

# The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, November 19, 2023

\*If you are able, please stand.

10:00 a.m.

Please turn off cell phones.



## Commitment Sunday

2024 Stewardship Celebration

*“Resurrecting Our Vision:  
Embracing All Generations”*

### WE GATHER AROUND GOD’S WORD

“The place God calls you to  
is the place where your deep gladness  
and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker’s ABC*

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

**Prelude**

Anne Marie Juliano, piano

**Introit**

*I’ve Got Peace Like a River*  
Sunday School Choir

spiritual

**\*Call to Worship**

Luke Parker Bowles

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place;

**All: we come today to rest in you.**

You have been the voice that guides us;

**we come today to listen and to trust.**

You have been the host who feeds us when we are hungry;

**we come today to be filled.**

O God, all that truly matters in our lives has been a gift from you.

You have been our joy and crown;

**we come today to sing your praise!**

**\*Opening Hymn 650**

*O Beauty Ever Ancient*

Murry/Fedak

**Litany of Thanksgiving and Confession**

Pastor Greg Horn

One: O God of love and of life, you are all around us and in us.

We are thankful!

**All: We thank you for your call in our lives and on our hearts.**

From the east, we hear you call us to freshness and newness of the day—  
to live lives that are different, more at peace, more hopeful,  
more compassionate, more filled with grace.

**Deliver us, Lord, from stagnant waters and despair.**

From the west, we hear you call us to the persons we have been  
created to be.

**Deliver us, dear God, from our broken hearts and hopes.**

From the south, we hear you call us to growth and change.

**Deliver us from hard hearts, concrete opinions, and cold hands.**

From the north, we hear you call us to refreshment and the peace  
of a cool, bubbling spring.

**Deliver us, Lord, from our destructive anger.**

From below, you offer us a solid foundation.

**Deliver us from our lack of trust, our unstable faith, and our  
willingness to let small tremors shake us to our core.**

From above, we hear you call us to life beyond what we experience or expect.

**Deliver us, gracious God, from our limited views and dreams.**

**Thank you, Lord, for giving us and this world your very Self.**

**On this Commitment Sunday, our gratitude inspires us to follow  
your voice wherever it leads. We offer you the best of ourselves,  
as we now offer you our silent prayers.**

*our silent prayers of preparation and confession*

## **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.

**Hymn 654** (seated)

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

Taizé / J. Berthier

## **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

### **\*We Give God Glory**

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## **Welcome & Life of the Church**

(Please fill out the Friendship Pad completely and pass it along.)

## **The Sacrament of Baptism (insert)**

William Gregory Kovacs, Jr.

### **Welcome and Introduction**

### **The Presentation**

Millie Tourtelot

### **Questions to the Child's Parents**

### **Questions to the Child's Church Family**

### **The Act of Baptism**

**\*Baptism Hymn 486** *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

*Kingdom*

(verses 1, 3 & 4)

### **Anthem**

### *A Thanksgiving Song*

Shaffer/Butler

### **Sunday School Choir**

*We are grateful on this Thanksgiving, praising God as we sing.*

*Let us thank Him this harvest season, joyful hearts we bring.*

*We see the colors of this special time in falling leaves of red and gold.*

*We lift our voices on this holy day and thank the Lord for our many blessings.*

### **Time for Children**

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, all children may attend Sunday School.)

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

### **Scripture Reading** (p.687 of OT) **Psalms 107:1-9, 43** (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble

<sup>3</sup> and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

<sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;

<sup>5</sup> hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

<sup>6</sup> Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;

<sup>7</sup> he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

<sup>8</sup> Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

<sup>9</sup> For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

<sup>43</sup> Let those who are wise give heed to these things,  
and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

**One:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Scripture Reading** (p.207 of OT) **Deuteronomy 8:11-18** (NRSV)

<sup>11</sup>Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup>When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, <sup>16</sup>and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. <sup>17</sup>Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' <sup>18</sup>But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

"A Room Called Remember"

Pastor Greg Horn

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Anthem**

*All Good Gifts* from "Godspell"

Schwartz/arr. Leavitt

Chancel Choir

Ravon Middlebrooks, soloist

*We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.  
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.  
All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above.  
So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love.  
We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.  
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts,  
But that which thou desirest, our humble thankful hearts!*

**Prayer of the People**

**\*Hymn of Commitment** (insert)

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

*St. George's Windsor*

### **Offerings & Dedication of 2024 Pledges**

Please use the enclosed envelope to  
place your morning offering  
*and/or*

your 2024 Pledge  
to Christ's ministry at PCUM  
in the wicker basket on the Communion Table. Thank you!

