



# news @ GOD'S ACRE

April 2018

# easter @ GOD'S ACRE

Sunday, April 1 / pg 3 for details!

## From the Pastor's Study

Dear Members and Friends,

Whether you are reading this message prior to Easter or following, you are no doubt aware that Easter falls on April Fools' Day this year. The origin of April Fools' Day is unclear. However, it has become a time when even the most staid among us will participate in some form of trickery.



A couple years ago, *The New York Times* published a statement that it was ceasing to publish its beloved

crossword puzzle. That announcement prompted letters from readers such as the one submitted by Karin Delman of Sierra Madre, California. She wrote, "*The New York Times* just came very close to losing a subscriber. I sat here and watched tears come to my husband's eyes as he was solving the April 1 crossword puzzle and learned that you were stopping the puzzle. Luckily I, the calmer head in the family, Googled this; could it be true? In doing so I discovered the April fools' joke."

The composers of the Gospels anticipated that many would find it hard to believe the claim Jesus rose from the dead. Was it a fib? Was it a trick? Was it a first-century fake news story? Therefore, these biblical authors provided post-resurrection encounters, eye-witness testimony to the risen Jesus. Mary spoke to Him. Thomas touched His wounds. The disciples ate with Him on the seashore. The Christian witness is that resurrection is no trick or prank! *Continued on page 4*

“ ‘The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the full hearts of His transformed disciples.’ ”

# holy week @ GOD'S ACRE

## Palm Sunday, March 25

*Worship Services at 8:00 and 10:00am*

Blessing of the Palms, 9:30am, Church Steps

## Wednesday Prayer Services

*9:00am and 8:00pm, Chapel*

Deacon-led 15-minute services with prayer, music, Scripture, and contemplation. Communion will be served.

## Maundy Thursday, March 29

*Living Last Supper Worship and Dinner, 6:00pm*

We invite all to attend a Last Supper reenactment dinner. A wonderful eastern inspired family-style meal will be served.

*Service of Tenebrae, 8:00pm*

A dramatic candlelight service with Scripture readings and music by the Chancel Choir. Communion will be served.

## Good Friday, March 30

*Chapel Open for Silent Prayer*

*Pivot Good Friday Prayer Breakfast*

Woodway Country Club, 7:00am Open to all! \$60/person. To reserve tickets, email [prayerbreakfast@pivotministries.org](mailto:prayerbreakfast@pivotministries.org).

*Join us as we celebrate the joy of the Risen Lord!*

**easter @**  
**GOD'S ACRE**  
**Sunday, April 1**

**Services at:**  
**6:00am**

**Contemporary Outdoor Sunrise Service**

*This service is led by our YG Fish and YG Worship Team.*

*Warm drinks and Easter treats to follow in the Parlor!*

**9:00 and 11:00am**

**Traditional Worship Services**

*Preludes will begin 15 minutes prior to each service*

## 2018 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the congregation took place on Sunday, March 4. Thank you to those who participated in this important conversation about our church. We are pleased to say that the church is spiritually strong and continues to grow financially. Those present unanimously approved the 2018 budget, details of which can be found in the 2017 Annual Report or in the Annual Meeting Summary (both are available by clicking here). Nominees for standing committees were approved, and the Trustees of the Raymond Fund



provided an update on status of the fund. Deacon Raymond's will is available on the church website for those interested in learning more about this ministry.

Thanks to all for your gifts of time, talent and treasure that you give so freely to our church. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Annual Meeting, please contact Stephanie Douglas-Parkin at [stephparis@yahoo.com](mailto:stephparis@yahoo.com).

