



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany • January 24, 2021 • 10 a.m.  
178 OENOKÉ RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

Please prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of the sanctuary  
and the quiet stirrings of the Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

## THE GATHERING

**Prelude**

*Puer Nobis Nascitur*

J.P. Sweelinck

**Call to Worship**

Courtney Steininger

**Leader:** The illusion of our world's power and security distract us and impair our hearing.

**People:** **Call us into the reality of your reign of love, Almighty God.**

**Leader:** The trials and temptations of life cloud our vision for what is good and true.

**People:** **Lead us into your vision for a new life and world, Jesus Christ.**

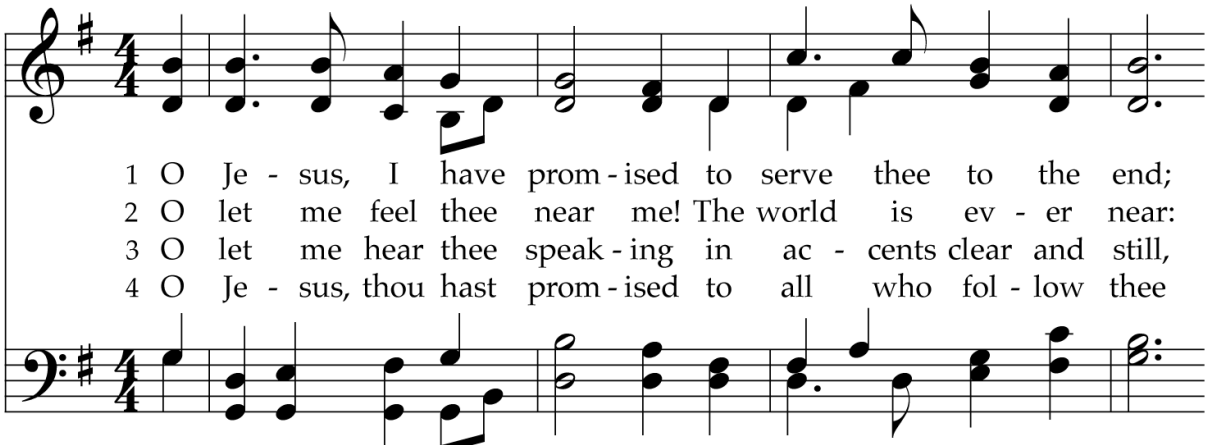
**Leader:** The cries of the poor, the oppressed and the outcast pierce our hearts.

**People:** **Inspire us to follow you in generous compassion toward others, Holy Spirit.**

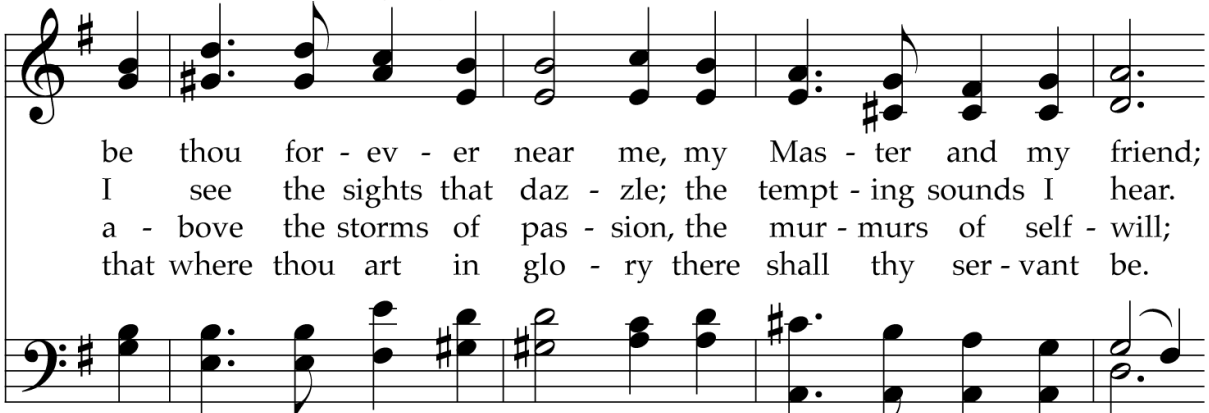
**Leader:** Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with Your love, Triune God.

