

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

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April 2023

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*)

Dear friends,

I want to thank you all for your support as I’ve been at home recovering from a broken leg and sprained ankles. It has been a challenging month, to be sure, but one made better by your gifts of love. I especially want to thank our worship leaders for the last month: Anne Wood, Bill Powers, Duncan Nichol, and Peter Surgenor. Stepping in, as they did, to offer the Word and lead the congregation in worship when I was unable to do so was a true act of kindness. I will be forever grateful.

I am not yet fully recovered as yet, but I am much improved. The doctor has given me permission to return to my pastoral duties on a limited basis. However, I am still not able to drive. So, my plan is to be with you on Sunday mornings and to work from home the other days, making use of modern technology to stay in touch and participate in meetings. I will, however, remain clear of stairs (still not my friend) and will be limited in standing. I trust that God will give the strength I need to accomplish my ministry tasks and that we will be together again for worship very soon.

Our Holy Week worship schedule is similar to that of last year, although there will be no dawn service on Easter. I apologize for that, but I simply won’t be able to lead two services on Easter. That said, there *will* be 9:30am worship on both Palm Sunday and Easter, as well as 7:00pm worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We will share together in communion on both Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. And I hope you’ll plan to join us.

You may recall that when I started serving the Goshen church two years ago, just before Easter, I invited you to 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. The Gospel of Mark shares the story of the women who first encounter the empty tomb. They had come to prepare Jesus’ breathless body for a proper burial, having brought spices to cover up the stench of a death. But upon their arrival, they discover that not only has the sun risen on this new day, but the Son has risen, too. Their beloved Jesus is no longer confined by death but has risen to new

life—just as he said he would. And the women are called to be tellers of the Word—“apostles” sent by Jesus to announce the resurrection.

This is our work, too—to be tellers of the Word. And while announcing resurrection is always vital, it is never so vital as during a time when change is thrust upon us.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee has begun their very important work of seeking a new pastor and, before too long, you will begin a new day in ministry. And, as no two pastors come to the ministry with precisely the same gifts, talents, skills, and passions, you will experience a change. But this change is not to be feared. Rather, it is to be *respected* for the good it brings and *welcomed* for the energy it brings to those who choose life, welcome change, and covenant to serve Christ anew. We see in the resurrection of our Lord the promise of newness: a new day, a new Way, a new manner of loving and serving the One whom death could not contain. And may that promise bring us joy and lead us to continued faithfulness!

My friends, trust that change is not something to be feared for change has always been a part of the story of the Church. And while it may seem risky to welcome change, embodying Christ for a new era is the mark of our choosing to fulfill our calling to serve the Lord, make disciples, and spread the good news that Christ our Lord does make all things new—even a congregation with many years of history. Friends, like the women, let us run forth and share the message of resurrection. Happy Easter!

Pastor Rhonda

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.



Easter is approaching, and the choir and handbell choir are hard at work preparing music for you. I'm also at work with the children, teaching them something to (eventually!) sing with the adult choir. There will be more information as soon as dates can be decided with Religious Ed.

The final edits to the organ project are still pending. I will update you as soon as I have updates. Easter is a busy time for organ builders—sort of like tax season for an accountant. Still, I have asked for updates and will gently persist.

I've been reading a book by Chateaubriand, in full François-René de Chateaubriand, a French aristocrat and writer who lived from 1768 to 1848. He saw the French Revolution, largely from exile; at his death, France was still racked with unrest. Today's academic world, hopelessly bogged down in political theories, has slapped him with the label of "paranoid reactionary." On actually reading him, I prefer the terms "genius" and "Christian." In fact, speaking of a Christian genius, the book I'm reading is titled *The Genius of Christianity*! He wrote it in 1802 and it's still timely today.

