

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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“Faith Matters: The Power of Resurrection to Bring New Life”

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.” (*Luke 24:5b*)

My dear friends,

Easter arrives late this year. And you can thank the lunar calendar for that! I am always grateful for a late Easter because, by then, the day of rebirth is nestled sweetly in the warming days of Spring—which certainly makes Easter Dawn Services more palatable! (I hope you’ll join me in the Memorial Garden on April 17th @ 7 a.m. for this year’s Dawn Service.)

But Easter isn’t really about the weather or the lunar calendar. Easter is about the power of God to bring an entirely new reality to the world in the form of resurrection. Jesus isn’t merely resuscitated. God raises Jesus from the dead and, by so doing, enters the stage of human history to bring about new life for all who trust and believe. Overthrowing death, sin, and all that would oppress us, God in Christ declares that life is more powerful than death and love is more enduring than tragedy.

What a gift! And yet, that gift can also be frightening. Presbyterian pastor and Professor Anna Carter Florence* says this about resurrection: “If the dead don’t stay dead, what can you count on? Resurrection...breaks all the rules, and while most of us will admit that the old rules aren’t perfect – and sometimes are downright awful – at least we know them. They are predictable, a known quantity, and in this sense comforting. And resurrection upsets all of that.”

It’s easy to lose sight of the power of resurrection when we treat Easter as little more than a Spring holiday—a reason to bring out the “good clothes” and brighten the worship space with pure white lilies. Perhaps it’s helpful, then, to remember that Christians today aren’t the first to reduce the scope of Easter. One of the common elements of the Easter stories across the gospels is that no one expects the resurrection. Even though Jesus predicted both his death and his resurrection several times across his ministry, no one greeted the news that God had raised Jesus from the grave and defeated death by saying, “Praise God!” Nor did they shout their “Hallelujahs” when they heard that their friend and Lord had been raised to new life. Many viewed the “good news” as little more than 1st century “fake news.”

Even the women received the news with apprehension until they remembered Jesus’ own words about resurrection. Then, believing, they ran off to tell the other disciples what they’d heard and seen—and were greeted with skepticism. Luke says the disciples thought the women were (according to the Greek) delirious, caught up in utter nonsense. The men, for their part, were caught up in worry over what came next for them now that the dream of following the Messiah had been turned upside down.

What the men hadn't yet realized is that resurrection doesn't signal a return to the status quo. Rather, resurrection throws our neat and orderly lives out of whack by giving us a different reality than the one we'd imagined. Lutheran Pastor David Lose says, "If you don't find resurrection at least a little hard to believe, you probably aren't taking it very seriously!"

Most of us have heard the Easter story so many times that the resurrection of Jesus barely makes us blink much less lead us to shake with awesome wonder. So, let's take a different tack this Easter. Let's welcome the wonder of God's activity breaking in upon the world in a new way, for it is the same God who raised Jesus from the dead that continues to raise the body of Christ to new life in the present day when we are opened to the changes that accompany resurrection.

Just as the disciples were caught up in wishful thinking over regaining what they'd lost when Jesus was crucified, congregations tend to get lost in musing over the past while wishing for the return of the "good old days" of overflowing pews and programs up the wazoo. God offers the Body of Christ resurrection—not for the purpose of returning to what was, but for the purpose of welcoming a new life which breaks a few of the old rules and makes a path forward.

It's likely you'll have a new pastor by Easter 2023. With God's help and the Spirit's guiding, that pastor will help enliven the body with hope for a future rich with new life. To prepare for that pastor's arrival, we must be more inclined to welcome the gift of resurrection and less inclined to think of those leading us toward resurrection as "delirious." The dream of following the Messiah may be turned upside down a bit by changes, but the dream lives on in welcoming the power of God to bring the body of Christ to new life.

Never forget: God is with us still. And Easter will bring with it resurrection. But its power is lost to us if we consider it little more than an "idle tale" or simply a reason for a family get-together. Easter is a gift that anticipates a response, even if that response means a shift from the orderliness of a former life to the potential imbalance of a new life. Trust in the Lord and welcome the gift that is both awe-inspiring and a little bit frightening! God in Christ will see us through.