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

**GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

**WELCOME** and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor here at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. After worship, you are warmly invited for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall.

**PLEASE ASK AN USHER** for anything you might need, and please help fellow worshipers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

**CHILDCARE** for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall (adjacent to sanctuary). Ask an usher for directions.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** for all children preschool through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers or Christian Education leaders for directions. If you are sending your kids to Sunday School for the first time and have not yet registered your child, please step out briefly with your children as they are dismissed to Sunday School to fill out an emergency contact form before returning to the sanctuary.



**TODAY IS “COMMITMENT SUNDAY”** – At the conclusion of this morning’s Thanksgiving worship service, visitors, members and friends will process forward to make their pledge to support PCUM’s ministry by submitting their 2024 Pledge Cards. PCUM’s stewardship theme for 2024 is **“Resurrecting our Vision: Embracing All Generations.”** Those worshipping virtually or unable to be present today are encouraged to submit Pledge Cards by mail, in-person, or by pledging for 2024 online at [pcum.org](http://pcum.org) (click the “Give” button).

Beginning with those seated in the rear pews, visitors, friends, and members are invited to come forward as God’s people to the Lord’s Table, bringing our **regular Sunday offerings** and/or our **2024 Financial Pledge Cards**.

Envelopes and pledge cards have been provided for your privacy and convenience. After placing your envelope in the wicker basket, you may return to your seat by the side aisle. Welcome!



**RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** this morning is William Gregory Kovacs, Jr., son of Diana & William Kovacs. Presenting William to be baptized on behalf of his church family and the PCUM Session (elected board) is Director of Christian Education, Millie Tourtelot.

**BAPTISM IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)** celebrates the truth that God’s love claims us even before we are able to respond in faith. In the PC (USA), baptism itself does not bring about salvation, but is an outward sign pointing to God’s love for us and free gift to us of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The waters of baptism represent the washing away of all brokenness that separates us from God, our dying and rising with Christ, and an adoption into the covenant family of Christ’s Body, the church. The entire congregation, on behalf of the worldwide Christian church, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized children in the Christian life.

**KIDS’ FUN RUN – TODAY AFTER CHURCH!** All children welcome! Kids will race around the church completing simple, church-themed challenges. Donations collected will support the Sunday School mission/service project this winter: creating Hygiene Kits which to be distributed by Church World Service at disaster sites around the globe. If you would like to sponsor a runner, students will be looking for sponsors after worship today. You are encouraged to sponsor as many children as you can (with small amounts).

**SOMA CONCERT TODAY:** The Society of Musical Arts, directed by PCUM's own Steve Culbertson, will present an orchestral concert featuring works by Mahler and Sibelius this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 414 E. Broad Street in Westfield, NJ. The concert is free. All are welcome!



**THANKSGIVING DRIVE:** A huge thank you to everyone in the PCUM family who donated to this year’s Thanksgiving Food Drive. Your generosity will brighten the holiday for many!

**PCUM’S MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP** will not meet this week. Happy Thanksgiving!

**TODDLER SURVIVAL GROUP:** PCUM’s group for toddlers and infants and their families will now meet on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings at 9am in the church nursery. There will be time for free play, followed by a brief circle time on parents’ laps featuring movement-songs, simple Bible stories, and praying together. The next Toddler Survival Group gathering will be Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am. Please contact Millie Tourtelot at [millie@pcum.org](mailto:millie@pcum.org) to RSVP!

**PCUM'S ONLINE PHOTO DIRECTORY IS LIVE!** With PCUM's new online directory, you will be able to view faces and names, etc., of everyone in the PCUM family, and you'll be able to upload current photos and/or change your photos and details whenever you'd like. The new directory is secure and password protected, with each person/ family assigned a unique login and password. You will be able to use the search function to find people and info you need, text or email fellow PCUMers right from the directory, and view and join groups (e.g., choir, parents, Deacons) within the church. Please check your email or visit the church website for more information and directions on how to access the directory. If you would like a printed version, please email [denise@pcum.org](mailto:denise@pcum.org) to request a copy.