Chateaubriand wrote this masterpiece during the flood tide of atheism that came with the so-called "Enlightenment" or "Age of Reason"—as in *guillotines*—and it is a brilliant defense of the Christian faith. After showing both the reasonability and factuality of the faith—the defensible truth of God's existence and incarnation, Christ's resurrection, all of it—he points out the great benefits the church brought to a world adrift after the fall of Rome. He shows what Christianity has done for the arts, the sciences, and the ordering of society. I can't recommend the book enough: find it for free on archive.org.

Best of all, though, is his advice for dealing with atheistic elites. Don't reason with them, he says: they don't care, they won't listen, they don't even believe their own words, and all they want is to hear their own voice and acquire power. Instead of arguing till you're "blue in the face," go around after them and undo the damage, one wounded soul at a time. In other words, just keep telling the truth, and you'll unravel their ill-woven tapestry.

It sounds kind of fun, actually.

My old friend from the University of Chicago, Algis Valiunas, published a great article on Chateaubriand in the December 2022 issue of *National Review*. I highly recommend it, and everything else Algis has written.

It's nice to know, as a church musician, that people "out there" still strongly support the culture that makes my work possible. Thank you for that, too...and enjoy another spring!

--Jonathan



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday – April 2 – 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service – April 6 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday – April 7 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Join Us at Habitat in April

April 14 & 15 – Frame to Finish Frenzy – Build Together – 200 volunteers needed over two days to build the framing for walls for Habitat's future homes. Everyone will meet at 116 Washington St. in Newburgh. Work begins at 7:30 a.m.

April 16 – The Faith Build Committee of Habitat Newburgh invites you to participate in an outdoor worship service Sunday April 16 at 3 pm on the sidewalk across from 221, 223, 225 & 227 Third Street in Newburgh. We will be blessing these buildings on Third Street that have recently been acquired by Habitat. Though they are currently a blight on the block, Habitat volunteers, families and staff will work together to turn them into safe, affordable homes.

April 23 – Join our FPC Goshen Walking Team for Habitat's Annual Walk for Housing. Registration at Washington's Headquarters on Liberty Street, starting at noon. Walk begins at 1 p.m. Three mile and shorter routes. See many of our completed Habitat houses plus on-going construction. Join our team by contacting team leader Lori Kilmer.

Did you know that Session meetings are open to church members. If you are a member, you are welcome to attend regular meetings of the Session which are currently held in Fellowship Hall on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. (April's Session meeting will be held on zoom)

If you attend a Session meeting to express concern about a topic that is before the Session, please let the Clerk and the Moderator know of your desire to speak prior to the start of the meeting.

News from the Fellowship Committee...

- The next Fellowship Committee meeting is April 4 in the Bradner Room.
- There will be a **Yard Sale on April 29 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** on the church driveway. We will need able bodied people to help set up at 8:00 a.m. that morning. See the registration form in this *Tower Tie*.
- On Palm Sunday, Charlie von Pentz will give a demonstration on making crosses out of palms. This will be in memory and honor of Ashley Wade.

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO:

2	<i>Ingrid Warner</i>	17	<i>Emma Hourahan</i>
4	<i>Heather Case</i>		<i>Tom Sawyer</i>
	<i>James Magee</i>	22	<i>Mary Kopec</i>
14	<i>Gabby Donohue</i>	28	<i>Carol Hoffman</i>
		29	<i>Elizabeth Sproul</i>

HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES TO:

13	<i>Brian and Michele Meek</i>
24	<i>Kevin and Sara Hankins</i>

*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.*



The Deacon's Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, April 15 in Fellowship Hall

The cost is \$15 per person; children under 10 \$7. We will have continuous seating from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Take-out is also available. Our menu includes: spaghetti with or without meat, salad, bread, and ice cream sundaes. Gluten-free spaghetti is also available. Beverages include: sweetened and unsweetened iced tea, lemonade, water, coffee, and tea. All proceeds go to the Deacon's discretionary fund. Please support this worthy cause while enjoying a delicious meal.

Palm Sunday

The Deacons are hosting a Palm Sunday brunch on Sunday, April 2nd 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!

