

THE TOWER TIE

The Newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Goshen

33 Park Place; Goshen, NY 10924

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December 2023

Don't forget the Christmas Carol Sing-along on December 17 at 3 pm in the Sanctuary, followed by treats; OR the Community Choir Carol Sing at Glen Arden at 6:30 that same evening! Let me know you're coming if possible, and come with a big smile and love to share with our oldest and wisest.

Another quick note: there will be no Tuesday organ recital on "Boxing Day," or December 26, the day after the holiday. I am taking a Tuesday off for the first time!

This year, Advent is very short, since the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. Sometimes it works out that way!

Advent was once forty days long like Lent, but was shortened to four Sundays sometime in the 9th (not 19th) century—a very long time ago. This was to emphasize that its penitential character was not as severe as that of Lent. True, there is the same purple/pink color scheme, and in liturgical churches some of the joyful texts are omitted, but the Alleluia is never dropped and the season is also marked by joyful anticipation.

Still, there is no avoiding the connection between the cradle in Bethlehem and the Cross on Calvary. Jesus came to save us by laying down His life. Martin Luther is big on this point.

The music in Advent shares in this double nature of joy and soul-preparing. As we hear concerning John the Baptist in the Gospel for December 10, "prepare the way of the Lord!" That takes some hard work. All the music during the four short weeks of Advent will reflect the joyful hard work of preparing for the coming of the Lord—a story as fresh as it is old.

Looking forward to sharing the timeless joy of Advent and Christmas with you all!

Jonathan

MIDNITE RUN

Set for Saturday, January 6th 2024 – This is a BREAKFAST RUN

Please support the annual trip to NYC to provide a meal and distribute clothing to the homeless. Please contact Wendy Bynum-Wade if you can drive or ride along. (Text or call her at 845-629-4324)

All those going to NYC are expected to arrive approximately 7:15 am to help pack up the food and clothing. The group usually gets back by 1:30 pm, depending on the traffic.

Kitchen volunteers are needed to bake and pack up the casseroles and prepare the coffee @ 5:15 am. **Contact Carol Gabella if able to assist 845-342-4367 or (gabellacarol@gmail.com)**

Volunteers from the community are invited to join this event.

WE KINDLY NEED: New or ready to wear items

NO SUMMER OR SPRING ITEMS

Donation bins will be available outside the church office and in the Narthex.

Monetary donations accepted: Please make checks out to FPC Goshen with “Midnite Run” written in memo section

FOR LADIES

New panties size 6 & 7
Feminine supplies

FOR MEN & WOMEN

Heavy tops and sweaters/hoodies - MEDIUM heavy tops and sweaters
Winter shoes and boots/hats and winter scarves
Medium coats - heavy pants/jeans/sweats- ALL sizes
Leggings/ heavy slacks/sweat pants/ Medium and XL winter coats/jackets
Thermal tops/ pants: small/medium winter boots and shoes
Gloves/mittens

MEN

New boxer/briefs/long johns- sizes small- XXL
Socks
Gloves

OTHERS ITEMS NEEDED:

Small soaps, travel size toothpaste, small shampoo, tooth brushes, packs of tissues, washcloths, combs

EXTRA HEAVY DUTY Contractor Bags

THE LIST OF FOOD ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE BAG LUNCHES WILL BE FORTH COMING.



ANYONE WHO ENJOYS CAROLING

The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Christmas Carol Sing-Along at 3:00 PM

Reception following in Fellowship Hall

Bring your voice and sing along or just sit and enjoy the break from your hectic holiday preparations.

December Schedule Includes Special Events

December 17th – Christmas Carol Sing-Along @ 3:00 p.m. Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

December 17th – Christmas Caroling at Glen Arden. Meet at the church at 6:15 p.m.

December 24th—Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00pm

Church Office Closings

The Church Office will be closed on December 25th, 26th, and January 1st in celebration of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Blessings to you and your families at Christmas!



CHRISTMAS CHEER BAGS



BAKERS, SOUP MAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR DELIVERY NEEDED

Each year Christmas cheer bags are delivered to church members or friends that have been unable to attend church or may need to know our church cares about them.

Please contact Carol Gabella (845-342-4367) or Carolyn Keller (845-294-5508) if you have names to add to the list and/or if you can volunteer in some way – bake, make soup, pack and deliver bags.

You can drop off cookies/breads or containers of soup to the kitchen on Sunday, December 3 or to the church office on Monday or Tuesday mornings, December 4 and 5.

PLEASE LABEL “For Christmas Bags.” All are invited to assist in packing the bags on Tuesday, December 5 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see some new volunteers! Thank you!