**People:** **Let us be Your hands and feet in the world, O Lord.**

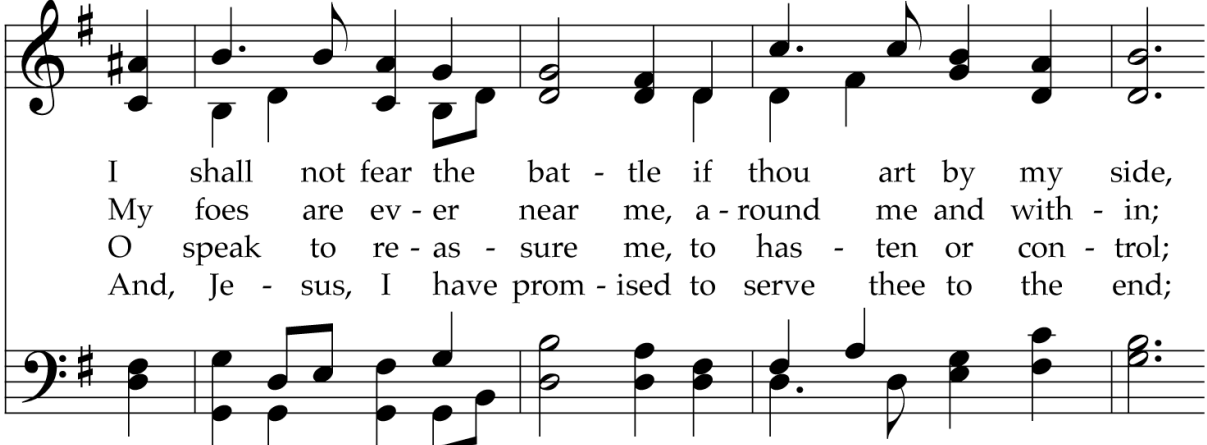
**That our worship now and in our daily living will bring you glory! Amen.**



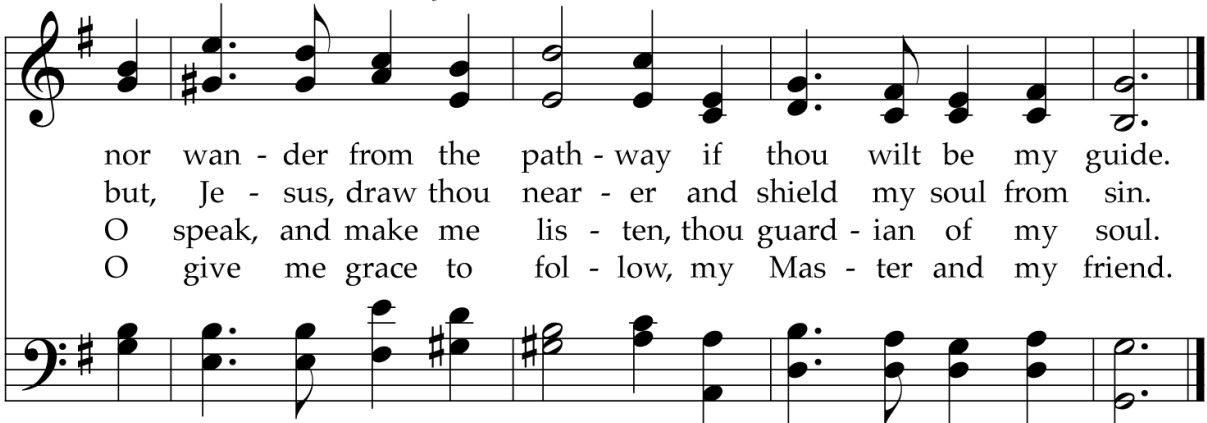
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;  
 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near:  
 3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
 4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee



be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;  
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;  
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,  
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.  
 but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.  
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.  
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

**Invitation to Confession**

Jen Van de Graaf

Leader: The Psalmist describes you, O God, as hope, as salvation, as shelter. We who hear these healing words are invited to put our confidence in you, to open our hearts to you, knowing that you hear, that you forgive and restore.