Counting on Resurrection this Easter,

Pastor Rhonda Myers

*Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday – April 10 – 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday and Communion Service – April 14 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday – April 15 – 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service – April 17 – 7:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Worship Service – April 17 – 9:30 a.m.

FYI...

Communion Sunday—April 3rd

It's always a good day when we gather at the table with our neighbors to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. There is room for everyone at the table of grace. Join us on April 3rd.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Special Holy Week services are planned for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We will share in the sacrament of Holy Communion during our Maundy Thursday service as we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his arrest and death. And we will offer up the story of Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday with a narrative based on both the prophecy of Isaiah and the account in John's gospel. Both services will begin at 7:00 p.m. May the Spirit lead you to an experience of Christ this Lenten season.

Easter Sunday Services

We will share in a sunrise service on Easter morning, April 17th, at 7 a.m. Meet Pastor Rhonda in the Memorial Garden, if the weather permits, or in the sanctuary if the weather is unkind. Our regular Sunday morning service will be held at its usual 9:30 a.m. time that same day. Happy Easter!

Pandemic Protocols have been eased but we ask that you consider masking when entering or exiting the building, or when moving about. We will continue to social distance.

Fellowship Hour has returned. Please be in touch with Brad McLeland at bradwm@frontiernet.net if you would like to help by hosting on an upcoming Sunday. There is also a sign-up sheet on the podium in the Fellowship Hall.

The Transition Team has been meeting twice a month. Please keep the Team in your prayers as we seek to “mine” the data from the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) report and seek God's guidance as we move toward the next chapter in our life together as a congregation. We are using tools provided to us by a Presbytery-assigned coach, such as: intentional listening, growing a partnership, building trust, and being open to an “organic process” which evolves from mutual conversation and discernment of God's will for the church. We will soon begin listening to you as part of this process. A good amount of that listening will happen during Coffee Hour using tailor-made discussion points and questions to glean information and insights from you, the congregation. We hope you will willingly share something of yourselves in these discussions as your participation is vital to our success.

Easter Monday—April 18th

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 18th to give the staff a bit of a “holiday” after a busy holy week.

Hudson River Presbytery

A stated meeting of Hudson River Presbytery is called for Saturday, April 30th at the Rye Presbyterian Church.

Shop Rite Cards are Back ! We all must eat so why not spend our grocery money for a cause? For every dollar spent, FPC will receive 5% back. NO extra cost to you. See Mark Glassé to purchase them or contact him at (845) 325-4439.

Midnight Run: We are not taking any more donations at this time.

One Great Hour of Sharing

In a world where disaster, hunger and oppression loom on a daily basis, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. For over 70 years, the Presbyterian Mission Agency has taken an annual special offering to meet the needs of those affected by wars, poverty, natural disasters and more. Starting with an Easter call from the pulpit to help rebuild Europe following World War II in "One Great Hour of Sharing," the special offering has raised millions to bring peace, healing, and compassion into those places throughout the world where the need is great. The congregation will be asked to consider making a special gift on Easter Sunday to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. And Fish Banks will be distributed to our Sunday School children (and others, too) to share something of our bounty with those whom the world is often inclined to disregard. The fish is representative of Jesus' miracle of feeding the thousands with a small amount of fish and bread. When Presbyterians give, we can feed and support thousands, too. Putting a fish bank on your kitchen table, or somewhere your family regularly meets, and adding some coins every day is a great opportunity for an object lesson on how we can share some of what we have with others who have very little. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Music Notes...



Lent is sometimes called a desert journey, or a fast in the wilderness. We remember the Lord's forty days fasting after His baptism. We remember Noah and the flood of forty days. We remember the warning of Jonah: *forty days more and Nineveh will be destroyed*. We remember Moses and the chosen people eating manna for forty years in the desert. Moses was on Mount Sinai for forty days. Saul, David, and Solomon all reigned for forty years (did you know that?) Elijah ate once, and the meal held him for forty days (see 1 Kings 19:8).

That's why our beloved Lenten hymn says "Alone and fasting Moses saw/The living God who gave the law;/And to Elijah, fasting, came/The steeds and chariots of flame."

It's also the idea in the back of J. R. R. Tolkien's head for *lembas*, the elven way-bread, that sustained Frodo and Sam into the heart of Mordor. It is more nourishing the less you mingle it with common foods. Tolkien was a devout believer (did you know that?)

