

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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Faith Matters

“When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.” (*Mark 16:1-2*)

My new friends in Christ,

Thank you, again, for your lovely welcome on March 21st. I felt so much love and affection on that day, and I hope that I can return an equal measure of love and affection to you.

On April 4th, we will celebrate Easter together and reflect upon the power of the resurrection to *change the world*. Change has always been a part of the story of Christian believers—right down to the change thrust upon the earliest disciples when they discover that Jesus’ prediction of his rising has been fulfilled.

While it isn’t always spoken of assuredly, it can’t be overlooked that the first disciples to realize that Jesus is no longer entombed but set free from the chains of death by the Spirit of God, are the women who had been faithfully following him for years. The bible devotes a lot of time to the story of Jesus calling the male disciples into the fold, but the story of the women who followed our Lord is a bit more discrete. And yet, the story—especially the Easter story—would be very different if it weren’t for the women.

Mark tells us that some of the women, who had been learners and servants at the feet of Jesus, make plans to prepare the bloodied, breathless body of their beloved rabbi with an anointing that was proper in the Jewish community of that day. They go to the market on the morning after the Sabbath and buy spices to cover up the foul stench of death and, with cleaning tools in hand, they make their way to the tomb—fully cognizant of the fact that they will not be able to roll away the stone on their own. Yet, their faith drives them to respond in love to do what is right for the one who has disclosed to them the Way of God.

Upon arrival, they discover that not only has the sun risen on this new day, but their beloved Jesus has risen, too—just as he had said. The response of the women in each of the gospels is a bit different in their specific details, but the point is not lost on us that it is the women who seek out the dead with the hope of bringing peace to bear upon the restless souls of those who were gone or grieving.

Women have always had a vital part to play in the unfolding of the holy mystery of resurrection and in the ministry of the body of Christ. In John’s gospel, we hear that Mary Magdalene goes and announces to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” (*John 20:18*) It would seem that Mary, then, is the very first apostle.

An apostle is “one who is sent out” to share the good news of Jesus Christ. And Mary’s testimony gets the disciples running to find out for themselves whether this miracle has been fulfilled. It takes the eleventh time to recognize Jesus. But, once they do, Jesus tells them to, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (*Matthew 28:19-20a*)

The disciples are given a Great Command to be apostles. How will they respond? Will they welcome this shift in ministry—from being doers to tellers of the Word? Will they risk pushback from the skeptics for the sake of promoting God’s Truth? Will they heed their God-given calling to teach, encourage, exhort and embody the Word for the sake of their communities? Or will they choose safety and complacency?

We know, from church history, that the disciples travel to distant corners of the world to make disciples—even “doubting Thomas” goes forth with his impassioned message, founding the church in South India.

We have a tendency in the modern church to say, “But that was then; and things are different now. People don’t want to be told what to believe.” And while some of that is true—especially since the word *evangelism* has been co-opted by a determined group of fundamentalist believers—we are still being called to share the Word and spread the message that God in Christ is alive and at work in the world. And we, empowered by the Holy Spirit, carry the Word forward in all that we say and do in Jesus’ name.

In this time of transition, we will experience a shift in ministry—a transition from the church that “was” to the church that “is.” This doesn’t mean that our history is unimportant. After all, Jesus’ disciples had a history with their community of faith prior to their calling as disciples and they had a history with Jesus prior to embarking on their apostolic mission. Our history is what has crafted the mission and ministry of the church to this point.

But during this time of discernment and change, we will be asking what disciples of Christ have been asking for years:

- Who are we?
- Who is our neighbor?
- Why are we here?

With God’s help, we will respond to these questions in the manner of the first disciples. Seeing Christ, we will go forth as apostles, bringing the news of abundant life to all those who are lost, lonely, suffering or grieving. May it be said of us, as it was said of the women standing at the empty tomb, “So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” (*Matthew 28:8*)

Change has always been a part of the story of the church. And while it is risky to choose change, embodying Christ for a new era is the mark of choosing to fulfill the Great Commandment by making disciples and spreading the good news that Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed.

Like the women, let us run forth and share this message of love with the world. Happy Easter!

With love,

Pastor Rhonda



Music Notes...

I want to express my appreciation to the Emmaus Ringers, our handbell choir, for their great work and fine team spirit in recent weeks. It's good to have a functioning musical ensemble back in business! Please express your appreciation in person to a bell ringer sometime soon.