**Confession of Sin**

People: **Loving God, thank you for calling each one of us, and for your faithful and gracious pursuit of us. Forgive us when we listen to the voices which tell us to put our trust in our wealth; or the power of a political party; or medicines and technology for our future... Renew our trust in you and help us to deepen our relationship with you and re-align our priorities more with your kingdom. Help us to embrace the gift of belief, repentance, and change. Holy Spirit, breathe new life into us now, as we can only offer true worship and provide faithful discipleship when we are empowered by you...**

(silent confession)

Leader: In Jesus' name, we pray.

People: **Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, with whom we are reconciled through Christ. So hear and believe the good news:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Thanks be to God!**

**Passing of the Peace**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

*(Please greet one another with a sign of the peace of Christ.)*

**THE WORD**

**Unison Prayer For Illumination**

Steve Van de Graaf

**O God in whom we live and move and have our being: Speak to us words which transform us, and fill us with your grace and love. Help us to respond to your call and your Way for a better life and fairer world. Amen.**

### **First Lesson – Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Lesson – Mark 1:14-20**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*“God is so near...”*

The Rev. Scott Herr

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### Prayers of the People

The Rev. Scott Herr

### The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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.**

### Presentation of Tithes, Offerings and Ourselves

Jen Van de Graaf

### Offertory

*Two Fishermen*

Suzanne Toolan

Two fishermen, who lived along The Sea of Galilee,  
Stood by the shore to cast their nets into an ageless sea.  
Now Jesus watched them from afar then called them each by name;  
It changed their lives, these simple men; they'd never be the same.  
Leave all things you have and come and follow me,  
And come and follow me.

And as he walked along the shore 'twas James and John he'd find,  
And these two sons of Zebedee would leave their boats behind.  
Their work and all they held so dear they left beside their nets.  
Their names they'd heard as Jesus called; they came without regret.  
Leave all things you have...

O Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John beloved one,  
You heard Christ's call to speak good news revealed to God's own Son.  
Susanna, Mary, Magdalene who traveled with your Lord,  
You ministered to him with joy for he is God adored.  
Leave all things you have...

And you, good Christians, one and all who'd follow Jesus' way,  
Come leave behind what keeps you bound to trappings of our day,  
And listen as he calls your name to come and follow near,  
For still he speaks in varied ways to those his call will hear.  
Leave all things you have...

### Prayer of Dedication

Steve Van de Graaf

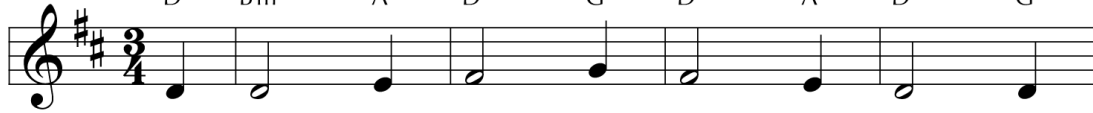
# SENDING

Hymn

*What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)  
D Bm A D G D A D G




1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more  
2 'Tis now full-filled what God de-creed, "From  
3 While out-ward signs the star dis-plays, an  
4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)  
D A D G D A