While Lent isn't exactly forty days long whether or not you count Sundays, and whether or not you fast, the point is made. It's a time of trusting, of allowing God's providence to work its leisurely but unerring ways.

The organ has presented me with a kind of Lenten journey. When it finally failed, I switched to the piano. That faithful instrument is now showing its age and needs some TLC. By the time you read this, I hope we have a new portable digital keyboard that can be a temporary substitute for both, and a convenient alternative to my heavy digital piano.

I've been happy to share that keyboard with you all this time. But my back is no longer so sure it agrees with me. Your help and support, as always, are deeply appreciated and deeply affirming.

Lent always ends with Easter. Let's sustain one another with kindness and prayers and hard work till the bright day dawns and we shout our carols of joy. Keep up the wonderful work and thank you, always.

--Jonathan

Financial Commitments

If you haven't made a financial commitment for 2022 but would like to support this congregation in fulfilling its work of worship, education, mission, outreach, care and fellowship, consider making a pledge using a commitment card found on the table in the narthex or see Deb Hourahan.

Electronic Giving Cards

There are giving cards for use during the offertory for those who give electronically each week/month/year. Your gifts are meaningful and necessary, and you should be able to participate in our weekly presentation of our offerings to the Lord.

Livestreaming Worship

If you are unable to join us in person for worship, watch on our YouTube channel. If you need help finding the Livestream, use the link in our Weekly Tower Tie.

Please Pay Your Per Capita Assessment For 2022

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 **268** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2022 is \$38.83**, which is a total of **\$10,406.44** 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, 2022. Thanks for doing your share.

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
		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.*

NEWS FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

COMING UP: **April 24th** - The Annual Walk for Housing sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh starts at 1:00 pm at Washington's Headquarters. Join our Church Walk Team or donate to one of our walkers. More news to follow!

May 21st - FPC Goshen will be hosting a Habitat for Humanity Talent Show on the evening of May 21st beginning at 7:00 p.m. Funds will be used to construct a Unity Build sponsored home for a Habitat family. PresbyBuild, EspiscoBuild, and Methodist & Friends are partnering in the planning and staging of the event. No tickets required. A free-will offering will be taken during the show.



Easter Lilies

If you are interested in ordering an Easter lily for the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, **please do so by Monday, April 4.** Just fill out the form below and give it to Carolyn Keller or Carol Gabella , or place it in the offering plate. The price for each plant is \$16.50 and they can be taken home after the Easter morning service. **If you do not plan to take the plant, please indicate that on the order form so that we may pass it on to a shut-in or leave it to continue to beautify the Sanctuary for a few more Sundays.** Checks should be written to “First Presbyterian Church” with the words “Easter Lilies” in the memo.

Thank you,

Carolyn and Carol, Co- Chairs

Name: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____

Text to be printed in the bulletin

Prayer Chain

It is vital for any congregation to be in prayer for the church and for individuals affiliated with the church who have a need for God's intervention in some way. This is why churches such as ours have prayer chains. But the prayer requests must stay current if individuals are to be asked to pray for everyone on the list. So, as of March 1st, we will be changing the way we update the prayer chain. Once a request has been made for a member of the church, a friend, a neighbor, a family member, etc. to be met with prayer, that name will remain on the prayer chain list for 2 months. If you want continued prayers for another 2 months, please contact the church office to make that request. Use the church email address fpgoshen@gmail.com or phone the office with your request at 845-294-7991.



PRAYER CHAIN

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:

Colin Alevras
Steve Coon
Esther Glassé
Carol Hoffman
Mary Kopec
The Family of Shawn Miller
Nancy
The Family of Barbara Nunn
Dave Paffenroth
Wendy Paffenroth
Frank Piscitelli
Tom and Billie Sargeant
Tina

Deacons News....

The Deacons are hosting a Palm Sunday brunch on Sunday, April 10th immediately following the worship service. The menu includes: cinnamon French toast, breakfast sausage, fruit cup, juice, and coffee. Please join us and bring your appetites!

The Deacons are also having a take-out spaghetti dinner on Saturday, May 7th from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The sauce is the well known Lakeville Inn recipe prepared by our home chef, Carol Gabella. We'll be taking phone orders on Thursday and Friday, April 28th and 29th from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. please call the church office to place your order. The number is 845-294-7991. Place your order early – we are only preparing 100 dinners!

