




meditate

ON MY WORD

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Church Family,

Sunday, October 2, is World Communion Sunday, a day in the life of Christ's church when we recognize that we are part of a global fellowship that transcends national identity, political identity, racial and ethnic identity, and any and all of the many barriers and boundaries that often serve to separate people. In an age where it feels like so much divides us, it is a gift to be reminded of the diversity, breadth, and richness of our worldwide fellowship.

While I love our life together on God's Acre, I find I am often most energized by meeting with people who share my Christian values but come from vastly different backgrounds with significantly different histories than my own. I know that historically "difference" has been a cause for concern and even a source of hostility. Still, I have found that the experience of interacting and getting to know different people, different places, and different perspectives are among the most enlivening parts of my life. What an amazing God we have to create such a complex and interesting world!



Over the years, I have actively chosen friends and sought out relationships with people with whom I did not seem to have much in common other than shared faith commitments. My seven closest clergy friends are male and female, black and white, gay, straight, and queer - people I dearly love and people who are quite different from me and from each other. I am sometimes awed by the diversity of my friend group and feel equally awed and blessed that they consider me someone they enjoy being with. It is the group of clergy friends I have been gathering with for the past twenty-five years.

Now in my eighth year of ministry with you on God's Acre, I think it is time for you to get to know my circle of friends. To know my friends is to know me and what and who I care about. I trust that kind of intentional sharing will deepen our relationships with each other, as well.

Over the next two years, we will be hosting a friend of mine periodically for a weekend as a guest preacher and conversation partner. I want you to get to know my friends, I want them to know you, and I want their giftedness and perspective to be woven into our conversations as we try to discern together where the Holy Spirit might be trying to lead us as a congregation. To that end, you will receive an

Continued on page two

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Continued from page one

information card about my "Circle of Friends" during worship on October 2. This will hopefully launch a vibrant dialogue and deep connections that will enhance our life together and expand our ministries in ways we may not yet have been able to imagine.

So, please join me on World Communion Sunday to celebrate our shared, global identity as Christian people while recognizing the beauty and majesty of the diverse collection of people our Lord calls family.

Yours in Christ,
Chapin

WELCOMING TEAM

Fall New Member Class

Are you interested in joining our family of faith? Please attend our new member sessions this fall! These sessions provide an opportunity to meet our leaders, and to learn about the religious beliefs and the traditions that have been the hallmarks of our congregational life on God's Acre since 1733.

If you would like to join the church, please contact Courtney Flynn, at courtneywflynn@gmail.com

FALL 2022 NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

SUNDAY
October 23, 3:00pm

WEDNESDAY
October 26, 7:00pm

SATURDAY
October 29, 4:00pm

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
October 30, 10:00am



FELLOWSHIP

Join The Fellowship Supper Club!

During the program year, we gather in small groups to get to know each other better and share the fellowship of a simple meal. We are a large and active church, and one of the joys and challenges of being a large and busy church is that there is always someone new to meet! Our Supper Club can foster opportunities to make friends with other wonderful people outside our usual social circles.



What is Supper Club? Supper Club is a guided potluck dinner at a host's home, where a group of people meets in an informal and relaxed setting. It's great for newcomers and long-timers.

Who can participate? All adults who attend The Congregational Church of New Canaan (members and visitors) are invited to participate!

How does it work? Save the dates! There are three dinners this year, each featuring a different themed menu: **November 5** (Fall Harvest), **March 4** (Tour of Italy), and **June 3** (Polynesian Feast). Everyone who signs up for a dinner will be grouped with 6 to 8 other people. Each person or couple will be assigned a dish or a role that will contribute to a complete dinner (host, appetizer, main course, dessert, etc.). On the day of the dinner, you prepare your dish, grab an adult beverage to share (if desired), and head to your host's home to enjoy an evening of food and fellowship!

Who figures out when and where our supper club will gather? Multiple small dinners will occur on November 5, March 4, and June 3. When you sign up, the club's coordinator, Dawn Doak, will reach out with your assignment the week of the dinner. If you are willing to host the dinner in your home, you can indicate that on the sign-up form (hosts don't need to cook! They are just responsible for setting the table and serving non-alcoholic beverages).

What if I can't cook? You don't need to be a gourmet cook! The recipes are designed to be easy and great for groups.

What if I'm a vegetarian, lactose/gluten intolerant, or allergic to garbanzo beans? There is a place to list all your dietary restrictions on the online form. The coordinator and hosts will be informed of your needs and will work with the group to make sure there are options for you.

The sign-up for our Fall Harvest themed dinner on November 5 will be posted shortly! Contact Dawn Doak at dawn.norris@gmail.com.