### *From the Pastor's Study Continued from page 1*

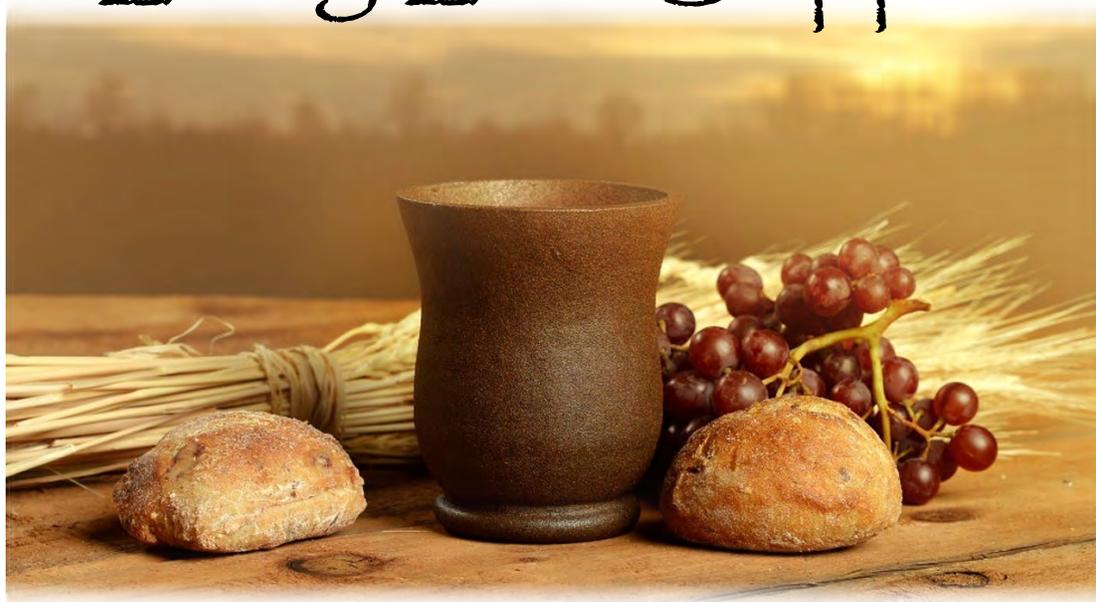
Clarence Jordan was a farmer, a New Testament scholar, and the founder of Koinonia Farm - a small but influential religious community in southwest Georgia. He wrote, "The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the full hearts of his transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that He lives is not a vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled-away stone, but a carried-away church."

I hope you will join us for worship and our programs during April and the entire Easter season. May our full hearts, spirit-filled fellowship and carried-away church, be all the proof anyone needs that God did indeed raise Jesus from the dead.

Blessings,

Eric

# Living Last Supper



Please join us as a community of faith for this special all-church event!



***Living Last Supper Reenactment and Eastern-Inspired dinner!***



**Maundy Thursday**  
**March 29, 2018**  
**6:00pm**



# Missions & Outreach



## Pivot Work Day Saturday, April 7, 9:00am-2:00pm

Willing hands, warm hearts, and sturdy shoes are all you need. Please join us for two renovation projects. All are welcome. For more info contact: Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org).

## April Missions and Outreach

- 4/8 - Pivot Work Day
- 4/19 - Open Door Lunch Service, 11:15am
- 4/24 - Pacific House Dinner Service, 4:30pm



WHAT'S YOUR M.O. ?

## Save the Date!

### Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon

*Honoring Our Women  
of Wisdom*

**Friday, May 11  
11:30am-1:30pm  
Roger Sherman Inn**

**More details to come!**

## Easter Flowers



The deadline to make a donation for our beautiful Easter flowers is noon, Tuesday, March 27. Please send your check, made out to The Congregational Church of New Canaan, to Debbie Chapman in the Church Office. Include

your name plus any notation you would like to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. For online donations, please email the accompanying bulletin listing to [debbie@godsacre.org](mailto:debbie@godsacre.org) by noon on March 27.

## Easter Flower Delivery Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to deliver the flowers from our Easter display on Easter Sunday. If you are able to help, simply pick up a delivery assignment and flower at church on Easter Sunday at the close of the 11:00am service.

## Beginners Bible Study



We began the year with a Bible study for beginners. It was a class for those who hoped to learn about the Bible, but have been intimidated to join in existing classes. I invited folks to make it their New Year's resolution to join this beginners Bible study. It was such a hit that we're going to do it again after Easter! In fact, I'm offering two different times. Come either Sunday or Thursday.

