranis, Karl Hedrick, *piano*
Jo Deen Blaine Davis, *organ*



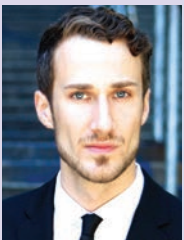
Antonio Abate
tenor



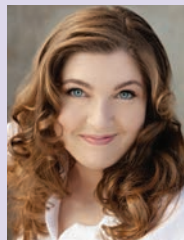
Anne Maguire
mezzo soprano



Sydney Anderson
soprano



Hans Tashjian
bass



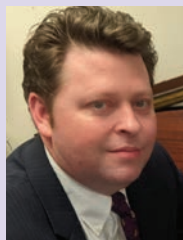
Greer Lyle
soprano



Jody Blaine Davis
organist



Linda Maranis
pianist



Karl Hedrick
pianist

Welcome Karl

We welcome Karl Hedrick, Congregational Church's New Organ Scholar

Karl is from San Antonio, Texas, where he was the Music Director for Covenant Presbyterian Church. He was born and raised in Kilgore, Texas, and attended First Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ) which provided a strong foundation and rich heritage of sacred music. Karl received his BM and MM from Texas State University, studying composition and conducting. In addition to his background in church music, Karl is a composer/music director/collaborative musician who is at home in both the worlds of musical theater and opera. When not making music, Karl enjoys hiking with his dog, Arya.



Jody Blaine Davis in Franck Organ Marathon Recital, Sunday, March 13 at 4:00pm

First Presbyterian Church, 1101 Bedford Street, Stamford, Connecticut

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of composer César Franck's birth, the Fairfield Southwest County organists will present a Franck musical marathon. Our Director of Music Ministries, Jody Blaine Davis, will perform "Fantasia in A" and a combined chorus will sing "Psalm 150." The public is invited, and there is no admission charge.

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. This will be accompanied by a string quintet, harp, tympani, and organ with guest conductor, Scott Cranston.



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 works by women composers, including premieres of new music by Alma Hamilton and Pamela Sklar, with texts inspired by medieval and Elizabethan mystical poetry. The recital is free and open to the public, although reservations are required. For more information, please contact Jody at music@godsacre.org.



Upcoming Events

Spring Musical 2022

Announcing the Spring Musical 2022: "The Tale of Three Trees" by Allen Pote and Tom S. Long.



Based on an American folk tale, this charming story features singing roles, speaking roles, and mute roles for all children grades PreK-7th grade.

Synopsis: Three trees on a mountain dream of what they want to be when they grow up. One wants to be a treasure chest, another a mast on a boat, and a third a signpost to God. Come find out how their dreams come true in ways they never expected.

Important Dates

Sunday, March 13 – 15-minute Parent Information Meeting, immediately after church in the Chapel.

Sunday, March 20 – First rehearsal in the Meeting House, 11:15am-12:15pm

Sunday, May 8 – Performance during 10:00am worship service (Mother's Day!) in the Meeting House.

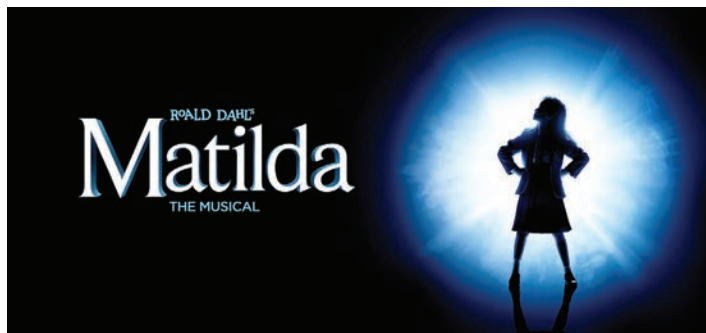
All rehearsals will take place on Sundays from 11:15am-12:15pm, and Wednesday evenings between 4:00-5:30pm. The full schedule will be shared at the meeting on March 13.

If your child is interested in a role in the musical, please fill out the form [at this link](#) by March 9 at 5:00pm.

Paper forms are available on the bulletin board in Smith Hall, to be returned to Ms. Sydney's mailbox by March 9 at 5pm.



Musical Field Trip: "Matilda"



What: Children's Choir singers and their families are invited to join us for a field trip to see the Saxe Middle School Musical next month! The church will purchase a block of tickets for choristers to sit together, and parents/siblings are invited to join at their own expense. We will proudly support all of our choristers who are performing in the musical, both on stage and in the pit!

When: Saturday, April 2, 3:00pm

Where: Saxe Middle School

Let Ms. Sydney know how many tickets you want by Sunday, March 13, by filling out the form [at this link](#).

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, June 4 at 7:00 PM

Celebrate Music

Benefit Concert
for the
Mary Bradley Clarke Fund

Reception following. Childcare provided.

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.