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. We have changed 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:

*Randy
Bud and David
Amy, the Kopec's daughter, is going through a rough time
The Kingsley Family on the death of Kathleen
Carol Hoffman
Jon Maskewsky – a truck driver in Berlin who disappeared a month ago
Darlene Jackson – knee replacement
Albert Coyle – a friend of Ken Skyer's who is recovering from an unknown illness
Anne Wood on the death of her sister, Jeannie
Sara Simas – not feeling well
Mitch Weintraub's brother, Keith*

Guest Preachers for December

December 3 – Lynn Costa
December 10 – Rev. Jeff Leininger
December 17 – Rev. Jeff Leininger
December 24 – Bill Powers
December 31 – Bill Powers



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

- ❖ Saturday – December 2, 2023
- ❖ The First Presbyterian Church in Goshen
33 Park Place – Goshen NY 10924
- ❖ **Open Seating** from 9:00 – 11:00 AM
- ❖ Tickets-
 - \$10.00 per person;
 - Children under 4 - \$5.00

Each child's ticket includes - pancake breakfast (which includes sausage, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea, juice), face painting & shopping for a special gift in the North Pole Gift Shoppe for that special someone.

You are welcome to take your own pictures.

*Mail reservations or stop by the church office (294-7991)
Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.*

SANTA BREAKFAST RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Number Attending: Adults: _____ Children: _____

Return to: First Presbyterian Church – 33 Park Place- Goshen NY 10924

Attention: ***Santa Breakfast***

Make Checks Payable to: **First Presbyterian Church**

TIDBITS FROM THE TOWER

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

2	<i>Joy Kissane</i>	18	<i>Jason Stewart</i>
3	<i>Fiona Keahon</i>	19	<i>William Person</i>
4	<i>Greg Sitler</i>	23	<i>Barbara Schust</i>
9	<i>Beryl Yungman</i>	25	<i>Jennifer Serkes</i>
12	<i>Sadie Hankins</i>		<i>Mal Stewart</i>
14	<i>Rob Dickover</i>	27	<i>Kevan Ottochian</i>
	<i>Jeanette McDowell</i>		<i>Kayla Farley</i>
	<i>Ken Skyer</i>	29	<i>Geri Corey</i>
15	<i>Rachael Quick</i>	30	<i>Graham Glasse</i>
16	<i>Linda Boardman</i>		
	<i>Marilyn Velzey</i>		



HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES TO:

12	<i>Logan and Rachael Quick</i>
17	<i>Robert and Rebecca Boardman</i>
23	<i>Bill and Gina Gruber</i>
28	<i>Jon and Deb Hourahan</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.*

Pastoral Care

While we are without a permanent pastor, John Redman will handle any pastoral care requests.

You can reach him at 914-474-0722.

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 parlor on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m.

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.

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 will continue on Sundays after the worship service during the summer. 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.**

POINSETTIAS to adorn our Sanctuary ORDERING DEADLINE DECEMBER 3

In honor of the birth of our Savior and in celebration of this glorious season, please consider helping us to decorate our Sanctuary with beautiful red, white, and pink, poinsettias. They will be placed in the church for Saturday, Christmas Eve. One may take them home after the Christmas Service on Sunday.

Kindly consider ordering a plant in honor of or in memory of a special person(s) or loved ones, or simply to the Glory of God and in celebration of Christ's birth. **THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3. All orders must be accompanied with a check.** Please complete the form below and submit with your payment of \$15.50 per plant made payable to the **First Presbyterian Church in Goshen** (put **Poinsettias** in the memo). You may send in your order, drop it off to the office Mon.-Thurs. 9-12:45 or, put into collection plate on Sunday.

Thank you for helping us honor Christmas with festive flowers!

Yes, I would like to order Christmas poinsettias for the Sanctuary as follows:

Quantity **Color**

Red

White

Pink

Total @ \$15.50 each = \$_____ due



Please make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen (put **Poinsettia** in the memo)

Given by: _____

*(Kindly **PRINT** as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.)*

To the Glory of God and:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In celebration of: _____

To honor the birth of Jesus Christ: _____

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Maney-Hawkins Meditation Garden



DECEMBER UPDATE

Hark the Herald Angels Sing! Glory to the Newborn King!

If you bundle up and sit for a moment in the garden you will find our God waiting to speak with you and give you peace.

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

All niches in the memorial columbarium wall are sold. The Session/Congregation will need to consider if constructing a second/third wall is desired and/or financially possible. If it is, a new estimate for the work will need to be created, considered, approved and project timeline established.

“Stewards of Our Garden”

Special thanks to our dedicated Stewards who work hard to keep our garden beautiful!