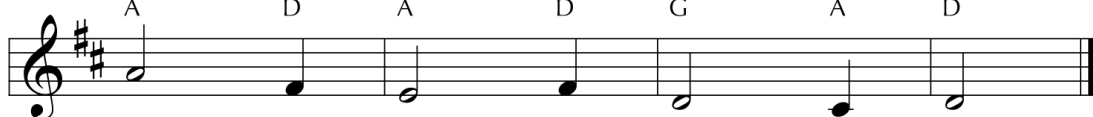
love-ly than the noon-day light? 'Tis  
Ja-cob shall a star pro-ceed;" and  
in-ward light the Lord con-veys and  
pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)  
Bm E7 A D G D Em



sent to an-nounce a new-born king, glad  
lo! the east-ern sa-ges stand to  
urg-es them, with ten-der might, to  
not our sloth-ful hearts re-fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)  
A D A D G A D



ti-dings of our God to bring.  
read in heaven the Lord's com-mand.  
seek the giv-er of the light.  
guid-ance of your light to use.

Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

Ringing of the Church Bell

Postlude

*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BWV 739*

J.S. Bach

**Welcome!** Today the sermon is given by the Rev. Scott Herr, and on this third Sunday after Epiphany will reflect through the lectionary texts of Jonah 3:1-5, 10, and Mark 1:14-20 how Jesus calls us to repent and believe the good news, but that the good news is that the Kingdom of God has come near to us and all people!

**Calling all Sunday School children!** FPCNC is offering Sunday School, via Zoom. Please join Courtney Steininger, this Sunday at 10:10 am, for an inter-active Sunday School class. Our theme this week is “Going Fishing and Following God,” and we will be thinking about the big questions, “How is fishing like sharing Jesus with others?” and “How can we be an example of God’s love for the world?” Ultimately, Children’s worship will be about how God wants us to love others and be an example of God’s love to others. Parents, remember that on Saturday Courtney will send out an email that will include discussion questions for your family about our weekly theme and big questions, as well as instructions for our Sunday School craft! Visit [www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org) for the Sunday School link and the children’s bulletin in the January 24 Sunday’s Service blog.



**New Members’ Orientation Class, via Zoom.** Despite the Pandemic, the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan is alive and well, albeit worshipping and connecting in different and virtual ways. Some of you have expressed an interest in becoming members of the church, so we will offer a 90-minute orientation class on Zoom **Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30-13:00**. If you are interested in becoming a member and would like to join this orientation class, please rsvp to [Tina@fpcnc.org](mailto:Tina@fpcnc.org)

by February 3<sup>rd</sup>, please. We will cover three main questions: “Who are we?” “What do we believe?” and “How do we live out our faith?” All are welcome!



**Monday, January 11 was Day 1 for Courtney Steininger, our new Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries!** As a brief reminder, Courtney - who has already moved into her New Canaan apartment! - is a lifetime Presbyterian from Darnestown, Maryland. She is currently a senior at *Princeton Theological Seminary*, graduating in May of 2021. Courtney has previously served as an intern at *Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church*, in Children’s Ministry at *Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton*, and as a student intern in *Religion and International Affairs at the Ecumenical Office of the United Nations*. She has also

served the *General Assembly of the PCUSA*, including as a representative of the PCUSA at the *World Council of Churches*.

We again express our gratitude to the Search Committee (Randy Ferguson, Megan Wunderlich, Mark Magnusen, Laurel Carlson, Lisa Gifford, Christine Mangone, Julie Reeves, Vivi Reeves, Alexandra Gillespie, and Rev. Herr) for their efforts in identifying and recruiting Courtney to our family.