As for the choir, you know you are never far from my thoughts and I look forward to our resumption ASAP.

Easter is April 4. Let's remember the glorious music of the festival of the Resurrection, whether we can sing it all together this year or not. The courts of heaven will be resounding, and we can try to listen with the ears of faith. One day, if we persevere in the faith, we will be singing in that same choir.

Spring has come, and the full moon is March 28. The following Sunday is Easter. Easter is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. It's not so hard to remember! As you watch the moon waxing over the coming days, know that Easter is coming just as surely.

Enjoy the other signs of spring too! See you in church.

Jonathan



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 28 – 9:30 A.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE – APRIL 1 - 7:30 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 2 – 7:30 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE AND COMMUNION – APRIL 4 – 9:30 A.M.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

2	Ingrid Warner	17	Emma Hourahan
4	Heather Case		Tom Sawyer
	James Magee	22	Mary Kopec
14	Gabby Donohue	28	Carol Hoffman
16	Kaitlyn Gati	29	Elizabeth Sproul

HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES TO:

13	Brian and Michele Meek
24	Kevin and Sara Hankins

*If you are also celebrating a special day, we wish you much happiness.
If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary included, please give your
dates to Pat in the church office.*

A FITTING TRIBUTE TO FRAN...

Fran Hoffmann was surely one of our most beloved members of our church. Her love of God and church was reflected in her daily life and the way she treated everyone of her church family. As we all know, one of her favorite passions was the promotion of the annual CWS Blanket Drive. Wouldn't it be fitting that if you were thinking about giving a donation, that a contribution to CWS blankets in her memory would make her smile from above. As she always said, "A little or a lot will make a difference in someone's life."

We miss you Fran!

The Mission Committee and PWA

PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT FOR 2021

Every year, the Presbytery of the Hudson River charges every member church an assessment according to the current active membership. Our recorded active membership is currently **270** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2021 is \$38.83**, which is a total of **\$10,484.10** to be taken from our operating budget. Please assist with this expense and write a check for your family assessment and either mail it to the church or place it in the Sunday offering plate. We ask that you pay this by February 1, 2021. Thanks for doing your share.



PRAYER CORNER

The following members or friends are going through a time in which they have asked for prayer by the church. Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ron Alevras
Janet Begnoche
Robert Clooney
Jean and Bruce Crandall
James, Max, and Liam Feragola
Charles Fritz
Barbara and George Hankins
Susan Johnson
Mary Kopec's cousin, Cathy
Maria Kurt
James Magee
Richard Montalbano
Amy (Thompson) Nguye
Josephine Pecoraro
Karen Saleski
Mary Rita Schlagel
Louise Spencer
Christopher Tucker
Kenneth Van Etten
Jo Wolfe

Susan Ambrsino
Ann (Strong) Blake
Barbara Cody
Dori Dodson
Mary Lee Farris and her sister
Carol Gabella's nephew, Frank
Kevin and Sara Hankins
Rosemary Joy
Jeff Kott and Natalia
Patricia Lawlor
Kelly Magee Thrush
Kevin Murphy
Owen
Carlos and Miarose Reyes
Tom Sawyer
Eva Sickler
Barbara Hankins' sister, Virginia Stubenrauch
Lori Kilmer's mom, Learle VanEmburg
Sam Wallis
Orra Wood

Linda and Tom Chiappardi
Richard Brahs
Peter Coyne
Everyone serving in the Military
Judy Fazio
Charlene Gooden
The Family of Fran Hoffmann
Regina Kenny
Brenda Kujawski
Maggie and Quinn
Evelyn Mercado
Eileen Myslinski
Dave and Wendy Paffenroth
Carolyn Reynolds
Matt Skyer
Gary Smith
Jerry Westphal
Linda Clark's nephew, Sean Zwart

(If you or someone you know would like to be on this list or if you would like to take a name off the list, please call the church office and the name(s) will be included/omitted next month.)



Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

APRIL UPDATE

Spring is upon us and the Meditation Garden begins to bloom! Time to start enjoying the peace and tranquility our garden can bring...it's there for everyone!

Memorial Pavers

To order a memorial paver to honor or remember your loved ones, please see Pat in the church office. The cost of each paver is only \$100. We will place an order when we have 10 requests (as of now we only have one order).