The DECEMBER and early JANUARY Steward’s Schedule:

Nancy Buckley	December 1 – December 15
Bill Eustance	December 16 – December 31
Barbara and George Hankins	January 1 – January 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 2024

**Marlene Gaynor
George Hankins
Bill Powers
Mal Stewart**

Class of 2025

**Diane Church
Jody Kopec
Felicia Van Doran**

Class of 2026

**Jennifer Ellis
Michael Coyne
Jon Hourahan
Kevan Ottochian**

Clerk of Session: Felicia Van Doran

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2024

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

Class of 2025

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

Class of 2026

**Diana Bowe
Carolyn Keller
Cheryl Zis
Sam Fontana**

Moderator of Deacons: Carolyn Keller

STAFF

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

THE KID'S PAGE

A Gift for Someone Special

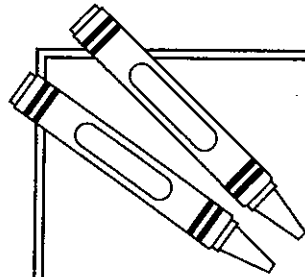
You will need:

- ▲ a pie/wedge-shaped plastic container with lid
- ▲ an empty thread spool
- ▲ green felt
- ▲ brown felt
- ▲ craft glue
- ▲ scissors
- ▲ variety of trims — beads, glitter, sequins, etc.
- ▲ nuts or candy



How to make:

1. Cut green felt to fit lid of container.
2. Glue in place.
3. Cut brown felt to cover spool.
4. Glue it on to spool.
5. Decorate "tree" with trim.
6. Glue "trunk" in place.
7. Let dry.
8. Fill with nuts or candy for a special gift.



Just for KIDS

Luke 2:1-20

In Luke 2:1-20, we read the familiar story of Jesus' birth. The scrambled words and names in the list below are a part of that story. Unscramble them and circle them in the puzzle.

You will find them



eaCrsa	_____	aMyr	_____	zaNhtare	_____
gnamre	_____	opesJh	_____	uutuAsgs	_____
laiGele	_____	auedJ	_____	rephsehds	_____
nso	_____	csenus	_____	teeBhhelm	_____
hritb	_____	ilfeds	_____	enagl	_____
adfari	_____	daviD	_____	tginh	_____
oylgr	_____	oyj	_____	robn	_____
athre	_____	isbotfrn	_____	ecrdee	_____
eecpa	_____	nin	_____		_____



B C A E S A R M E A R T H
 D E C R E E E Y R U A G B
 F N T R B I R T H G F A O
 I S Y H S O N N I U R L R
 R U O Y L E G N A S A I N
 S S J G P E A C E T I L M
 T J O S E P H C J U D E A
 B S D R E H P E H S A E N
 O M A R Y H R I M S V T G
 R F I E L D S T H G I N E
 N A Z A R E T H M A D S R



There will be 14 uncircled letters. Write them in order from top to bottom on the lines. They will spell a special message to you.

Merry Christmas

Caesar, Manger, Galilee, Son, Birth, Atrid, Glory, Earth, Peace, Mary, Joseph, Judea, Census, Fields, David, Joy, Firstborn, Inn, Nazareth, Augustus, Shepherds, Bethlehem, Angel, Night, Born, Decree

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B		6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	12:30pm - NA @ B 5pm - Set-up for Santa Breakfast	9am - Santa Breakfast @ FH 2:30pm - NA @ FH
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Deadline to order Poinsettias 9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Worship/Music	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 1:30pm - Christmas Bags @ FH 6:30pm - NA @ FH 6:30pm - Outreach Committee 7:30pm - PNC @ B	4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B	6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P 7:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B 6pm - Friday Night Friends @ FH	9am - Food Pantry @ FH 10am - Communion Training @ S 1pm - Diva Dance @ FH
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am - Church School 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 10:30am - Deacon's Mtg. @ B 1pm - Diva Dance @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B	7:30pm - Finance Committee @ P	6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	12:30pm - NA @ B	11am - Kopec Party @ FH
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Tower Tie articles due 9:30am - Children's Pageant @ S 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 3pm - Carol Sing-a-Long @ S, FH 6:15pm - Caroling @ Glen Arden	12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B	7pm - Session @ P	6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	12:30pm - NA @ B	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH 7pm - Christmas Eve Service @ S	Christmas Day	Office Closed 9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B		6pm - Food Pantry @ FH 6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P	12:30pm - NA @ B	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
New Year's Eve 9:30am - Worship Service @ S 10:30am - Coffee Hour @ FH	New Year's Day 12:30pm - NA @ B	9:30am - Food Pantry Shelving 12:15pm - Organ Recital @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - PNC @ B	4:30pm - Mission Committee @ P 6:30pm - NA @ B	6:30pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal @ S 6:30pm - NA @ FH 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ P 7:30pm - NA @ FH	12:30pm - NA @ B	