This I Believe Workshop – Gratitude

Join us on October 26, November 2, and November 9 from 7:00-8:00pm to read, write, listen, reflect, create a dialog with one another and share stories of meaning. This workshop grew out of a collective desire to create in the context of our faith explored in our Art and Faith event and was so successful during Lent we decided to run a fall workshop on Gratitude. We will learn from each other's perspectives, and those who desire will craft a personal essay with the theme of gratitude as a jumping-off point. No experience necessary! RSVP to Tammie Garner, tcgarner1010@msn.com, or Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org.



Women's & Men's Small Group

Sign Up Deadline October 9

Small Groups within our church are essential to deepening our engagement with others and growing in our faith. We meet monthly. Women contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org. Men contact Steve Case at scase135@gmail.com to learn more.



Bible Studies – New Participants Welcome!

Bible Studies Options

Sunday 9:00-9:45am

Beginner's Bible Study, Parlor

Monday 7:00-8:00am

Monday Morning Bible Study, Library

Tuesday 9:30-10:30am

Women's Bible Study, Parlor

Wednesday 9:30-11:00am

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Chapin, Library

Friday 8:00-9:00am

Merton Group, via Zoom

Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org or Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org for more information or to sign up.



Prison Mentoring Opportunity

On Sunday, October 16, we will extend an opportunity for the congregation to participate in mission work supporting men and women in prison. This outreach means mentoring incarcerated persons around the country via letter writing as you study God's word together, providing both our members and those they mentor an opportunity to grow in biblical knowledge, understanding, and, importantly, compassion for each other. Stephanie Douglas-Parkin will share further details during our service and afterward at the mission table during fellowship hour. Contact Stephanie Douglas-Parkin, stephparis@yahoo.com to learn more.



Welcome Darren Anderson, Tenor Section Leader

Darren Anderson has sung as a soloist in operas and/or tenor section leader with choirs throughout the United States. This includes his Carnegie Hall debut with the American Symphony in Paul Dessau's oratorio Haggada Shel Passach. Darren holds degrees in Voice Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Opera Institute at Boston University. Darren has been a Queens resident since 2005 and lives in Astoria with his daughter.



Welcome Sergio Martinez, Choir Scholar



Sergio Martínez is a Bass from Colombia, praised internationally for his expansive and warm bass voice and stage charisma. In 2014, at 23 years of age, Sergio was selected for the lead role of "El Loco" for the international premiere of Muerte Accidental de un Anarquista, a new opera by Colombian composer Jorge Pinzón. In 2021, Sergio

composed, produced, and performed his first opera, ¡Dime! He is a Master's in Opera graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently pursuing the Master of Musical Arts at Yale University. The past summer, Sergio was at Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, NY.

Hymn Sing-a-long

Let's Prepare For Worship By Singing Your Favorite Hymns Together!

On Sunday mornings at 9:45am on the first Sunday of each month, we will gather in the Meeting House to sing your favorite hymns! Jody will ask the congregation to select hymns to be sung during this pre-worship fellowship.

Our first Hymn Sing-a-long will be Sunday, October 2. All ages are welcome!



Ken Gioffre, saxophonist

Ken Gioffre, internationally renowned jazz saxophonist, will be in the 10:00am service on Sunday, October 9. He will play the prelude and postlude and accompany the Chancel Choir on anthems.

Mr. Gioffre currently tours and records as a saxophonist for Duran, Duran; Nile Rogers; Chic; Blood, Sweat, and Tears; and conductor/saxophonist for Smokey Robinson. He has appeared nightly on the television show New York at Night. He has also appeared regularly on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, NBC's Today Show, HBO's The Sopranos, A & E's Breakfast With The Arts, Fox News' Fox and Friends, Sinbad's Soul Music Festival, as well as the movie Last Holiday starring Queen Latifa. He has recorded for numerous labels as well as for all major television networks.

Sing during Advent with the Chancel Choir

If you would like to sing with the Chancel Choir but have limited time, consider singing in the December services! There's a place for you! Come Thursday evenings, from 7:30-8:00pm, for quick rehearsals for the Advent season. You will sit next to a helpful singer who will guide you along the way.

- November 27** Advent anthems
- December 4** Advent anthems
- December 11** Advent anthems
- December 11 at 5:00pm** A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
- December 18** John Rutter's Gloria with instruments

Handbell Ringers Needed

Joyful Ringers meet on Thursdays from 6:15-7:15pm and play in church when everyone's schedule shows availability. There are spaces for new ringers. If you read music and/or have rung before, there is a place for you.

Bell Boys meet on Sunday mornings from 11:15-noon. This is for fathers and sons, but mothers and daughters are invited, too! It's a great time to learn bells!



Children's Choir This Month!

