



# Summer on God's Acre Sunday Worship 9:00am

## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Church Family,

One of the true privileges of my job is to look at you all on a Sunday morning and proclaim the Psalmist's words that Libdell Pollard encouraged us to employ at the beginning of each service: *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (Psalm 118:24) To come together for worship is a blessing that always fills my heart and spirit with deep gratitude. And one of my favorite worship experiences is when we shift worship outside for the summer. I know many of you enjoy worship outside in the fresh air and amidst the flowers of the garden, but for me, our move to a single worship service (9:00am) is a gift. I love our 8:00am and 10:00am services during the program year; they are different and uniquely dynamic, but there is something about having our entire church community (those in town) come together for worship. It feels like we are truly a family, and I love that experience.



Our summer worship service begins on Sunday, June 16, Father's Day. We will have one service at 9:00am in the Memorial Garden if the weather is amenable.

I want to share a couple of important notes on summer worship. First, it involves a great deal of setup by the deacons as we are combining two services into one. Second, we want to ensure you have continued access to the livestream of our summer service. Therefore, if there is any threat of wet or inclement weather, we will move the service into the Meeting House. This likely means we will be inside on Sundays when it looks like rain but doesn't. Please encourage our deacons in these instances; it is always a tough call, but damaging equipment and quickly breaking down the setup if it rains is not worth the risk.

Unfortunately, our wonderful shade tree died and had to be replaced, and it will take a few years for the new tree to grow tall enough to provide adequate shade. Because our service is an hour later (9:00am), it means the sun can be a bit more intense. We have the terrace awning that we will use each Sunday, and we will be experimenting with some shade tents. We will figure it out, but you are more than welcome to wear hats and bonnets – like days gone by!

We are headed for a wonderful summer season on God's Acre. Please join us whenever you are in town. Bring friends, too; it is a delightful time to introduce people to our church. Also, look for our new weekly podcast, "Next Station to Heaven," which will run through the summer. We will focus on "Faith Basics."

*Continued on page two*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

*Continued from page one*

It is an opportunity for everyone to take a little refresher course on our core beliefs and how we can live our faith in meaningful and impactful ways on a daily basis.

This summer season on God's Acre is indeed the Lord's making, and we will continue to rejoice and be glad in it!

Yours in Christ,  
Chapin

## SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

### Lemonade on the Lawn

Sundays at 9:45am, June 16 - September 1

We invite you to gather with your church family through our summer lemonade fellowship! During the warmer weeks, we offer a simple refreshment of lemonade and a sweet treat (provided by our host), which can be enjoyed on the lawn after worship. This ministry helps us stay connected and enjoy fellowship each Sunday. Sign up in Parlor to host summer fellowship. Contact Laurel Carr at [laurel@godsacre.org](mailto:laurel@godsacre.org) to learn more.



## LIFE EVENTS



### Births



On January 9, 2024, Lily Colahan and Jason Cabral welcomed their daughter **Esme Marion Cabral**.



On April 12, 2024, Jeanette Lewis welcomed her daughter **Alexis Ainsworth Mae Lewis** into the world. She was born at Greenwich Hospital.



On April 17, 2024, Maria and Jeff Hemmings welcomed granddaughter **Piper Kavanaugh Burton**, daughter of Emery Hemmings and Dean Burton.



Charles and Alexandra Craige welcomed their newest family member, **Sullivan**, on April 18, 2024. Wells is a very proud big brother.



## A Note of Appreciation and Gratitude

Dear Church family,

As our Church program year ends and we ring in summer, we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for so many of you who help one another during one's time of need or moment of joy. In our everyday lives, in grand ways or seemingly tiny gestures, we witness acts of kindness, which are testaments to the love and empathy that define God's work within us.

We are grateful to our Pastoral Care Ministry Teams for the role they play in sharing the joys and concerns of others. Our Stephen Ministers provide listening ears, open hearts, and their comforting and empathetic presence. Our Prayer Chain members offer personal and fervent prayers, engaging a community of prayer warriors. Our Prayer Shawl Knitting, Flower Arranging, and Card Writing Ministries all provide gifts from their labors of love. These ministries all embody the essence and spirit of God's love and care. We are all called to "Love Thy Neighbor" and these ministries demonstrate the power of this important commandment.

Blessings are abundant!

With love and gratitude,  
Barb Clayton and Beth Baker  
Ministers of Pastoral Care

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*  
— Matthew 25:40

### Love Thy Neighbor

*Stephen Ministry*

*Card Writing Ministry*

*Prayer Chain Ministry*

*Flower Ministry*

*Prayer Shawl Ministry*



Contact Beth Baker at [beth@godsacre.org](mailto:beth@godsacre.org) or Barb Clayton at [barb@godsacre.org](mailto:barb@godsacre.org) to get involved.