### Here is the schedule:

Sundays April 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13  
9:00-9:50am in the Parlor  
Thursdays April 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10  
8:30-9:30am, location TBD

We will approach the Bible assuming participants have no knowledge at all. If you are embarrassed about your level of biblical knowledge, this is the class for you. Please contact me at [eric@godsacre.org](mailto:eric@godsacre.org) if you have any questions. Blessings! -Eric

# 🎵 Music Ministries 🎵

## Children's Music & Drama presents *The Old Testament Fast Forward*

The children of our church will present their annual spring musical during the 10:00am Worship Service on Sunday, April 29. Following *Esther* and last year's *Godspell*, our kids are gearing up to bring a familiar topic to our attention: The Old Testament.



2017 production of *Godspell Jr.*

This musical is an amusing attempt to tell the history of the first books of the Bible in just 10 minutes. This production promises a good time combing through old stories with famous names we all learned as children, such as Adam

and Eve, Noah, and Samson and Delilah.

Despite its rushed attempt to finish the entire Old Testament in a short amount of time, the voice and word of God are still very present, creating wonderful lessons to be learned and practiced by those of all ages. As with every musical presented by our children, the excitement to deliver a positive message through performance will be enjoyed by all!

## Ken Gioffre, saxophonist

### *10:00am service on Sunday, April 22*



Ken Gioffre, internationally renowned jazz saxophonist, will join us for the 10:00am service on Sunday, April 22. He will play the prelude, postlude, and accompany the Chancel Choir on anthems. Mr. Gioffre currently tours and records as saxophonist for Blood, Sweat, and Tears and Smokey Robinson. He has appeared on the television show *New York at Night* and has also appeared regularly on shows such as *The Tonight*

*Show with Jay Leno* and HBO's *The Sopranos*, as well as the movie *Last Holiday* starring Queen Latifa. In addition to his tour experience, Mr. Gioffre has performed with artists who include Nancy Wilson, B. B. King, The Temptations, and Cab Calloway.

## Save the Date

The Music Ministry Team cordially invites you to the Mary Bradley Clarke Fund Benefit Concert, Friday, May 4 at 7:00pm. A festive reception will follow in Smith Hall. This is free, open to the public, and childcare will be provided. For more information, please contact Jody Blaine Davis at [music@godsacre.org](mailto:music@godsacre.org) or (203)966-2651, x4.

## Music for Holy Week and Easter

### Palm Sunday, March 25

The Chancel Choir is accompanied by guest trumpeters as we celebrate the Procession into Jerusalem. Hear the Chancel Choir sing festive anthems including Paul Lindsley Thomas' "Shout the Glad Tidings". As Holy Week is introduced in the service, the somber music "Lamb of God" by Melius Christiansen will be sung as the Benediction Response.

### Maundy Thursday, March 29

#### *Service of Tenebrae, 8:00 pm*

The Chancel Choir will present anthems for this somber and beautiful occasion of the Last Supper. Hear a variety of music and composers: "Ubi Caritas" by Marcel Duruflé, "Drop, Drop Slow Tears" by Robert Graham, "Thee We Adore" by T. Frederick Candlyn, and "The Lord's Prayer" by Albert Hay Malotte, sung by Dimitrie Lazich.

### Easter Sunday, April 1

#### *9:00 and 11:00am services*

#### *Preludes at 8:45am and 10:45am*

Hear the Chancel Choir accompanied by trumpets, trombones, tympani, and organ proclaim the joyous resurrection. Music sung by the Chancel Choir will include "This is the Day" by Jacobus Gallus, and "Christ the Lord is Risen Again" by Philip Stopford. The service will close with the glorious "Hallelujah Chorus" from Georg Frederick Handel's *Messiah* followed by Charles-Marie Widor's "Toccat" from *Fifth Symphony* arranged for organ, brass, and percussion.