Join Kulanu board member, Rabbi Capers Funnye, as he moderates a conversation with the daughters of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Dr. Bernice King and Dr. Susannah Heschel will share the story of their fathers' friendship and impact on social justice, and Rabbi Funnye, as an African American rabbi, will guide the conversation and reflect on how their legacy has affected Black-Jewish relations today with positive resolve for the future. The Jewish Federation of New Mexico invites you to attend this free virtual event this Sunday, January 24 at 5:45 pm EST- 4:45 pm CST - 3:45 MST - 2:45 pm PST. Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BRX4wvcvRg-mJPxz1cVEQQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BRX4wvcvRg-mJPxz1cVEQQ)



Between now and mid-February is the stretch drive of FPCNC's 2021 Stewardship Campaign. In February, we will be publishing a list of those families who have contributed to support the Church's mission in this exciting new year for our church family. If you've not yet pledged, please contact: John Lanaway: [jblanaway@gmail.com](mailto:jblanaway@gmail.com);

Jim Beall: [jhbeall@yahoo.com](mailto:jhbeall@yahoo.com); or Jim Riehl: [jriehl@fpcnc.org](mailto:jriehl@fpcnc.org); OR call the church office at 203-966-0002 Ext. 2.

**Please consider volunteering to help with our Sunday service.** As we honor the requirements of COVID, please be aware that we need all our congregation to help with our services, whether on LocalLive, or, hopefully, in the future in person. Please consider volunteering to read, carry the cross or usher (in the future!). Signing up is easy: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>. Some of our faithful members who have done so in the past cannot commit to being inside. Please consider what you can do for FPCNC.



### FPCNC Men's Fellowship - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

FPCNC's Men's Fellowship is a great opportunity for the men to get to know each other a little better and do some bible study together. It is held twice a month from 7 to 8 am, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. The meetings are on Zoom due to the pandemic, but we anticipate meeting in person at the church as soon as we're able to. **Our next meeting on February 3 will be "Bible Study and**

**Meditations" with Rev. Scott Herr.** All men are welcome and feel free to invite any friends. We look forward to seeing you there! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89635063375?pwd=U3pPYUV6NCttockgrYmJSYTFWdkFIUT09>  
Meeting ID: 896 3506 3375 / Passcode: Fellowship

**Wednesdays at 2! Musical Musings: Stories about Sunday's Music.** Join Victoria to learn about the music for the upcoming Sunday! We will learn the hymns and their stories, learn about the special music and how everything ties together in the Sunday service. So, if you have ever found yourself saying "I wonder where that came from" or "I don't know this hymn," then join us on Wednesdays so you are in the know before Sunday's service! Contact [Victoria@fpcnc.org](mailto:Victoria@fpcnc.org), if you are interested and for the Zoom link.



**Facebook Concerts Thursday Nights on the FPC Facebook Page!** This week tune in to our Facebook page for weekly concerts beginning at 6pm! Featuring friends from FPC, we will be presenting short 15-20-minute concerts to help us stay connected musically and keep our spirits up during this time. If you are interested in participating as a performer (it will be very informal and comfortable!), please contact Victoria Shields at [Victoria@fpcnc.org](mailto:Victoria@fpcnc.org). Children are welcome to participate as well! ***And you don't need a Facebook account to participate! Go to [www.facebook.com/FPCNC](http://www.facebook.com/FPCNC)***

**New Canaan Food Pantry is open!** Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at St. Mark's, by the food pantry door on Mondays 8:30-10:30 AM. The items most needed are Coffee (regular or decaf, drip or instant), apple juice, pancake mix, cereal (sweet or healthy), oatmeal, syrup, chicken, tuna, pasta sauce, vegetables, fruit, chili, soup, tortilla chips, salsa, crackers, salad dressing, applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, packaged potato dish, rice (white or brown), toothpaste, toothbrushes, dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent, ketchup, mustard, white vinegar.





Session met for the first time this year on January 12, via ZOOM, of course. The year is off to an exciting start, as we welcome the arrival of Courtney Steininger, our new Director of Youth and Children, who moved to New Canaan last week and started work on Monday. Courtney's energy is infectious, and her ideas are already plentiful, two days into the job. We assured her of our, and your, support and that we will do everything we can to assist when asked, individually and as a group.