Please join us for a Mother's Day Brunch!



When: Sunday May 14th after 9:30 service

Where: First Presbyterian Church in Goshen Fellowship Hall

All are welcome (including your mother-in-law!)

Let us know how many are coming (adults and children) and any special dietary needs (gluten, vegetarian, vegan) so we can plan for enough food

Any monetary donations to cover cost is appreciated please label for Mother's Day Brunch

Questions can be directed to Mark Glasse' mpglasse@optonline.net, 845-325-4439 (cell)

Mothers are not allowed to help! They must sit and be waited on!

Name	
Number Attending (adults & Children)	
Special Dietary Needs	

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:

*Alan Thompson
Orra Wood
Andrew DeBlock (Linda Clark's nephew)
Carol Hoffmann's daughter, Krista
Pastor Rhonda Myers
Rich Furst
Joan (a friend of Jody and Mary Kopec)
Peggy Huestis O'Connor (a friend of Cecile Ayres)*

Financial Commitments

If you haven't made a financial commitment for 2023 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.

Please Pay Your Per Capita Assessment For 2023

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 **206** and **our assessment per member** (not per family) **for 2023 is \$39.70**, which is a total of **\$8,178.20** 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, 2023. Thanks for doing your share.

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 on our Weekly Tower Tie.

Please Be Advised That We Do Live Stream Our Worship Services.

The Live Stream camera generally captures the first 4-5 (rarely 7-8) rows of the sanctuary in its feed. Normally we only see the back of your head. If you would rather stay out of camera range, please know that we do not capture the seating under the balcony (on either side) and we don't capture the back rows at all. Regarding the Children's Message: We keep the camera zoomed out. As children leave to go to Sunday school, we will pan up to the stained glass windows so no children's faces are caught on camera.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour hosts are needed. Please contact Diane Church at dianeschurch@gmail.com or (845) 294-5398 if you would be willing to host one week. There is also a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.
The last Sunday of each month we are asking the congregation to host coffee hour.
Please bring something to share on that Sunday.

Easter Monday—April 10th

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 10th to give the staff a bit of a "holiday" after a busy holy week.

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



APRIL UPDATE

**Here comes spring, the sun and warmer days
to spend a moment in the Meditation Garden**

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.

The Memorial Columbarium

The LAST niche has been purchased in the Memorial Columbarium wall.

The congregation will need to consider if constructing a second/third wall is desired and/or financially possible. If it is, a new, current estimate for the work will need to be created, considered, approved and work coordinated.

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards who continue to keep our garden beautiful!

The APRIL/EARLY MAY Steward's Schedule:

Bill Eustance	April 1 – April 15
Nancy Buckley	April 16 – April 30
Barbara & George Hankins	May 1 – May 15

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

If you'd like to 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) for any information you need about
The Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to be a welcoming, loving church family united by our faith and committed to service in Christ.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Class of 2023

**Linda Boardman
Geri Corey
Jennifer Ellis
BA Long
Kevan Ottochian
Sue Varden**

Class of 2024

**Marlene Gaynor
Bill Powers
Mal Stewart
Anne Wood**

Class of 2025

**Diane Church
Mark Glassé
Jody Kopec
Scott Roper**

Clerk of Session: Sue Varden

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023

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

Class of 2024

**Allison Csernai
Patrick Ellis
Bill Keller
Barbara Schust
George Schust**

Class of 2025

**Cecile Ayres
Michael Csernai
Carol Gabella
Jennifer Serkes**

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

**Jonathan B. Hall, Minister of Music
Patricia Schwetje, Office Administrator
Deborah Hourahan, Church Treasurer
William Kozireski, Church Sexton
Matt Kopec, Church Sexton**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN GOSHEN**
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(845) 294-7991 • FAX (845) 615-1239
EMAIL: FPGOSHFN@GMAIL.COM

First Presbyterian Church Yard Sale is Back!