Welcome to Connecticut Refugee Collection

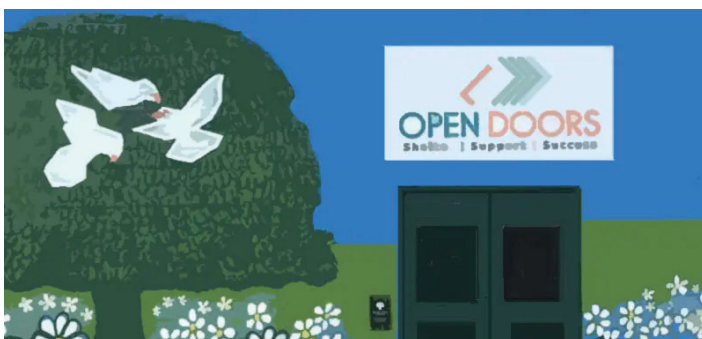


Thank you for your overwhelming response and generosity. The elementary-age refugees were truly grateful for all the needed items as was Michelle, one of the teachers (pictured below) who received everything.



A Souper Big Thank You!

Thank you to all the kids and adults for making our Souper Bowl of Caring and Open Doors food collection a huge success! Because of your continued generosity, we loaded up three large vehicles filled with non-perishable food and delivered them to our local partner in Norwalk, Open Doors.



Pastoral Care Takes Many Forms in our Church

While our ministers are always at the forefront of pastoral care, we are blessed to have a large number of people serving on committees that support us in every possible way. Feeding and taking care of Jesus' sheep is the heart of pastoral care, and thankfully many people in our congregation feel called to this ministry. Pastoral care takes many forms in our church – Visitation Committee, Stephen Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Prayer Chain, Card Writing Ministry, and Flower Ministry.

Visitation Committee

This team works monthly with the ministers to call and visit folks in our church who have been hospitalized, have lost a loved one, or might need of extra support and care.

Stephen Ministry

Our program began here in 2006, and the team is currently 25 people strong. The ministry's motto is "Christ Caring for People through People."



Prayer Shawl Ministry

While the prayer shawl ministry team said goodbye to quite a few of its long-term members this year as people moved away from New Canaan and relocated, the ministry flourished and thrived. In 2021 we gifted 42 prayer shawls that were lovingly blessed and became beloved.

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is one of the first places people turn to for intercession. This devoted group confidentially lifts people up to God in thought and prayer.

Card Writing

This large group of parishioners love to write letters of support, encouragement and hope to members of our community.

Flower Ministry

The spectacular flowers arrangements in our narthex and sanctuary are created by our flower ministry team. Often, they are made to honor or remember a loved one. Following worship, the arrangements are broken down into smaller arrangements that the Deacon of the Month then delivers to those whose spirits we wish to uplift.



We are a warm and welcoming family of faith,
bound together in compassion and love.

This I Believe Lenten Workshop March 9, 16, and 30

Join us March 9, 16 and 30 from 7:00-8:00pm to read, write, listen, reflect, create a dialog with one another and share stories of meaning. This Lenten Workshop grew out of a collective desire to create in the context of our faith explored in our Art and Faith event last spring. We will learn from each other's perspectives, and those who desire will craft a personal essay (or draw a picture or write a poem!) describing a core belief in their life this Lent. No experience necessary! RSVP to Tammie Garner, tcgarner1010@msn.com, or Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org.



Our Garden is Growing

This winter, the Flower Ministry has grown! We welcome Dionna Carlson, Mary "Re" Telep, Tracy Goldman, Susanna Nicholes, Marjorie Parry, and Laura Doscher to our team. Some of our new members are veterans of flower arranging, others just learning but quickly becoming pros themselves. If you would like to mark a special occasion or honor a loved one with an altar arrangement, please contact Tracy Goldman, office@godsacre.org.



Fellowship Dinner Parties are Back!

On Saturday, March 26, from 6:30- 9:30pm, you are invited for a small group dinner. There will be several dinner parties taking place simultaneously throughout the community. Each guest will be assigned a dish to prepare and a beverage to share - no need to be a gourmet cook; the recipes are easy to prepare! RSVP to Dawn Doak, dawn.norris@gmail.com, or check for the invite link in your inbox.

Hosts are still needed! If you would like to open your home to 6-8 congregants please get in touch with Dawn.



Reading John for Lent New Members Welcome

The Monday Morning Bible Study (7:00-8:00am) and the Tuesday Women's Bible Study (9:30-10:30am) are reading *The Gospel of John* throughout Lent. Join us for any or all of these sessions, which take us now through Easter, culminating with the Holy Week events as told in the Gospel.



Prayer Service for New Canaan

On Wednesday, January 26, all the clergy of New Canaan gathered at Saint Aloysius Church to pray for the Town of New Canaan.



Nurturing Nest Returns

Tuesday, March 8
at 9:30am

Join us for this special season of Lent with music, Lenten stories, and interactive play and crafts! Nurturing Nest is a wonderful program for children three years old and under and their parents or caregivers. We will meet on Tuesdays at 9:30am beginning March 8. All are welcome!

Contact Tracy Goldman,
office@godsacre.org, to sign up.

Nurturing Nest

*Mommy & Me –
Music, Bible Stories, and Play*

*The Lord shall feed his flock
like a shepherd:
the Lord shall gather the
lambs with his arm,
and carry them in his bosom,
and shall gently lead those
that are with young.*

Isaiah 40:11



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

Sam Garner, x839
Youth Ministries Assistant

Tracy Goldman, x829
Administrative Assistant

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 April newsletter, please submit by March 18.
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