Stewardship is in the final stages of what is already a very positive campaign, reflecting the high degree of enthusiasm generated since Scott's arrival. We are already over \$700 thousand, a \$60 thousand increase over last year - with 38 families still to be heard from (if this includes you, please join the list of supporters that we will be publishing in February). This stewardship result, combined with better than budgeted results for 2020 plus the additional monies raised, and set aside for our Youth and Children programs, creates some breathing room for us in 2021 and for the next few years as we move forward.

Session also received and unanimously approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee for enhancements to the current sound system. These enhancements will bring us into regulatory compliance, eliminate the need for a sound technician in Sunday service, rebalance the speaker setup and provide new microphones supportive of all the foregoing.

All of this will allow us to maintain LocalLive broadcasts going forward for those members who are remote, or otherwise unable to be present moving forward. The motion was accompanied by Session's sincere expression of gratitude to Spencer Reeves for his enormous assistance to our church in the recent pandemic months.

We also brainstormed ways in which we can have a positive impact on the New Canaan community and make progress as a congregation as we wait for the pandemic to subside and the vaccinations to arrive. Encouraging reports from the Congregational Life, Membership, Worship, Music, and Arts Committees and the Deacons were also received. Finally, initial plans for the congregational meeting, now set for February 28, were discussed - more to come on that.

Happy New Year and peace and blessings from the Session and Deacons!

John Lanaway and Jen Van de Graaf, Co-clerks of Session

**Is there anyone in your life who is hurting or threatening you in any way?**

If you answered yes, Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) is here to help and support you on your journey to safety. Domestic violence advocates are available throughout the COVID-19 outbreak to help and support individuals experiencing abuse.

**If you are in crisis or in need of emergency shelter, call Safe Connect, CT's statewide hotline, at 888-774-2900. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.**

**To set up an appointment to speak with a DVCC advocate, reach out to the following:**

**Housing and Financial Advocacy:**  
KDorovan@dvccct.org 203-832-8069

**Legal Advocacy:** LMoreno@dvccct.org 203-517-7873

**Counseling:** JSavini@dvccct.org (English) 203-918-7013  
DUrteaga@dvccct.org (Spanish) 203-918-6715

No one should choose between their health and safety.

40 Years DVCC

**Safe Connect:** This is a difficult time of year, exacerbated by the pandemic and political and economic stressors. We want our community to be aware of help for our families and our neighbors. Please be aware there is a 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline 888-774-2900 to text or call. There is also email or chat available in any language. People contact *Safe Connect* for themselves or someone else they care about. Some have questions about their relationships and just want to talk. We take your lead, offering information, options, and possible outcomes. Also, tune in to the community podcast and latest Ep 8: Helping Friends in Abusive Relationships with DVCC's Suzanne Adam, Executive Director, at <https://www.talkingaboutit.org/>

**Please keep the following people in your hearts. *Continued concerns:*** Catherine Armstrong; Frank Banko; Gloria Bridgman; Dr. Charlotte Brown; Norma Collier; John Edwards; Denise Lynch; Joan Trefts; Debbie Murphy Williams; The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees): father Khaldoun, mother Khawla Alzob, daughters Hanin, Zain and Hayat, and sons Yaman and Ahmed, and Khaldoun's mother, Nam Abo Noktah.

**Flower Memorials:** If you wish to have flowers in the sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, or to memorialize a loved family member or friend please call Barbara Wentzel, Flower Coordinator, at 203-966-5402 or email at [barbarawentzel@mac.com](mailto:barbarawentzel@mac.com).