Children's Choir rehearsals are underway, and we are having a blast singing songs, making and playing instruments, and enjoying musical fellowship together. This month, we are focusing on songs about Bible stories, like Noah's Ark! Register for one of the four children's choirs, spanning PreK-8th grade this month. Children sing once a month on average during 10:00am worship and prepare to participate in the annual Nativity Pageant.

Email sydney@godsacre.org for more information and to register.

Cherub Choir

(PreK 3s and 4s)

Mondays 3:15-3:45pm

Spirit Singers *(K-2nd)*

Mondays 5:00-6:00pm

Joyful Noise

(3rd and 4th grade)

Mondays 4:00-5:00pm

Junior Worship Team

(5th-8th grade)

Select Sundays at 12:00pm



Nativity Pageant Casting Begins October 2

Paper registration forms can be found on the bulletin board in Smith Hall, or online at, <https://godsacre.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/124/responses/new>

Rehearsals will occur during regular choir times as well as select Sundays after church from 11:15am-12:00pm. We will collaborate with Bell Boys and other choirs, so you won't have to choose between groups!

Mark your calendars:

Nativity Part Meeting October 16 at 11:15am in the Chapel

Musical Rehearsal for all Pageant participants immediately following, from 11:30-12:00pm, also in the Chapel.



Junior Worship Team Begins October 2

This Middle School group offers a group-style voice lesson, a low-commitment flexible schedule, and the opportunity to sing solos, duets, or small group songs of the choristers' choosing during Sunday morning worship and/or join the Worship Team to lead music on Youth Worship Nights. JWT members will have the opportunity to be featured soloists during the Family Christmas Eve Service.

Come check it out and bring a friend to the first rehearsal on October 2, 11:15am-12:00pm in the Chapel.

A Happy Return to Church School!

We welcomed around 70 children back to Church School on God's Acre on Kickoff Sunday. Since then, we have loved seeing the smiling faces of kids in the nursery and in classrooms each week. From discussing ways to keep God's love in our heart and mind always to celebrating when God finds those who are lost, all have been engaged in a variety of activities, crafts, readings, and games to further explore each week's special message. We are extremely thankful for our very dedicated teachers:

Threes/Fours/K:

Joanne Rosa and Marie Grace Pirrone

First/Second:

Jessica Rosa and Adriana Palladino

Third/Fourth:

Rose Capomolla and Lily DeYoung

Fifth/Sixth/Seventh:

Mike Rodgers, Chris Pohle, Leigh Kennedy

We are also grateful to the teen helpers, nursery assistants, and parent volunteers who have been another instrumental part of a successful first few weeks. If you are interested in getting involved as a teen helper or parent volunteer, please reach out to Lindsey Daly at lindsey@godsacre.org.

We look forward to all the fun church school will bring in October!



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

Clementine's Playdates

Sing
Socialize
Stories & Snacks

Clementine's Playdates on Wednesdays and Fridays

Clementine's Playdates are back on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:15-10:15am. This is a children's program for kids three and under and their parent or caregiver. It's a time to socialize, play with friends, sing, hear a story, and have a snack. Mrs. Jody is leading us in music and Kibbie is doing story time. At this time, there is a waiting list for both classes. Contact Kibbie at kibbie@godsacre.org to learn more.



Costumes and Trunk or Treat – October 30!

On October 30 we invite all children to wear their Halloween costumes to worship! YG will host a special Trunk-or-Treat after church, and it will surely be ghoulishly fun! From there you can walk down to the Town Halloween Parade!



Our HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR is coming!

On Friday, October 28 from 5:00pm-7:00pm, the Children and Family Ministry Team presents our first night of family fun this year.

Our Halloween Spooktacular!

This is a Potluck Dinner, so bring something tasty (and kid-friendly) to share for 12. There

will be old-fashioned Halloween games and lots of fun! Children and adults are encouraged to come in costume, as there will be prizes for best dressed. All are welcome!



Youth Ministries in October

PARENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October is a time for parents to get involved in Youth Ministries. MSYG and YG will hold their annual Parents Meetings this month. This is a great way to hear more about the dynamic and transformative ministry your children participate in each week.



MSYG will hold a Parents Meeting on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00pm in the Chapel. This is the only way to fully register your child for MSYG's two travel trips, Winter Weekend & the Mountainside Mission Trip.



YG will hold their Parents meeting on the evening of October 16 at 7:00pm in the Meeting House. This event runs concurrently with an event for the high schoolers and is the best way to find out more about our community of faith and fellowship and the only way to get the paperwork for our February Mission Trip. This meeting is mandatory for YG Parents!