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



APRIL UPDATE

**Say hello to Spring with a moment in your garden!
New life is blooming!**

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 have **FIVE** orders). See Pat in the office to order yours.

Only 3 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 especially needed for our Spring clean-up. If you can help maintain our garden, just see Pat in the church office to sign-up and be added to our Steward's 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 2022

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

Class of 2023

Nancy Buckley
Jennifer Ellis
BA Long
Kevan Ottochian
Sue Varden

Class of 2024

Marlene Gaynor
Rick Heal
Bill Powers
Mal Stewart
Anne Wood

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2022

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

Class of 2023

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

Class of 2024

Allison Csernai
Brendan Donohue
Pat Ellis
Sheila Heal
Bill Keller
Barbara Schust
George Schust

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

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

THE KID'S PAGE

Color Easter Eggs the Natural Way



Here's a fun way to color Easter eggs using all natural ingredients. The longer the eggs are in the coloring the darker they will become.

(NOTE: Some of these colors need to be heated on a stove or in a microwave oven. Be sure to get an adult to help you.)



Golden Brown

Simmer the brown outer skins of onions for 5-10 minutes. The more skins you use, the darker the color.



Blue

Mash blueberries – fresh, frozen or canned – in a pan with a little water. Simmer 5-10 minutes.

Lilac

Dip eggs in cold grape juice. For a darker shade simmer the juice for 5-10 minutes.

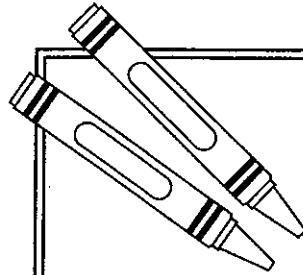
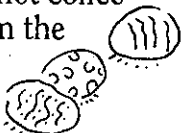


Pale Green

Chop and simmer the green tops of carrots.

Chocolate-colored

Dip eggs in hot coffee straight from the coffeepot.












Just for

KIDS

An Easter Message

Mary went to the tomb and found it empty! Find the words that an angel spoke to her. Write the name of each picture on the lines. Transfer the letters to the other spaces to find the verse.

		31	32	33	34								
1	2	3	4	5									
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		35	36	37
	15	16	17	18	19	20		38	39	40	41		
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27						
	28	29	30					42	43	44			

" 18 42 14 31 3 14 17 7 13 3 17 34 15 17 20
 8 42 10 16 25 38 25 23 30 36 35 3 23 29
 44 42 19 31 27 43 31 ? 42 19 25 4 23 3 9
 42 10 24 19 ; 42 28 42 36 5 24 25 5 27 23 !"

Luke 24:5

Answers: cross; butterfly; flower; sunrise; egg; duck; man; vine; hat. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship	28 12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @	29 9:30am - Food Pantry	30	31 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	1 12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night	2 8:30am - Bunny
3 9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Deacon's	4 12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Book Study @	5 9:30am - Food Pantry 7pm - Worship/Music	6 6:30pm - NA @ B 7pm - Mission	7 11am - GAPNS @ B 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir 7:30pm - NA @ FH	8 11am - GAPNS @ B 12:30pm - NA @ FH	9 9am - Food Pantry @
10 9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Palm	11 12:30pm - NA @ FH	12 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Outreach	13 7:30pm - Finance	14 7pm - Maundy	15 12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Good Friday	16
17 Easter Sunday 7am - Easter Sunrise 9:30am - Worship	18 Easter Monday Office Closed Tax Day 12:30pm - NA @ FH	19 9:30am - Food Pantry	20 7pm - Session @ FH	21 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7pm - GAPNS Mtg. @ 7:30pm - Choir	22 12:30pm - NA @ FH	23 12pm - NA Speaker Jam
24 Special Cong. Mtg. 9:30am - Church 9:30am - Worship	25 12:30pm - NA @ FH	26 9:30am - Food Pantry	27 8:30am - GAPNS @ B	28 12pm - GAPNS @ B 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir	29 12:30pm - NA @ FH	30 9am - Food Pantry 1pm - Club Z! @ FH