Saturday, April 29, 2023, 9am – 2pm
Setup 8 am

Bring your items to sell, we will do the advertising!

Cost of 12' x 12' space is \$30 + \$30 deposit

Deposit to be refunded when your space is cleaned
(please provide a separate check)

Limit 2 tables per space

Tables are available to rent at \$5.00 each

Please return the completed form to First Presbyterian Church of Goshen,
33 Park Place, Goshen 10924

Deadline to Register is April 21, 2023

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email Address	
# of spaces at \$30 each	
#of tables at \$5 each	
Deposit	\$30.00 (refundable)
Total	\$

Please write checks to The First Presbyterian Church. Please write a separate check for \$30 for the deposit/clean up. It will be returned at the end of the day once your area is cleaned.

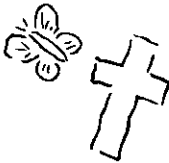
Questions: Barbara Schust at 845-728-3378 or Church Office 845-294-7991

THE KID'S PAGE

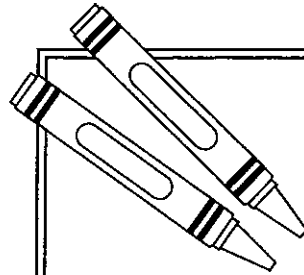
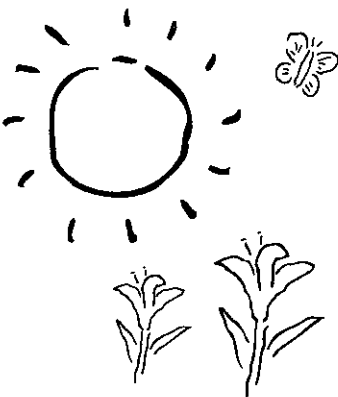
Paint Some Stones!



- ✿ Gather some smooth gray stones.
- ✿ Use tempera paints to paint Easter symbols on the stones.
- ✿ Some Easter symbols are:
cross
lily
butterfly
sun



- ✿ After the paint is dry, brush on clear varnish.
- ✿ Let dry overnight.
- ✿ Use large stones for paper weights. Small stones can be carried in your pocket as a "Resurrection Reminder!"



Just for

KIDS

"... and on the third day "

Jesus died upon a cross and was buried in a tomb. When the women went there with burial spices on the third day, what did they find?

Follow the arrows.
Fill in the blanks.

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Begin →

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B	S	T	O
M	O	C	N
T	H	R	E

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N	G	E	D	T	J	B	A	D	C

F	O	T	H
E	H	M	E
I	S	N	O
H	E	H	T
E	R	E	R
H	S	R	E
A	I	S	N

→ End

Luke 24:6

Answer:
The stone was rolled away from the door. An angel said to them, "He is not here, he has risen."

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Congregation Coffee Hour @ 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ FH		6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	5pm - Set-up for Brunch @
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Palm Sunday	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 5pm - Fellowship Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ FH	6:30pm - NA @ B	6:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Maundy Thursday 7:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH 7pm - Good Friday Service @	9am - Food Pantry @ Parking 4pm - NA @ FH
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter Sunday No Sunday School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @	Easter Monday Office Closed 12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ FH	4:30pm - Mission Committee 7:30pm - Finance Committee	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12:30pm - NA @ FH 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ 8pm - Set-up for Dinner @ FH	5pm - Spaghetti Dinner @ FH
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Tower Tie Articles Due 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	Tax Day 9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B 7:30pm - PNC @ FH	7pm - Session @ FH	6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B		6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	12:30pm - NA @ FH	9am - Yard Sale @ Driveway
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 1pm - Club Z @ FH	First Day of Asian Pacific 12:30pm - NA @ FH	9:30am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - NA @ B	4:30pm - Mission Committee 6:30pm - NA @ B	6:30pm - Bell Choir 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm - NA @ FH	Cinco de Mayo 12:30pm - NA @ FH	