# Youth Ministries

## YG Spring into Service

On April 22, YG will be springing into service. This is a Covenant Event for any Fish that were on the Mission Trip. We will go to different sites around New Canaan to be of service and celebrate the spring weather! After an incredible mission trip in San Antonio, we will show genuine love and serve our neighbors at home. We will be partnering with local organizations including Staying Put and the Lapham Community Center. See you April 22 from 2:00-3:30pm!



## MSYG Team Building



MSYG is getting geared up for their mission trip to Mountainside Treatment Center next month. The group will work together through a

series of challenges to help the group get to know one another better and help prepare them for the teamwork they will need to successfully complete their mission trip. This is a Covenant Event for any Fish traveling on the Mission Trip. See you at Waveny from 4:30-6:00pm on April 22!

## JYG Overnight

Now is the time for your JYGer to get signed up for the JYG Overnight to Pivot. This is our 3rd year bringing JYG away for this special weekend of service. Our middle schoolers are eager to get back up to Pivot to worship and serve alongside their Pivot bothers in Christ. JYG will leave after school Friday, April 20 and return at noon on April 21. Check your mail for registration or email Kelly Leather at leather@godsacre.org.



## Guppies Pajamajam!

Back by popular demand, Pajamajam! is back for it's fifth year. On April 19, the Guppies will come dressed in their pajamas and ready for an incredible afternoon of fun. Highlights include breakfast for dinner, sleepover games and the annual Junior Advisor Makeover Competition. Bring a friend who might be new to Guppies!



## Children & Family Ministries

*See what's happening this month in Church School*

**April 1**  
**Easter Sunday**  
*No Church School*

**April 8 and April 15**  
**Combined Class**

**April 23**  
**Doubling Thomas**  
*John 20:19-31*

**April 30**  
**Children's Musical**  
*All children are invited!*  
*No Church School*



## Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt!

Please join Children and Family Ministries on Sunday, March 25, from 11:30am - 12:30pm for an Easter Egg Hunt!

Come hunt for treat-filled eggs all across God's Acre and enjoy a delicious lunch in Smith Hall! Please bring an Easter basket to fill with your eggs.

We will also use this opportunity to help stock the New Canaan Food Pantry as we are requesting that each child bring a non-perishable food item. See you there!



# ***Thank you for your service to our church family!***

*Please join us in thanking these committee members who faithfully served our church and completed their terms in March 2018.*

## **Board of Deacons**

Jim Cole, Katrina Conde, Doug Simpson

## **Board of Trustees**

Stephen Boeschstein, Kristen O'Connor, Tom Robey (chair), Billy Stimpson

## **Investment Committee**

Bill Kennedy (chair), Billy Stimpson

## **Missions and Social Action Committee (MSA)**

Fatou Niang, Andrew Parkin (chair)

## **Nominating and Governance Committee**

David Beck, Ally Dunlap (chair), Neil Swanson

## **Personnel Committee**

Tom Robey, Debbie Simpson (chair)

## **2018-2019 Committee List**

*Our thanks to our committee members for their commitment of time and talent to serve our church!*

### **Board of Deacons**

Allison Boeckmann  
Ann Clay  
Kim Hall  
Linda Haney  
Ralph Hills  
Louise Holland  
Derrek Metz  
William Picard  
Jill Robey  
Philip Sleeman  
Mark Tedford\*  
Ann Whittaker

### **Board of Trustees**

Michael Abbott  
Seth Alvord  
Christy Bonner  
Michelle Crookenden  
Peg Davidson  
Dawn Doak  
Laura Doscher  
Stephanie Douglas-Parkin\*  
Jeff Johnson  
Justin King  
Tom Mangas  
Don Moyle

### **Investment Committee**

Jeff Johnson  
Chris Pohle\*  
Stan Sokolowski

### **Leadership**

Kathy Dinnie  
Stephanie Douglas-Parkin  
Rev. Eric Dupee  
Rev. Chapin Garner\*  
Kelly Morrissey  
Doug Raymond  
Mark Tedford