### **THIS WEEK at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN**

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 24**

**10 a.m. Worship Service via LocalLive**  
**Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr**

**10:10 a.m. Sunday School, via Zoom**

**11 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour, via Zoom**  
Password is **Joy!**

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 25**

**7 p.m. Board of Deacons, via Zoom**

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 26**

**10 a.m. Leadership Team, via Zoom**

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

**2 p.m. Musical Musings**

**7 p.m. Enneagram Class, via Zoom**

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 28**

**3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class**

**6 p.m. Facebook Live Concert**

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 31**

**10 a.m. Worship via LocalLive**  
**Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr**

**10:10 a.m. Sunday School, via Zoom**

**11 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour, via Zoom**  
Password is **Joy!**

**Participating in today's service:** Jen and Steve Van de Graaf

**Musician:** Lisa Flanagan

#### **MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

#### **OUR PASTORS**

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

#### **OUR STAFF**

Victoria Shields, Director of Music and Arts • Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir Director

Courtney Steininger, Director of Youth and Children Ministries

Jim Riehl, Interim Church Administrator • Tina St. Armand, Office Manager

Edgar Torres, Day Sexton • Kate Stringfellow, Operations Manager

**NOTICE FROM NEW CANAAN HUMAN SERVICES**  
**REGARDING COVID VACCINE APPOINTMENTS FOR SENIORS**

New Canaan has posted information regarding the COVID Vaccine Schedule. Click on this link [Welcome to New Canaan, CT](#). The fourth paragraph allows you to access the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) by “clicking here”. This will take you to the following link: [Online VAMS Enrollment \(ct.gov\)](#) which allows you to begin the registration process to receive the vaccine.

After you register, you are told to wait for 2 confirmation emails. It may take more than 24 hours. The emails will come at different times. One is the password to successfully get into the link. The other email has the actual link. *Make sure you check your spam or junk mail to see if it has gone into there!* Some people are only receiving one email with a link to set a password and then they are sent to the scheduling portion.

The key to getting into the VAMS system:

When asked your eligibility, click on the first choice “I am eligible because I am 75 or older”. The registration site will be adding the 65+ category in February. Keep checking the site for this update.

- When asked: Have you already registered as a vaccine recipient with VAMS? Answer: NO.
- Remember to click on all the “I agree” boxes. They can be easy to miss!
- When filling in your ethnicity, click on the desired word and then click on the arrow to place it in the box to the right.

Once registered, you will then be able to choose an appointment time and place. Click on the location and then scroll down and click on “NEXT”. Appointments may be made outside of New Canaan but understand the vaccine supply is not as large as the demand. As a result, appointment times may have to be made at later dates than desired. When you click on a date, wait a few seconds for the computer to upload the new date. Keep clicking on dates until you see time slots. Also, as more vaccine becomes available, more appointments will open up so keep looking on a daily basis if you are having difficulty finding a vaccine administration site where there are openings.

The following YouTube link from Wilton Human Services has been helpful to many: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AJy6mA6Nmm0&feature=youtu.be>. When asked to sign up for you tube, just click “No Thanks” and the video will start.

For those individuals who do not have an email or have not received a temporary password, call 877-918-2224: the Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line. Calls are accepted Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 4:30 PM.

Library Information Desk: For quick assistance (just help filling out the 5 question form when they have functional email addresses), people can call the Library's information desk at 203-594-5003.

For troubleshooting email problems, help setting up a new email, and the like, please either refer people to this form or complete it for them online and we will call them back and help:

<https://newcanaanlibrary.org/action/book-a-librarian/>

If the Library creates an email for someone or otherwise reconciles their email issues, they can also complete the first 5 question form for/with them.

Please reach out to Human Services for further assistance. The main line is 203-594-3076.

Adult/Senior Caseworker: Marcy Rand, LMSW 203-594-3083 [marcella.rand@newcanaanct.gov](mailto:marcella.rand@newcanaanct.gov)

Youth/Family Caseworker: Jackie D’Louhy, LCSW 203-594-3081 [jacqueline.dlouhy@newcanaanct.gov](mailto:jacqueline.dlouhy@newcanaanct.gov)

Director: Bethany Zaro, RN, MPH 203-594-3093 [bethany.zaro@newcanaanct.gov](mailto:bethany.zaro@newcanaanct.gov)