SAVE THE DATE



JYG Late Night
10/4 from 6:00 – 9:00pm



MSYG Parents Meeting
10/4 at 7:00pm in the Chapel



YG Parents Meeting
10/16 at 7:00pm in the Meeting House



YG Senior/Freshman Weekend
10/22 – 10/23 at 8:00pm Saturday night to late afternoon on Sunday



YG Junior/Sophomore Filling in the Blanks
10/23 at 7:00pm, pick-up and drop-off at Filling in the Blanks



5th and 6th-grade parents please mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 4! JYG will be hosting its annual late night from 6:00pm to 9:00pm that evening. It will be an event filled with incredible food, fun games, and a service project. This will not be one to miss!





October is a busy month for Middle School Youth Group (MSYG). The group will have the opportunity to serve our community by making lasagna for the Open Door Shelter on Sunday, October 16. MSYG will meet from 3:30-5:30pm the following weekend for our annual Fall Super Day. This is a great afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun and is not an event to miss!



Seniors and Freshmen in Youth Group (YG) will have the opportunity to serve with Midnight Run on the morning of Sunday, October 23. Both grades will sleep over at the church on Saturday, October 22. The group will travel into New York City the following morning to serve the local homeless population, followed by an afternoon of fun in the Big Apple. That evening our Sophomores and Juniors will meet at Filling in the Blanks to pack backpacks for those living in food insecure households. Parents, please be on the lookout to register for both events.

Our entire Youth Ministries staff and parent ministry teams look forward to spending time with parents this month. See you on God's Acre!

October is still early in the year for all our programs. If you haven't tried youth group out yet – come!



Mobile Food Partnership

Our long-time partner, Macedonia Church in Norwalk, in conjunction with Connecticut Foodshare, has asked for assistance in a Mobile Food Produce Pantry. They need volunteers to help control the lines, assist people by loading their bags/boxes with produce, and help the driver pack the truck at the end of the distribution. If you would like to sign up to help, please contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org.

MACEDONIA CHURCH

MOBILE FOOD

PRODUCE PANTRY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:  Connecticut Foodshare



370 WEST AVENUE | NORWALK, CT
BEGINS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
 & WILL TAKE PLACE EVERY OTHER FRIDAY
9:30-10:15AM

Anyone picking up food will need to bring their own bag or box to put the fresh produce in.

SAVE THE DATE

OG 2023 Mission Trip

To PUERTO RICO week of March 6th!!!!



If You or Anyone You Know Needs Meal Assistance, FITB can help!

Thank you for donating to the Filling in the Blanks backpack program benefiting children in the Weekend Meal Program.

Your generosity means so much. If you or anyone you know needs meal assistance, click on the link, <https://www.fillingintheblanks.org/register-for-meals>, register for the Weekend Meal Program, and start getting weekend meal bags right away.



Big Thanks for a Great HomeFront Day







Prayer Shawl Ministry – New Participants Wanted!

A few of our long-time Prayer Shawl members have moved away, and we hope others might join us to sit, knit, and enjoy each other's fellowship. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month from 10:00-11:30am in the Parlor. No experience is needed. We can teach you how! Please contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org if interested.



Ladies Night Out

Save the Date: Thursday, November 17

Join us for fellowship, wine, and cheese at the home of long-time former Women's Fellowship chair, Stephanie Radman. Grab a friend and drop by for this special evening of fun before the busy holidays are upon us.



Joyful September

The Language of Flowers

As many of us have looked at images of the hundreds of bouquets left in honor of Queen Elizabeth's passing, we see how eloquently blooms can speak. They say a final goodbye, and speak of gratitude, respect, and love. When we see the flowers in our worship services, we see a lovely arrangement but so much more. Often the flowers in our worship services have been donated on a birthday, wedding anniversary, or a significant day in the life of someone we have lost. This allows us all to be seen in our happiness or grief or however we need to be seen in that moment. The blooms enable the congregation to come together and celebrate each other or honor our loved ones. So have a look at the bulletin next time you come to services and see just what the flowers have to say.



OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Ministers

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

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, x2
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

Lindsey Daly
Director of Children's Ministries

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

Tracy Goldman, x829
Administrative Assistant

Sarah Haddad, x826
Church School Coordinator

Karl Hedrick, x839
Organ Scholar

Anthony Jones
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, x832
Director of Missions and Outreach

Caroline Leather, x835
Director of Operations

Shean-Mei Sheu, x823
Director of Finance

Allison Wolter
Youth Ministries Administrative Assistant

Church Lay Leadership

Diane Bailey
Chair, Personnel

Chris Baker
Chair, Board of Trustees

Barbara Clayton
Chair, Nominating and Governance

Hoyt Davidson
Chair, Board of Deacons



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 November newsletter, please submit by October 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