### **Missions and Social Action Committee (MSA)**

Sally Anderson  
Eben Breed  
Kirk Carr\*  
James Doak  
Leigh Engen  
Kristine Gore  
Dan Radman  
Debbie Shew

### **Nominating and Governance Committee**

Bill Connolly  
Lonnie DeMarco  
Janis Hennessy  
Liza Pohle  
Doug Raymond\*

### **Personnel Committee**

Jeff Altman  
Kathy Dinnie\*  
Stephanie Douglas-Parkin

### **Officers**

Clerk:  
Marianne Toldalagi  
Treasurer:  
Diana Beecher  
Assistant Treasurer:  
Niles Howard  
General Counsel:  
Gabriella Kiniry

\* Chair

*Submissions for the May Newsletter are due April 20.  
Email submissions to Anne Wilkinson at [anne@godsacre.org](mailto:anne@godsacre.org).*

# myconnect corner

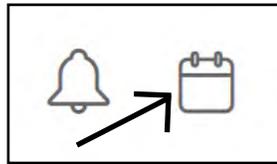
## Subscribe to your church calendar!

Through myConnect you can subscribe to your personal calendar of church events (events held by groups you are in), or the whole church calendar (all events at the church) adding either to your Google, Apple, or Outlook calendar!

### Follow these simple steps\*:

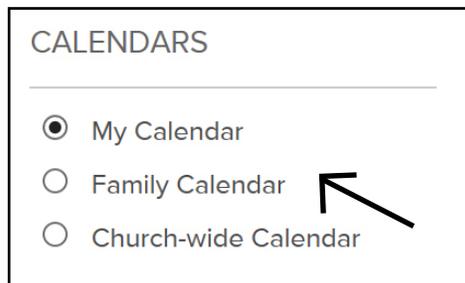
1. Login to myConnect at [www.godsacre.org/myconnect](http://www.godsacre.org/myconnect)
2. Click on the calendar icon in the upper right corner.

3. To the right of the calendar, choose which calendar you would like to subscribe to - "My Personal Calendar" or "Church-wide Calendar". For instructions on how to subscribe to your family calendar, email [anne@godsacre.org](mailto:anne@godsacre.org).



Step 2

4. Scroll to the bottom of the screen, and click "Subscribe to my calendar", then select which version of the calendar you want to subscribe to (Google, Apple, or Outlook).



Step 3

5. Follow the prompts to connect the myConnect calendar with your computer or device.

\*The steps are the same on a computer, phone, or table. On a smartphone or tablet make sure you are using the "Desktop Version" of the software.

### Still Need an Account?

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

**Questions? Contact [anne@godsacre.org](mailto:anne@godsacre.org)**

## Our Church Community

### Ministers

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

The Rev. Eric M. Dupee, x2  
*Minister of Christian Formation*

The Rev. Chris Tate, x829  
*Transitional Director of Children's Formation*

### Staff

Laurel Carr, x833  
*Christian Formation Coordinator*

Debbie Chapman, x831  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*

Dr. Jo Deen Blaine Davis, x4  
*Director of Music Ministries*

Morgan Flagg, x834  
*Youth Director*

Noëlle Francis, x821  
*Director of Children's Music and Drama*

Anthony Jones  
*Sexton*

Marianna Kilbride, x832  
*Director of Missions & Outreach*

Caroline Leather, x835  
*Assistant Director of Children's Formation*

Kelly Leather, x824  
*Senior Youth Director*

Marie-Ange Masters, x823  
*Director of Accounting*

Kelly Morrissey, x822  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

Beth Picard, x839  
*Administrative Assistant*

Anne Wilkinson, x836  
*Director of Communications*

### Church Lay Leadership

Stephanie Douglas-Parkin  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

Mark Tedford  
*Chair, Board of Deacons*

Doug Raymond  
*Chair, Nominating and Governance*

Kathy Dinnie  
*Chair, Personnel*



The Congregational Church  
*of New Canaan*

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(203)966-2651 • [www.godsacre.org](http://www.godsacre.org)

**WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH**