

Sunday, May 5th, 2024

*Women's Sunday
Celebrating the Women
of the church*

We are women of faith

*The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury
352 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702*

May 5th, 2024

Women's Sunday

Our PCAS Vision: "To be a Light by Living, Loving, Learning,
and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Order of Worship

*(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)*

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for the Women's Gratitude Fund

Diane Suarez

Prelude Adoration

Florence Price

Candle Lighting

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Merciful God, we lift our hands and hearts in celebration of your wonderful work in the lives of your gathered people.

People: We celebrate the special blessing of womanhood today, and we gratefully acknowledge your mercy reflected in the lives of women in the past, which has given the women of today a definitive word to speak, an empowering word to uplift, a divine calling to fulfill and a Holy God to glorify.

Leader: Where women have grown weary, sad or uninvolved, we ask that you would rekindle the fire once again,

People: that we may walk and work in a way that blesses humanity and pleases you.

***Hymn We Enter Your Church Lord**

We enter your church, Lord, through welcoming doors.

We enter it, too, where you claim us as yours.

It's here at the font that you offer a sign:

You tell us, "My children, you're baptized! You're mine!"

We've heard here your welcome, and also your call;

Your Spirit inspires us to share Christ with all.

The life we receive here is life we can share;

We'll carry your message of love everywhere.

Call to Confession

Leader: God is our rock and our fortress,
who protects us from danger
and saves us from death.

In confidence and faith in God's mercy,
let us confess our misdeeds
that we may receive grace.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Gracious God,
you give us new life, but we choose the ways of death.
You breathe peace upon us, yet we pursue conflict.
you seek us out when we are afraid, yet we cling to our fears.
Forgive us for turning away from you,
Shine your light upon us
and banish all shadows,
that we may live faithfully and joyfully for you.**

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
God has given us a new birth into a living hope.

Rejoice in the good news:

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Slideshow—Celebrating the past and present women of the Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury

Litany of Gratitude and Celebration

One: For the gifts of women throughout the ages,

All: we give thanks.

One: For the ways that they have shown up—from Shiphrah and Puah to Miriam and Hagar, from Deborah and Jael to Ruth and Rahab, to Vashti and Esther,

All: we celebrate you.

One: For their courage and strength, resistance and rest, wisdom and subversiveness,

All: we celebrate you.

One: For Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah, we recognize your groundbreaking advocacy,

All: we give thanks for you.

One: For Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elisabeth, her cousin; we see your brave faith,

All: we honor you.

One: For Jephthah's daughter and the Benjamite's concubine, for Leah and Peninnah and all the women who have been reduced to their reproductive abilities,

All: we give thanks and honor, for you are so much more than that.

One: For Mary Magdalene, Martha, Mary, Joanna, Susanna, Rhoda, Dorcas, Tabitha, and the countless unnamed women of the sacred texts,

All: we center you from the margins and celebrate you.

One: Especially today, we honor all the women who have enriched the life of this church since its founding - Afternoon Circle, Bible Study Circle, The Craft Group, Dorcas Circle, Evening Circle, The Fragment Society, Jolly Workers, Martha Circle, Mary Elizabeth Circle, Mission Belles, the Mom's Group and Morning Circle.

All: we are filled with gratitude for their legacy and devotion to helping others in our congregation and community. We pray for wisdom to follow in their footsteps of hard work, caring and love as we enter a new chapter in our service to today's congregation and community.

One: For mothers, aunts, wives, daughters, sisters; for all the women—in every walk of life, throughout all space and time,

All: we give thanks. We celebrate you. We honor you. Hallelujah! Amen.

Scripture Lesson: John 11:1-6; 17-27

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Mediation “Mary the Tower and the Stories We Don’t Tell”

Offering

Offertory He Leads Me Beside Still Waters

Amy Beach

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** O Lord, You Called Disciples
O Lord, you called disciples, proclaiming, "Come and see!"
And so an invitation began your ministry.
Then Andrew called his brother, and Peter came to you;
More men and women followed, and little children, too.

O Christ, your invitation has reached from year to year!
Through some who heard you calling, a church was founded here.
As faithful people served you so many years ago,*
They soon invited others; your church began to grow.

God, by your Holy Spirit, now send us in your name
To serve the lost and outcast, the poor for whom you came.
Through gifts of hope and healing, through loving ministry,
May we reach out, inviting the world to "Come and see!"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude We Rejoice in God! Cecile Chaminade

***Todays flowers, given by the Sunshine Ministry, honor The Mission Belles,
with gratitude for their many years of wonderful service to the church.***

**SIGN UP NOW FOR THE POTLUCK WELCOME DINNER
WITH THE IGREJA PRESBITERIANA GETHSEMANE
MAY 19 AT 4:00PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

The long-awaited welcome dinner for our Brazilian friends is finally happening. Come join us for a true potluck dinner to share American and Brazilian cuisine and get to know our Brazilian Presbyterian friends. Sign up to bring a main dish, salad, side or dessert on the poster in the Church House foyer or call or email the church office.

Bring your favorite potluck dish and enjoy the mix of American and Brazilian food.
May 19 is Pentecost so what better way to celebrate than with another Presbyterian church?



Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries:	Marcello Velame
Readers:	Kim Davies
	Chris Kustka
	Michele Mackay
	Heather Palframan
	Doreen Pampel
	Kirsten Schanck
	Pam Sergeant
	Carol Streeper
	Diane Suarez
	Linda Talerico
	Nancy Vodhanel
	Linda Zucaro
Music Ministry:	Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth
Ushers:	Cari Suarez
	Diane Suarez
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Rich Vodhanel
Social Hour:	Luncheon immediately following the service

WOMEN'S GROUPS
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT SHREWSBURY

Afternoon Circle
Bible Study Circle
The Craft Group
Dorcas Circle
Evening Circle
The Fragment Society
Jolly Workers
Martha Circle
Mary Elizabeth Circle
Mission Belles
The Mom's Group
Morning Circle

The first women's organization was The Shrewsbury Fragment Society, which was founded on September 17, 1840 with 36 women as members. Men were also welcomed (16 of them were in the original group). The earliest records of the Afternoon Circle, Evening Circle, Martha Circle, Mission Belles and Morning Circle were found from the year 1967. Dorcas Circle and Mary Elizabeth Circle joined the list in 1970. By 1982, Bible Study Circle joined the list and Martha Circle and Mary Elizabeth Circle were gone. The Craft Group was created in 1996. The Mom's Circle was founded in early 2001.

While there isn't space to list all the things which these groups have contributed to the church's life since 1840, it is important to celebrate the wonderful creativity and hard work of these faithful women over many, many years. Starting with the stated objectives of The Fragment Society to "...aid in improving, repairing and adorning the house of worship belonging to the Presbyterian Society in the village of Shrewsbury," and ending with the PW Strawberry Festival and Christmas Bazaar in 2023, the following are many of the long list of notable events and service projects:

Christmas Fair (Bazaar), May Luncheon, Strawberry Festival, Fall Workshop, Antique Show, Greens Tea, Summer Beach Party, Family Night Dinner and Entertainment, Luncheon for Pledge Canvassers, 250th Anniversary Celebration (Fragment Society Skit), Christmas Cookie Exchange for Presbyterian Homes, Mother-Daughter Luncheon, Lenten Family Dinner, Spring Fellowship Luncheon, Covered Dish Supper and Meeting, Women's Service (first listed in the records in 1990-1991), Harvest Luncheon and Receptions following Funerals/Memorial Services.

Least Coin Offering, Thank Offering, Summer Medical Offering, Birthday Offering.

Thanks be to God for the wonderful legacy which the women of PCAS have left over many years! May God guide the women of the church to discern new ways of service and fellowship as the years continue.

MODERATORS/PRESIDENTS OF WOMEN'S GROUPS AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT SHREWSBURY

Helen Adler
Mrs. Anthony Benjamin
Marie Billett
Joyce Davies
Kim Davies
Kay Jensen
Jean Kelly
Harriet Kodama
Chris Kustka
Maxine Langbein
Mary Ann Livingston
Susan Marshall

Rhoda Morrisroe
Gretchen O'Kane
Jan Pedersen
Mary Pomonowski
Theresa Richter
Karen Scarborough
Nancy Schmertz
Pam Sergeant
Mrs. Morris R. Short
Nancy Vodhanel
Carol Walther
Linda Zucaro

6	MAY, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
7	MAY, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 11am – 1pm	Affordable Housing Meeting (O)
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 5 – 7pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (FH)
8	MAY, WED	● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 7:30 – 9:30pm	P&A Meeting (ZOOM)
		● 7:30 – 9pm	Boy Scout Leader Meeting (O)
		● 8 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Bible Study (TR)
9	MAY, THU	● 12:30 – 1pm	Homesteaders Chair Yoga (FH)
		● 1 – 3pm	Homesteaders (FH)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells (SR)
		● 7 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani choir practice (FH)
11	MAY, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
12	MAY, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 11:30am – 12:30pm	Worship Committee (TR)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
		● 6 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Worship (FH)