## NOMINATING AND GOVERNANCE

### Nominating and Governance Update

The Nominating and Governance Committee is delighted to announce, pursuant to Section 6.02 of the By-Laws that David Carlson has been appointed as a trustee to fill a recent vacancy. With many thanks to Jen Patterson Kane for her service, she recently resigned from her seat, which is set to expire in 2026. David will serve out Jen's term. Please take the opportunity to thank Jen for her loving service as a trustee and welcome David who joins a vibrant and talented group serving our church and the glory of God.

— Peter Wilson, Chair of Nominating and Governance

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Spring Luncheon

The Women's Fellowship Ministry was thrilled to host a lovely spring luncheon celebrating our Women of Wisdom at the Country Club of New Canaan on May 3. Using the fitting saying "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" as our central theme, we included lemons in our table decor, served delicious lemon meringue pie for dessert, and included pearls of wisdom from each honoree in our program.



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Men's Small Group BBQ

Monday, June 17  
6:00-9:00pm  
Baker Barn @ 88 Lukes Wood Road, New Canaan

Food and beverages will be provided. RSVP by June 14. A suggested \$20 donation will be collected at the event. Contact Steve Case, [scase135@outlook.com](mailto:scase135@outlook.com), to RSVP or with any questions.

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them"*  
– Matthew 18:20



## FLOWER MINISTRY Flowers in the Garden

With summer on its way the flower ministry has the joy of arranging flowers for the garden. Dedications can still be made if you wish to honor a loved one or celebrate an event. As always, the garden arrangements will be broken down and shared with the community. We have lots of new members and will be pairing more experienced members with new arrangers. Join us if you would like to be part of the fun. Contact Juliet Howe at [juliet@eehowe.com](mailto:juliet@eehowe.com) to get involved.



## SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

June 16 – July 21  
Summer Church School Combined Class

August 19-22  
Vacation Bible School

August 25  
Back-to-School Chapel and  
Blessings of the Backpacks

September 8  
Kickoff Sunday

## Vacation Bible School 2024: Registration Deadline Extended until June 23

We are excited to return with another fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School this summer. We will accept applications through June 23 for VBS 2024: **Carrying the Torch**. During VBS, we will explore bible stories about light and spreading God's abundant love through a summer Olympics theme. Join us for a week of faith formation, fellowship, art, games, and fun! VBS will run the week of August 19-22 from 9:00am-12:00pm. We invite children 4 through 4th grade to participate as campers and children in 5-8th grade as junior counselors. High Schoolers are encouraged to reach out to us for more information about senior counselor positions. For more information, please reach out to [churchschool@godsacre.org](mailto:churchschool@godsacre.org).



**CARRYING THE TORCH**

**August 19-22 from 9:00am-12:00pm**

## 2024 Children's Ministries Fall Preview!

We wish you a restorative and joyful summer and are already excited to welcome you back in the fall. Save the date for some fun children and family fellowship opportunities coming your way when we return!