Only 4 Niches Remain Available for Purchase in the Memorial Columbarium

Each niche allows for double or single interment with three purchase options:

Payment in Full = \$2,800

12-Month Payment Option = \$250 / month for 12 months (\$3,000)

18-Month Payment Option = \$180 / month for 18 months (\$3,240)

***We will need to consider constructing a 2nd and 3rd columbarium wall soon.
The estimated cost for these two new walls is \$40,000+.***

"Stewards of Our Garden"

Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards for keeping the garden neat!

The APRIL/early MAY Steward's Schedule:

Bill Eustance	April 1 – April 15
Barbara and George Hankins	April 16 – April 30
Bill Eustance	May 1 – May 15

CALLING ANY & ALL VOLUNTEERS!

"Helping Hands" are always needed and certainly welcomed. Just reach out to Pat in the church office to sign-up and be added to our Stewards schedule.

Call the church office (845-294-7991) or Wayne George (914-213-4093)
for any information you may need about The Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we shall seek to use our gifts through worship, ministry, and mission, to gather the Church in from the world, to continue to nurture one another, to serve a world still broken, and to exemplify through common values and purposes Christian discipleship to the greater glory of God.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Class of 2021

**Mark Glassé
George Hankins
Bill Hodges
Lori Kilmer
Ken Phelan
Scott Roper**

Class of 2022

**Linda Boardman
Geri Corey
William Eustance
Deb Hourahan
Brad McLeland
Brian Meek
Rob Person**

Class of 2023

**Nancy Buckley
Jennifer Ellis
Kevan Ottochian
Sue Varden**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2021

**Michael Coyne
Allison Csernai
Don Dinsmore
Patrick Ellis
Paty Glassé
Barbara Schust
George Schust**

Class of 2022

**Liese Boese
Margaret Dickover
Jon Hourahan
Jody Kopec
Logan Quick
Felicia Van Doran
Mitch Weintraub**

Class of 2023

**Diana Bowe
Jane Geyer
Gina Gruber
Carolyn Keller
Mary Kopec
Jonathan Laskoski
Cheryl Zis**

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

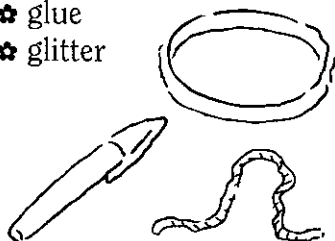
**Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Church Secretary
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
William Kozireski, Church Sexton
Mitch Weintraub, Church Sexton**

THE KID'S PAGE

Make a "Son" Catcher

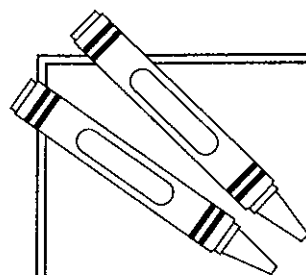
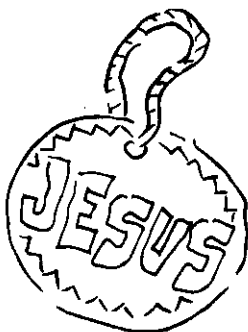
You will need:

- ✳ round, clear plastic, food container lid
- ✳ hole punch
- ✳ yarn
- ✳ permanent markers in a variety of colors
- ✳ glue
- ✳ glitter



How to make it:

- ✳ Using the markers and glitter, decorate the lid with the name of Jesus and some bright colors and shapes.
- ✳ Punch a hole in the top.
- ✳ Put a piece of yarn through the hole and tie it to make a hanger.
- ✳ Hang in a window to catch the sun.



Just for KIDS

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all found in the Bible. They all have something in common. Find what that is. First, unscramble the words. Next, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page.

- 1) eiVn _ _ _ _ _
- 2) ilLy fo teh elaVly
_ _ _ _ _
- 3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ _ _
- 4) estMar _ _ _ _ _
- 5) eJuss _ _ _ _ _
- 6) okRc _ _ _ _ _
- 7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _ _
- 8) higLt fo hte dorWl
_ _ _ _ _
- 9) voaSir _ _ _ _ _
- 10) doLr _ _ _ _ _
- 11) ishCrt _ _ _ _ _
- 12) ehSprhed _ _ _ _ _
- 13) Teh doWr _ _ _ _ _
- 14) rncPie fo cePae
_ _ _ _ _

What do all these words have in common?

Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace.

Names of God's Son.