



For over 280 years, we have gathered as a family of God's children in order to experience His presence, learn Christ's ways, and serve our neighbors – all to make faith a way of life.

Dear Church Family,

Thanks in great part to our Deacons and Ushers, and to you for your patience and understanding, we now have a plan for worship in November and December. We now have eight ways each week for you to worship!



From
the Pastor's
Study

	IN PERSON IN THE MEETING HOUSE	LIVE STREAM	RECORDED LIVE STREAM
12:00PM WEDNESDAY WORSHIP	RSVP ON OUR WEBSITE	LINK ON OUR HOMEPAGE	ANYTIME ON OUR WEBSITE
8:00AM SUNDAY WORSHIP	RSVP ON OUR WEBSITE		
10:00AM SUNDAY WORSHIP	RSVP ON OUR WEBSITE	LINK ON OUR HOMEPAGE	ANYTIME ON OUR WEBSITE
VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP	Join us virtually on Sunday mornings from the comfort of your home. Look for the email link on Sunday mornings at 8:00am or visit link below.		
www.godsacre.org/worship			

Visit www.godsacre.org/worship for all the details. RSVP for Wednesday and Sunday worship; watch our livestream, virtual, and recorded services.

Wednesday Worship – 3 ways to engage!

- Join us in the Meeting House at 12:00pm on Wednesdays. RSVP on our website.
- Watch the livestream of the service at noon.
- Watch the recorded service anytime throughout the week on our website.

Virtual Sunday Worship

- Join us virtually on Sunday mornings from the comfort of your home. Look for the email link on Sunday mornings at 8:00am or visit our website.

Sunday 8:00am Worship

- Join us in-person on Sunday mornings at 8:00am in the Meeting House. RSVP on our website.

Sunday 10:00am Worship – 3 ways to engage!

- Join us in-person on Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the Meeting House. RSVP on our website.
- Watch the livestream of the service at 10:00am.
- Watch the recorded service anytime throughout the week on our website.

Continued on page six

Staff Updates

Director of Children’s Music and Drama and Video Production Technician

Anush Avetisyan (AHN – ush A-ve-TE-cē-an) joins the staff in a full-time position, combining two part-time roles. Anush Avetisyan joined the church staff in the fall of 2019 as part-time Director of Children’s Music and Drama. The children’s choirs enjoyed seven months



of singing with her before COVID-19 forced a “pause” on vocal singing. (Singing from someone infected with COVID-19 is a highly infectious way to spread the disease.) Anush directed a virtual Spirit Singers/Joyful Noise Choir so children could continue singing at home.

This past summer Anush created and led in a Children’s Creative Music Camp on the church lawn. Her creativity with rhythm, acting, and music theory kept the children involved. This year Anush joins the Youth Teams on Monday – Wednesday afternoons to present music and drama in the tent.



Also this summer, Anush’s technical skills as a videographer/editor were noticed. The ongoing virtual services needed a continuous technician to tape and produce our weekly services, Musical Moments, and other offerings. Anush has shown her experience with this technical knowledge, a valuable asset for the church. The weekly virtual Sunday services are taped and produced by Anush.



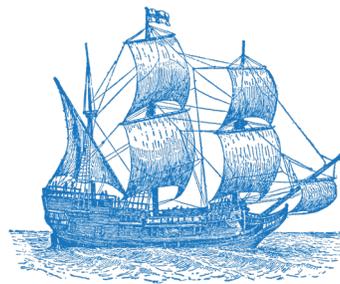
Marie-Ange Masters, the Director of Accounting and Purchasing, has been a dedicated and loyal staff member at the Congregational Church of New Canaan for over 24 years.

In 2019 she announced her retirement date of 7/15/2020. Due to COVID-19 and not feeling comfortable hiring and training a replacement last spring, she graciously delayed her retirement. Marie-Ange began a part-time schedule starting October 1st and will continue to work until the end of the program year in June of 2021. At that time, we will celebrate her 25 years of hard work and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Activity

The Trustees of the Church have several initiatives this fall. We’re gearing up for the annual pledge drive that occurs in November of each year. This year’s theme celebrates the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower and its arrival in Plymouth. The Trustees are also looking ahead to Christmas in hopes that caroling of some form can occur



on God’s Acre. But like everything with Covid, uncertainty makes planning difficult. If health officials allow caroling and the town band is willing, we’ll work to help make sure it happens. The Trustees are pleased to let the congregation know that the financial position of the Church remains strong in this time of uncertainty.

Adult Formation

Not in a Bible Study yet? Join us!

November is a great time to join the Yale Bible Study. Having read Paul's letter to the Galatians in October, we are now just beginning Philippians. An Early Bird Group meets Mondays at 7:00am or our Women's Group meets Tuesdays at 9:30am. Contact Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org for a Zoom invite.



Anytime is a great one to start our Wednesday Bible Studies!

Chapin's Wednesday morning study begins at 9:30am and looks at the worship scripture a couple of weeks in advance. Your input and the discussion informs the sermon on each given text. The discussion is always interesting and provocative. For a Zoom invite contact Chapin, chapin@godsacre.org.



Beginners Bible Study and Everyone in Between!

Join us on Wednesday night at 7:00pm to walk through "A Pilgrim Journey." Each week we review the reading from the week and discuss the passages and how our modern journey has been impacted by our ancestors and our current day walk with Jesus. Contact BJ Flagg, bj@nurenu.com for a Zoom invite.

Pastoral Care

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is an ongoing part of Pastoral Care at our Church.



Are you or someone you know adjusting to:

- a recent move
- the loss of a job
- death of a loved one
- divorce
- a lonely time or difficult time in your life?
- serious illness
- death of a loved one
- Is life during COVID-19 more than you can handle right now?
- Could you or someone you know benefit from having a caring person who will listen, empathize, encourage, pray, care, and provide support?

Please contact Chapin, Kibbie or one of our Stephen Leaders (Beth Baker or Marianne Perry).

Our Stephen Ministers are available, willing, and trained to walk alongside people during all seasons of life!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been led by Judy Hyde since it began in 2005 and Judy brought warmth and leadership to this group. We have all enjoyed her mischievous sense of humor and her stories.



She will be missed and we all wish her all the very best on her new adventure in Maine.

Since we are now beginning to meet in the church, Prayer Shawl will gather in Smith Hall in front of the fireplace at 10am on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

As we enjoy each other's company, knitting together, and sharing our lives, we also fill this time with prayer for the recipient as the shawls are lovingly completed. Since January, 30 shawls have been completed and 14 have been presented to those who are sick or to offer comfort in times of loss.

All are welcomed to join us. We have the yarn and can teach anyone who would like to learn how to knit.

If you have any questions, please call.
Troy Elliott (203) 554-0325
Twee Haffner (203) 966-0606

Music Ministry

Wednesday Worship Services at Noon

You are invited to Wednesday Worship services at noon in the Meeting House. These 30-minute services will feature scripture, a brief sermon, and prayers given by The Rev. Dr. Chapin Garner or The Rev. Kibbie Laird. Also, a section leader from the Chancel Choir will be featured. Thank you for making a reservation, wearing a mask, and keeping socially distant.

NOVEMBER 4



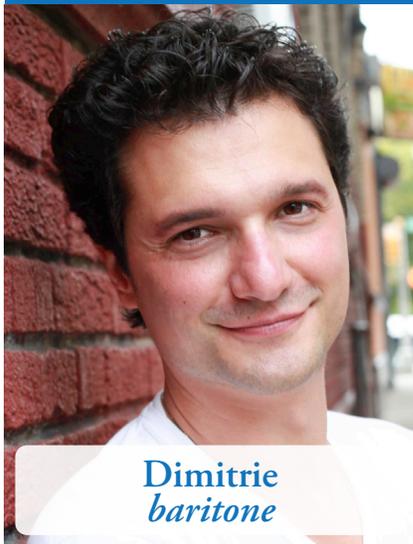
Hans Tashjian
bass

NOVEMBER 11



Anush Avetisyan
soprano

NOVEMBER 18



Dimitrie
baritone

NOVEMBER 25



Aram Tchobanian
tenor



Handbell Choirs Want You To Ring!

Since vocal choirs are on “pause” this year, you are invited to ring handbells. Bells have rung in the services already, and additional bells have been purchased to involve more people. Celebrate music by ringing in a handbell choir!

Contact Jody Blaine Davis, music@godsacre.org or Anush Avetisyan, anush@godsacre.org for more information.





Missions and Outreach

Meals on Wheels Needs Drivers!

Meals on Wheels of New Canaan, Inc. is dedicated to providing nutritious meals to residents of New Canaan whose physical, emotional, mental, medical or social condition makes it difficult to provide these meals for themselves. Meals are delivered to clients homes between 11:00am and 12:30pm Monday-Friday by volunteers from the community. Meals on Wheels is in great need of volunteers at the moment, having been affected by COVID like everything else. If you can help now and then or would like to join newly reforming teams that serve once a week, please contact Ann Gervase, anngervase1@gmail.com or Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org.



Children's Music Ministry

Abridged Virtual Nativity Pageant 2020

We look forward to the children on God's Acre sharing an abridged Virtual 2020 Nativity Pageant presented on Christmas Eve and pre-recorded in early December. Our abridged casting, for safety when recording in the Chapel one at a time, require minimal speaking roles. If you are interested in having your children participate please fill out one casting sheet per family due by November 4th and scanned to Anush Avetisyan, anush@godsacre.org. Parent Volunteers and Costume Designers needed! Please contact Anush Avetisyan, anush@godsacre.org for more information.



From the Pastor's Study

Continued from page one

Additionally, while we have to maintain a limit of 100 for our Sunday worship services, we invite you to sign up whenever you can attend. We are no longer suggesting worship limits of twice a month. Church members and friends who have joined us for in-person worship have felt very safe and comfortable with everyone in masks and seated at an appropriate distance. The only reason for discomfort has been the increasingly chilly mornings. We keep the windows open for ventilation, so be sure to bundle up!

While we do not know what worship will look like in the New Year, I do want you to know that we will be tenting the front of our church for Christmas Eve. This will allow us to accommodate the many people who wish to worship on God's Acre this year. We will continue to offer our traditional Christmas Eve worship services at 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, and 11:00pm, and each service will be no more than 30 minutes long.

We hope you will join us for worship this November and December in whatever form or venue is most comfortable for you. And we hope we can all join together for Christmas Eve on God's Acre on December 24th!

Yours in Christ,
Chapin

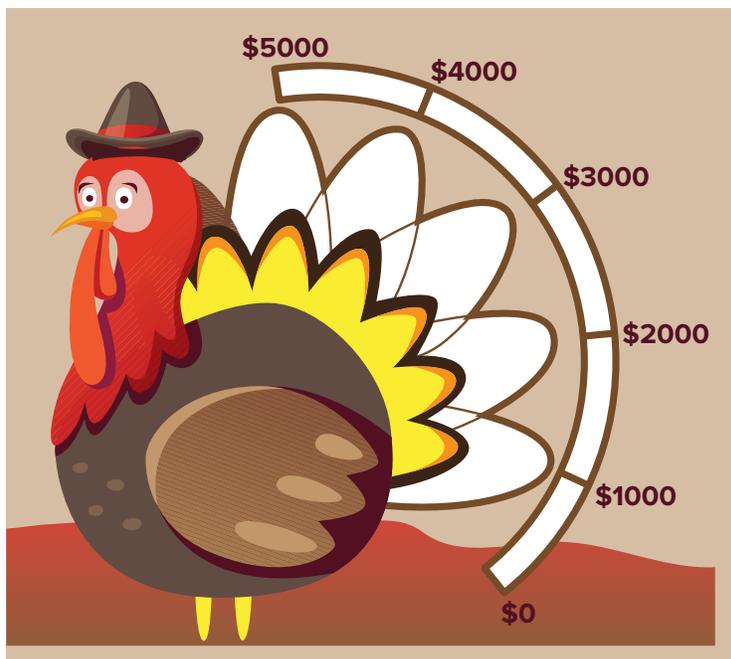
We are a warm and welcoming family of faith, bound together in compassion and love.

Children & Youth Ministries

Thanksgiving 2020 Stuff-a-Thon!

Our traditional All-Church Thanksgiving Project may look different this year, but the wonderful thing is the approximately 1000 individuals we usually feed will have a Thanksgiving meal all the same! To keep everyone safe, instead of the one-day large group gathering of past years, our packing, stacking, and decorating will be done by our fit and fabulous church youth during their regular Youth Ministry meeting times. YGers and their families will be our delivery teams on November 22.

Congregants wishing to support this beloved tradition of the church may make a monetary donation to this project by visiting our website, using the GIVE button and designating the gift to "Thanksgiving Projects"- www.godsacre.org. Parents let your kids help by earning donation dollars with chores! One thing the pandemic hasn't slowed down is poverty. A longtime partner in Norwalk noted that food requests for individuals and families have increased by 80% over this time last year. Thank you in advance for the generosity you so faithfully show to our neighbors who need it!



Contact Caroline Leather, caroline@godsacre.org or Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org.

Trunk or Treat Success!

What a treat it was to see so many of our youth come together for a fun-filled event for all ages! On Sunday, October 25 our YG Fish teamed up to decorate over 20 cars creating a safe and socially distanced Halloween celebration for our younger Fish. Car themes included Noah's Ark, Ghostbusters, Breakfast for Dinner, & Spread Kindness! There was no shortage of incredible costumes from our youth as the Acre was filled with princesses, pirates, & an appearance from Patrick Star! Treats included faith-based trinkets followed by treat bags after sharing in the story of the Pumpkin Parable. During a season of such uncertainty it was wonderful to keep the spirit of Halloween alive for our youth!



Our Church Community

Ministers

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

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, x831
Associate Minister of Children, Youth,
and Families

Staff

Kelly Leather Antonson, x824
Senior Youth Director

Anush Avetisyan, x821
Director of Children's Music & Drama/
Video Production Technician

Erik Burns, x834
Youth Director

Laurel Carr, x833
Program Manager

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

Anthony Jones
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, x832
Director of Operations

Caroline Leather, x835
Director of Children's Formation

Marie-Ange Masters, x823
Director of Accounting

Marianne Perry, x822
Director of Operations

Church Lay Leadership

David Carlson
Chair, Board of Trustees

Jill Robey
Chair, Board of Deacons

Janis Hennessy
Chair, Nominating and Governance

Jeff Altman
Chair, Personnel



The Congregational Church
of New Canaan

23 Park Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 966-2651
www.godsacre.org

We are a Stephen Minister Church

Newsletter Submissions

If you are planning on contributing to the December newsletter, please submit by November 18th. 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 marie-ange@godsacre.org