### August 25

Blessing of the Backpacks and Children's Back to School Chapel during Church

### September 8

Kickoff Sunday: First day of Church School and Welcome Back Celebration

### September 12

Family Playground Pizza Meetup

### October 2

Clementine's Playdates Begins

### October 4

Blessings of the Animals

### October 25

Children's Halloween Party

### November 24

Thanksgiving Service Project

## Summer Church School

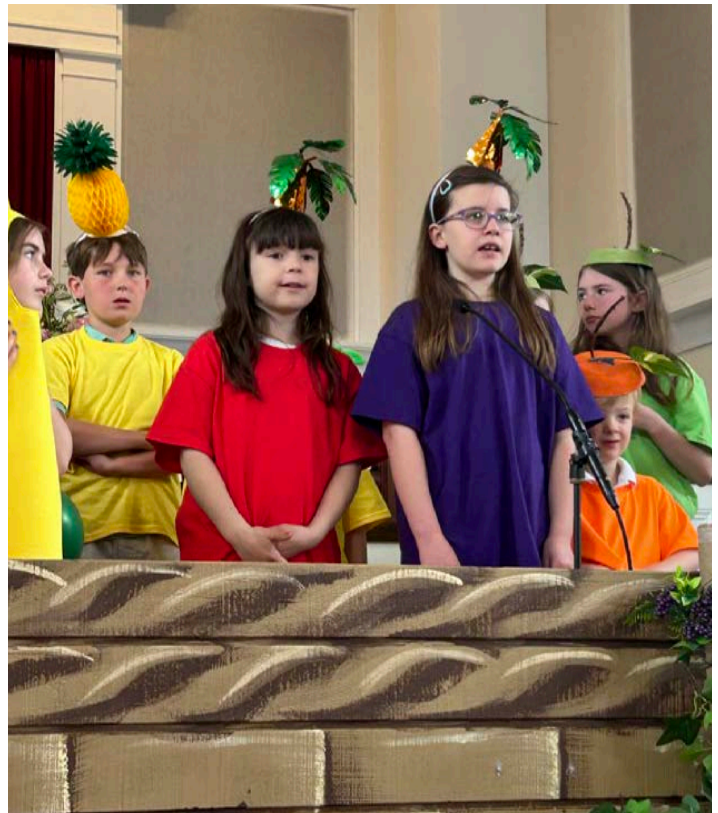
Nursery care will be available for children three and under all summer long. For six weeks this summer (June 16-July 21), we will also offer summer children's programming in a combined class for children ages 4 through 4th grade. While our shorter 45-minute summer service is an excellent opportunity for children of all ages to learn more about worship with their families, we also want to provide some space for fun, fellowship, and kid-friendly activities during our summer months. We encourage you to make a plan that works best for your family and your children, knowing that, in the end, we are glad to have you join in whatever way best suits you!



## Fruit of the Spirit was a Spring Highlight!



This past month, the Children's Choirs presented a session of "Children's Church" to the congregation for Pentecost. The choristers, all dressed as various fruits, taught the congregation about the fruit of the spirit from Galatians 5: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. They all joined together in song, scripture, and prayer where, to their delight, the congregation robustly joined them in hymn and worship! Then, on June 9, the Joyful Noise and Spirit Singer choirs heralded Celebration Sunday with "Come to God With a Grateful Heart" and "Seeds," where they sang about planting the seeds in this world to live a fruitful life. Miss Greer, their director, is over the moon at all the worship-filled music they made this year, and she looks forward to some exciting musical projects for the children's choir this fall!



## Chancel Choir Recognition in June

The Chancel Choir was recognized and thanked for their significant musical contributions to our worship life on Sunday, June 2. During the program year, the Chancel Choir rehearses weekly and sings nearly every Sunday, as well as additional special services. Their voices lead us in worship, bring us comfort, and inspire us. Thank you to Darren Anderson, Sydney Anderson, Linda Avgerinos, Debbie Chapman, Steve Freije, Tammie Garner, Bryan Griffin, Elizabeth James, Anneliese Klenetsky, Greer Lyle, Anne Maguire, Ruth Morgan, Polly Morrow, Tereza Nemessanyi, Sarah Owen, Marianne Perry, David Recca, Andrea Ritter, Hans Tashjian, Aram Tchobanian, Pat Thatcher, Nancy Upton, and Eric Venables. The Chancel Choir is on break now for the summer, but all adults and high schoolers are welcome to join this wonderful family of singers when rehearsals resume in the fall on Thursday, September 5.



## Thank You from the Music Ministry!

A huge thank you to all the musicians, young and "older," who sang and played instruments this year in our services! Your talents and time have been sincerely appreciated by all. Thanks, especially, to parents who transported their children to children's choir rehearsals and to sing on Sundays. It takes an entire church to create a vibrant music ministry. You are a blessing to the entire church community!

## We Say Goodbye

We bid farewell to Anneliese Klenetsky, who has been our Soprano Section Leader in the Chancel Choir this year. What a blessing to have her in our midst and to enjoy her beautiful voice! In the fall, Anneliese will be a Cafritz Young Artist of Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center. This resident-training program offers artists on the verge of international careers a course of intensive training, study, career guidance, and performance opportunities in Washington, DC, and beyond. We are thrilled for Anneliese and extend our congratulations and best wishes.



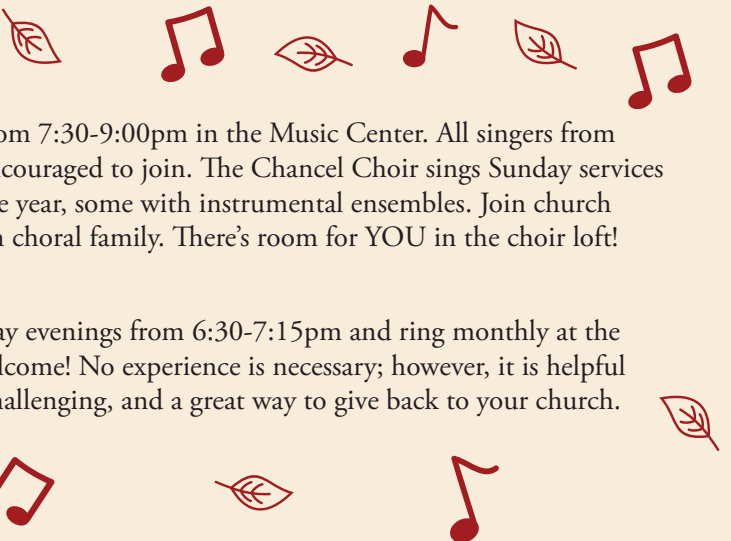
## Plan Ahead for the Fall

### Chancel Choir Begins September 5

Chancel Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00pm in the Music Center. All singers from high school through adult are welcome and encouraged to join. The Chancel Choir sings Sunday services at 10:00am and special services throughout the year, some with instrumental ensembles. Join church members and professional singers in this warm choral family. There's room for YOU in the choir loft!

### Joyful Ringers Begin September 12

The Joyful Ringers rehearse weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:15pm and ring monthly at the 10:00am service. New members are always welcome! No experience is necessary; however, it is helpful if you read music. Ringing handbells is fun, challenging, and a great way to give back to your church.





## Youth & Choir Program Times 2024-2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
<p>Church School (Nursery-7th grade) 10:00 – 11:00am</p>	<p>Minnows (grades K-1) 3:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Spirit Singers (grades 2 &amp; 3) 3:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Cherubs (ages 4–grade 1) 3:30 – 4:00pm</p>
<p>MSYG (grades 6, 7, 8) 4:00 – 5:30pm</p>		<p>Guppies (grades 2 &amp; 3) 4:30 – 5:30pm</p>	<p>Joyful Noise (grades 4 &amp; 5) 4:00 – 5:00pm</p>
<p>YG (grades 9-12) 7:00 – 8:30pm</p>			<p>JYG (grades 4 &amp; 5) 5:00 – 6:00pm</p>
			<p>Quest (grades 9–12) TBD</p>

Dear Church Families,

We hope this message finds you well and filled with anticipation for the upcoming program year! We're thrilled to unveil the schedule for our Youth/Children offerings for 2024-2025.

In light of the changes in school start and release times within the New Canaan Public Schools and how we have seen said changes affect our youth schedules, we've adjusted our groupings and meeting times to better accommodate the needs of our fish and program goals! Please take a moment to review the day and time when your child's programs will meet and mark it as a special space in their week dedicated to Christian Formation.

We can't wait to embark on this journey with your children and witness their growth and exploration in faith. Here's to a year filled with joy, discovery, and deepening connections within our church community!

A registration form for the 2024-2025 program year will be sent in the coming weeks! Contact Kelly Antonson at [leather@godsacre.org](mailto:leather@godsacre.org) to learn more.

Register here: <https://godsacre.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/195/responses/new>





## Congratulations Confirmands!

On May 29, the Deacons and Confirmands gathered for a shared meal, engaging in meaningful discussions about their statements of faith. This beautiful evening was dedicated to faith and fellowship, celebrating the newest members to join our church.

On June 2, twenty-nine young adults were confirmed taking a significant step in their spiritual journey. Surrounded by their loved ones and the church community, they offered personal insights into their decision to be confirmed and what they believe it means to be a Christian. We look forward to the many gifts this group will share with our church community in the years to come.



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

## Filling in the Blanks - August Mission

Filling in the Blanks aims to fight childhood hunger by providing children in need with meals on the weekends. Filling in the Blanks fulfills this mission by delivering meals directly to children from low-income families each weekend to bridge the gap when they are not receiving nutrition from their schools, after-school programs, or camps. When enrolled in the program, children benefit by knowing where their weekend meals will come from and arrive at school each Monday morning ready to learn. The expected outcome is to remove one worry from their lives, put them on more equal ground with their food-secure peers, and provide consistent nutritional support. Every weekend, students enrolled in the program receive a weekend meal bag containing four meals and four snacks. The program is designed to allow every child consistent access to life's most basic necessities, enough food. Since 2013, Filling in the Blanks has delivered over 2.3 million individual meals to local children who are food-insecure in Fairfield and Westchester Counties. Filling in the Blanks has increased the number of children served each year since 2013. Seventy new locations have been added to the Weekend Meal Program since June 2022. Children are added weekly.



Meals are currently being delivered to 5,316 students at 155 pre-schools, schools, or after-school programs in Bridgeport, Fairfield, Danbury, Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford, and Westport, CT, as well as in Bedford and Mt. Kisco, NY. As an extension of their Weekend Meal Program, Filling in the Blanks has implemented a School-Based Pantry at two high schools, where they deliver weekend meal bags. These pantries will increase access to healthy food for the students enrolled and give them the power of choice over their food. Join Filling in the Blanks' efforts in August by bringing a new full-size back to church or drop one (or three or five!) off in Smith Hall anytime during the month. Contact Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org) to learn more.



### Summer Service Opportunity - You Say When!

Solo, or with a friend or two or three, Recovery Community Development can use your help renovating sober living houses in Bridgeport for men coming out of recovery. The work includes a variety of construction tasks and can be coordinated to suit your schedule and skill level. To learn more or to schedule, contact Leigh Engen at [leigh.engen@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.engen@gmail.com).



## Open Doors Summer Food Drive - June 23

Open Doors is a Norwalk-based organization that serves the greater Norwalk area. Their goal is to 'End Homelessness by preventing it from happening in the first place.' Services are provided out of Norwalk but serve neighboring towns. To do this, Open Doors has created an innovative model consisting of three targeted areas:

1. **PREVENTION:** Open Doors provides a food pantry and a clothing center to eliminate small financial barriers, access to affordable health care, and a Financial Opportunity Center to assist area residents in gaining financial stability and success.
2. **HOMELESS SERVICES:** Open Doors provides shelter to men, women, and families, along with case management and hot-served meals. They also have street outreach and employment services to ensure that every person experiencing homelessness in Norwalk has access to housing and income.
3. **HOUSING STABILITY:** To move people from homelessness to housing stability, Open Doors created affordable and deeply affordable housing for those transitioning out of homelessness.

Summer is a time when Open Doors' grocery pantry is particularly in need as there are fewer food drives (schools are out for the summer, many professional offices are on summer hours and have more employees on vacation.) At the same time, the need for food is greater (no school means no school breakfasts and lunches for lots of kids in the community). Join us on June 23 in a food drive to help Open Doors stock their summer pantry!



### Help Make A Difference!



#### Food Pantry Most Needed Items

Low-sodium and sugar-free options are appreciated

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Manual can openers     | Fresh fruit and vegetables!        |
| Canned tuna            | Canned chicken                     |
| Spaghetti sauce        | Canned pasta dinners               |
| Peanut butter          | Jelly (grape or strawberry)        |
| Rice (2 lb bags)       | Dried beans (red or black)         |
| Canned soup            | Canned beans (red or black)        |
| Canned vegetables      | Fruit cups or canned fruit         |
| Mac & cheese           | Vegetable oil                      |
| Sugar (2 or 4 lb bags) | All-purpose flour (2 or 5 lb bags) |
| Pancake mix            | Pancake syrup                      |
| Cereal                 | Oatmeal                            |
| Snack bars             | Juice or juice boxes               |
| Coffee                 | Dry or shelf-stable milk           |
| Spices                 | Reusable grocery bags              |

Please donate what you *can*!

Bring items to the church circle on  
**Sunday, June 23, 8:45-11:00am!**

## OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

### Ministers

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner, **x101**  
Senior Minister

Pastoral Care Emergency, **x103**

### Staff

Kelly Leather-Antonsen, **x110**  
Senior Youth Director

Beth Baker, **x102**  
Interim Minister of Pastoral Care

Dr. Michael Burnette, **x104**  
Interim Director of Music Ministries

Laurel Carr, **x107**  
Director of Communications

Barb Clayton, **x102**  
Interim Minister of Pastoral Care

Lindsey Daly, **x112**  
Director of Children's Ministries

Lonnie deMarco, **x116**  
Operations Assistant

Tracy Goldman, **x109**  
Community Life Coordinator

Sarah Haddad, **x113**  
Church School Coordinator

Anthony Jones  
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, **x105**  
Director of Spiritual Formation

Caroline Leather-Smittle, **x106**  
Director of Operations

Greer Lyle, **x115**  
Director of Children's Music and Drama

Jem St. Jean, **x111**  
Youth Director

Maria Stadnik, **x108**  
Director of Finance

Allison Wolter, **x114**  
Youth Ministries Administrative Assistant

### Church Lay Leadership

Lonnie deMarco  
Chair, Personnel

Amy Werner  
Chair, Board of Trustees

Peter Wilson  
Chair, Nominating and Governance

Dionna Carlson  
Chair, Board of Deacons



The Congregational Church  
of New Canaan

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*We are a Stephen Minister Church*

## Newsletter Submissions

If you are planning on contributing to the September newsletter, please submit by August 19. Email submissions to: [laurel@godsacre.org](mailto: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](http://www.godsacre.org/myconnect)
2. Go to [www.godsacre.org](http://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](mailto:laurel@godsacre.org)