**PCUM'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WILL BE CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup>** – This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, and PCUM's Annual Christmas Pageant will be presented at the Family Christmas Eve Service in the morning at 10:00 am.

#### Three Saturday morning Pageant Rehearsals

- December 9, 10:00 – 11:15 am, followed by the PCUM Children's Christmas Party!
- December 16, 10:00 – 11:15 am, followed by costume assignments
- December 23, 10:00 – 11:15 am

The Pageant features children of members and friends starring in many traditional roles:

- |                    |                 |             |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| • Shepherds        | • Angels        | • Singers   |
| • Stars            | • Mary & Joseph | • Narrators |
| • Friendly Animals | • The Innkeeper |             |
| • Roman Soldiers   | • Wise People   |             |

All children and teens in the PCUM family wishing to take part in the pageant will have a part! Check your email for the registration form link or register at [www.pcum.org](http://www.pcum.org). Please contact Sierra Joy with any questions at [sierra.joy99@gmail.com](mailto:sierra.joy99@gmail.com). The pageant planning team is also in need of teens/adults to assist at rehearsals and on pageant day with costumes, make up, etc. Contact Sierra if you can help!

**VOLUNTEER TO SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS** – Join fellow PCUM volunteers to serve hungry neighbors here in Montclair on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and in Newark on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. Serving is a great way to make new friends and experience and share God's love. **Sign up at** [www.pcum.org/serve-others](http://www.pcum.org/serve-others).

**DEDICATE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP** – You can honor loved ones by dedicating flowers for any Sunday morning worship service. The suggested donation for two standard bouquets is \$80. Sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Deacons' Corner or online at [www.pcum.org](http://www.pcum.org).

**MONTCLAIR MUSIC CLUB (MMC)** will host the next program of the 2023-24 season on Monday evening, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm in the PCUM sanctuary. This evening of enjoyable chamber music features violinist and violist Yoon Jung Hwang, accompanied by pianist Ryan Bridge, playing a piece by Schumann and a work for viola and piano composed by Ryan; cellist Tamar Sagiv with pianist Beyza Yazagam performing works by Villa-Lobos; and pianist Ryan Bridge playing piano works by Liszt, Pletnev-Tchaikovsky and Rodgers and Hammerstein. Free and open to the public. Donations welcome.



#### PCUM's Core Values:

*Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship* ✦ *Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth*  
*Relationships* ✦ *Participation* ✦ *Service to Others and to the World* ✦ *Relevance and Authenticity*

The Presbyterian Church  
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#### **Pastor & Head of Staff:**

The Rev. Gregory A. Horn

**Parish Associate:** The Rev. Caroline Unzaga

**Director of Music Ministries:**

Anne Marie Juliano

**Director of Christian Education:** Millie Tourtelot

**Co-Youth Leader:** Garrett Pahl

**Children's Programs/Co-Youth Leader:** Sierra Joy

**Church Administrator:** Denise Silecchia

**Livestream Techs:** Tres Williams, Jerome Nelson

**Custodian:** Jimmy Abad

# **The Sacrament of Baptism of William Gregory Kovacs, Jr.**

## **Baptism Questions**

Pastor Greg Horn

*Do you intend your child to be baptized?*

*Do you trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?*

*Do you promise to worship and serve God wherever you may be  
and to live and teach your faith to your son that he may grow  
and live all his days in the presence of the living God?*

## **Questions to the Church Family**

Elder Millie Tourtelot

Do you, the brothers and sisters in Christ of this child of God,  
representing the church universal in every time and place,  
*promise*, through your prayer and example, to *support*  
*and encourage* William from this day forward?

**We do.**

Do you, the people of the church, *promise to tell* William the  
good news of the Gospel, *to show* him the reality of God's  
love in your words and actions, *to pray* for him that he may  
grow to know the love and the teaching of Jesus Christ,  
and—by your fellowship and your own commitment to  
Christ's church— *to strengthen* his family ties within the  
household of God?

**We do.**

## **The Act of Baptism**

## **Welcoming the Newly Baptized**

**\*Baptism Hymn 486**

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*  
(verses 1, 3 & 4)

*Kingdom*

## ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***

*Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
'ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the world is God's own field,  
fruit as praise to God we yield;  
wheat and tares together sown  
are to joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take the harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away,  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.*

*Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
bring thy final harvest home;  
gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there forever purified,  
in Thy presence to abide;  
come, with all Thine angels come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.*